

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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Thursday, July 16, 2026

Start: 1:46 P.M.

Recess: 3:40 P.M.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Speaker Julie Menin
The Majority Leader (Council
Member Abreu) presiding as the
President Pro Tempore)

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Shirley Aldebol
Joann Ariola
Alexa Avilés
Chris Banks
Gale A. Brewer
Selvena N. Brooks-Powers
Tiffany L. Cabán
David M. Carr
Carmen N. De La Rosa
Eric Dinowitz
Elsie Encarnación
Harvey D. Epstein
Amanda C. Farias
Simcha Felder

COUNCIL MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

Oswald J. Feliz
James F. Gennaro
Jennifer Gutiérrez
Shahana K. Hanif
Ty Hankerson
Kamillah M. Hanks
Crystal Hudson
Rita C. Joseph
Shekar Krishnan
Linda Lee
Farah N. Louis
Virginia Maloney
Christopher Marte
Darlene Mealy
Frank Morano
Mercedes Narcisse
Sandy Nurse
Chi A. Ossé
Vickie Paladino
Lincoln Restler
Kevin C. Riley
Yusef Salaam
Pierina A. Sanchez
Justin E. Sanchez
Kayla Santosuosso
Lynn C. Schulman
Althea V. Stevens
Shanel Thomas-Henry
Sandra Ung
Inna Vernikov
Nantasha M. Williams
Carl Wilson
Julie Won
Phil Wong
Susan Zhuang

A P P E A R A N C E S

INVOCATION DELIVERED BY:

Rev. Dr. Gamel Delesbore, New
Jerusalem Worship Center, 122-05 Smith Street,
Jamaica, NY 11434

SERGEANT PAYTUVI: This is a microphone check for the Stated Meeting recorded on July 16th, 2026, located in the Chambers by Nazly Paytuvi.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: (INAUDIBLE) I am Majority Leader Shaun Abreu, and I would like to thank you for joining us.

As a reminder, decorum must be respected at all times. If you would like to follow along, the agenda for today's meeting is posted on our website.

On behalf of the body, I welcome the members of the public who have joined us today. During Stated Meetings, only Members of the Council may speak. Members of the public shall remain silent. If you wish to express your support for any remarks, you may make the silent approval gesture. Thank you.

CITY CLERK: Please join us for the Pledge of Allegiance.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise!

ALL: [PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE]

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Roll call.

CLERK: Council Member Aldebol?

COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: Present.

1 CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Present.

3 CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: (NO RESPONSE)

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Quiet on the floor,
6 please!

7 CLERK: Council Member Banks?

8 DEPUTY LEADER BANKS: Here.

9 CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

11 CLERK: Council Member Brooks-Powers?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: (NO
RESPONSE)

13 CLERK: Council Member Cabán?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Present.

15 CLERK: Council Member De La Rosa?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Here.

17 CLERK: Council Member Dinowitz

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Here.

19 CLERK: Council Member Encarnación?

20 DEPUTY WHIP ENCARNACIÓN: Presenté

21 CLERK: Council Member Epstein?

1 COUNCIL MEMBER EPSTEIN: Here.

2 CLERK: Council Member Farías?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Present.

4 CLERK: Council Member Felder?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Here (UN-MIC'D)

6 CLERK: Council Member Feliz?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Here.

8 CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: (NO RESPONSE)

10 CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Presenté.

12 CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Here.

14 CLERK: Council Member Hankerson?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: Here.

16 CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

17 MAJORITY WHIP HANKS: Present.

18 CLERK: Council Member Hudson?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Present.

20 CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: (NO RESPONSE)

CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?

1 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: (NO RESPONSE)

2 CLERK: Council Member Lee?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: (NO RESPONSE)

4 CLERK: Council Member Louis?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Present.

6 CLERK: Council Member Maloney?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MALONEY: Present.

8 CLERK: Council Member Marte?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Present.

10 CLERK: Council Member Mealy?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: (ABSENT)

12 CLERK: Council Member Morano?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: Here.

14 CLERK: Council Member Narcisse?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Present.

16 CLERK: Council Member Nurse?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: (INAUDIBLE)

18 CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Present.

20 CLERK: Council Member Paladino?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: (ABSENT)

CLERK: Council Member Restler?

1 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Here.

2 CLERK: Council Member Riley?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Present.

4 CLERK: Council Member Salaam?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: Present.

6 CLERK: Council Member Justin Sanchez?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Here.

8 CLERK: Council Member Pierina Sanchez?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER PIERINA SANCHEZ: Here.

10 CLERK: Thank you.

11 Council Member Santosuosso?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER SANTOSUOSSO: Here.

13 CLERK: Council Member Schulman?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Here.

15 CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: I'm here.

17 CLERK: Thank you.

18 Council Member Thomas-Henry?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: Present.

20 CLERK: Council Member Ung?

21 DEPUTY LEADER UNG: Present.

CLERK: Council Member Vernikov?

1 MINORITY WHIP VERNIKOV: (NO RESPONSE)

2 CLERK: Council Member Williams?

3 DEPUTY SPEAKER WILLIAMS: Present.

4 CLERK: Council Member Wilson?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON: Present.

6 CLERK: Council Member Won?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Present.

8 CLERK: Council Member Wong?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER WONG: Here.

10 CLERK: Council Member Zhuang?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Here.

12 CLERK: Council Member Carr?

13 MINORITY LEADER CARR: Present.

14 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Present.

15 SPEAKER MENIN: Here.

16 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you. We will
17 now have today's Invocation, which will be delivered
18 by Rev. Dr Gamel Delesbore of New Jerusalem Worship
19 Center, which is located at 122-05 Smith Street, in
20 Queens.

21 SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise!

1
2 REVEREND DELESBORE: Let us pray. O, Lord,
3 our Lord, how excellent is your name in all the
4 earth. Father God, we just thank you for allowing us
5 to be here one more time. Lord God, as we convene and
6 we look to you, the author and finisher of our faith.
7 Father God, bless every heart and mind that is here
8 within this council meeting. Lead them and guide them
9 according to your wisdom, knowledge, and
10 understanding. Anoint them afresh, Lord, as they look
11 to you, Lord God, as you begin to just show yourself
12 mighty, show yourself strong in the midst.

13 We thank you, we praise you, giving you
14 all the honor, glory, and praise. In the name of the
15 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

16 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: That was very
17 brief, huh?

18 (LAUGHTER)

19 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you. I will
20 now ask Council Member Ty Hankerson to spread the
21 Invocation on the record.

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: We get things
done.

1
2 Thank you, Majority Leader. I would like
3 to thank Reverend Gamal Delesbore for being here
4 today, and I make a motion for unanimous consent to
5 spread the Invocation in full upon the record.

6 Reverend Dr. Gamel A. Delesbore is a
7 lifelong New Yorker from Hollis, Queens, shaped by
8 the strong community and church roots of his
9 upbringing.

10 Raised by his mother, the late Grace Marie
11 Branch Delesbore, organist at Cornerstone Baptist
12 Church in Brooklyn, he learned early the value of
13 service, faith, and community leadership. His
14 spiritual journey deepened in 1990 when he came to
15 faith in Christ at Long Island City Gospel Tabernacle
16 under Bishop Moses Taylor. He pursued biblical
17 training at the Long Island City Bible Institute,
18 earning a certificate in evangelism in 1995, and
19 later answered his call to ministry in 2004.

20 Licensed in 2005 at New Missionary Baptist
21 Church under Reverend Larry L. Shell, he served the
youth of his community for four years, investing in
the next generation.

1
2 Reverend Delesbore continued his
3 development through New York Theological Seminary and
4 later through advanced academic study, earning
5 degrees from Alliance Theological Seminary, Regent
6 University, and Newburgh Theological Seminary.

7 At the New Jerusalem Worship Center, he
8 has served in numerous roles that strengthen both the
9 congregation and the surrounding community, including
10 spiritual development coordinator, evangelism
11 ministry, brotherhood ministry, transportation
12 ministry, and personal safety and security for Bishop
13 and Lady Rice.

14 His leadership is grounded in
15 accessibility, compassion, and a commitment to
16 community well-being.

17 Being the church, he serves as a community
18 health worker in the IN, also known as In Touch
19 Institute, and as an educator with the New York City
20 Department of Education at the New Heights Charter
21 School of Harlem, continuing his lifelong commitment
to empowering individuals and families.

1
2 Reverend Dr. Gamal A. Delesbore and his
3 wife of 34 years, Crystal Denise Jones-Delesbore, are
4 proud parents and grandparents deeply rooted in
5 faith, family, and community, and we thank him for
6 being here today.

7 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Adoption of
8 Minutes?

9 CLERK: None.

10 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Messages and Papers
11 from the Mayor?

12 CLERK: None.

13 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Communications from
14 City, County & Borough Offices?

15 CLERK: M-84, OMB Report.

16 SPEAKER MENIN: Referred to Finance.

17 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Petitions and
18 Communications?

19 CLERK: None.

20 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Land Use Call-ups?

21 CLERK: Ms 85 and 86.

SPEAKER MENIN: Thank you. I'd ask the
Clerk to take a roll call vote on today's Land Use

1
2 Call-ups.

3 CLERK: Council Member Aldebol?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: I vote aye.

5 CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I vote aye.

7 CLERK: Thank you.

8 Council Member Avilés?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: (NO RESPONSE)

10 CLERK: Council Member Banks?

11 DEPUTY LEADER BANKS: Aye.

12 CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Yes.

14 CLERK: Council Member Brooks-Powers?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Aye.

16 CLERK: Council Member Cabán?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Aye.

18 CLERK: Council Member De La Rosa?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye.

20 CLERK: Council Member Dinowitz?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Encarnación?

DEPUTY WHIP ENCARNACIÓN: Aye.

1 CLERK: Council Member Epstein?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER EPSTEIN: Aye.

3 CLERK: Council Member Farías?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: I vote aye.

5 CLERK: Council Member Felder?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: (NO RESPONSE)

7 CLERK: Council Member Feliz?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye.

9 CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: (NO RESPONSE)

11 CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye.

13 CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.

15 CLERK: Council Member Hankerson?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: Aye.

17 CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

18 MAJORITY WHIP HANKS: Aye.

19 CLERK: Council Member Hudson?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye.

21 CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye.

1 CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye.

3 CLERK: Thank you.

4 Council Member Lee?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye.

6 CLERK: Thank you.

7 Council Member Louis?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye.

9 CLERK: Council Member Maloney?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MALONEY: (NO RESPONSE)

11 CLERK: Council Member Marte?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye.

13 CLERK: Council Member Mealy?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: (ABSENT)

15 CLERK: Council Member Morano?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: Aye.

17 CLERK: Council Member Narcisse?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye.

19 CLERK: Council Member Nurse?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I vote aye.

21 CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye.

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CLERK: Council Member Paladino?

COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: (ABSENT)

CLERK: Council Member Restler?

COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Riley?

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Salaam?

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: I vote aye.

CLERK: Council Member Justin Sanchez?

COUNCIL MEMBER JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Pierina Sanchez?

COUNCIL MEMBER PIERINA SANCHEZ: Here.

CLERK: Land Use Call-ups, Council Member Sanchez. Land Use Call-ups?

COUNCIL MEMBER PIERINA SANCHEZ: Oh, sorry. I am here, and aye.

CLERK: Thank you.

(LAUGHTER)

Council Member Santosuosso?

COUNCIL MEMBER SANTOSUOSSO: Aye.

CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member Schulman?

1 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye.

2 CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: (UNINTELLIGIBLE)

4 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member?

5 Permission denied. There has been no one who has been
6 asking-- who has been granted permission to leave
7 early, because we have a quorum issue today.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: (UNINTELLIGIBLE)

9 CLERK: Thank you, Council Member. Land Use
10 Call-ups, thank you.

11 CLERK: Council Member Thomas-Henry?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: Aye.

13 CLERK: Council Member Maloney?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MALONEY: Aye.

15 CLERK: Thank you.

16 Council Member Ung?

17 DEPUTY LEADER UNG: Aye.

18 CLERK: Council Member Vernikov?

19 MINORITY WHIP VERNIKOV: (NO RESPONSE)

20 CLERK: Council Member Williams?

21 DEPUTY SPEAKER WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

CLERK: Council Member Wilson?

1 COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON: Aye.

2 CLERK: Council Member Won?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Aye.

4 CLERK: Council Member Wong?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER WONG: I vote aye.

6 CLERK: Council Member Zhuang?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Aye.

8 CLERK: Thank you.

9 Council Member Carr?

10 MINORITY LEADER CARR: Aye.

11 CLERK: Council Member Abreu?

12 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: (PAUSE) Aye.

13 CLERK: Thank you.

14 Speaker Menin?

15 SPEAKER MENIN: Aye.

16 (PAUSE)

17 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Today's Land Use

18 Call-ups are adopted by a vote of 46 in the

19 affirmative and 0 in the negative. Thank you.

20 We will now have communication from

21 Speaker Julie Menin.

1
2 SPEAKER MENIN: Thank you so much. Good
3 afternoon, everyone, on this very hot and hazy day.

4 So this has been a very busy week, to put
5 it mildly, for the City Council. Yesterday, we held a
6 hearing on Romanch's Law, named after Romansh
7 Mahajan, who tragically died after he was thrown from
8 a horse drawn carriage in Central Park last month. We
9 heard very compelling testimony from his family, from
10 animal welfare advocates, from TWU, from drivers, and
11 medallion owners. And I really, first of all, want to
12 thank Council Member Schulman for sharing that
13 marathon. I think it was 10 hours; it clocked in at
14 the end, a 10-hour hearing, and all the council
15 members who turned out. And I look forward to hearing
16 thoughts from additional council members as we go
17 through this process and as we consider any
18 amendments and additional language to the bill. And
19 thank you to Council Member Marte as well.

20 Okay, so moving along, for those residents
21 who are small business owners, we've kept up our
efforts to make life easier for them. Today, we're
introducing a bill that I sponsored...

1
2 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Quiet on the floor,
3 please.

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Quiet down, please!

5 SPEAKER MENIN: that aims to topple the
6 barriers that prevent small businesses from
7 succeeding. This bill would establish a Quadrennial
8 Commission whose recommendations would ease
9 permitting and licensing inspections, as well as
10 reduce fines and fees. We know that about 5,000 small
11 businesses closed last year, so this is an urgent,
12 urgent crisis. In that vein, we're voting on
13 legislation sponsored by Council Member Zhuang, which
14 would help cut through the maze of bureaucratic red
15 tape that aspiring business owners are forced to
16 navigate. As a former small business owner myself, I
17 really understand that. We talked to so many small
18 business owners and heard from them, some of whom
19 said it's taking them sometimes several years to be
20 able to open their small business. So that's not
21 acceptable, and now the Council is taking action to
address that.

1
2 On Tuesday, we announced that the Council
3 secured \$1.5 million in the budget for 60,000 free
4 swim lessons for an additional 3,000 second graders.
5 This was so exciting, and I was proud to be at Lehman
6 College in the Bronx with a number of colleagues,
7 where we announced this. And I think this is so
8 incredibly important. It builds on the work we did
9 from the last Council. I had had a bill that mandated
10 free swim lessons to every single second grader, but
11 in the last administration, that wasn't fully
12 implemented. So now we're adding additional funding
13 to do that. And this builds on some work that I had
14 done with Council Member Krishnan and the Gray
15 Foundation, Asphalt Green, where we launched a pilot
16 program about a year ago, which has already provided
17 free swim lessons to 6,000 public school second
18 graders.

19 Earlier this morning, I was thrilled to
20 gather in the rotunda with many of you, where we
21 advocated for our paraprofessionals and for the
Respect Act. Proud to be wearing this pin on this
today for our amazing, amazing paras.

1
2 First of all, I want to thank Council
3 Member Carmen De La Rosa. She and I have been on a
4 two-year journey along with UFT on this important
5 work. And I just want to say a word about this.

6 Our city's paraprofessional starting
7 salary is \$32,000-- \$32,500, to be specific. We know
8 our paras are helping our most special resource, our
9 children, and really our most vulnerable children,
10 those with special needs. We have 1,600 vacancies at
11 the DOE for paraprofessionals. We are spending \$1.5
12 billion a year on Carter Cases, largely because in so
13 many classrooms, there is no paraprofessional. So
14 many of our paraprofessionals, and we've heard this
15 literally at every single rally. I think we did four
16 rallies, Council Member De La Rosa, you, and I, on
17 this issue. And at every rally, we hear from
18 paraprofessionals who literally say some of them are
19 living in the shelter system, some cannot afford
20 groceries. This is unconscionable.

21 So today our fervent hope is that we will
22 finally pass legislation to address it. I want to be
23 clear, obviously, we believe this should be done via

1 collective bargaining or through the budget. But that
2 was not happening. And so we, the Council, had to
3 act. And so I think this is just incredibly,
4 incredibly important that we finally, once and for
5 all, give paraprofessionals the pay they so rightly
6 deserve.

7 On a sweeter note, there are a few things
8 to look forward to. I want to, first of all, wish a
9 very happy early birthday to Council Member Justin
10 Sanchez. His birthday is July 17th, tomorrow. Yeah,
11 tomorrow, a happy early birthday to Deputy Whip Elsie
12 Encarnación, whose birthday is on the 19th, so in a
13 couple of days, to Council Members Rita Joseph and
Tiffany Cabán, whose birthday is on July 24th.

14 (APPLAUSE)

15 SPEAKER MENIN: So, happy, happy birthday.

16 This Sunday, I think we're all going to be
17 excitedly watching as Spain and Argentina face off in
18 the World Cup Finals right across the river at
MetLife Stadium.

19 Over the past few weeks, we've been proud
20 to continue the long practice of welcoming visitors
21

1 from all across the world to our great city, seeing
2 their colorful jerseys, hearing the mix of languages
3 all across the five boroughs. So that has been just
4 so incredibly exciting to see.

5 July 24th is National Disabilities Day,
6 marking the 36th Anniversary of the Americans with
7 Disabilities Act. We remember the decades of activism
8 it took for Congress to pass this landmark
9 legislation, including when nearly 60 activists
10 ditched their mobility aids, dragged their bodies up
11 the Capitol steps, and demanded their rights. Thanks
12 to their hard work, the quarter of Americans who are
13 disabled are guaranteed the exact same rights to
14 work, for transit, and for access to space as
15 everyone else. And as a Council, we must continue
16 their efforts to make our nation more equal for all.

17 We have a few special guests in our
18 Chambers that I'd like to give a very warm welcome
19 to.

20 First, the Consulate General of Lithuania,
21 as well as the Lithuanian Alliance members and
associates. Welcome. Welcome.

(APPLAUSE)

SPEAKER MENIN: So we know New York and Lithuania have shared a long history together, which goes back to when our city was the entry point for thousands of Lithuanian immigrants. So we really welcome you here today.

And another welcome, we have the interns from Senator Chuck Schumer's office. So we want to welcome you here to the Chambers. Welcome.

(APPLAUSE)

SPEAKER MENIN: And then lastly, students from the Bronx Scholars Institute at Hostos College, we welcome you as well.

(APPLAUSE)

Okay, we have a busy Stated Agenda.

First, we're going to vote on a number of Land Use items:

Today, this council is taking essential action to address our city's housing affordability crisis by approving Land Use applications that together are going to facilitate a total of 3,242 units of new housing through a combination of HPD

1 subsidy and mandatory inclusionary housing. Over half
2 of this housing will be affordable. That's nearly
3 1,700 units.

4 I really want to thank our Land Use Chair,
5 Council Member Kevin Riley, for shepherding these
6 projects through and for your leadership.

7 These applications span across all five
8 boroughs, and the Council's negotiations prioritize
9 adding and deepening affordable housing, especially
10 at Monitor Point, where the project we are voting on
11 today represents an increase of over 200 affordable
12 units from what was presented just weeks ago. This
13 council will continue to proactively work to deliver
14 new homes as well as community benefits for New
15 Yorkers as we move forward this term.

16 Monitor Point, I was really happy to
17 partner with Council Member Restler on this very,
18 very important project—an application to facilitate
19 the development of two new mixed-use buildings with
20 approximately 1,324 residential units, to be exact,
21 50% of which will be affordable. As well as a new
museum honoring the legacy of the USS Monitor, as

1 well as publicly accessible open space in Council
2 Member Restler's district.

3 The applicant team is committed to
4 contributing \$300,000 annually to the long-term
5 maintenance of Bushwick Inlet Park and facilitating
6 the relocation of two MTA facilities.

7 Dewitt Clinton Park North, two related
8 applications in Council Member Gale Brewer's district
9 to facilitate the redevelopment of two auto
10 dealerships into mixed-use towers with a combined
11 1,064 units, 286 of which will be affordable under
12 MIH. As part of the applications, the developers will
13 also be purchasing air rights from Hudson River Park,
14 helping to generate important and critical funding
15 for waterfront open space.

16 Next is the 2950 West 24th Street
17 Rezoning. This would facilitate the development of an
18 18-story mixed-use building with 408 units, all of
19 which will be income restricted pursuant to HPD's
20 ELLA Program (Extremely Low-and Low-Income
21 Affordability Program), as well as two superintendent
units, commercial community facility space in Council

1 Member Kayla Santosuosso's district.

2 Next is the 1166 Bedford Avenue Rezoning,
3 which will facilitate the development of a 12-story
4 mixed-use building with approximately 144 affordable
5 independent residences for seniors, as well as ground
6 floor retail and community facility space in Council
7 Member Chi Ossé's district.

8 Next, 198-208 Richmond Terrace will
9 facilitate the development of a 14-story mixed-use
10 building with 118 residential units, 35 of which will
11 be permanently affordable under MIH, as well as a
12 community facility and off-street accessory parking
in Majority Whip Kamillah Hank's district.

13 Next, 1160 Pugsley Avenue Rezoning will
14 facilitate the development of a new 8-story mixed-use
15 building with approximately 104 residential units and
16 ground floor supermarket space in Council Member
Amanda Farías' district.

17 And then lastly, 164th Street Rezoning
18 will facilitate the development of a new 6-story
19 mixed-use building with 80 residential units, 24 of
20 which will be affordable under MIH and community
21

1 facility space in Council Member Jim Gennaro's
2 district.

3 Next, a Landmarks Preservation Commission
4 designation of three individual landmarks linked to
5 New York City's immigration history:

6 First, the Public School 15 Annex, located
7 in Council Member Lincoln Restler's district, was
8 originally built in 1889 to serve Brooklyn's growing
9 immigrant community.

10 Second, the Church of Saint Mary in
11 Council Member Chris Marte's district, which is the
12 third oldest Roman Catholic church in all of New York
City.

13 And then finally, the Lithuanian Alliance
14 Building in Council Member Carl Wilson's district,
15 which has served as a home for the Lithuanian
Alliance of America since 1910.

16 We are also approving a school siting in
17 Majority Whip Kamillah Hanks's District for a new
18 approximately 801-seat high school at 25 Wall Street.

19 And then, finally, two applications by HPD
20 to facilitate the preservation of existing affordable
21

1 housing:

2 First is 511 West 171st Street, a NCP
3 cluster, to facilitate the rehabilitation of three
4 city-owned buildings with 50 units under the
5 Affordable Neighborhood Cooperative Program in
6 Council Member Carmen De La Rosa's district.

7 And then next, the East Harlem/El Barrio
8 Article XI Amendment, to a project previously
9 approved by the Council in 2019, to allow commercial
10 spaces to be occupied by community facility uses in
11 Deputy Whip Elsie Encarnación and Council Member
12 Yusef Salaam's districts.

13 We will also be voting on the following
14 Finance items:

15 A Transparency Resolution approving new
16 designations and changes of certain organizations
17 receiving funding in the Expense Budget:

18 Preconsidered Introduction, sponsored by
19 Council Member Linda Lee, would decrease the credit
20 against the City's personal income tax on residents
21 for their share of city unincorporated business tax,
also known as the UBT, paid by partnerships in which

1 such residents are partners or businesses of which
2 they are proprietors.

3 Today, we are also going to vote on the
4 following pieces of legislation:

5 Resolution 371, sponsored by Council
6 Member Yusef Salaam, would declare August 6th
7 annually as Fatman Scoop Recognition Day in the City
8 of New York. Thank you to Alejandro Carvajal and
9 Regina Paul.

10 Introduction 398, sponsored by Council
11 Member Lincoln Restler, would amend the annual
12 disclosure law to affect the bans a New York City
13 officer, employee, candidate for office, or political
14 party official selects when disclosing anything with
15 a monetary value or amount. Thank you to Johari
16 Frasier and Erica Cohen.

17 Introduction 913-A, sponsored by Council
18 Member Amanda Fariás, would raise the maximum age at
19 which someone can take the civil service exam to
20 become a police officer from 35 years of age to 43
21 years of age. This legislation would align local
eligibility standards with those established pursuant

1 to state law. Thank you to Rachel Cordero, David
2 Seitzer, Josh Kingsley, and Chad Benjamin.

3 Introduction 812-A, sponsored by Deputy
4 Whip Elsie Encarnación, would require the
5 Commissioner of the Department for the Aging to
6 develop a protocol in collaboration with New York
7 City Emergency Management and relevant agencies to
8 conduct wellness checks during cold weather alerts,
9 extreme heat warnings, as we have now, and
10 heat-related emergencies. Thank you to Hannah Kohn
and Joshua Newman.

11 Introduction 496-A, sponsored by Deputy
12 Speaker Dr. Nantasha Williams, would require the
13 Commissioner of Cultural Affairs to conduct a study
14 and provide a report to the Mayor as well as the
15 Council on the potential installation of structures
16 acknowledging the Draft Riots of 1863. Thank you to
Tristan Monteith and Alejandro Carvajal.

17 Preconsidered Introduction A, also
18 sponsored by Dr. Nantasha Williams, would increase
19 the salaries of the Mayor, Public Advocate,
20 Comptroller, Council Member, Borough Presidents, and
21

1 District Attorneys by 18.2%, since the last time
2 their salaries were adjusted by Local Law, as
3 recommended by the recently released report of the
4 New York City Quadrennial Advisory Commission for the
5 Review of Compensation Levels of Elected Officials.
6 It would change the timing of future commissions to
7 the third year of a term of office rather than the
8 first year, and provide each commission with 120 days
9 to complete its work. Thank you to Jahari Frazier and
10 Erica Cohen.

11 Introduction 955-A, also known as the Red
12 Tape Relief Act, sponsored by Council Member Susan
13 Zhuang, would require the Mayor to establish a
14 program that would coordinate inspections and plan
15 reviews among agencies to cut down on the time for
16 new businesses to open. Thank you to David Seitzer,
17 Tyler Walls, and Rebecca Barrilla.

18 And finally, Introduction 692-A, sponsored
19 by Council Member Carmen De La Rosa, would require
20 the Department of Education to provide a workforce
21 stabilization payment totaling up to \$10,000 to each
eligible school paraprofessional for work performed

1 during the 2026-2027 school year. Such a workforce
2 stabilization payment will be paid to eligible school
3 paraprofessionals in four separate installments.

4 Thank you to Rie Ogasawara, Elliott Lynn, and Smita
5 Deshmukh.

6 Thank you for your attention to that. I'll
7 turn it back over to our majority leader.

8 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member
9 Brewer, you are first on the list.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you. I just
11 want to talk about the 629 West 54th Street and 801
12 11th Avenue, which we'll be voting on today. It's
13 10,054 units, 287 or a little bit more are
14 affordable. There are some that are very affordable
15 as part of MIH, and then we negotiate another 12 to
16 14 at a higher AMI. It's still challenging; we wanted
17 some workforce housing. We got just a little bit.
18 These developers are contributing \$200,000 to a
19 nearby park, but I have to be honest with you, the
20 park needs \$12 million, to be honest with you. It's a
21 little bit lower in terms of height, these buildings,
but we're worried about the shadow on the park.

1
2 Luckily, there are car dealerships with good paying
3 jobs, union jobs that will be in the buildings. The
4 most interesting part, as the Speaker mentioned, is
5 that \$29.7 million, at least, will be given to the
6 Hudson River Park Trust. It'll hopefully-- not only
7 does it increase FAR, obviously, of the buildings,
8 that's the purpose of it, but it will also help the
9 trust pay for pilings under Pier 76, which was the
10 toll pound for Manhattan.

11 I just want to say that because of the
12 length of time allowed to construct, up to 10 years
13 as part of this permit, I want to make sure that the
14 Hudson River Park Trust enters into an agreement with
15 the developers. They want to make sure it's binding
16 to this particular development. Because even if an
17 alternative becomes available later, we want to make
18 sure that the money goes to the trust and the promise
19 is the promise.

20 I want to thank Board 4, particularly Joe
21 Restuccia, Paul Devlin, and the Land Use Division of
the City Council.

I just want to say the developers also say

1 they're not going to build if they get a no amendment
2 support 85x. I don't know where that's going to go,
3 but they are obviously very concerned about it. I
4 have to say, when you're on private land, and you're
5 in Manhattan, I wish the City would give us more,
6 either some vouchers or some other ways of having
7 more units be affordable. And they should be at 30%
8 of the entire square footage, not 25 or 30% of the
9 number of units. Manhattan has transportation, we
10 have good schools, and darn it, we should be able to
11 get more affordable housing. I appreciate that they
12 go to other boroughs because they all say it costs
13 less in terms of the purchase. But I thank everybody
14 involved and just wish we could do more affordable.
15 Thank you.

16 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you, Council
17 Member. Council Member Restler, followed by Council
18 Member Santosuosso.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Thank you,
20 Majority Leader.

21 I am pleased to express my support today
for the proposed development at 40 Quay Street in

1 Greenpoint, also known as Monitor Point.

2 Since this project was first proposed
3 about five years ago, I have been clear that any
4 development on publicly owned land must be primarily
5 in the public interest. And I'm grateful for the
6 thousands, I mean that literally, thousands of
7 neighbors who've reached out to me and to my team to
8 share their perspective over the course of this
9 process.

10 In direct response to our feedback, the
11 developer has nearly tripled the amount of affordable
12 housing, permanently affordable housing, that will be
13 built on this site, from originally about 247 units
14 to now 662 affordable units, 50% of the total
15 development.

16 And I think many of us, and my community
17 members for sure, are jaded when we hear the term
18 affordable housing. Is it actually affordable? And in
19 this case, I can say yes. The majority of the housing
20 is deeply affordable. I'm talking about \$76,300-- A
21 family of three making \$76,300 per year will be able
to rent a two-bedroom at \$1,822.

1
2 We are building 161 housing units that are
3 affordable for seniors. That means a senior making
4 \$35,000 a year will be paying \$900 a month. And 30%
5 of the affordable units, 110 in total, will be
6 supportive housing. Those are for people exiting our
7 shelter system. I pushed for even more, but I'm
8 grateful that we were able to secure so many
9 supportive units.

10 This development will also yield
11 significant green space benefits for our community.
12 The developer will be adding over 50,000 square feet
13 of green space. The developer will be contributing
14 \$300,000 per year for 99 years toward the maintenance
15 of Bushwick Inlet Park, the adjacent park space.
16 There will be two new public bathrooms that are
17 accessible to park users and to neighbors. And the
18 MTA is relocating a facility from the northern tip of
19 Greenpoint, where we will be able to fully build out
20 Box Street Park, one of the other promised parks from
21 the Williamsburg-Greenpoint rezoning 20 years ago,
when we break ground later this summer. (TIMER)

We're getting a new... (CROSS-TALK)

1
2 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you, Council
3 Member...

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: I know, I'm done.
5 We're getting a new ADA accessible...

6 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Ten seconds.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: G train with an
8 elevator at the G train. Thank you to Speaker Menin
9 for being a tremendous partner, Kevin Riley, our Land
10 Use Chair, the Land Use team, and the MTA...

11 (CROSS-TALK)

12 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you, Council
13 Member...

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: To Gotham, and
15 others... (CROSS-TALK)

16 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Appreciate it...

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: I appreciate you
18 all, and Clement Oyster (phonetic). Thank you.

19 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: I now have Council
20 Member Santosuosso online.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER SANTOSUOSSO: Thank you,
Majority Leader.

1
2 Today, we are voting to approve new
3 development at 2950 West 24th Street. This
4 development will bring 400 units that will be
5 permanently and deeply affordable, as well as shared
6 green space for tenants and ground floor commercial
7 space, all of which is desperately needed in Coney
8 Island.

9 This building will be located on a lot
10 already owned by the developer, where there is
11 already a deeply affordable building on the site that
12 is totally full. Clearly, a reflection that this
13 building is needed.

14 We have had productive conversations with
15 the developer to ensure that these new units are of
16 the quality that residents deserve, and that both
17 tenants of the existing building and the new tenants
18 see that any required repairs and maintenance are
19 done quickly. I strongly believe that affordable
20 housing is important, but affordable doesn't mean
21 that it can't be quality housing.

And accordingly, the developer has
promised our office to ensure that these buildings

1 are clean and dignified places to live, and I will be
2 working with him and with tenants to ensure that this
3 promise is upheld. This spot is a prime example of
4 how we can retrofit space to expand our affordable
5 housing stock and do so in a way that expands
6 amenities for current residents.

7 The 408 units mean thousands of
8 individuals and families can find stability in
9 permanently affordable homes. And the proposal before
10 us demonstrates our commitment to address the ongoing
11 housing crisis with bold, smart development, and I am
12 proud to vote yes and encourage my colleagues to do
13 so. Thank you.

14 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you, Council
15 Members. As a reminder that we have transparency
16 resolutions today, remember to make your disclosure
17 before you vote.

18 Reports of Special Committees?

19 CLERK: None.

20 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Reports of Standing
21 Committees?

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Aging,

1 intro 812-A, wellness checks.

2
3 SPEAKER MENIN: Amended and Coupled on
4 General Orders.

5 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Civil
6 Service and Labor, Intro 692-A, School
7 paraprofessionals.

8 SPEAKER MENIN: Amended and Coupled on
9 General Orders.

10 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Cultural
11 Affairs, Libraries, and International Relations,
12 Intro 496-A, Art Installations.

13 SPEAKER MENIN: Amended and Coupled on
14 General Orders.

15 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Finance,
16 Preconsidered Intro 972, unincorporated business
17 taxes?

18 SPEAKER MENIN: Coupled on General Orders.

19 CLERK: Preconsidered Reso 551,
20 Organization Funding.

21 SPEAKER MENIN: Coupled.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on
Governmental Operations, State and Federal

1
2 Legislation, Intro 398, Annual Disclosure Law.

3
4 SPEAKER MENIN: Coupled on General Orders
5 with a Message of Necessity.

6
7 CLERK: Preconsidered Intro 983-A, public
8 official compensation.

9
10 SPEAKER MENIN: Amended and coupled.

11
12 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land
13 Use, LU 91 and Reso 562 through LU 93 and Reso 564,
14 Landmark Designations.

15
16 SPEAKER MENIN: Coupled on General Orders.

17
18 CLERK: LU 94 and Reso 565 and LU 95 and
19 Reso 566, zoning amendments.

20
21 SPEAKER MENIN: Coupled.

CLERK: LUs 96, 97, 104, and 105.

SPEAKER MENIN: Approved with Modifications
and Referred to the City Planning Commission pursuant
to Section 197-(d) of the New York City Charter.

CLERK: LU 98 and Reso 567 through LU 101
and Reso 570, zoning amendments.

SPEAKER MENIN: Coupled on General Orders.

CLERK: LU 102 in Reso 571 and LU 103 and
Reso 572, special permits.

1
2 SPEAKER MENIN: Coupled.

3 CLERK: LU 106 in Reso 573 through LU 109
4 in Reso 576, zoning amendments.

5 SPEAKER MENIN: Coupled on General Orders.

6 CLERK: Preconsidered LU 110 in Reso 577
7 and Preconsidered LU 111 in Reso 578, 511 West 171st
8 Street.

9 SPEAKER MENIN: Coupled on General Orders.

10 CLERK: Preconsidered LU 112 in Reso 579,
11 tax exemption.

12 SPEAKER MENIN: Coupled.

13 CLERK: Preconsidered LU 113 and Reso 580,
14 new high school.

15 SPEAKER MENIN: Coupled.

16 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Public
17 Safety, Intro 913-A, NYPD civil service exam.

18 SPEAKER MENIN: Amended and Coupled on
19 General Orders.

20 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Small
21 Business, Intro 955-A, business inspections.

SPEAKER MENIN: Amended and Coupled on
General Orders.

1
2 CLERK: On the General Order Calendar, LU
3 67 and Reso 581 through LU 71 and Reso 584, Monitor
4 Point.

5 SPEAKER MENIN: Coupled on General Orders.

6 CLERK: LU 72 and Reso 585 through LU 77
7 and Reso 590, DeWitt Clinton Park North.

8 SPEAKER MENIN: Coupled on General Orders.

9 I would now ask that the Clerk take a roll
10 call vote on all of the items coupled on today's
11 General Order Calendar.

12 CLERK: Council Member Aldebol?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: I want to disclose
14 that my brother-in-law works for the Department for
15 the Aging, and I'd like permission to explain my
16 vote.

17 (PAUSE)

18 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission granted.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: Thank you.

20 As the chair of the Committee on Civil
21 Service and Labor, I am excited to vote yes for
692-A.

Paraprofessionals are vital to public

1 education. Council Member De La Rosa's bill takes a
2 significant first step towards fixing the persistent
3 paraprofessional staffing crisis that has been
4 impacting New York City schools.

5 Paraprofessionals are critical members of
6 our school environment, providing instructional,
7 behavioral, and physical support to students with
8 disabilities.

9 This is an important first step towards
10 recognizing the true value of our city's
11 paraprofessionals. Providing them with some reprieve
12 and incentivizing recruitment and retention.

13 Just want to be very clear, I have a deep
14 respect for the collective bargaining process. This
15 bill's non-pensionable workforce stabilization
16 payment structure does not interfere, in my view,
17 with mandatory subjects of collective bargaining, as
18 it does not attempt to legislate wages or benefits
19 and matters that must be resolved at the bargaining
20 table.

21 Congratulations to my colleague, Council
Member Carmen De La Rosa, for her leadership on this

1 bill and for her dedication to our city's
2 parapprofessionals and the students and families who
3 depend on them.

4 And thank you, Speaker Menin, for moving
5 this bill to the floor to vote on today. I vote yes
6 on all.

7 CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I vote aye, with
9 the exception of Intro 972 and Intro 983-A. I also
10 echo the sentiments of Council Member Aldebol, and I
11 would like to see the same collectiveness for our EMS
workers.

12 I should have done this first, Majority
13 Leader. I'm sorry, I disclose that my son works for
14 the DSNY. Thank you.

15 CLERK: Thank you, Council Member.

16 Council Member Avilés?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: I'd like to
18 disclose for the record that my daughter is a student
at New York City Public Schools. I vote aye on all.

19 CLERK: Thank you.

20 Council Member Banks?
21

1
2 DEPUTY LEADER BANKS: Permission to explain
3 my vote?

4 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission
5 granted... (CROSS-TALK)

6 DEPUTY LEADER BANKS: I would like to
7 disclose first that I have a brother who works for
8 the New York City Parks Department, as well as a
9 brother who works for the Department of Juvenile
10 Justice.

11 First of all, thank you, Majority Leader.
12 And first, I want to again thank the Speaker and my
13 good, good colleague, Council Member Carmen De La
14 Rosa, for ushering this particular bill, the
15 Paraprofessional Workforce Stabilization Bill, forth.

16 This particular bill is extremely
17 important, as the Council Member from the 42nd
18 Council District, I've had the opportunity to sit
19 down with paraprofessionals from schools throughout
20 my community, and I've heard about the long hours and
21 the dedication they bring to the classrooms, and the
sacrifices they make to support our students while
working to support their own families.

1
2 These are hardworking New Yorkers paying
3 rent or a mortgage, they're buying groceries, paying
4 for childcare, doing everyday things that help build
5 this city and make it bigger, brighter, and better.

6 They are everyday New Yorkers who walk
7 into our schools ready to support our children who
8 need a little extra patience, encouragement, and
9 care. They celebrate our students' successes, help
10 them overcome challenges, and often become some of
11 the most trusted adults in their lives. That's why
12 this bill matters. It sends a clear message that the
13 City values the work of our paraprofessionals who do
14 big, amazing jobs every day.

15 When we invest in our paraprofessionals,
16 we're investing in our students and our schools and
17 our communities.

18 And let me be clear, this legislation does
19 not replace or weaken the collective bargaining
20 process. It is not a substitute for the work that
21 happens at the bargaining table. This is a one-time
payment that recognizes the extraordinary commitment
of our paraprofessionals while those broader

1 conversations continue.

2 have a responsibility to look out for the
3 people who look out for our children, and today we
4 have the opportunity to do just that.

5 I'm proud to support Intro 692, and I hope
6 to see it-- it will cross the finish line today
7 (TIMER) because our paraprofessionals have earned
8 more than our gratitude. Let's continue as we do
9 today to put some respect on that check. Thank you.

10 CLERK: Council Member Banks?

11 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Your vote, Council
12 Member?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye.

14 CLERK: Thank you, sir.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Loud and clear.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Yes, I forgot to
18 mention, uh, to disclose on the record that my sister
19 works for the Parks Department, thank you.

20 CLERK: Thank you.

21 Council Member Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye. I teach

1 at CUNY, and I do want to thank the commission that
2 looked the pay salaries, particularly Carl Weisbrod,
3 Dr. Lillian Paoli-Barrios (sic) (***Barrios-Paoli**), and
4 Dr. Larian Angelo. They really are the best of New
5 York in terms of their knowledge and city experience,
6 and I want to thank them.

7 (PAUSE)

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I said, aye. I work
9 and vote, and hang out at CUNY. I was very clear...

10 CLERK: Thank you, Council Member Brewer.

11 (LAUGHTER)

12 CLERK: I got it, I got it. Thank you very
13 much.

14 Council Member Brooks-Powers?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Permission
16 to explain my vote?

17 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission granted.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: I just want
19 to echo the sentiments of my colleagues in terms of
20 my deep, deep pleasure in being able to cast a vote
21 for Intro 692-A.

As a proud auntie of an autistic miracle

1 child, who depends on paraprofessionals each day,
2 I've been able to see firsthand just how critical
3 they are to the nurturing and development of our most
4 valued gems in our lives, and that's our children.

5 And so while, as has been said, this is a
6 first step, I'm so thankful that we are serving in a
7 body that is putting people first in terms of
8 attacking the affordability issue and making sure
9 people have wages or funding to be able to have a
10 better quality of life.

11 And so I commend the bill sponsor, Council
12 Member De La Rosa, the Chair for Labor, as well as
13 the Speaker for moving this forward. And with that, I
14 vote aye on all. Thank you.

15 CLERK: Council Member Cabán?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: I vote aye on all,
17 with the exception of Intro 913, on which I vote no.
18 Thank you.

19 CLERK: Thank you.

20 Council Member De La Rosa?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: A moment to
explain my vote?

1
2 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission granted.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Thank you.

4 One moment for 511 West 171st Street. I
5 just want to say I strongly support this application.
6 It will create cooperative home ownership for
7 existing tenants of a building that has been working
8 really hard to make sure that they can uplift this
9 building and own their apartments. They'll be able to
10 buy their apartments for \$250.00. So that is building
11 generational wealth.

12 And the vacant apartments will sell at 80%
13 AMI. And so that is what it means to truly keep
14 communities together and to be able to build
15 generational wealth and equity in communities.

16 In terms of 692-A, I want to thank Speaker
17 Menin for her leadership and her vision and for
18 staying true throughout this process. I want to thank
19 the UFT for their strong support, the paras who have
20 led this work, obviously Chair Aldebol for her
21 leadership, Chair Dinowitz for his leadership, and
everyone else who was a part of making sure we could
get here today. Shoutout to Assemblymember Keith

1 Powers, who was the original OG introducer of this
2 bill.

3 I want to talk about the numbers real
4 quick—\$32,000 a year is insufficient. After 15 years,
5 they make \$54,000 a year in the most expensive city
6 in the country. With \$1.5 billion on Carter cases,
7 this bill will provide \$10,000 in a one-time
8 stabilization payment so that we can retain this
9 workforce. There are 25,000 paraprofessionals in New
10 York City helping the most vulnerable children. And
11 right now, there are from 1,600 to 3,000 vacancies in
12 this workforce.

13 And finally, to the 47 council members who
14 have signed on to this bill, thank you for your
15 support. We have the Manhattan, the Bronx, and the
16 Queens borough presidents. It's not too late for
17 Staten Island. Come on over. As well as the other
18 four council members.

19 We have solid support for this legislation
20 because we recognize that this is an equity issue.
21 Workers in our city must not be facing eviction and
having to pick up food at a food pantry (TIMER) when

1 they're helping our most vulnerable New Yorkers. So
2 thank you all for the support.

3 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member, do
4 you also have disclosures by any chance?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Say it again?

6 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Do you have
7 disclosures to make today?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: No disclosures,
9 and I vote aye on all.

10 CLERK: Thank you.

11 Council Member Dinowitz?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: I'd like to
13 disclose on the record that we're funding CUNY in the
14 transparency resolution, and while I don't hang out
15 too much at Hunter, like Gale does, I am affiliated
16 with that institution.

17 Permission to explain my vote?

18 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission granted.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Thank you, Mr.
20 Majority Leader. I want to thank Council Member De La
21 Rosa, Speaker Menin, and Chair Aldebol for moving the
para legislation forward.

1
2 You know, being in a classroom with
3 students with disabilities, the people who care most,
4 oftentimes for the most vulnerable students, are our
5 paraprofessionals. You know, the ones who are there
6 day in and day out for the kids who have the most
7 significant needs are the ones with
8 paraprofessionals. And they do just such incredible
9 work.

10 And I would always say thank you, right?
11 Because that's what we can do. But as a city council
12 member, we don't just have to say thank you. We can
13 demonstrate our gratitude. And today we demonstrate
14 that gratitude through this legislation, through the
15 Respect Check, through recognizing the dignity in
16 their work, through recognizing their work, and
17 addressing-- beginning to address the inequities in
18 the pay they receive.

19 And as elected officials, we talk all the
20 time about supporting our students. But we cannot
21 support our students without supporting the people
who do the work. We have to support the people who
support our students in the classroom. Those are our

1
2 paraprofessionals. I am an emphatic yes on this
3 legislation, on all pieces of legislation on today's
4 agenda.

5 And I once again want to thank Council
6 Member De La Rosa, Chair Aldebol, and of course,
7 Speaker Menin for really moving forward this really
8 critical piece of legislation for our paras and for
9 our students.

10 CLERK: Thank you.

11 Council Member Encarnación?

12 DEPUTY WHIP ENCARNACIÓN: I vote aye on
13 all.

14 CLERK: Council Member Epstein?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER EPSTEIN: Permission to
16 explain my vote?

17 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission granted.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER EPSTEIN: Thank you,
19 Majority Leader.

20 I also want to thank Council Member De La
21 Rosa, our Speaker, and Chair Aldebol.

You think about it, you know, I went to
public school, my kids went to public school, and in

1 those classes, the paraprofessionals changed lives. I
2 know for my kids who struggled with learning
3 disabilities, the paras were critical to their
4 education.

5 And to say to New Yorkers that you can
6 live on \$32,000 a year is beyond belief. No one here,
7 no one in this city, thinks anyone who lives in any
8 of our districts can survive in this great city of
9 ours on \$32,000.

10 This is a small step in the direction to
11 say to the paras and to the UFT that we see you, that
12 we care about you, and we want you to stay in this
13 profession. The idea that we either have 1,600 or
14 3,000 vacancies because people can't afford to take
15 these jobs just continues to mean that we're spending
16 more money somewhere else. This is a wise investment
17 in our city, a wise investment in our
18 paraprofessionals, and a wise investment in our
19 future.

20 I really want to applaud us all for taking
21 this stance today. I want to applaud us all for
taking the leadership, of course, with Speaker Menin

1 leading all the way, Carmen De La Rosa, and my
2 Assemblymember, Keith Powers, that we wouldn't be
3 here today without them and the powers who stand up
4 every day.

5 I vote aye.

6 Also, just one last message about the
7 salary increase. I think it's, you know, we need to
8 make sure that leaders in our city want these jobs,
9 and salaries that we get paid are below even
10 nonprofit salaries. Like, I got paid, when I was a
11 nonprofit leader, I got paid more than 10 years ago
12 than I get paid today. And if we really want these
13 people in our profession to make our city better, we
14 need to do it by understanding that salaries mean
15 something to people doing these jobs.

16 I really applaud the Commission and the
17 work we did and what we're doing today on that vote.
18 Thank you.

19 CLERK: Council Member Farías?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: I proudly vote aye
21 on all.

CLERK: Council Member Felder?

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: I vote aye on all;
3 no on Intro 972.

4 CLERK: Thank you.

5 Council Member Feliz?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Permission to
7 explain my vote?

8 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission granted.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Proud to vote aye on
10 all. I'm especially proud to support Intro 913-A by
11 Council Member Farías-- Intro 913-A, which would
12 raise the age limit for those who would like to take
13 the civil service exam to become a police officer.

14 Our police department plays an essential
15 role in the issue of public safety, and we must
16 ensure that they have the tools to be able to
17 successfully carry out their important mission.

18 Now, we've made progress on the issue of
19 police headcount. We've made progress by removing
20 barriers that get in the way of those who want to
21 serve our city as a police officer. We've made
progress, and there's still room to take the progress
even further.

1
2 This legislation will allow us to do
3 exactly that by expanding the pool of candidates
4 allowed to take the required exams.

5 I'm proud to vote aye on all, including
6 913-A. And also, congratulations, Carmen De La Rosa,
7 on your bill as well. Thank you.

8 CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I vote aye on all.
10 And ask for unanimous consent to vote on Land Use
11 Call-ups.

12 (PAUSE)

13 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Any objections?

14 ALL: [SILENT]

15 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Seeing none...

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I vote aye.

17 CLERK: Thank you.

18 Council Member Gutiérrez?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye on all.

20 CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye on all.

CLERK: Council Member Hankerson?

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: Permission to
3 explain my vote?

4 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission granted.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: I just want to
6 say, very, very briefly, especially to our paras:
7 this is a proud moment and congratulations to you
8 all, because the work that you do is vital to our
9 school communities. And I'm going just to reiterate
10 what I said in Committee, as one of the only council
11 members who is just a little over 10 years removed
12 from high school, I think she got me beat just a
13 little bit, just a little bit.

14 (LAUGHTER)

15 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: I want to just
16 shoutout some of the paras that, you know, though I
17 wasn't their student, they became like family to me.
18 Ms. Barnes, Ms. Vee, Ms. Cookie, and my constituent,
19 Ms. Talia (phonetic), who called me almost every day
20 about this bill. This is what you deserve. And I
21 can't wait for not just this, but for more things to
come.

I vote aye on all.

1
2 CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

3 MAJORITY WHIP HANKS: Permission to explain
4 my vote?

5 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission granted.

6 MAJORITY WHIP HANKS: Thank you, Majority
7 Leader.

8 The North Shore of Staten Island is
9 changing, and with that change comes a responsibility
10 to make sure that we're approving projects that
11 invest in the future of homes and the future of
12 careers where families can thrive. And that is why
13 I'm proud to be voting on two major projects that
14 will be voted on today:

15 The new Curtis High School expansion will—
16 excuse me, the new Curtis High School that will
17 expand the school's state-of-the-art nursing program.
18 This 800-seat expansion will open the doors for more
19 students to pursue a strong non-AI career pathway in
20 healthcare, one of our borough's largest employment
21 sectors.

And second, I am proud to be voting in
support of 198-208 Richmond Terrace, which will bring

1
2 107 new apartments, including 30 permanently
3 affordable workforce housing units, to the
4 transit-rich location in Saint George.

5 I also want to say that my mother started
6 as a paraprofessional, and I am very proud to be
7 supporting our paraprofessionals today and the folks
8 who helped make that happen. So thank you to our
9 Speaker and the teams that made this happen.

10 I vote aye on all. Thank you, Majority
11 Leader.

12 CLERK: Council Member Hudson?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye on all.

14 I'd like to disclose for the record that
15 I'm associated with the Brooklyn Museum.

16 CLERK: Thank you.

17 Council Member Joseph?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye on all.

19 And I'd like to disclose on the record, my
20 son is a student in New York City Public Schools that
21 we are funding, and my son works as a para. Thank
you.

CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?

1 (PAUSE)

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: (NO RESPONSE)

3 CLERK: Council Member Lee?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: I'd like to
5 disclose... (CROSS-TALK)

6 CLERK: Council Member Krishnan, thank
7 you...

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Yes.

9 I would like to disclose that my children
10 are students at the Department of Education, and we
11 are funding them in this Stated Meeting today, uh,
and with that, I vote aye on all.

12 CLERK: Thank you.

13 Council Member Lee?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: I'd like to disclose
15 that my kids are students in the New York Public
16 Schools, which we are funding, and I vote aye on all.
Thank you.

17 CLERK: Thank you.

18 Council Member Louis?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Permission to
20 explain my vote?
21

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission granted.

COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Thank you, Mr.

Majority Leader.

I want to take a moment to support Intro 692 today, which provides workforce stabilization payments for our school paraprofessionals.

For far too long, paraprofessionals have been the backbone of our public schools without receiving the recognition or compensation that reflects the essential role that they play every single day. They support students with disabilities, assist teachers in managing classrooms, and provide individualized attention to children who need it the most.

As we continue to face staffing shortages across our education system, retaining experienced paraprofessionals is critical. These workforce stabilization payments acknowledge the invaluable work paraprofessionals perform and represent an important step towards building a stronger and more equitable education system for our students and families.

1
2 I want to thank the UFT for their
3 advocacy, Speaker Menin, and Council Member De La
4 Rosa for advancing this legislation.

5 I vote aye on all.

6 And I would like to disclose for the
7 record that my brother works for the MTA. Thank you.

8 CLERK: Thank you.

9 Council Member De La Rosa?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Apologies. I
11 would like to disclose for the record that my
12 daughter is a student at New York City Public
13 Schools.

14 CLERK: Thank you

15 Council Member Maloney?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MALONEY: Permission to
17 explain my vote?

18 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission granted.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MALONEY: Thank you,
20 Majority Leader.

21 First, I want to disclose for the record
that my mother is a teacher at Hunter.

I vote aye on all.

1
2 And I'm especially proud to co-sponsor and
3 vote yes on Intro 692, which recognizes the critical
4 role that our school paraprofessionals play in
5 supporting students across the city. The Para Respect
6 Check is an important step forward towards providing
7 paraprofessionals with the dignity, compensation, and
8 respect they deserve.

9 I'm also excited to vote for Intro 955,
10 which makes it easier and faster for New Yorkers to
11 open a small business. I urge my colleagues to sign
12 on to a similar bill, Intro 875, the Stop Clock Bill,
13 which focuses on transparency and accountability on
14 permit timelines.

15 Lastly, I want to recognize several of
16 our summer interns: Dylan Miglio, Jade Acker, and
17 Nathan Zellizer, who are about to complete their time
18 with our office. Jade, Nathan, and Dylan, thank you
19 for all your help, your service to the city, and I
20 wish you every success... (CROSS-TALK)

21 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member...

COUNCIL MEMBER MALONEY: as you take your
next steps. Oh...

1
2 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Reminder, you can
3 only speak on issues or things that you're voting on.
4 So if you like...

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MALONEY: Apologies.

6 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: No problem.

7 CLERK: Thank you.

8 Council Member Marte?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Permission to
10 explain my vote?

11 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission granted.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: First, I want to
13 give a huge thank you to Council Member De La Rosa
14 and Speaker Menin on the paraprofessional bills. And,
15 OG Council Member Keith Powers, we still remember you
16 even though you're up there.

17 I also want to give a huge thank you to my
18 community for starting, organizing, and petitioning
19 to landmark Saint Mary's Church on Grand Street. So I
20 want to give a huge thank you to Norma Ramirez,
21 Sandra Stuthers, who's the TA president at Grand
Street Guild, Ray Klein, who also helped with the
petitioning, and of course Lower East Side

1 Preservation Initiative, who did the landmarking
2 application pro bono for the residents of the Lower
3 East Side, as well as the Archdiocese for receiving
4 this ask from the community and being supportive of
5 the application, thank you all.

6 I vote aye.

7 CLERK: Thank you.

8 Council Member Mealy?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: (ABSENT)

10 CLERK: Council Member Morano?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: Permission to
12 explain my vote?

13 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission granted.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: I wanted to speak a
15 moment on Intro 692. I'll be voting yes
16 enthusiastically on this legislation. I want to
17 congratulate Council Member Carmen De La Rosa for
18 getting this bill across the finish line. I also want
19 to recognize former Council Member Keith Powers,
20 whose leadership on this issue helped lay the
21 groundwork for where we are today. I don't know that
anybody told him he's a former council member,

1
2 though, because I feel like I see him at City Hall
3 just as much now as when he served in this body. He's
4 kind of like the municipal equivalent of Bruce Willis
5 in The Sixth Sense, but it's great to see him.

6 Every day, our school paraprofessionals
7 do some of the hardest and most important work in our
8 education system. They help children with
9 disabilities learn, communicate, and succeed. They
10 support our teachers, strengthen classrooms, and make
11 a real difference in the lives of New York families.
12 Yet for far too long, they've been asked to do that
13 work for far too little pay.

14 I do have one regret in this bill, though.
15 A wonderful paraprofessional from my district, Ellen
16 Santorelli (phonetic), devoted her career to serving
17 our children. She retired yesterday, and because of
18 the timing, she won't receive this benefit. That's
19 unfortunate because people like Ellen are exactly the
20 public servants struggling to afford to continue to
21 live here that we should be rewarding.

I also wish this \$10,000 payment could be
pensionable. Unfortunately, this legislation doesn't

1 permit that. My hope is that making compensation like
2 this pensionable becomes part of the next collective
3 bargaining agreement so these hardworking employees
4 receive not only immediate relief but greater
5 retirement security as well.

6 Finally, I think it's disappointing that
7 this administration has indicated its opposition to
8 this and other similar legislation. Too often, when
9 it comes to giving working people the support they've
10 earned, whether it's paraprofessionals, EMS workers,
11 or others, we're told that collective bargaining
12 means nothing can be done. Collective bargaining is
13 obviously important, and it must be respected, but it
14 shouldn't become an excuse (TIMER) for not helping
15 working folks in our city.

16 Thank you. With that, I'll vote aye on
17 everything with the exception of Intro 972 and 983-A,
18 on which I vote no.

19 CLERK: Thank you.

20 Council Member Narcisse?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: I want to
disclose that my son works for a nonprofit that is

1
2 being funded by us, and my hubby is a medical doctor
3 at NYU.

4 And permission to explain my vote?

5 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission granted.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Thank you,
7 Majority.

8 I am proud to support Intro 692. First, I
9 have to say thank you to Carmen and, of course, Keith
10 and our Chair.

11 Today, we were able to pass it through,
12 and I want to say thank you to all the leadership who
13 have been advocating for the paraprofessionals, and
14 congratulations to all of you. Amazing. You've been
15 doing the work, and the city that's supposed to be
16 the leading city, and we were not being present for
17 you. So today we're saying that we are with you, we
18 are for you, we are supporting you. I'm proud to
19 support it, the Respect Check for our
20 paraprofessionals.

21 I have sat down with you in my office. I
have seen firsthand that you do the work in the
classroom. I used to be the mom in the classroom, and

1 I've seen you guys, really, you work. You are working
2 for the most vulnerable kids, and we are talking
3 about our future. So now, with our future, we are
4 saying that the starting salary is just not
5 sustainable in the city of New York.

6 We ask them, the paraprofessionals, to do
7 some of the most demanding work in our schools, and
8 we have not let them, you know, we never let them
9 know that we care for them in their paycheck. We let
10 them go further, deeper into poverty, I will say.

11 We made a mistake, but this bill is not
12 just a substitute for the raise. They deserve it, and
13 they had bargained for it, so now let's continue to
14 make sure they get what they deserve in New York
15 City. With nearly 1,600 para vacancies citywide, we
16 cannot afford to keep losing our professionals. They
17 are very special to us, and let's show it. Let's
18 continue making sure that they get what they deserve
19 in New York City.

20 And on that note, I vote aye on all.

21 (TIMER)

CLERK: Perfect, thank you.

Council Member Nurse?

COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I vote aye.

Congratulations, Council Member De La Rosa.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: I just want to remind everyone to stay here, so we can keep the numbers that we need in the room. Thank you.

CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye.
Congratulations, Council Member De La Rosa.

CLERK: Council Member Paladino?

COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: (ABSENT)

CLERK: Council Member Restler?

COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Permission to explain my vote?

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission granted.

COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Thank you so much, Majority Leader.

I, as the Speaker mentioned, would have strongly preferred for us to be resolving compensation for paraprofessionals through the collective bargaining process. But it has become unfortunately apparent over many years that pattern

1 bargaining is failing the lowest paid workers in city
2 government. There are too many workers, like
3 paraprofessionals, who earn \$32,500 a year, where a
4 3% raise just doesn't mean much. If you're well
5 compensated and you're making over \$100,000 a year, a
6 3% raise is great. But the nature of pattern
7 bargaining really expands upon and exacerbates the
8 inequities that exist in compensation in New York
9 City.

10 And so we need OLR and the Mamdani
11 Administration to begin creating equity tables where
12 each year they identify low-wage workers in city
13 government who are underpaid and prioritize bringing
14 those wages up. But until that happens, we can't
15 afford not to act. And so I'm grateful for the
16 leadership of our former Labor Chair, Council Member
17 Carmen De La Rosa, for ensuring that these
18 paraprofessionals get the support that they deserve,
19 and I appreciate Speaker Menin's leadership and the
20 Council today, along with the UFT, in delivering for
21 low-wage workers who deserve this and so much more.

1
2 I'm grateful to every paraprofessional in
3 New York City for their hard work in taking care of
4 our kids. I proudly vote aye on all.

5 CLERK: Council Member Riley?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: I just want to state
7 for the record that my children are scholars at New
8 York City Public Schools, and we are also members of
9 the YMCA. And I vote aye on all.

10 CLERK: Thank you.

11 Council Member Salaam?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: I just want to say
13 for the record that my family are members of the
14 YMCA. And I am proud to vote aye on all.

15 CLERK: Council Member Justin Sanchez?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER JUSTIN SANCHEZ: I'd like to
17 disclose I have nothing to disclose. Aye on all.

18 (LAUGHTER)

19 CLERK: Thank you.

20 Council Member Pierina Sanchez?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER PIERINA SANCHEZ: I'd like
to disclose on the record that my sibling works at
CUNY.

1 And permission to explain my vote?

2 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission granted.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER PIERINA SANCHEZ: Thank you,
4 Majority Leader.

5 I want to say congratulations to Council
6 Member De La Rosa and the Speaker for your leadership
7 on Intro 692.

8 Thirty-two thousand dollars is not enough.
9 Our paras deserve more. And I want to agree with
10 Council Member Ariola that our EMTs absolutely do
11 too. In my district, the way that the shortfall of
12 our EMTs shows up is that NYPD patrol cars are taking
13 people to hospitals every single day instead of EMTs.

14 So I hear the uproar, and I agree. And I
15 also remind my colleagues that there are so many New
16 York cities within our city. In my district, the
17 median income is \$25,000 a year for a worker. And so
18 \$32,000 is not enough for our paras. And, \$25,000 a
19 year is not enough for folks in my district. So let's
20 please continue to fight our inequalities, expand
21 opportunity, and tax the rich so we can fund the key
initiatives that can get us there. Thank you.

1 CLERK: Council Member Sanchez?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER PIERINA SANCHEZ: Aye on
3 all.

4 CLERK: Thank you.

5 Council Member Santosuosso?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER SANTOSUOSSO: Aye on all.

7 CLERK: Thank you.

8 Council Member Schulman?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Permission to
10 explain my vote?

11 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission granted.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Paraprofessionals
13 are the backbone of our classrooms, supporting
14 students with special needs, assisting teachers, and
15 keeping our schools safe and inclusive. Yet for too
16 long, their pay has not reflected the essential role
17 they play. Intro 692-A is about respect, equity, and
18 justice, and correcting the wage disparities created
19 by years of pattern bargaining that have left
20 paraprofessionals behind. This bill recognizes the
21 value of your work and sends a clear message: New
York City cannot deliver quality education without

1 investing in the people who make it possible.

2 I want to congratulate Carmen De La Rosa
3 and Speaker Menin. And by the way, this isn't the
4 first piece of important legislation that has had new
5 life in this session. I am a proud co-sponsor of this
6 legislation. I was also the last go-round.

7 And with that, I vote aye on all.

8 CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Permission to
10 explain my vote?

11 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission granted.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: One, I would like
13 to be associated with the remarks of Council Member
14 Sanchez, and also would like to uplift at the same
15 time the position of EMS and us having very low wages
16 in our district. My average being at \$36,000 a year.

17 I also would like to highlight nonprofit
18 workers. I mean, today, hearing everyone just speak
19 about how it is a disgrace that paraprofessionals are
20 being paid \$32,000, I would love and hope that the
21 same energy continues for nonprofit workers who work
tirelessly in jobs that are honestly thankless. And

1
2 although I know Epstein said he was making more at a
3 nonprofit, that is typically not the case, where most
4 nonprofit workers' average income is about \$40,000,
5 who are doing all the work that we all glorify and
uplift here.

6 So, I just want to continue to say a
7 shoutout to Council Member De La Rosa for getting us
8 across the field, but also just making sure that we
9 as a council continue to prioritize all workers who
10 are struggling at the bottom and who are making very
11 low wages compared to all other New Yorkers. We need
12 to be thinking about how we continue to push forward
13 legislation and support for those who are in the most
need in all these communities. Thank you.

14 CLERK: Apologies, Council Member
Stevens... (CROSS-TALK)

15 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye on all.

16 CLERK: Thank you, Council Member Stevens.

17 Council Member Thomas-Henry?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: I'd like to
19 disclose that my daughter is a participant at Jamaica
20
21

1 Center for Arts and Learning. And I'd like permission
2 to explain my vote?

3 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission granted.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: I'd like to
5 acknowledge a constituent, someone who has known me—
6 whoo!—probably since I was three years old, and has
7 always been a close family friend and a community
8 auntie who is a para and who actually introduced me
9 to this bill as an advocate even before I was
10 elected. So I want to say we're bringing it home.
11 Thank you, Miss Gina Lewis (phonetic). Thank you to
12 my colleague Council Member De La Rosa for carrying
13 this bill, and to Speaker Menin.

14 I vote aye on all.

15 CLERK: Council Member Ung?

16 DEPUTY LEADER UNG: Aye on all.

17 CLERK: Council Member Vernikov?

18 MINORITY WHIP VERNIKOV: Thank you,
19 Majority Leader. I move for unanimous consent to vote
20 on all Land Use Call-ups as well as coupled General
21 Orders.

1
2 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Seeing no
3 objections.

4 MINORITY WHIP VERNIKOV: Thank you. Aye on
5 all, with the exception of Intro 972 and 983-A, for
6 which I vote no. Thank you.

7 CLERK: Council Member Williams?

8 DEPUTY SPEAKER WILLIAMS: I am disclosing
9 on the record that I am affiliated with CUNY. And I
10 would like permission to explain my vote.

11 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission granted.

12 DEPUTY SPEAKER WILLIAMS: Thank you so
13 much, Majority Leader.

14 One of the greatest responsibilities we
15 have as legislators is to build public trust.
16 Sometimes that means creating transparent processes
17 for the decisions government makes. Other times, it
18 means taking an honest look at the history that has
19 shaped our city. Today we're doing both.

20 Legislation implementing the
21 recommendations of the Quadrennial Advisory
Commission, which we thank, reflects this Council's
commitment to a transparent, independent, and

1 predictable process for reviewing elected officials'
2 compensation. Government is strongest when New
3 Yorkers understand not only the decisions we make but
4 the process behind them.

5 We're also taking an important step toward
6 acknowledging one of the darkest chapters in New York
7 City's history. The Draft Riots of 1863, which
8 included horrific acts of racial violence against
9 Black New Yorkers, yet there remains no formal public
10 acknowledgement of those events in our city's
11 landscape. I want to thank my constituent, Nia Clark,
12 whose reporting on Cheryl Wills, NY1, helped bring
renewed attention to the Draft Riots.

13 I want to thank Speaker Julie Menin for
14 her leadership, council staff, committee members, and
15 chairs for their work on these measures and all of my
colleagues for their partnership.

16 And very briefly, in my 53 seconds, as I
17 was just sharing with the Speaker that I have a
18 staffer, my special assistant Kate, who started
19 working for me... No, this is now-- I can do this
20 now...
21

1
2 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: It's during General
3 Discussion.

4 DEPUTY SPEAKER WILLIAMS: No, this is not
5 my interns. This is about the para bill.

6 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: My apologies. Y'all
7 can all laugh at me now.

8 DEPUTY SPEAKER WILLIAMS: Can I have my 10
9 seconds back, Majority Leader?

10 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Yeah, please give
11 her seconds back. That's my apologies (INAUDIBLE)...
12 (CROSS-TALK)

13 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: You're the best.
14 Very quickly, Kate, my special assistant, started
15 working for me. She's a constituent part-time. When I
16 first got into the Council, she eventually moved to
17 fulltime. She was a para, and one of the things that
18 she mentioned was the salary, and I was able to give
19 her a higher salary. And perhaps, if her salary were
20 higher, sadly, I might not have her in our office.
21 I'm thankful, but I'm just really excited for this
bill and for people like Kate. Thank you so much,
Majority Leader. And congrats, Chair De La Rosa.

1 CLERK: Thank you.

2 Council Member Wilson?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON: Permission to
4 explain my vote?

5 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission granted.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON: Thank you, Majority
7 Leader.

8 I'm proud that District 3 is a beacon for
9 dreamers and strivers from around the nation and the
10 world, to young actors aspiring to make it on
11 Broadway, to queer people yearning for a chosen
12 family, and to visitors taking in the neon lights of
13 Times Square. And that's long been the case in
14 District 3. Take the Lithuanian Alliance Building in
15 Chelsea, whose landmark designation I am proud to
16 support today.

17 From the late 19th through 20th centuries,
18 after making it through Ellis Island, the first port
19 of call for newly arrived Lithuanian Americans was
20 307 West 30th Street. There they'd get a friendly
21 welcome, assistance with housing and employment, and

1 maybe a copy of the Tevyne (phonetic) newspaper
2 printed on site.

3 The Lithuanian Alliance Building inspires
4 us to extend a hand to newcomers with warmth,
5 hospitality, and professionalism. It also represents
6 the ever-important bonds of friendship, draugystė,
7 between Lithuania and the United States.

8 I'd like to acknowledge the Consul General
9 of Lithuania, as well as the staff members and board
10 members of the Alliance Building. And I'd like to
11 thank my colleagues for joining me in supporting the
12 landmark designation for the Lithuanian Alliance
13 Center. Sveskimė kartū (phonetic). And I vote aye on
14 all.

15 CLERK: Thank you.

16 Council Member Won?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: I just want to
18 publicly disclose that one of my children is part of
19 the public school system. And I vote aye on all.

20 CLERK: Council Member Wong?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER WONG: Permission to explain
my vote?

1
2 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission granted.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER WONG: Thank you, Majority
4 Leader.

5 In my district, there are just so, so many
6 constituents who are living paycheck to paycheck and
7 having problems making ends meet. And with that in
8 mind-- and also I spent many months advocating for
9 savings into the city budget, of identifying savings.
10 So I cannot consciously vote on a bill to increase a
11 salary for myself.

12 So, I vote aye on all, except for Intro
13 983-A. And I also vote no on 972 on the tax credit
14 decrease, which would actually increase city taxes.
15 Thank you.

16 CLERK: Council Member Zhuang?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: For the record, my
18 kids go to public school, which we are funding in New
19 York City. I also want permission to explain my vote.

20 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission granted.

21 CHAIRPERSON ZHUANG: First of all, I want
to say congratulations to paras. I also want to
congratulate our small business owners because today,

1 we are voting on a bill, Intro 955-A, the Red Tape
2 Relief Act. That's a big win for our small business
3 owners because, first of all, they are the backbone
4 of New York City's economy. They create jobs,
5 strengthen our neighborhood, and they represent the
6 dream of hard-working families. But too many
7 regulations, too many permits, they have to get
8 before they get that door open, even make a penny,
9 before they make a penny. So this bill, Intro 955-A,
10 offers a practical solution. It requires city
11 agencies to coordinate inspections and the plan
12 review instead of making business owners navigate to
13 one agency after another. We know this approach works
14 because New York City has done it before through the
15 New Business Acceleration Team, which helps a
16 business open faster by improving coordination across
17 agencies.

18 Intro 955-A also ensures accountability.
19 This legislation requires public reporting so we can
20 measure whether this program is actually reducing the
21 delay and helping business success.

1
2 And also, I want to thank our Speaker and
3 a lot of colleagues who helped me work on this bill
4 and supported this bill. Our job is to make sure the
5 government is more efficient and also to make our
6 small business owners' lives easier. So I want to
7 thank everyone who voted yes on this bill, and I will
8 vote yes on the bill. I vote aye on all (TIMER)
9 except Intro 983-A, which is a no.

10 CLERK: Thank you, Council Member.

11 Council Member Carr?

12 MINORITY LEADER CARR: I would like to
13 second the comments of colleagues in support of our
14 EMTs. And I vote aye on all, with the exception of
15 Introductions 972 and 983-A, on which I vote no.

16 CLERK: Council Member Abreu?

17 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Aye.

18 CLERK: Speaker Menin?

19 SPEAKER MENIN: I vote aye on all, except
20 Preconsidered Intro 983-A, on which I abstain.

21 (PAUSE)

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: All items on
today's General Order Calendar have been adopted by a

1
2 vote of 49 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and
3 no abstentions, with the exception of Intro 972-A,
4 which was adopted by a vote of 43 in the affirmative,
5 6 in the negative, and 0 abstentions, and Intro
6 983-A, which was adopted by a vote of 43 in the
7 affirmative, 6 in the negative and 0 abstentions
8 (sic), and Intro 913-A, which was adopted by a vote
9 of 48 in the affirmative, 1 in the negative, and 0
10 abstentions.

11 The revised Land Use Call-ups vote is 48
12 in the affirmative and 0 in the negative.

13 Congratulations.

14 (APPLAUSE)

15 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Just give me one
16 second. Intro 983-A was adopted by a vote of 43 in
17 the affirmative, 5 in the negative, and 1 abstention.

18 Congrats again.

19 Introduction and Reading of bills?

20 SPEAKER MENIN: All bills have been
21 referred to Committee as indicated on today's agenda.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you. We will
now move into the Discussion of Resolutions. We have

1 two folks signed up, Council Member Salaam, followed
2 by Council Member Louis.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: Thank you, Majority
4 Leader Abreu.

5 Colleagues, I want to take a moment before
6 we vote on Resolution 371, because this one deserves
7 more than just a procedural eye. First, I want to
8 thank Council Members Fariás, Louis, Narcisse, and
9 Wilson for supporting this resolution. And thank you
10 to Deputy Speaker Williams for holding the vote in
the committee.

11 Fatman Scoop, known as Isaac Freeman III,
12 was born right here in Manhattan on August 6th, 1968.
13 Harlem raised him, Cardinal Hayes shaped him, and
14 then he went out and gave this city and this world
15 something they will never forget. That voice, that
16 energy, that call and response that turned every room
17 he walked into a celebration. For a decade, he held
18 down midnight to 5:00 A.M. slots on Hot 97. He
19 collaborated with some of the greatest artists of our
20 generation. He won a Grammy, crossed genres, crossed
21 continents, and everywhere he went, people felt it.

1 But I want my colleagues to know something beyond the
2 accolades. He was my friend. (TIMER) Well, that was
3 quick. (LAUGHS)

4 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: I'll give you an
5 extra 15 seconds, Council Member.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: Oh, thank you.

7 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: And I'm going to be
8 consistent with everybody else today. As you notice,
9 I'm giving everybody an extra 10 seconds.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: When I was
11 inaugurated, he came and pulled up. He didn't have to
12 do that. Nobody asked him to do it. But that was
13 Isaac. He showed up for the people he loved the same
14 way that he showed up for every audience with
15 everything he had, every single time. We lost him on
16 August 30th of 2024, at 56 years of age, on stage,
17 doing exactly what he was born to do.

18 This resolution asks that every August
19 6th, the City...

20 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member,
21 you have to wrap up.

1
2 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Yes, sir... the
3 City of New York pauses and remembers him, not just
4 as an artist, a son of Harlem, as someone who made
5 this city feel like home for everyone who heard his
6 voice. Thank you. I ask my colleagues to vote yes on
7 Resolution 371. Thank you.

8 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member
9 Louis?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Thank you, Mr.
11 Majority Leader.

12 I would like to thank Council Member
13 Salaam for sponsoring Resolution 371 and for giving
14 us the opportunity to honor a man who meant so much
15 to so many.

16 For most people, Fatman Scoop was the
17 voice, the booming, raw, unmistakable energy that
18 could fill any room, any club, any track he touched.
19 He was the ultimate hip-hop hype man, and he did it
20 with joy every single time. But for me, Fatman Scoop
21 was something more personal. He was my boss. I had
the privilege of working for him at Hot 97, pulling
his press clips every morning, breaking news stories,

1 and making sure he had everything he needed to walk
2 into that studio ready. And he was always ready. What
3 I didn't expect was how much he would pour into me.
4 He saw my ambition to be a journalist and to work in
5 media, and he didn't just encourage me; he pushed me.
6 He told me to keep fighting for where I needed to be.
7 He showed me how to use the equipment. (TIMER) Wow,
8 that was fast. (LAUGHS)

9 With all that said, I'm proud to vote in
10 support of this resolution designating August 6th as
11 Fatman Scoop Recognition Day in the City of New York.
12 Thank you.

13 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Seeing no one else
14 signed up to speak on Resolutions, we will now have a
15 voice vote on today's Resos. If you wish to vote
16 against or abstain from today's Resolution, please
17 notify the Legislative Documents Unit by email or by
18 approaching the dais.

19 I will now read today's resolution into
20 the record.

21 Resolution 371 declares August 6th
annually as Fatman Scoop Recognition Day in the City

1 of New York, and celebrates the signature style that
2 he brought to every musical collaboration and the
3 inimitable energy he brought to every audience.

4 Will all those in favor say aye?

5 ALL: Aye

6 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: All opposed say
7 nay?

8 ALL: (SILENT)

9 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Any abstentions?

10 ALL: (SILENT)

11 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: The ayes have it.

12 And I would also like to provide a
13 revision of the vote on Intro 983-A, which was
14 adopted by a vote of 42 in the affirmative, 6 in the
15 negative, and 1 abstention.

16 We will now move into General Discussion,
17 beginning with Deputy Speaker Williams, followed by
18 Council Member Louis.

19 DEPUTY SPEAKER WILLIAMS: Thank you so
20 much, Majority Leader.

21 Following the rules, I just want to give a
special shoutout to my D27 summer interns: Avani,

1 Ryan, Maribel, Eric, and Owen, who are joining us in
2 the Chambers today. Thank you so much for your hard
3 work, your curiosity, and your commitment to public
4 service. I am so grateful to have you with us this
5 summer. Thank you.

6 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Congratulations,
7 interns.

8 Council Member Louis, followed by Council
9 Member Wong.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Thank you.

11 Today I'm introducing Intro 978, a bill
12 that will increase the qualifying income limit for
13 seniors and persons with disabilities for the senior
14 citizen rent increase exemption-- SCRIE and DRIE.

15 This bill is imperative to protect our
16 most vulnerable populations from increasing housing
17 costs and prevent displacement. New York City faces a
18 severe housing crisis, which is exacerbated by rent
19 increases that threaten housing stability for New
20 Yorkers. Our seniors and neighbors with disabilities
21 rely heavily on SCRIE and DRIE because many live on
fixed incomes. These programs allow our older adults

1 to afford their daily essentials without having to
2 choose between buying groceries, purchasing medicine,
3 and paying for rent.

4 As of June 2026, New York City experienced
5 another unprecedented housing price increase, with
6 the median monthly rent being \$5,295 in Manhattan
7 compared to \$4,350 in Brooklyn. These escalating rent
8 costs reflect a widening disparity of housing
9 affordability across the city. We must protect our
10 low-income residents from being priced out of
neighborhoods they have called home for decades.

11 This bill addresses the eligibility
12 challenges we face as New Yorkers, strengthening
13 housing security for tenants, ultimately lowering
14 tenant turnover for landlords, and reducing eviction
risk for tenants.

15 Homelessness is already a widespread issue
16 in New York City, and fewer affordable units will
17 only increase shelter populations. A recent report
18 showed that 26,000 applications were received for
19 just 84 affordable senior housing units in the city.
20 It is important that we continue to protect our older
21

1 adults and uniquely abled New Yorkers from
2 experiencing traumatic displacement.

3 I urge my colleagues to support Intro 978.
4 Thank you.

5 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member
6 Wong, followed by Santosuosso.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER WONG: Thank you, Majority
8 Leader.

9 Today, I'm introducing Intro 984,
10 legislation to formally establish a permanent
11 citywide NYPD Street Takeover Unit.

12 This bill was prompted by the dangerous
13 April 18th takeover at 69th Street and Elliott Avenue
14 in my district, where nearly 100 vehicles blocked the
15 intersection, drivers performed stunts around a fire
16 in the roadway between two gas stations, and
17 individuals damaged a mock police vehicle.

18 Similar incidents across the city have
19 shown that too often the response comes too late, and
20 meaningful prevention is lacking. Patrol Borough
21 Queens North has already taken an important step by
22 deploying a team to address these incidents.

1
2 Intro 984 would codify that approach into
3 law, expand it citywide, establish a unit to monitor
4 publicly available information about planned
5 takeovers, and require the NYPD to report to the
6 Council so we can measure its effectiveness and
7 ensure proper oversight.

8 But a specialized unit alone is not
9 enough. We also need more police officers assigned to
10 our local precincts so they have the staffing
11 necessary to prevent these incidents, respond
12 quickly, and maintain public safety throughout our
13 neighborhoods.

14 I ask my colleagues to sign onto Intro 984
15 so we can advance a serious, permanent, and
16 accountable solution to this growing public safety
17 threat. Thank you.

18 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member
19 Thomas-Henry, followed by Council Member Sanchez, and
20 Council Member Santosuosso, we'll come back to her
21 when she's ready.

COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: Thank you,
Majority Leader.

1
2 There's a saying we've all heard: if you
3 can make it in New York, you can make it anywhere.
4 New Yorkers have always understood that this city
5 comes with a price. We accept that. I mean, the New
6 York mindset is often anchored on blind faith that
7 success is just on the other side of grinding harder.
8 But there's a thin line between paying a premium to
9 live in New York and being priced out of New York.
10 Every additional increase moves more families and
11 more small businesses closer to that line.

12 I believe good government meets people
13 where they are, and right now, New Yorkers are
14 telling us exactly where they are. They're making
15 impossible choices between paying bills and putting
16 food on the table. As Chair of the Committee on Small
17 Business, I hear this every single day.

18 For a small business owner, utilities are
19 the only way doors stay open. They aren't a luxury.
20 They're the operating systems of our communities— the
21 refrigerator keeping food fresh, the salon chair
staying occupied, the neighborhood laundromat running

1 another load, the corner bodega keeping its shelves
2 stocked.

3 That's why I'm proud to introduce
4 Resolution 561, calling on our utility companies and
5 the Public Service Commission to freeze utility rates
6 for New York City residents. Families are juggling
7 housing, groceries, childcare, and transportation.
8 Seniors living on fixed incomes have the least room
9 for yet another increase. Our small businesses are
10 navigating higher rents, rising insurance costs, and
11 inflation. Utility bills shouldn't be the breaking
point.

12 An affordable city isn't built by asking
13 people to absorb one more bill. Today we're asking
14 for something simple: a pause, a freeze, and a
15 recognition that affordability must remain the center
of every decision.

16 Thank you to my colleagues who have
17 already joined me in supporting this effort. I
18 encourage the rest of the Council to join us.

19 I would also like to acknowledge one of my
20 SYEP (Summer Youth Employment) interns who is in the
21

1 Chamber. Although he hails from the BX in Council
2 Member Riley's district, he has proven to be (TIMER)
3 an invaluable member of our team. I also want to
4 acknowledge my nephew, who is visiting before
5 starting his freshman year at UT Dallas. Thank you.

6 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member
7 Pierina Sanchez, followed by Council Santosuosso,
8 then Council Member Brewer.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER PIERINA SANCHEZ: Thank you,
10 Majority Leader.

11 I make these remarks on behalf of my
12 community. In less than a year, serious allegations
13 of sexual misconduct have emerged against two
14 successive commanding officers in the NYPD's 46th
15 Precinct, including allegations that have now led to
16 a criminal indictment.

17 This represents an alarming pattern of
18 alleged abuse of power, and I call on the Mayor and
19 the police commissioner to cooperate fully with all
20 criminal and civil investigations, ensure a thorough
21 and transparent internal disciplinary process, and
act swiftly to restore stability, accountability, and

1 trust within the 46th NYPD command.

2 In the context of our challenges, our
3 community is outraged and deeply saddened by these
4 allegations. Even as crime continues to decline
5 citywide, West Bronx residents continue to endure
6 some of the highest levels of violence in our city,
7 including just last night, when a horrific homicide
8 occurred outside of a lounge that I have previously
9 brought to the NYPD 46th Precinct commander and had
10 flagged for City Hall.

11 At such a critical moment, our community
12 cannot afford a leadership vacuum or instability in
13 this precinct. I commend NYPD Commissioner Tisch for
14 her swift move to fire the officer accused of
15 attempted rape of a junior officer, but I also want
16 to use this moment to call out that the public also
17 needs to see swift action in the face of
18 substantiated NYPD misconduct, especially in the
19 cases of Black men and women killed by the NYPD.

20 The hardworking people of our communities
21 deserve more from the NYPD and from our city. We will
continue to demand the highest standards of integrity

1
2 and accountability in policing alongside sustained
3 investments in the foundations of true community
4 safety. Thank you.

5 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you.

6 Council Member Santosuosso, followed by
7 Council Member Brewer.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER SANTOSUOSSO: Thank you,
9 Majority Leader.

10 I just want to take a moment to
11 acknowledge that on July 4th in Coney Island, there
12 was a horrific shooting where a family was
13 celebrating July 4th at a barbecue in a NYCHA
14 courtyard. Eight people were shot, including two
15 children as young as six and seven years old.

16 Gun violence is unfortunately becoming all
17 too common in Coney Island, despite whatever the
18 citywide stats may say. And so I'm grateful for the
19 60th Precinct for apprehending the shooter. But this
20 is a problem that we need to solve. And so I don't
21 pretend to be an expert in this. I will be convening
as many people as I can and experts on this issue to
try to attack this and really solve it once and for

1 all.

2 And so this is a call to action for
3 anybody who wants to see gun violence end in our
4 city, but also in Coney Island. Please get in touch
5 with my office. We want to work to collectively end
6 this problem. And my heart goes out to the family
7 that's recovering at this time. Thank you so much.

8 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you, Council
9 Member.

10 Council Member Brewer, followed by Council
11 Member Cabán.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you.

13 I do want to thank Council Member Louis
14 for the SCRIE/DRIE, and it's going to make a huge
15 difference for a lot of older adults. Thank you. I
16 look forward to working with you.

17 So I love interns. I want to thank those
18 who are here today. I respect them, and it's a
19 pleasure to work with you: Phoebe Adler, second year
20 at Middlebury College; Evangelita Benassi, McGill
21 University; Xavier Brenner, who's a second year at
Barnard College; Rebecca Chen, who's also second year

1 at Barnard College, and she's a food influencer; Asha
2 Gorodnik, sophomore at Trinity School; Matteo
3 Gregorio, senior at Oberlin College; Isaac Ho,
4 University of Buffalo; Julia Hornich, who is at
5 Macaulay Honors College; third year, James Lu, who is
6 a Van Fellow and also will be getting a second or
7 maybe third degree, the National Chengchi University
8 in Taiwan; Sienna Link Morris, who's third year at
9 NYU Tisch; Adam Moss, who's a sophomore at Stuyvesant
10 High School; Ella Williams at Horace Mann School; and
11 Veronica Hunt, who's a junior at Trinity School
12 Thank you all. That's just a few of the interns we
13 have in our office. I thank each and every one of
14 you. Thank you.

15 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: All right, Council
16 Member Cabán, followed Council Member Morano.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Thank you.

18 I want to echo the sentiments of Council
19 Member Sanchez. It is great to see that the
20 commissioner is willing to swiftly fire an officer
21 who commits an act of abuse of power and violence
against a coworker. I would like to see the same

1 swiftness when there are substantiated claims of not
2 just violence against Black and brown New Yorkers,
3 but the killings, the murders of Black and brown New
4 Yorkers who not only continue to stay on the force,
5 but continue to get raises, to get promoted, to get
6 their pensions. And it says a lot to say where the
7 action is happening, and where it isn't.

8 With that, I want to shift gears and take
9 a moment to just acknowledge a New Yorker who has
10 just dedicated so much of himself, his time, his
11 energy to a progressive vision, towards a progressive
12 vision that delivers safety and justice and
13 affordability for working people across our city.

14 For the last few years, I, along with so
15 many others, have had the privilege of working with
16 the now outgoing Progressive Caucus Executive,
17 Director Emmett Turan, day in and day out, and we're
18 going to miss your thoughtful, driven, and kind
19 leadership as you leave this role, but really, really
20 psyched that you're not going far because he's
21 joining Council Member Shahana Hanif's staff and
team. So Emmett, thank you for all you've done for

1 the Progressive Caucus. Can't wait to see what you do
2 next with Council Member Hanif.

3 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member
4 Morano, followed by Council Member Riley.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: Thank you, Majority
6 Leader.

7 Today, I'm introducing Resolution 555 that
8 speaks to something everyone of us has heard about
9 from our constituents, irrespective of party or
10 borough: utility bills that just keep going up.

11 For millions of New Yorkers, electricity
12 and natural gas aren't luxuries; they're necessities.
13 You can postpone buying a new television set, but you
14 can't postpone keeping the lights on, refrigerating
15 your food, or heating your home in the winter. And
16 yet too many New Yorkers open their utility bill
17 every month and ask the same question: How did it get
18 this high?

19 This resolution doesn't pretend that the
20 City Council controls utility rates. We don't,
21 obviously. That's the responsibility of Albany and
the Public Service Commission. But when New Yorkers

1 are struggling, I think it's our responsibility to
2 speak up. And the package of state legislation that
3 this resolution supports would provide better notice
4 before rate hikes, require regulators to consider the
5 impact that utility rates have on families,
6 strengthen consumer protections, improve payment plan
7 standards, and bring greater transparency and
8 accountability to utility regulations. These are not
9 radical ideas at all. They are common-sense,
10 nonpartisan reforms rooted in good government.

11 Whether you're a homeowner on Staten
12 Island, a tenant in the Bronx, or a small business
13 owner in Brooklyn, everyone deserves to know what
14 they're paying for, why costs are increasing, and
15 whether someone is truly looking out for the people
16 paying the bills, not just the entities that are
17 sending them.

18 This shouldn't be a Republican or
19 Democratic issue. It's a kitchen table issue. Every
20 dollar a family spends unnecessarily on utility bills
21 is a dollar they can't spend on groceries, rent,
prescriptions, or saving for their children's future.

1
2 Government can't solve every problem
3 overnight, but we can insist on greater transparency.
4 We can demand accountability, and we can stand with
5 the people who work hard, pay their bills, and simply
6 want a fair deal.

7 So I hope my colleagues will join me in
8 supporting this resolution and sending a clear
9 message to Albany. New Yorkers deserve an energy
10 system that's not only reliable but affordable,
11 transparent, and worthy of the public's trust. Thank
12 you. (TIMER)

13 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member
14 Riley, followed by Council Member Avilés.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Thank you, Majority
16 Leader.

17 Today, I'm proud to introduce Intro 981,
18 legislation that takes an important first step toward
19 exploring how New York City can expand access to
20 responsible, community-focused financial investments.

21 This bill establishes a task force to
study the feasibility of creating a municipal public
bank and to develop recommendations for what such an

1 institution could look like here in New York City.

2 Bringing together experts in community
3 banking, small businesses, labor, economic
4 development, and consumer advocacy will ensure this
5 conversation is informed by a broad range of
6 perspectives and grounded in the needs of the
7 communities we serve.

8 The task force will evaluate governance,
9 capitalization, financial management, regulatory
10 compliance, and long term sustainability before
11 issuing a comprehensive report with recommendations
12 to guide future policymaking.

13 By requiring a transparent, data-driven
14 process, this legislation ensures that any future
15 decisions are based on thoughtful analysis,
16 stakeholder engagement, and sound financial planning.

17 As our city continues to explore new ways
18 to strengthen local economies, support small
19 businesses, and expand access to capital, we have a
20 responsibility to carefully examine every viable
21 option.

1
2 This legislation does exactly that. It
3 creates a framework for informed decision-making
4 while prioritizing accountability, transparency, and
5 the long term interests of New Yorkers.

6 I want to thank Council Members Joseph,
7 Cabán, Stevens, Epstein, and Avilés for co-priming
8 this bill, and I look forward to working with the
9 rest of my colleagues and stakeholders as this
10 conversation continues.

11 And with the remaining 20 seconds, I want
12 to give a shoutout to the Deputy Speaker's intern
13 that she forgot to mention, Samantha, she loves you.
14 Okay? Thank you, Majority Leader.

15 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: That was sweet, I
16 have to say.

17 Council Member Avilés, followed by Council
18 Member Dinowitz.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: First, I want to
20 thank Emmett Turan, our outgoing Progressive Caucus
21 Director, for his incredible work leading the Caucus.
Emmett is a dedicated and supremely talented public
servant whose thoughtful leadership has delivered

1 major wins for New York's working class. Thank you,
2 Emmett, for all you have done and will continue to
3 accomplish with Council Member Hanif's office.

4 I wish to use my remarks to mourn the loss
5 of two people murdered by ICE this month, Joan
6 Sebastián Guerrero and Lorenzo Salgado Araujo.

7 Joan was a 26-year-old father working two
8 jobs to support his family. On Monday morning, ICE
9 agents killed him on his way to work, just blocks
10 from his home. He built a community for himself and
11 his family in Maine. His neighbor said he was a kind
12 presence on the block, often stopping to compliment a
13 neighbor's garden with his daughter. Those same
14 neighbors heard screams and cries from his wife and
15 child on Monday when ICE agents shot and killed him
16 in front of their eyes.

17 Lorenzo Araujo was also headed to work
18 when immigration agents stopped his vehicle. Lorenzo,
19 a father of three, owned a construction company, and
20 he was driving his coworkers to a job when ICE
21 officers stopped his vehicle, pulled out their
weapons, and shot and killed him.

1
2 In the days since these murders, ICE
3 officials have admitted that neither Lorenzo nor Joan
4 was the target of any investigation. This is yet
5 another horrifying instance of ICE's rogue violence
6 and the absolute cruelty of the Trump immigration
policy.

7 I stand today to express my utter
8 condemnation of these cold blooded murders. ICE is a
9 lawless agency that has killed at least six people by
10 shooting them to death on our streets since Trump
took office again. Abolish ICE. (TIMER)

11 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member
12 Dinowitz, followed by Council Member Hanif.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Thank you,
14 Majority Leader.

15 Today, I'm introducing a resolution
16 calling for reform of the New York City public school
governance.

17 Resolution 548 calls on the State
18 Legislature to amend our city's education law to
19 grant the City Council representation on the Panel
20 for Educational Policy, and to give Community
21

1
2 Education Councils more oversight over DOE hiring
3 decisions.

4 The PEP wields immense power in our city.
5 They oversee school closures, co-locations, grade
6 reconfigurations, and massive DOE contracts,
7 including those exceeding \$1 million. Their actions
8 affect nearly one million students and 140,000 DOE
9 staff members. And yet, of the PEP's voting members,
10 none are selected by the City Council. The City
11 Council, which oversees and adopts the budget that
12 funds the DOE, does not have any representation on
13 the PEP.

14 Giving the City Council a seat would help
15 democratize the panel and ensure that our communities
16 are adequately represented in decisions that affect
17 them.

18 Community Education Councils face a
19 similar imbalance. While CECs help identify
20 candidates for superintendent and submit evaluations,
21 they have no meaningful authority over leadership
22 decisions within their district.

 The State should amend the system to allow

1 for CECs, a body that directly represents parents
2 within their school district, to have more of a say
3 in decision making.

4 Granting the Council a designated seat on
5 the PEP and giving CECs a stronger role in hiring
6 decisions within their districts would add a
7 necessary measure of legislative and community
8 accountability to the largest public school system in
the United States.

9 I'd like to thank you again, Majority
10 Leader, for the opportunity to speak on this
11 resolution.

12 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member
13 Hanif, followed by Council Member Hudson, and Justin
Sanchez.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you, Majority
15 Leader.

16 Today, I'm proud to introduce Intro 971,
17 legislation that takes an important first step toward
18 understanding and addressing the growing impact of
19 private equity on our neighborhoods.

20 Our small businesses are already
21

1 struggling with rising rents, higher operating costs,
2 and burdensome regulations. Now, many are also
3 competing against private equity-backed companies
4 that can undercut local businesses, prioritize
5 profits over quality, weaken worker protections, and
6 displace the neighborhood institutions that make our
7 communities unique.

8 Every dollar spent at a local business is
9 an investment in your neighborhood. Despite the rapid
10 growth of private equity ownership, the City has
11 little data on how these acquisitions are reshaping
12 our communities.

13 Intro 971 would require the Department of
14 Consumer and Worker Protection to conduct a one-time
15 study examining the impacts of private equity
16 ownership on workers, consumers, local economies, and
17 small businesses across industries, including
18 healthcare, dental care, veterinary services,
19 childcare, food and hospitality, fitness, and more.

20 Finally, July is Disability Pride Month.
21 As Chair of the Committee on Disabilities and
Accessibility, I want to celebrate the leadership,

1 joy, and resilience of the disability community and
2 recommit to building a city where accessibility,
3 inclusion, and disability justice are never an
4 afterthought. Thank you.

5 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member
6 Hudson, followed by Council Member Justin Sanchez.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Thank you so much.

8 I'd like to be associated with the remarks
9 of Council Member Avilés.

10 I'd also like to take a quick moment to
11 shout out my summer interns who have already made an
12 impact in their short time serving the 35th District
13 alongside my team: Skylar Silverman (phonetic) at
14 Cornell University, Yaron Berry (phonetic), a recent
15 graduate of Toro College, Callie Hayes (phonetic) of
16 my own alma mater, Spelman College, Octavia
17 Rubio-Jenkins (phonetic) at Yeshiva University School
18 of Social Work, Jed Kassoy (phonetic) from Stanford
19 University, Clinton Charter (phonetic), a recent
20 graduate of Rochester Institute of Technology, and
21 Raylene Brown Alexander (phonetic) at York College.
Thank you.

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2 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you. I would
3 also like to take a moment to recognize that we have
4 been joined by Theo Crombie (phonetic) in the back,
5 who is an intern of mine and also a constituent.
6 Thank you for joining us.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER JUSTIN SANCHEZ: First of
8 all, thank you, Madam Speaker, and to all my
9 colleagues for the early birthday wishes. I look
10 forward to entering my 35th year of life tomorrow.

11 But I want to rewind back to today, 35
12 years ago, where a scared 18-year-old girl was
13 sitting there pregnant, not knowing what the future
14 would hold. That girl was my mom, Ruth Sanchez. And I
15 want to thank her for everything that she went
16 through, all of the struggles, all the fights to be
17 able to make sure that her little boy and all of her
18 kids got the opportunity to live out their wildest
19 dreams. And 35 years later, I get to enter my 35th
20 birthday as the Council Member representing the South
21 Bronx.

22 Having said that, this message goes out to
23 all of the little Black and brown girls and boys all

1 over this city. This is your city. There are times
2 that the world might seem hard, it might seem unfair,
3 but there are people who are rooting for you every
4 single step of the way. And I'm proud to be here, and
5 I'm so excited to see all the work that we can do
6 together, because at the end of the day, this city
7 belongs to us. And no matter what the amount of
8 "noes" that you will get, every left and right, at
9 the end of the day, we're New Yorkers. Nothing stops
10 us, and the only thing getting in your way is you. So
11 thank you, Mom. Thank you to this city, and thank
12 you, everyone.

12 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: I will now call on
13 Speaker Julie Menin to close today's Stated Meeting.

14 SPEAKER MENIN: Okay, the Stated Meeting of
15 July 16, 2026, is hereby adjourned. [GAVEL]
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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is no interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date July 23, 2026