

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL CHARTER MEETING

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January 6, 2016
Start: 12:15 p.m.
Recess: 12:53 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: LETITIA JAMES
Public Advocate

MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO
Speaker for the Council

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Alan N. Maisel
Andrew Cohen
Andy L. King
Annabel Palma
Antonio Reynoso
Barry S. Grodenchik
Ben Kallos
Brad S. Lander
Carlos Menchaca
Chaim M. Deutsch
Corey D. Johnson
Costa G. Constantinides
Daniel Dromm
Daniel R. Garodnick
Darlene Mealy
David G. Greenfield
Deborah L. Rose

Donovan J. Richards
Elizabeth S. Crowley
Eric A. Ulrich
Fernando Cabrera
Helen K. Rosenthal
I. Daneek Miller
Inez D. Barron
Inez E. Dickens
James Vacca
Joseph C. Borelli
Julissa Ferreras-Copeland
Jumaane D. Williams
Karen Koslowitz
Laurie A. Cumbo
Margaret S. Chin
Mark Levine
Mark Treyger
Mathieu Eugene
Melissa Mark-Viverito
Paul A. Vallone
Peter A. Koo
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.
Ritchie J. Torres
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
Rory I. Lancman
Rosie Mendez
Ruben Wills
Jumaane Williams
Stephen T. Levin
Steven Matteo
Vanessa L. Gibson

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Reverend Ayana Ajanaku-Vason, Senior Pastor
Ebenezer Christian Center Ministries
Borough of Brooklyn

2 [sound check, pause, background comments]

3 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Ladies and gentlemen,
4 can I have your attention, please. Happy New Year.
5 Will all council members please have a seat. At this
6 time, please place all electronic devices, all
7 electronic devices to vibrate. Will all non-Council
8 employees, non-Council employees please leave the
9 main--leave the main floor of the Chamber. Thank
10 you. [pause]

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
12 Chambers.

13 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] [off
14 mic] Quiet, please.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
16 Chambers, please.

17 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [off mic] Quiet,
18 please.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Members, please
20 have your seats. [coughs] All rise for the Pledge
21 of Allegiance.

22 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: All rise.

23 [Pledge of Allegiance]

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please be seated.
25 Roll call.

1 CITY COUNCIL CHARTER MEETING 5

2 CLERK: Barron. Borelli.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: [off mic]

4 Present.

5 CLERK: Cabrera. Chin.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

7 CLERK: Cohen. Constantinides.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: [off mic]

9 Here.

10 CLERK: Cornegy. Crowley.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [off mic] Here.

12 CLERK: Cumbo. Deutsch. Dickens.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here. Thank

14 God.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yay. [applause,

16 cheers]

17 CLERK: Dromm.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

19 CLERK: Cohen.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: [off mic] Here.

21 CLERK: Espinal. Eugene. Ferreras-

22 Copeland.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS COPELAND: Here

24 and happy Three Kings Day.

25 CLERK: Garodnick.

1 CITY COUNCIL CHARTER MEETING 6

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

3 CLERK: Gentile.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]

5 [shushing for quiet]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

7 CLERK: Gibson.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: [off mic] Here.

9 CLERK: Greenfield.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [off mic]

11 Here.

12 CLERK: Grodenchik

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: [off mic]

14 Here.

15 CLERK: Johnson.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Present.

17 CLERK: Kallos.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.

19 CLERK: King.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Present.

21 CLERK: Koo.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

23 CLERK: Koslowitz.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off mic]

25 Here.

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CITY COUNCIL CHARTER MEETING

7

CLERK: Lancman.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: [off mic] Here.

CLERK: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [off mic] Here.

CLERK: Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

CLERK: Levine.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

CLERK: Maisel.

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: [off mic] Here.

CLERK: Mealy. Menchaca.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.

CLERK: Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

CLERK: Miller.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Present.

CLERK: Palma.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: [off mic] Here.

CLERK: Reynoso.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: [off mic] Here.

CLERK: Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]

[shushing for quiet]

2 CLERK: Rodriguez.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: [off mic]

4 Here.

5 CLERK: Rose. Rosenthal.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here and
7 sending my best wishes to the person who precedes me,
8 Rose. Thank you.

9 CLERK: Torres. Treyger. Ulrich.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Still here.

11 CLERK: Vacca.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

13 CLERK: Vallone.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [off mic] Here.

15 CLERK: Williams.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Happy New Year.

17 Here.

18 CLERK: Wills. Matteo. Van Bramer.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

20 CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] Here.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. All
23 rise for the invocation delivered by Reverend Ayana
24 Ajanaku-Vason, the Senior Pastor of Ebenezer

25

2 Christian Center Ministries in the Borough of
3 Brooklyn. Quiet in the chambers

4 REVEREND AYANA AJANAKU-VASON: Let us
5 pray. Almighty God. You who created things in
6 heaven and in the earth, things visible and
7 invisible. Whether thrones or powers or rulers or
8 authorities, all things have been created through you
9 and for you. We invoke your presence into this
10 gathering today, and your blessings over all that is
11 said and done. We thank you for your elected
12 officials. We acknowledge that all of our elected
13 officials are in their roles because of your order.
14 We ask for forgiveness, grace and new mercies daily
15 on their behalf. We pray that you grant them
16 continued wisdom on how best to serve on behalf
17 of all the citizens of New York City for your glory
18 and your honor. Lord, as this august (sic) body
19 and its leadership move forward to legislate for this
20 great city, be with them as an authentic voice of
21 conscience and reason. May your spirit
22 compassionately give them your heart for justice and
23 mercy for all the people who long for it, and a
24 spirit of respect for all life, and the dignity of
25 all people. Give them understanding to know that

2 power, all power comes from you. We pray they use
3 the gifts, talents and intelligence you have given
4 them to faithfully weigh their courses of action and
5 decision making. We pray in our diverse city oh,
6 Lord. Open our eyes to see unity, always being
7 acutely aware that we exist under one God known in a
8 plethora of ways and by many names. We offer this
9 prayer in your name and on our behalf. Amen.

10 [background comments]

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: On behalf of
12 Council Member Cornegy, I move to spread the
13 invocation in full upon the record and we thank
14 Pastor Ajanaku-Vason for blessing us here in the new
15 year, and may God continue to bless you and thank
16 you. Adoption of minutes. Council Member Richards.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Motion that
18 the minutes of the Stated Meeting of December 7th,
19 2015 be adopted as printed.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
21 Messages and Papers from the Mayor.

22 CLERK: None.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Communication
24 from City, County and Borough Offices.

25 CLERK: None.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Petitions and
3 Communications?

4 CLERK: M-360, Resignation of Council
5 Member Council Member Maria del Carmen Arroyo.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Received,
7 ordered, printed and filed.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Land Use Call-
9 Ups.

10 CLERK: M361 and M362.

11 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on Call-
12 Up Vote. Roll call.

13 CLERK: Borelli.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: [off mic]

15 CLERK: Chin.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

17 CLERK: Cohen. Constantinides.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: [off mic]

19 Aye.

20 CLERK: Crowley.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

22 CLERK: Cumbo.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

24 CLERK: Dromm.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

1 CITY COUNCIL CHARTER MEETING 12

2 CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS COPELAND: Aye.

4 CLERK: Garodnick.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

6 CLERK: Gentile.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

8 CLERK: Gibson.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: [off mic] Aye.

10 CLERK: Greenfield.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [off mic]

12 Aye.

13 CLERK: Grodenchik

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: [off mic.

15 Aye.

16 CLERK: Johnson.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: I vote aye with

18 permission to vote on Land Use Call-Ups and General

19 Orders.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: I vote aye on

22 all.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

24 CLERK: Kallos.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye on all.

2 CLERK: King.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: [off mic] Aye.

4 CLERK: Koo.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

6 CLERK: Koslowitz.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off mic] Aye.

8 CLERK: Lancman.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: [off mic] Aye.

10 CLERK: Lander.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [off mic] Aye.

12 CLERK: Levin.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

14 CLERK: Levine.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]

17 [shushing for quiet]

18 CLERK: Maisel.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

20 CLERK: Menchaca.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.

22 CLERK: Mendez.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

24 CLERK: Miller.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.

2 CLERK: Palma.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

4 CLERK: Reynoso.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: [off mic] Aye.

6 CLERK: Richards.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.

8 CLERK: Rodriguez.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: [off mic]

10 Aye.

11 CLERK: Rosenthal.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here. Aye.

13 CLERK: Torres. Treyger.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: [off mic] Aye.

15 CLERK: Ulrich.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Yes.

17 CLERK: Vacca.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

19 CLERK: Vallone.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [off mic] Aye.

21 CLERK: Williams.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

23 CLERK: Wills. Matteo. Van Bramer.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Yes.

25 CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

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2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: So I want to
3 obviously start off by saying happy new year to all,
4 Feliz año nuevo, and also to wish everyone today a
5 happy Three Kings Day, Feliz dia de reyes. As we
6 grow in this with a great diversity, Three Kings Day
7 is a great holiday especially in my home neighborhood
8 of El Barrio (sic) And I was very much pleased with
9 my colleague Council Member Kallos to spend time
10 there this morning for my neighborhood's Three Kings
11 Day celebration that El Museo del Rafeo (sp?) hosts
12 every year, 39 years that that celebration has taken
13 place. So congratulations to all and hopefully
14 everyone got great gifts today.

15 Also, let's not forget to keep Debbie
16 Rose in our thoughts, and if people can give her a
17 call and wish her well, and hopefully she'll get back
18 to us real soon. And also, we want to welcome our
19 colleague Inez Dickens who has joined us here today.
20 [applause] Also, going through talk rehab, but she's
21 strong and she's kicking, and she's doing well. So
22 great to see you, Inez. Thank you for--for being
23 here today.

24 So this Friday, January 8th marks the
25 two-year anniversary of us coming together in this

1 chamber and beginning our current session of this
2 City Council. It's been an amazing experience to
3 serve as Speaker these past two years, and I
4 appreciate the support of all my colleagues through
5 everything that we've been able to accomplish. We
6 passed legislation to stop our city's jail system
7 from execution unconstitution detainers. We created
8 a Department of Veteran's Affairs to serve our
9 diverse community over 225,000 veterans in the city.
10 We created a Department of Civil Justice and Office
11 of Labor Standards so that everyday New Yorkers
12 aren't taken advantage of or exploited. We fought
13 for funding that will allow more than 1,000 new NYPD
14 officers to protect communities across the city. In
15 the year ahead, there's much work still to be done,
16 but these past two years have been proof that this
17 body is capable of facing the challenges of this city
18 and doing so in a way that benefits all New Yorkers
19 in all five boroughs. We said we would do it
20 together and united, and that is just what we've been
21 doing. I thank everyone for their hard work and
22 collaborative approach to these challenges, and look
23 forward to all the work and achievements that lie
24 ahead. Today's meeting, usually these charter
25

2 meetings are very short and succinct. So those will
3 be my comments as well. So that ends Communication
4 from the Speaker. Again, everyone thank you so much,
5 and wishing everyone the best of a New Year.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Discussion of
7 General Orders? Seeing none. Reports of Special
8 Committees.

9 CLERK: Non.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reports of
11 Standing Committees.

12 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
13 Finance, Preconsidered Intro 1042, City Debt and
14 reserves.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
16 [shushing for quiet]

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
18 General Orders.

19 CLERK: Resolution 932-A, Fultion Street
20 Bid.

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and
22 coupled on General Orders.

23 CLERK: Reso 933-A, Various Business
24 Improvement Districts.

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended-- Sorry.
3 Amended and couple on General Orders.

4 CLERK: On the General Order Calendar,
5 Resolution Appointing Various Persons Commissioner of
6 Deeds.

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
8 General Order, and at this time I ask for a roll call
9 on all items on the Couled General Order Calendar.

10 CLERK: Barron.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yes.

12 CLERK: Borelli.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: [off mic] Aye.

14 CLERK: Chin.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

16 CLERK: Cohen.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: [off mic] Aye.

18 CLERK: Constantinides.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

20 CLERK: Crowley.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

22 CLERK: Dickens.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

24 CLERK: Dromm.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

2 CLERK: Espinal.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: [off mic] Aye.

4 CLERK: Eugene.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

6 CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS COPELAND: Aye.

8 CLERK: Garodnick.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

10 CLERK: Gentile.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

12 CLERK: Gibson.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: [off mic] Aye.

14 CLERK: Greenfield.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [off mic]

16 Aye.

17 CLERK: Grodenchik.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: [off mic.

19 Aye.

20 CLERK: Kallos.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

22 CLERK: King.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye on all.

24 CLERK: Koo.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

2 CLERK: Koslowitz.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off mic] Aye.

4 CLERK: Lancman.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: [off mic] Aye.

6 CLERK: Lander.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

8 CLERK: Levin.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]

11 [shushing for quiet]

12 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] [off
13 mic] Quiet, please.

14 CLERK: Levine.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

16 CLERK: Maisel.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: [off mic] Aye.

18 CLERK: Menchaca. Mendez.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

20 CLERK: Miller.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: [off mic] Aye.

22 CLERK: Palma.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: [off mic] Aye.

24 CLERK: Reynoso.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: [off mic] Aye.

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CITY COUNCIL CHARTER MEETING

CLERK: Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.

CLERK: Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

CLERK: Rosenthal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [off mic] Aye.

CLERK: Torres.

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye.

CLERK: Treyger.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.

CLERK: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Yes.

CLERK: Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

CLERK: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

CLERK: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

CLERK: Matteo. Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

[background comments]

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All items on
3 today's General Order Calendar were adopted by a 43
4 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative. Introduction
5 and Reading of Bills.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All bills are
7 referred to the committees as indicated on the
8 Agenda.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And now, any
10 discussion of the Resolution 504-A, an amended
11 resolution calling upon the State of New York to
12 match the City of New York's commitment to created
13 15,000 units of supported housing over 15 years. And
14 the State of New York and the City of New York to
15 approved a Fourth New York New York agreement to
16 create permanent supportive housing. We will hear
17 from the sponsor Council Member Steve Levin.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you very
19 much, Madam Public Advocate. I want to--

20 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Quiet,
21 please.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
23 Chambers, please.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I want to
25 encourage my colleagues to vote in favor of

2 Resolution No. 504-A, calling on the State of New
3 York to approve 15,000 units of supportive housing
4 over the new 15 years. Supportive housing is a very
5 important part of our affordable housing stock, and
6 is a very important part of being able to address the
7 homelessness crisis that we have in New York City.
8 The ongoing and longstanding homelessness crisis.
9 The New York New York agreements go back decades as
10 agreements between the City and the State to build
11 and fund the operation of supportive housing units.
12 Affordable housing being affordable housing that has
13 a component of social services that--

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
15 [shushing for quiet]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: --that are
17 permanent--

18 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] [off
19 mic] Quiet please.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: --and that assist
21 individuals with mental health, substance abuse
22 issues as well as individuals living with HIV and
23 AIDS. And this past fall, the Mayor of the City of
24 New York Bill de Blasio announced that the City was
25 going to do more than the city has ever done when it

1 comes to supportive housing. Unfortunately, we do
2 not have a commensurate commitment from the governor
3 and the State of New York. We are hoping that in his
4 State of the State Governor Cuomo will step up to the
5 plate, and meet the city's--the city's challenge and,
6 um, and meet the city's commitment for 15,000 units
7 of supportive housing over the next 15 years. And I
8 encourage my colleagues to put this Council on the
9 record advocating for this to happen this year in
10 this State of the State so that we can provide the
11 supportive housing to the New Yorkers that need it.
12 Thank you.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
14 Council Member Williams on the Resolution.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you. I
16 want to congrat--congratulate Council Member Levin
17 for his leadership on this issue. Of course, we--we
18 know how much of a crisis we are when it comes to
19 housing, and it only exacerbates homelessness. I'm
20 glad to see the Administration stepping up with the--
21 a new Deputy Mayor outreach initiatives, and a lot of
22 pressure. But by adopting this resolution, we're
23 calling Albany to approve a fourth New York New York
24 agreement, and we know that the--I think we all have
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1
2 heard Governor Cuomo's edicts, and the things that he
3 suggests be done. It's very difficult to do those
4 things when people don't want to go into the shelter
5 system. So, I'm not sure what other ideas he has.
6 But I do know that he can put his money where his
7 mouth is, and the best way to deal with this is to
8 provide resources. And my hope is that he and the
9 state will join the city in agreeing to put more
10 supportive housing out there. We know that it's one
11 of the best ways to deal with this. And so hopefully
12 we won't hear just rhetoric. We'll actually hear
13 resources [bell] and he will put all politics aside
14 and match what's being done in the city. I encourage
15 you to vote aye.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: [interposing] And
18 Madam Public Advocate, I just want to thank the Chair
19 Jumaane Williams of the Housing Committee for--for
20 moving this resolution along. Thank you very much.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

22 Seeing no one else on this resolution, a resolution
23 again calling upon the State of New York to match the
24 City of New York's commitment to create 15,000 units

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2 of supportive housing over 15 years. All of those in
3 favor say aye.

4 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All of those
6 opposed. Any abstention? The ayes have it. General
7 discussion beginning with Council Member Inez
8 Dickens.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you so
10 much Madam Public Advocate. Than you Madam--

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
12 [shushing for quiet]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: --Speaker for
14 allowing me the opportunity to personally thank you
15 for the support you've given me during my time at
16 Harlem Hospital and for my rehab in the Carter
17 Center. The time away allowed for me to heal and
18 reflect on the incredible outpouring of support from
19 my colleagues. You will never know how touched I
20 have been for the number of well wishes I received,
21 and I greatly appreciate each and every one. As much
22 as we may disagree with one another from time to time
23 to know that when a colleague can be showered with
24 all manners of kindness from the leadership down
25 through the ranks during their time of need is truly

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2 remarkable and makes me proud to be a member of this
3 body. I also want to apologize to my colleague Andy
4 Cohen who was forced to handle some very contentious
5 hearings during my absence. I was informed how well
6 you handled yourself under some trying circumstances,
7 and I want to thank you personally for stepping up.
8 My biggest thank you goes to Mayor de Blasio and to
9 Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito for developing a
10 financial plan that maintains the affordability of
11 Riverton Houses. Many developers across our city
12 were over-leveraged by developers, and have
13 jeopardized our affordable housing stock forcing
14 thousands of New Yorkers either onto the street or
15 out of the city. But the Mayor and the Speaker have
16 ensured that at least 975 Riverton units will remain
17 affordable for families who call Harlem home. The
18 city will provide A and E Holdings with property tax
19 breaks and incentives worth more than \$92 million,
20 which allows 975 of the 1,229 units to remain
21 affordable for 30 years. And an 18-month moratorium
22 on any MCI charges. I want to personally recognize
23 the hard work you individuals who help to make this
24 possible: Douglas Eisenberg and Jim Simmons and for
25 reaching out to our city to make this happen.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member,
3 bring your comments to a close.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: You're welcome

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Alisha Glenn
7 (sic) Chief of Staff. James Patrick for
8 understanding what is most important, and to
9 Assemblyman Keith Wright to ensure the level of
10 affordability. Tanisha Edwards and Rebecca Chasen
11 from the Council Finance thank you for helping to
12 close on the city's financial obligation to the
13 residents of the Riverton. Condolences to Jeff
14 Eaton, my former staff; Jarrell Burney (sp?) on the
15 loss of their beloved mothers, and to the 28th
16 Precinct on the sudden loss of Police Office Juan
17 Feliciano. Wit your help and support and my
18 community that I've received over these last months,
19 it has helped to bring the beginning of 2016 a happy
20 new year. Thank you my colleague.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you, and
22 now for a vote. Council Member Deutsch.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Yeah, aye on all
24 Call-Ups and General Orders.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes. Council
3 Member--back to general discussion. Council Member
4 Gibson.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you very
6 much, Madam Public Advocate. Happy new year to all
7 of my colleagues and our Speaker. I, too, want to
8 express my sincere thoughts and prayers to the family
9 and friends and colleagues of Detective First Grade
10 Joseph Lemm as well as Police Officer Juan Feliciano
11 from of the 28 Precinct. I certainly want to comment
12 the New York Police Department on a phenomenal year
13 in 2015. We heard from our commissioner that overall
14 crime has been reduced by almost 2% and over the past
15 two years under this new administration overall crime
16 has been reduced by 5.8%. And we're truly grateful
17 for the work and the partnerships that we have
18 started with the NYPD, and we look forward to greater
19 collaboration, engagement and partnership with them.
20 I also want to congratulate the 1,123 new police
21 officers that graduated from the Academy in December
22 and are now patrolling our communities, patrol
23 officers, transit and housing. We know that this
24 class is the recipient of increased technology and
25 investments that we have made, and certainly the

2 first class graduating under raising the headcount at
3 the NYPD since 2001. I'm truly looking forward to
4 working with all of you, my colleagues, as we
5 continue to have very spirited and critical
6 discussions around policing, around community
7 policing, neighborhood coordination officers, and
8 making sure that this City Council continues to play
9 a very integral role in ongoing community relations
10 with the NYPD and with all stakeholders in this city.
11 Once again, happy holidays, colleagues and I'm
12 looking forward to working with each and every one of
13 you. Thank you.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
15 Chin.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you, Public
17 Advocate. First of all, I want to wish all my
18 colleagues, the Speaker and Public Advocate a joyful,
19 healthy, and productive 2015. And I also want to
20 take this opportunity to thank my Deputy Chief of
21 Staff Xiaomin Zhao who has served--who has serve the
22 constituents of District 1 for almost five years, and
23 this week she's started her new position in the
24 Council's Community Engagement Unit. And I wish her
25 the very best, and I know that she will do very well

2 and be able to serve constituents all over the City
3 and--but she will always be a member of Tin-Chin.
4 (sic) Thank you.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
6 Council Member Williams.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you.
8 First, I want to welcome Alana Meyer (sic) my new
9 Communications Director. This is her first Stated,
10 and I want to say congratulations and welcome aboard
11 from our Brandeis University grad and she also worked
12 on the council housing and a lot of campaign work. I
13 wanted to say happy independence day to my Haitian
14 constituents and New Yorkers. I hope they enjoyed
15 the {speaking Haitian] and happy Three Kings Day also
16 known as the Feast of the Epiphany. Lastly, many saw
17 President Obama's speech on gun violence yesterday.
18 I'm excited he is trying to take on the mantle.
19 Unfortunately, there is congress men and women mostly
20 Republicans and some Democrats who are just wholly
21 bought and sold by the NRA, but we have to make sure
22 we continue to look at this as two buckets: One is
23 the supply, which is the gun control measures that
24 the federal government can work on, and the President
25 is trying to work on. I do think he needs to step up

1 a bit more--a bit further. We also have to think
2 about the demand, which is the penchant for violence,
3 which is what many of the local governments can do,
4 which is putting resources and programs to deal with
5 the structural deficits that many of these
6 communities are dealing with. We in the City Council
7 thanks to the Speaker and the Mayor first of all have
8 upped our resources in the crisis management system.
9 Hopefully, they will extend it more. I believe being
10 able to provide a job for every young person that
11 wants one in the summer time is another way we can
12 address that, but dealing with the structural
13 deficits is critically important to dealing with gun
14 violence. And, hopefully, it will be much more than
15 just the rhetoric. Obviously, the President was
16 emotional like many families are after this happened,
17 and hopefully we can continue to move forward on
18 this. But where New York City goes often times the
19 rest of the nation goes. And my hope is that the
20 city will continue the good work and increasing the
21 resources to dealing with the structural deficits
22 where we have control over the demand. And that our
23 state and federal partners will very much work on the
24

2 supply of guns that are going into our city. Thank
3 you.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Now for a vote,
5 Council Member Cornegy.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I vote aye.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. I'd
8 also like to invite my colleagues to sign onto Intro
9 No. 1044 and 1045, two bills that I've introduced in
10 connection with the worst landlords watch list. The
11 first bill Intro 1045 co-sponsored by Council Member
12 Ydanis Rodriguez and Council Member Ben Kallos
13 expands the authority of the city including to all
14 members of this body to direct the Law Department to
15 bring a nuisance abatement action against landlords
16 who allow unsafe, unsanitary and unhealthy conditions
17 to persist within their buildings. The second bill
18 is 1044, which I am co-sponsoring with Council Member
19 Vallone and Council Member Jumaane Williams, which
20 will prevent the worst of our city's landlords from
21 using construction as a tool for harassment against
22 rent stabilized tenants. As many of you have
23 unfortunately seen, malicious landlords often allow
24 unsafe conditions to persist for their rent
25 stabilized tenants while undertaking construction and

1
2 improvements in other parts of the building. In some
3 circumstances, these landlords use the construction
4 as a way of charging rent stabilized tenants higher
5 fees. In 1044, I will address the most egregious of
6 these circumstances by prohibiting the Department of
7 Buildings from issuing building permits to any of
8 these landlords unless they are addressing the unsafe
9 conditions in their buildings. I urge all of you to
10 sign onto these bills, which will create even
11 stronger tools to encourage bad acting landlords to
12 do the right thing. And now for a final vote. All
13 items on today's General Order Calendar were adopted
14 by a vote of 45 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative
15 and 0 abstentions. Revised Land Use Call-Ups were
16 adopted by a vote of 45 in the affirmative, 0 in the
17 negative. And now to close, the Speaker Melissa
18 Mark-Viverito. Quiet in the Chambers.

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you. So
20 again, I look forward to the work ahead, and to all
21 my colleagues I wish the best new year. I will say
22 one last thing. This past year one of the things
23 that h is chamber was able to do--and I really
24 appreciate all my colleagues who supported it--was to
25 do a resolution in support of the freedom of Oscar

1 Lopez Rivera. Today, January 6th is his 73rd
2 birthday. He has been 34 years in jail. There is
3 Twitter campaign right now encouraging people to send
4 out a Tweet to President Obama with the hash tag free
5 Oscar Lopez to continue to put pressure on this
6 administration to release him. Thirty-four years is
7 enough. This is again a campaign that has
8 international solidarity, former Nobel Peace Prize
9 winners, et cetera are on board. And just yesterday
10 all six gubernatorial candidates in Puerto Rico
11 representing the wide political spectrum that exists
12 on the island, all put out a message saying that they
13 believe in the freedom of Oscar Lopez River. So I
14 hope everyone keeps him in his thoughts. Anyone who
15 wants to join the Twitter campaign to day, please do
16 so. And again, let's get Oscar home. Thank you.

18 [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 interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date January 8, 2016