

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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June 10, 2015  
Start: 02:08 p.m.  
Recess: 04:08 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E:

MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO  
Speaker of the Council  
LETITIA JAMES  
Public Advocate

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Maria Del Carmen Arroyo  
Inez D. Barron  
Fernando Cabrera  
Margaret S. Chin  
Andrew Cohen  
Costa G. Constantinides  
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.  
Elizabeth S. Crowley  
Laurie A. Cumbo  
Chaim M. Deutsch  
Inez E. Dickens  
Daniel Dromm  
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.  
Mathieu Eugene

## COUNCIL MEMBERS: (CONTINUED)

Julissa Ferreras  
Daniel R. Garodnick  
Vincent J. Gentile  
Vanessa L. Gibson  
David G. Greenfield  
Vincent M. Ignizio  
Corey D. Johnson  
Ben Kallos  
Andy L. King  
Peter A. Koo  
Karen Koslowitz  
Rory I. Lancman  
Brad S. Lander  
Stephen T. Levin  
Mark Levine  
Alan N. Maisel  
Steven Matteo  
Darlene Mealy  
Carlos Menchaca  
Rosie Mendez  
I. Daneek Miller  
Annabel Palma  
Antonio Reynoso  
Donovan J. Richards  
Ydanis A. Rodriguez  
Deborah L. Rose  
Helen K. Rosenthal  
Ritchie J. Torres  
Mark Treyger  
Eric A. Ulrich  
James Vacca  
Paul A. Vallone  
James G. Van Bramer  
Mark S. Weprin  
Jumaane D. Williams  
Ruben Wills

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

Brooklyn College Academy Bobcats Team

Nicholas Mazarella  
Principal  
Brooklyn College Academy

Kathleen Turner  
Board Member  
Citymeals on Wheels  
Accepting Proclamation for Anne Cohen

Bonnie Stone  
President and CEO  
Women In Need

Imam Khalid Latif  
Invocation  
Islamic Center at NYU

1  
2 [gavel]

3 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Alright, we're  
4 gonna get started... [crosstalk]

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the  
6 chambers. Quiet in the chambers. Everyone, please  
7 have a seat.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: There's a lot  
9 going on today and I know we're starting a little bit  
10 later than usual. We're gonna start with Council  
11 Member Jumaane Williams, who has a ceremonial  
12 congratulating Brooklyn College Academy High School  
13 Girls' Basketball Team, the Bobcats, [cheers,  
14 applause] if they can come on up. The Bobcats won  
15 the PSAL B Girls Championship. Alright, Council  
16 Member.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you,  
18 Madame Speaker. The girls in my district play  
19 basketball; this is the second school that we're  
20 honoring the girls' basketball team. Today we're  
21 here to honor Brooklyn College Academy Bobcats who  
22 this year beat East Harlem -- I'm sorry East Harlem  
23 -- I hope that's not The Speaker's district -- who  
24 beat East Harlem Pride 46-42 at Baruch College to win  
25 the PSAL Girls B Division city championship. Not

1  
2 only did the Bobcats have a phenomenal undefeated  
3 season; the East Harlem Pride was a tough team to  
4 beat and were the defending champions, so I'm very  
5 proud of these girls for their outstanding teamwork  
6 and achievements this year [background comment];  
7 we'll honor these girls with citations as well, and  
8 so I'm gonna call each of them out -- Beatrice  
9 Wallace, Cierra Smalls, Jocelyn Puanta, Josephine  
10 Mitaynes -- and I butchered up some of their names, I  
11 apologize -- Ivana Lawrence, Tatiyana Highsmith,  
12 Shajuana Henry, Sumaya Greene, Gaelle Cia Georges,  
13 Shaniya Cadogan, Shaina Brown and Kyra Blenman.  
14 We're also joined today by four of the team's  
15 managers, including Sarah Cox, Ashley Meritt, Shanya  
16 Toussaint, Jhanai Campbell, the school Assistant  
17 Principal, Lynelle Rennis and Principal Nick  
18 Mazzarella -- I probably said that wrong; sorry.

19 I also know that we're joined by many of  
20 the athletes' families and friends; we'd like to  
21 thank them. Under the leadership of Principal Nick  
22 -- Mazzarella [background comment] -- Mazzarella BCA  
23 is more than just a sports powerhouse; most students  
24 excel academically and dozens win full scholarships  
25 to college. Brooklyn College Academy is a

1  
2 collaborative school of community learning in my  
3 district that believes that students, staff and  
4 parents have unique leadership capabilities. A  
5 couple years ago I was proud to take many students  
6 from BCA and Flatbush Yeshiva to the Jewish Holocaust  
7 Museum and the African burial ground during an  
8 educational field trip; it was a great bonding  
9 experience for the schools, I remember it fondly and  
10 is on the campus of my alma mater, Brooklyn College.  
11 Congratulations again. And I guess we'll have the  
12 principal speak or the coach and then one of the  
13 students? [background comment] Oh, wanna read the  
14 Proc. Oh yes; can you please read the Proc?

15 CITY CLERK: Council, City of New York  
16 Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of  
17 New York is proud to honor the Brooklyn College  
18 Academy Girls Basketball Team, The Bobcats for the  
19 outstanding teamwork that led to their victory in the  
20 Public School Athletic Leagues Girls B Division City  
21 Championship.

22 And whereas, Brooklyn College Academy is  
23 a small comprehensive 9th-12th grade school of  
24 approximately 600 students established in 1986 by the  
25 New York City Board of Education in collaboration

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2 with CUNY. The mission of the Academy is to  
3 strengthen student performance and to expand  
4 students' horizons to include: post-secondary  
5 educational opportunities and career goals. This  
6 year the Bobcats reaffirmed the same tireless  
7 commitment to success that the rest of the student  
8 body has demonstrated so often.

9           And whereas, since the school's founding  
10 30 years ago, Brooklyn College Academy has never won  
11 a girls' basketball championship, but Coach Kristin  
12 Conlon and the athletes on this year's team were  
13 determined to change that.

14           And whereas, this year's Brooklyn College  
15 Academy Bobcats include: Beatrice Wallace, Cierra  
16 Smalls, Jocelyn Puanta, Josephine Mitaynes, Ivana  
17 Lawrence, Tatiyana Highsmith, Shajuana Henry, Sumaya  
18 Greene, Gaelle Cia Georges, Shaniya Cadogan, Shaina  
19 Brown and Kyra Blenman.

20           And whereas, at the Public Schools  
21 Athletic League's Girls B Division City Championship,  
22 the BC Academy went head to head with East Harlem  
23 Pride. Brooklyn College Academy started off slow as  
24 East Harlem Pride's considerable size advantage gave  
25 it problems, but it fell behind 11-2 to start the

1  
2 game; it took nearly the entire quarter for the  
3 Bobcats to adjust, but they did and they went on to a  
4 14-0 run that would eventually give them a 16-11 lead  
5 early in the second quarter. The Bobcats went for  
6 another 14-0 run and going into the 4th quarter had a  
7 37-24 lead. East Harlem Pride wasn't finished though  
8 and cut the lead to three points with just three-and-  
9 a-half minutes left in the game. These two teams  
10 also battled in last year's city championship, but  
11 this year... [background comments] this year the BC  
12 Academy Bobcats were victorious.

13 Now therefore be it known, that the  
14 Council of the City of New York gratefully honors the  
15 2015 Brooklyn College Academy Girls Basketball Team  
16 for the outstanding teamwork and triumph [applause,  
17 cheers] in the 2015 PSAL Girls B Division City  
18 Championship. Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the  
19 Entire Council; Jumaane D. Williams, Council Member  
20 45th District, Brooklyn.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: So we learned  
22 that you beat the students from The Speaker's  
23 district; [background comment, laughter] I hope I  
24 don't lose any discretionary funds, I hope my bills  
25



1  
2 don't slow down, but congratulations and we're gonna  
3 hear from the principal.

4 PRINCIPAL MAZZARELLA: First we're gonna  
5 hear from our captain.

6 [background comments, cheers, applause]

7 TEAM CAPTAIN: Good afternoon, we... oh, oh  
8 sorry. On behalf of Brooklyn College Academy, we  
9 would like to thank the City Hall and Council Members  
10 for honoring our hard work and dedication 2015  
11 Championship B Division basketball.

12 [cheers, comments, applause]

13 PRINCIPAL MAZZARELLA: And on that note,  
14 as Principal of Brooklyn College Academy, you have no  
15 idea how proud I am of our girls' team and this was  
16 their second consecutive undefeated year and they met  
17 East Harlem Pride last year and they beat us, so it  
18 was revenge; it was unfinished business. [background  
19 comments]

20 Council Member Williams, thank you so  
21 much; I really appreciate this honor for Brooklyn  
22 College Academy, your alma mater.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: And we'll see  
24 you girls next year for your next championship.  
25 Thank you.

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SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Alright. Thank you, congratulations again.

Okay, the next ceremonial -- I think this is the first time I used the name -- Council Member Ferreras-Copeland is gonna be doing a ceremonial for Kathleen Turner; right, who's Co-President of City Meals on Wheels, who is retiring after six years of distinguished service. We would like to ask Council Member -- oh... little Mr. Copeland is there. Oh, I didn't know he was here. [background comments]

Alright, we're getting distracted now. [background comments] It's great to have you here. [background comments]

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank you all. Thank you, Madame Speaker. After six years as Co-President and many more, as a member of the City Meals on Wheels, Ms. Anne Cohen is retiring from her position and so we're here today to celebrate her outstanding humanitarian service to the City of New York. Her commitment to providing for New Yorkers has been evident through the outstanding work of Citymeals on Wheels and in litigation, Ms. Cohen has represented renowned cases [background comments] and has received wide praise for negotiating

1  
2 groundbreaking deals. All around, Ms. Anne Cohen has  
3 demonstrated her compassion and care for others  
4 needed assistance throughout our city.

5 Unfortunately, Ms. Cohen could not be here today to  
6 receive her Proclamation, but she has sent on her  
7 behalf Golden Globe-winning actor and member of the  
8 Board of Citymeals on Wheels, Kathleen Turner.

9 [background comments, cheers, comments]

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: And I made a  
11 mistake; I was just reading what was given to me, but  
12 it's a pleasure to have you here, Kathleen; thank you  
13 so much for accepting on behalf of Ms. Cohen. We're  
14 gonna read the Proclamation, please. Thank you.

15 CITY CLERK: Council, City of New York  
16 Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of  
17 New York is proud to honor Anne Cohen upon her  
18 retirement from Citymeals on Wheels after six years  
19 of distinguished service as Co-President and her  
20 extensive involvement that has prepared the  
21 organization for the years ahead.

22 And whereas, Ms. Cohen's commitment to  
23 providing for New Yorkers has been evident through  
24 her work with Citymeals on Wheels, as well as her  
25

1  
2 other outstanding contributions in other  
3 associations.

4           And whereas, Ms. Cohen's leadership is  
5 evident through her memberships on the Boards of the  
6 American Council on Germany and the Asian Women's  
7 Leadership University Project. As a litigator, she  
8 represented renowned cases and has received wide  
9 praise for negotiating groundbreaking deals.

10           And whereas, in addition to being a  
11 lecturer in law at Columbia Law School, Ms. Cohen is  
12 also a member of the Dean's Council. And whereas,  
13 Ms. Cohen, a Yale Law School graduate also studied as  
14 a Ford Foundation Fellow. She earned her JD from  
15 Columbia, where she was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar  
16 and an Articles Editor of the Columbia Law Review.  
17 She was also a law clerk for the Honorable Richard S.  
18 Arnold, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit.

19           And whereas, Ms. Cohen has inspired many  
20 others through her compassion and care for others and  
21 is worthy of the esteem of all New Yorkers.

22           Now therefore be it known, that the  
23 Council of the City of New York proudly honors Anne  
24 Cohen for her outstanding humanitarian services in  
25 New York City where the fruits of her labor have been

1  
2 received. Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the  
3 Entire Council; Julissa Ferreras-Copeland, Council  
4 Member 21st District, Queens and many other Council  
5 Members.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Alright.

7 [background comments, cheers, applause] Alright, so  
8 Kathleen says thank you on behalf of Anne, so yes.  
9 And thank you for coming here; it's a pleasure to  
10 have you here.

11 [background comments]

12 Alright, if we see a lot of young people  
13 on the floor, today is Council Member for a Day, so  
14 welcome to all the young people that are here from  
15 throughout the city of New York. [applause]

16 And then now we have the Women's Caucus;  
17 I think -- is it Council Members Crowley and Mealy  
18 that will be doing -- we're doing a ceremonial  
19 proclamation for Bonnie Stone, who's retiring as  
20 President and CEO of Women In Need. I don't know if  
21 we can have the representatives from WIN.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I ask all the  
23 women who make up the Women's Caucus to join us in  
24 honoring Bonnie Stone and all the men of the Council  
25 to come up as well; this is a very special occasion.

1  
2 Bonnie is the CEO of Women In Need. Women In Need is  
3 an organization that helps thousands of homeless  
4 women and their families each and every year. Bonnie  
5 has been the CEO for 15 years and sadly, Bonnie has  
6 decided to retire at the end of this year, and for  
7 your outstanding service to the City of New York; I  
8 know you gave us decades even before you started your  
9 leadership with WIN, but what you did with WIN since  
10 becoming the CEO, you have been able to serve over  
11 4500 people every single year; you're taking a heavy  
12 weight off our shoulders as elected officials and  
13 you're helping women grow in their careers and having  
14 them be able to become more stable to support their  
15 families and for that we are so grateful to honor you  
16 today. If I could have the Proclamation be read,  
17 please.

18 CITY CLERK: Council, City of New York  
19 Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of  
20 New York is proud to honor Bonnie Stone upon her  
21 retirement as President and CEO of Women In Need in  
22 recognition of her extraordinary legacy of service.

23 And whereas, since joining Women In Need,  
24 a CEO in 2000. Bonnie Stone has been one of the  
25 leading figures in New York City's fight against

1  
2 homelessness and a fierce champion of women's  
3 empowerment. With a unique vision and innovative  
4 approach she has shaped the public conversation on  
5 homelessness, developed essential programs and  
6 spearheaded the creation of 11 shelters and 239  
7 permanent housing units that together are responsible  
8 for housing 4500 homeless people, including 2,600  
9 homeless children in New York every night.

10           And whereas, under her leadership as  
11 President and CEO, Ms. Stone has had a transformative  
12 effect on Women In Need, increasing capacity to house  
13 families by tenfold, raising funding levels to \$65  
14 million and building a team of 500 dedicated  
15 staffers. Much of her success has been due to a  
16 pioneering approach to applying research methods and  
17 data science to social services, which she developed  
18 over the course of her career in public service.

19           And whereas, even before Ms. Stone's  
20 tenure at Women In Need, she has a tremendously  
21 positive impact in the lives of countless New  
22 Yorkers. From 1978-1986 she served as Deputy  
23 Administrator of the New York City Human Resources  
24 Administration and opened and operated over 10,000  
25 beds for the homeless and oversaw protective services

1  
2 for adults, shelters for battered women, homecare  
3 services for the elderly and disabled, senior citizen  
4 centers and family planning clinics. As Deputy  
5 Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Health,  
6 she oversaw all of the City's drug abuse treatment  
7 services, spearheading programs that despite being  
8 controversial at the time became mainstays of the  
9 City's approach to dealing with drug and alcohol  
10 addiction.

11 Now therefore be it known, that the  
12 Women's Caucus of the Council of the City of New York  
13 gratefully honors Bonnie Stone for outstanding career  
14 and enduring contributions to our community and  
15 wishes her continued success and happiness in  
16 retirement. Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the  
17 Entire Council; Elizabeth Crowley, Women's Caucus Co-  
18 Chair, Council Member 30th District, Queens; Darlene  
19 Mealy, Women's Caucus Co-Chair, Council Member 41st  
20 District, Brooklyn, and all of the members of the  
21 Women's Caucus.

22 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you so  
23 much. Bonnie, it's really been a pleasure working  
24 with you; Women In Need has several shelters in my  
25 district, so I've gotten to know you and the



1  
2 organization; it's a really great organization that  
3 has services citywide and sad to see you go; I'm sure  
4 you're retiring but you're gonna still be active in  
5 other ways and look forward to continued partnership  
6 moving forward. So good luck with everything and  
7 thank you. [background comment] Oh yeah, of course.  
8 Yes. Yes. Yes. Bonnie.

9 BONNIE STONE: I don't have a lot to say,  
10 except Elizabeth here has been reminding me it's been  
11 about 45 years of service and I have to tell you, I  
12 have loved every single day; some of them I could do  
13 without, but mostly I loved it, I've worked for the  
14 City and I worked in not-for-profits and with women  
15 and children and families and I recommend it, it's  
16 been a labor of love for many, many.. my whole life.  
17 So thank you very much; I will really treasure this  
18 and take it to the beach.

19 [cheers, applause, background comments]

20 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Alright, that  
21 ends the ceremonials.

22 [pause]

23 [background comments]

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Can all Council  
25 Members for a Day please approach the front of the

1  
2 chambers for a picture? All Council Members for a  
3 Day; that means all of those who are in middle  
4 school, high school or... or law school or college or  
5 K-5; that may include some Council Members.

6 [background comments] All Council Members for a Day;  
7 that's the young ones, up front.

8 [pause]

9 [background comments]

10 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Ladies and gentlemen,  
11 can I have your attention, please? Quiet on the  
12 floor, please. Can I have your attention, please?

13 At this time, please place all electronic  
14 devices to vibrate. Will all non-Council employees,  
15 non-Council employees please leave the main floor of  
16 the chambers? Thank you.

17 [gavel]

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the  
19 chambers. Everyone, please have a seat. Please rise  
20 for the Pledge of Allegiance.

21 SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise.

22 [collective Pledge of Allegiance]

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please be seated.  
24 Roll call. Quiet in the chambers.

25 [background comments]

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CITY CLERK: Arroyo.  
[background comment]  
COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Present.  
CITY CLERK: Barron.  
COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Present.  
CITY CLERK: Cabrera.  
COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.  
CITY CLERK: Chin.  
COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.  
CITY CLERK: Cohen.  
COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.  
CITY CLERK: Constantinides.  
COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Here.  
CITY CLERK: Cornegy.  
COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Here.  
CITY CLERK: Crowley.  
COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Present.  
CITY CLERK: Cumbo. Deutsch. Dickens.  
COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.  
CITY CLERK: Dromm.  
COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.  
CITY CLERK: Espinal.  
COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Here.  
CITY CLERK: Eugene.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

CITY CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: Here.

CITY CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

CITY CLERK: Gentile. Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.

CITY CLERK: Gibson. Greenfield.

Johnson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Present.

CITY CLERK: Kallos.

COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR A DAY: Here.

[laughter]

CITY CLERK: King.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Here.

CITY CLERK: Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

CITY CLERK: Koslowitz.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

CITY CLERK: Lancman.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Here.

CITY CLERK: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

CITY CLERK: Levin.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

CITY CLERK: Levine.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

CITY CLERK: Maisel. Matteo. Mealy.

Menchaca. Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

CITY CLERK: Miller.

[background comment]

CITY CLERK: Palma.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Here.

CITY CLERK: Reynoso.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Here.

CITY CLERK: Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Present.

CITY CLERK: Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

CITY CLERK: Rose. Rosenthal.

FEMALE VOICE: Can I respond for Julissa?

Oh sorry, here. That's Copeland, Copeland. Here.

CITY CLERK: Torres.

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Here.

CITY CLERK: Treyger.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

CITY CLERK: Ulrich. Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

CITY CLERK: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Here.

CITY CLERK: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Weprin.

CITY CLERK: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

CITY CLERK: Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Here.

CITY CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Here.

[background comment]

CITY CLERK: Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

CITY CLERK: Matteo.

COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.

CITY CLERK: Ignizio. Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Here.

CITY CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Here.

[background comments]

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All quiet in the chambers. Please rise for the invocation, delivered... [interpose]

SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise, remove your ball caps, your caps.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please remove your caps. The invocation will be delivered by Iman [sic] Khalid Latif, Islamic Center at NYU, 238 [interpose, background comments] Thompson Street, New York, New York -- quiet in the chambers.

IMAM KHALID LATIF: Let us pray. Almighty god, most merciful of those who show mercy, bestower of love, source of peace, bless this gathering and all those who are in it. Assembled here today are men and women who truly represent everything great about this city; shower upon us your infinite mercy and instill within each of us a sound sense of respect for others. The diversity of this city is unlike any other; help us to harness that diversity and turn it into a much-needed pluralism that celebrates our differences and respects and seeks to serve our most underprivileged. The coming weeks present opportunities in abundance to better understand that diversity; as Pride Month is upon us,

1  
2 the Islamic month of fasting of Ramadan is set to  
3 start next week and it will be sharing its first day  
4 with Juneteenth, a day commemorating the actual end  
5 of slavery in this country and a day that all New  
6 Yorkers should know and appreciate, especially as we  
7 are still trying to understand that black lives  
8 matter. Help us to stand with the people and make us  
9 not those who wait for them to come to us. Let us be  
10 motivated by selflessness, not selfishness; sincerity  
11 and not self-centeredness. Increase us in courage,  
12 compassion and confidence, shield us from any  
13 anxiety, anguish and affliction; protect us from  
14 hearts that are not humble, tongues that are not  
15 wise, eyes that have forgotten how to cry and grant  
16 us and our loved ones only the best in this world and  
17 the best in the next. Forgive us for our  
18 shortcomings oh lord and guide and bless us all.  
19 Amen.

20 [collective amen]

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please be seated.

22 [background comments] Quiet in the chambers. A  
23 motion to spread the invocation in full upon the  
24 record by Council Member Chin, followed by Council  
25 Member Steve Levine [sic].



1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Motion to spread  
3 the invocation in full upon the record and we want to  
4 welcome Iman [sic] Khalid Latif to the New York City  
5 Council today. I would like to ask my colleague to  
6 join me in welcoming Iman [sic] Khalid Latif, who is  
7 the University Chaplain for New York University in my  
8 district, as well as the Executive Director for the  
9 Islamic Center at NYU and a chaplain for the NYPD.  
10 He's also a small business owner in a number of  
11 faith-based ventures. He has been very involved in  
12 public service; he was the youngest NYPD chaplain in  
13 the history of New York City, at the age of 24. Most  
14 recently he served as a member of Mayor de Blasio's  
15 Transition Team and also on the Public Advocate's  
16 Task Force to Combat Hate. We are so pleased to have  
17 him with us today. Thank you.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Madame Public  
19 Advocate, as somebody who has known Imam Latif since  
20 our days as children in New Jersey, including his  
21 days as a star running back for our middle school and  
22 high school football team, I am incredibly pleased to  
23 have the Imam here today to deliver the invocation  
24 and very proud of his great work, including as the  
25 youngest chaplain for the New York City Police

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Department in addition to his great work at the Islamic Center at NYU. Imam, we are very happy to have you here today and we're very proud. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you and we too welcome Iman [sic] Khalid Latif, who tells me he was once a star running back until everyone around him got taller, [laughter] so we welcome you. Thank you, sir.

And now Adoption of Minutes, Council Member Espinal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I make a motion that the Minutes of the Stated Meeting of May 14, 2015 be adopted as printed.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Messages and Papers from the Mayor.

CITY CLERK: Preconsidered M 296, Saint Michael's park.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: State and Federal Legislation.

CITY CLERK: Preconsidered M 297, abutting property owners.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: State and Federal Legislation.

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CITY CLERK: Preconsidered M 298,  
disability benefits.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: State and Federal  
Legislation.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Communication  
from City, County and Borough offices.

CITY CLERK: None.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Petitions and  
Communications.

CITY CLERK: M 299, Resignation of Mark  
S. Weprin.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Received,  
Ordered, Printed and Filed.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Land Use Call-  
Ups.

CITY CLERK: M 300 to M 303.

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

COMMITTEE CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen.

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: I'm sorry; this is  
the... [background comment] oh, aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Constantinides.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cumbo. Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

[background comments]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dickens.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dromm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Espinal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Eye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND:

[background comments] We're gonna say aye, with permission if we could vote also on all Coupled General Orders.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank you. [background comments] I vote aye. Sorry.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Garodnick. Gentil...

[crosstalk]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Garodnick.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gentile. Gibson.

Greenfield.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Johnson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: King.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Can I be  
excused to explain my vote? I would like to vote aye  
on Land Use Call-Ups and ask for permission to vote  
on all General Coupled Orders.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes. You vote  
aye?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I vote aye.  
Quiet in the chambers, please.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lancman.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander. Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel. Matteo.

COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy. Menchaca.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Miller.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Palma.

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso.  
COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards.  
COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez.  
COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.  
COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Gentile.  
COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel.  
COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Rosenthal.  
COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.  
[background comments]  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Cumbo.  
COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres.  
COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Treyger.  
COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich.  
COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Yes.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: I'd like to vote  
on all General Orders, please.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Thank you very  
much. I vote no on M 298, 125-B and 318-A and aye on  
all others and want to wish my colleague, Mark Weprin  
well. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

[background comment]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I vote aye.



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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Today's Land Use  
3 Call-Ups were adopted by a vote of 47 in the  
4 affirmative, 0 in the negative... quiet in the  
5 chambers. And now we will hear from Speaker Melissa  
6 Mark-Viverito.

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Madame  
8 Public Advocate.

9 Today, as we've already indicated, that  
10 we're joined by a lot of young New Yorkers from  
11 across the five boroughs who are here for our Council  
12 Member for a Day program. Shadowing a council  
13 member, they learn all about the legislative process  
14 we follow and get to join in our Stated Meeting  
15 today. So I wanna welcome all our Council Members  
16 for a Day; thank you for visiting; good luck in your  
17 studies. You are the leaders of tomorrow and we hope  
18 that you'll continue your interest in government and  
19 leadership, so it's great to have you here with us.

20 I'd also like to note that today is the  
21 last Stated for one of our colleagues; Council Member  
22 Mark Weprin leaving to accept a position with the  
23 Governor's Office. Council Member Weprin has been an  
24 amazing representative for his community in Queens;  
25 has shown tremendous leadership as Chair of the

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Zoning and Franchises Committee and head of the Queens Delegation. So I know, Mark, that I speak on behalf of all of our colleagues you've been hearing and you'll probably hear a lot of goodbyes and good luck, but definitely we'll miss you here and we wish you the best in your new position and I'm sure we're gonna be seeing a lot of you and interacting with you quite often, so congratulations.

[applause, cheers]

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Alright, I... you're welcome.

Today the City Council will be voting on a Land Use action to significantly expand the Crown Heights Historic District in Brooklyn; this historic designation will protect over 600 buildings which represent an important part of New York City's architectural history and preserve the special character of Crown Heights. I would like to ask both Council Members Cumbo and Cornegy to say a few words about this. Council Member Cumbo.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you. It's my honor to work with Council Member Cornegy; this has been a very important project that happened way before I came into office and as the demographics, as

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2 well as the architectural landscape of Brooklyn, New  
3 York and the City of New York changes right before  
4 our very eyes, it's so important that we gather  
5 together today and in all efforts to preserve the  
6 vitality, the architecture, the landscape and what  
7 makes Brooklyn, New York such a wonderful place to be  
8 is the building and the construction and the care to  
9 detail and the craftsmanship; these are all the  
10 things that welcome people to Brooklyn that make  
11 everyone wanna live in the greatest borough in the  
12 world [background comments, laughter], but I just  
13 wanna thank my colleague, Council Member Robert  
14 Cornegy; this is going to be an amazing opportunity  
15 for Brooklynites and New Yorkers all over. Thank you  
16 so very much.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I would just  
18 like to echo the sentiments of my colleague, Laurie  
19 Cumbo, it's been a pleasure to work with her and to  
20 the residents of Crown Heights and Bedford-Stuyvesant  
21 that will benefit from this designation I wanna say  
22 you know we're very pleased with the ability to  
23 protect and honor the sanctity of the brownstones and  
24 tree-lined streets that we are so proud of in the  
25 greatest village, I believe, [laugh, background

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2 comments] in the Council. So thank you, everybody  
3 and my colleagues for making this happen. Thank you,  
4 Madame Speaker.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,  
6 Council Member.

7 Over the last several months the Council  
8 has engaged in serious and much needed discussions  
9 about how to best provide for our city's uniformed  
10 officers in case they are seriously injured in the  
11 line of duty. Every day the hard-working men and  
12 women of the NYPD, the FDNY, DSNY and DOC work to  
13 keep New York City safe, clean and operating and we  
14 must honor their work with fair policies that make  
15 sense. Today the City Council will vote on a Home  
16 Rule Message requesting the State to pass legislation  
17 to make needed changes to the disability pensions of  
18 New York's uniformed employees. This proposal is  
19 fair, it's fiscally responsible and will protect all  
20 of our uniformed officers regardless of when they  
21 were hired. The Council has thoroughly examined all  
22 proposals and we are proud to support a plan that  
23 strikes a fair balance between safeguarding our  
24 city's uniformed officers and our city's finances.  
25 The plan the Council is endorsing will raise salaries

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2 for younger workers at a 75 percent tax-free  
3 disability benefit for those who are seriously  
4 disabled in the line of duty and assure all officers  
5 are treated equally. The message we are sending to  
6 Albany today is clear; we must protect those who  
7 protect New York City. Throughout this process the  
8 Council has maintained an open line of communication  
9 with the PBA, the UFA union leaders, the  
10 Administration and all stakeholders. I thank all of  
11 my colleagues for their input throughout this process  
12 and look forward to continuing to work with the  
13 unions, the Administration and the State Legislature  
14 to better our city for all New Yorkers.

15 Today we're also voting on a major  
16 legislative package to improve the regulatory climate  
17 for small businesses in New York City; these are  
18 measures that I first proposed in my State of the  
19 City Address and we're all very proud to be voting on  
20 them today.

21 We have two bills that require the  
22 Department of Consumer Affairs and the Office of  
23 Administrative Trials and Hearings to issue reports  
24 on violations that are dismissed and that require  
25 agencies that issues these violations to report on

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2 plans to minimize the number of unwarranted  
3 violations.

4           If simple measures, such as retraining  
5 inspectors or clarifying rules can save business  
6 owners the hassle of appealing unnecessary  
7 violations, it's in everyone best interest.

8           Our next bill requires the Mayor's Office  
9 of Operations to engage in outreach efforts to ensure  
10 that more small businesses complete the customer  
11 service survey available on the City's website. This  
12 valuable feedback would be required to be used as  
13 these agencies formulate and refine their Council-  
14 mandated customer service training.

15           Another bill in this package would  
16 require the Department of Consumer Affairs, supported  
17 by the Department of Small Business Services, to hold  
18 multiple business education events [background  
19 comment] across the city each year to provide local  
20 businesses with information on the laws and rules  
21 that are enforced by the agency.

22           The City's role in regulating business  
23 should be to ensure that everyone knows the rules and  
24 is able to follow them; not to catch small business  
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2 owners off-guard with violations that could easily be  
3 avoided with proper education.

4           The next bill creates a small business  
5 advocate position in the Department of Small Business  
6 Services. This office will be dedicated to helping  
7 business owners obtain appropriate services from the  
8 Department and other governmental agencies.

9           When we listen to small businesses and  
10 when we listen to small business owners, we hear a  
11 wide variety of concerns on numerous issues and it's  
12 time for them to have a single, convenient point of  
13 contact within the Administration to address these  
14 concerns.

15           And the final bill in this package is one  
16 I'm very proud to sponsor. This bill will require  
17 that the Mayor's Office of Operations make available  
18 the Business Owners Bill of Rights in at least the  
19 top six languages spoken by limited English  
20 proficient New Yorkers so that small business  
21 operators will know they have a right to language  
22 translation services during inspections. It will  
23 also require the Mayor's Office of Operations to  
24 establish specific protocols for inspectors in  
25 multiple agencies to follow in order to determine

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2 whether a business operator needs language  
3 translation services and to provide such services.

4           Small businesses have always played a  
5 huge role in the immigrant success story that is New  
6 York City. Restaurants and shops across the five  
7 boroughs allow New Yorkers from all over the world to  
8 pursue the entrepreneurial dreams while also  
9 enriching the cultural experience for everyone in  
10 this city. Simply put, language barrier should be no  
11 excuse for the City not to fully communicate to  
12 business owners their rights and responsibilities.  
13 This bill will ensure that we improve that  
14 communication going forward.

15           So now I'm gonna call up a couple of my  
16 colleagues to speak on some of the bills that make up  
17 this comprehensive small business package. I also  
18 do, on the staff side, wanna thank Laura Popa, Matt  
19 Gewolb, obviously, Rachel Cordero, David Seitzer,  
20 Jeff Campagna, Aboni Raham [sp?] and Shijuade Kadree.

21           So I'd like to first start off with  
22 Council Member Vincent Gentile, followed by Council  
23 Member Rosenthal, followed by council Member Cornegy;  
24 then Espinal and then Chin.



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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Thank you,  
3 Madame Speaker and thank you for your continued  
4 support of small business agenda and certainly this  
5 package here today. Also wanna thank Chairs Cornegy  
6 and Espinal for their support in Int. 729-A, which  
7 we're voting on today and certainly the staff that  
8 had a part in putting it together.

9 This bill which we're voting on today  
10 really will be of benefit to small businesses down  
11 the road, because what this bill will do is mandate a  
12 study to discover those violations that are issued to  
13 business owners [background comment] that are  
14 frequently dismissed once the business owner goes to  
15 court. And so this bill will mandate that DCA study  
16 to find out what violations are commonly dismissed  
17 and after finding that out, then work to reduce those  
18 violations from being issued by inspectors and in so  
19 doing, stop the harassment of small business owners  
20 who are required to go down and fight these  
21 violations, only to have them dismissed and they lose  
22 their time from businesses and basically continue to  
23 do this over and over again. So this bill is a good  
24 bill to create this study to reduce these violations  
25 in the long run, so I appreciate your support today.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thanks so  
3 much. You know, I wanna thank the Speaker and  
4 Council Member Cornegy for their support in putting  
5 this supporting bill through to better understand,  
6 like Council Member Gentile's bill, why so many cases  
7 are dismissed; it will help our small business  
8 people, our restaurateurs; in addition to that, on  
9 sort of the flip side, it'll help us understand why  
10 landlords aren't paying for violations that are  
11 issued against them. You know, of the thousand  
12 violations that the Office of Special Enforcement  
13 puts out on landlords, we hear stories that many of  
14 those violations are simply dismissed or disregarded;  
15 similarly, with harassment and eviction of our  
16 tenants in rent-stabilized homes, we hear that  
17 landlords are bringing lawyers into the OATH with  
18 them and getting their cases dismissed. So I'm  
19 looking forward to understanding better why the cases  
20 are being dismissed and what we can do to better  
21 protect our tenants. Thank you so much.

22 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you Council  
23 Member. Council Member Cornegy.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Thank you,  
25 Madame Speaker.

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2 Small business owners do incredibly  
3 valuable and incredibly difficult work that benefits  
4 the people they employ, the customers they serve and  
5 our city as a whole. My goal as Chair of the  
6 Committee on Small Business is to do all I can to  
7 make their tough jobs easier. Today's bills  
8 accomplish that goal by improving the way the City  
9 interacts with small businesses in many ways. Going  
10 forward, non-English speakers will have a fairer  
11 chance during inspections, the number of education  
12 events across the boroughs will be increased, and  
13 owners will be encouraged to give meaningful feedback  
14 and there will be a clear entry point for business  
15 owners to share their concerns with the Department of  
16 Small Business Services. Moreover, we'll have a  
17 better understanding of how business summonses are  
18 resolved by the Department of Consumer Affairs and  
19 OATH; as these mechanisms tell us more about what  
20 business owners need, we'll continue to do better to  
21 serve them. [background comment]

22 I wanna thank Speaker Melissa Mark-  
23 Viverito and all the members who worked to support  
24 and co-sponsor these bills, for their vision and  
25 determination. But I wanna really give a special

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2 shout-out to The Speaker because this is a testament  
3 to her, even in her State of the City, her commitment  
4 to small businesses and I wanna thank you for  
5 honoring that in this way and really making sure that  
6 small businesses are protected and can meet their  
7 mission and vision statements across the City of New  
8 York, so you, Madame Speaker.

9 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,  
10 Council Member for your support and your leadership  
11 on behalf of small businesses. Council Member  
12 Espinal.

13 [background comment]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Dear colleagues,  
15 today I urge you to vote in favor of Int. 726-A, a  
16 bill which would expand and codify a successful pass  
17 program of DCA; it's called Business Education Days.  
18 This bill, which is part of The Speaker's small  
19 business package, would require DCA to hold events in  
20 two separate locations in each of the five boroughs  
21 of the city on an annual basis. It would also  
22 require that any lectures or educational materials  
23 produced for the events be made available in English  
24 and the six languages most commonly spoke in the  
25 city. DCA will work together with the Department of

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2 Small Businesses and will provide information at  
3 these events, which include the laws and rules and  
4 enforced by DCA. Again, small businesses are the  
5 heart of the American economy and nowhere is this  
6 felt more deeply than here in the City of New York.

7 Historically, New York City hasn't been  
8 friendly to small businesses and I'm really proud to  
9 introduce this bill and this package alongside The  
10 Speaker to make that possible here in New York.

11 Thank you.

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you.  
13 Council Member Chin.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you, Madame  
15 Speaker. Our city has great services for small  
16 businesses, [background comment] but many of our  
17 small businesses do not know how to access these  
18 programs or whom to turn to when they have questions  
19 about the City's rules and regulations. We get a lot  
20 of small business owners who come into my district  
21 office with questions about tickets they got or  
22 looking for help to access new City programs for  
23 small businesses. Sometimes they are struggling with  
24 language access issues and sometimes they just need  
25 help to understand the City's agency. I sponsor this

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2 bill, Int. 724-A, with Council Member Cornegy and our  
3 Speaker so that [background comment] small businesses  
4 will have a voice and a shepherd within the City  
5 government. The advocates in the Department of Small  
6 Business Services will be able to help them access  
7 and navigate City agencies and speak up for them when  
8 there are issues. In a nutshell, this bill is about  
9 increasing access and transparency in City government  
10 for small business owners.

11 I want to thank our Speaker, Melissa  
12 Mark-Viverito and Council Member Cornegy for their  
13 support in getting this legislation passed. I also  
14 would like to thank Jeff Campagna, who worked very  
15 hard on this legislation with us, as well as Matt  
16 Gewolb and Laura Popa, and of course, my Chief of  
17 Staff, Yume Kitasei, and I ask my colleagues to join  
18 me in supporting this bill.

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,  
20 Council Member.

21 Today we're also passing a bill that will  
22 require all car wash businesses in the city to be  
23 licensed by the Department of Consumer Affairs in  
24 order to operate. I'm very proud to sponsor this  
25 bill; it's been a bill -- we've been working for over

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2 a year-and-a-half, so very excited we've arrived to  
3 this day.

4 In order to receive a license, businesses  
5 would, among other things, be required to obtain a  
6 \$150,000 bond to cover any claims against the  
7 business, including those for labor violations, such  
8 as wage theft and damages to vehicles. This bond  
9 amount is reduced to \$30,000 for businesses operating  
10 with a collective bargaining agreement or those that  
11 are under a State-supervised settlement.

12 Car wash businesses would also have to  
13 certify that they are in compliance with certain  
14 Department of Buildings and Department of  
15 Environmental Protection laws and keep records of  
16 damaged cars and payments to customers.

17 Over the last few years we've held a  
18 number of hearings on this topic and there is a clear  
19 record of widespread labor violations in New York  
20 City's car wash industry. The car wash licensing  
21 legislation provides protections for New Yorkers from  
22 unscrupulous car wash owners. The law will help us  
23 enforce environmental laws governing the use of water  
24 and the disposal of pollutants; it will also help  
25 consumers that patronize car washes.

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2 Finally, the law will help protect  
3 employees of car washes, and particularly, vulnerable  
4 group of low-wage workers. The City Council will  
5 continue to stand up for New Yorkers and our  
6 legislation will hold businesses accountable.

7 Last year I was proud to stand with  
8 Attorney General Eric Schneiderman as we announced a  
9 landmark settlement to help those who had fallen  
10 victim to labor abuse in the car wash industry and  
11 this bill will continue that work by taking a  
12 proactive step to prevent such practices from  
13 happening in the first place.

14 This has been a long fight for fairness  
15 in the industry and today I'm very proud to say that  
16 the Council is stepping up and passing this important  
17 piece of legislation.

18 I wanna thank Laura Popa, Terzah Nasser,  
19 Matt Carlin, Gafar Zaaloff, Natalie Rehagen [sp?],  
20 Rob Newman, Lyle Frank, Chris Eshleman and Ray  
21 Majewski for all of their hard work.

22 And finally, we're passing a very  
23 important piece of legislation that will continue the  
24 Council's work to make New York City a more fair  
25 place to live and to work for all. Today we're



1  
2 voting on the Fair Chance Act, a bill that will  
3 strengthen our city's human rights law by prohibiting  
4 employers from asking about an applicant's criminal  
5 background prior to making a conditional job offer.

6           If an applicant is revealed to have a  
7 criminal record after being given a conditional  
8 officer, the employer would be required to get a  
9 written explanation if they intend to rescind or  
10 reduce the offer. The applicant would then have a  
11 three-day period of time to provide explanation or to  
12 correct any inaccurate information. This bill is a  
13 balanced and reasonable way to ensure that those who  
14 have made mistakes in their past still have the  
15 opportunity to improve their lives in the future.

16           We've taken a lot of action and had a lot  
17 of discussion in recent months about criminal justice  
18 reform. The driving force behind these discussions  
19 has the goal to live a city where those who violate  
20 the law are punished accordingly but are also given  
21 the tools to get their lives back on track. When we  
22 take away the chance to find honest employment from  
23 those who have made bad decisions in the past, we're  
24 only setting up roadblocks to their efforts to  
25 rebuild their lives.

1  
2 This bill still gives employers a choice  
3 about who they hire, but it makes the process fair  
4 for all parties involved.

5 I wanna thank on the staff side, Matt  
6 Gewolb, Rachel Cordero, Rob Newman, Alicia Brown,  
7 Muzna Ansari and Eisha Wright.

8 Council Member Williams has led the fight  
9 on this issue -- congratulations Council Member  
10 Williams; thank you for your leadership and if you  
11 could say a few words.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you,  
13 Madame Speaker; thank you for your leadership on  
14 getting this... helping get this bill this far to be  
15 voted on today and wanna thank the Chair of Civil  
16 Rights Committee, Darlene Mealy; I also wanna thank  
17 Borough President Gale Brewer, who had this bill in  
18 the prior session and was instrumental in getting it  
19 here today as well.

20 Having a past conviction should not  
21 prevent someone from being able to put food on the  
22 table or pay rent; the Fair Chance Act will ensure  
23 that all New Yorkers, including those who have been  
24 stigmatized because of previous convictions, will  
25

1  
2 have an equal opportunity to compete for jobs for  
3 which they qualify.

4           Today is the National Day of Action,  
5 urging President Obama to adopt a Fair Chance Hiring  
6 policy for Federal contractors to mark the occasion.  
7 I'm very proud that New York City Council is expected  
8 to pass the New York City Fair Chance Act and join 17  
9 states and more than 100 cities and counties who have  
10 already adopted similar legislation; I'm very proud  
11 that this bill is one of the strongest in the nation.

12           This legislation will not hurt employers;  
13 that is it does not require them to hire any  
14 particular application; it does however delay the  
15 background check, thus [background comment]  
16 implementing [sic] preexisting law that says  
17 employers cannot deny a job because of a record  
18 unless there is a direct relationship to the job.

19           To be clear, you currently are not  
20 supposed to discriminate against someone just because  
21 they have a criminal history, but many of the  
22 apprehensions to this bill is because people want to  
23 continue to use a criminal history to discriminate  
24 and we want to prevent that and enforce this law by  
25 saying that you cannot ask the question at the

1  
2 beginning; you have to ask it after you've assessed  
3 them as an entire person.

4           Employers who are legally prohibited from  
5 hiring people with certain convictions must still do  
6 so and employers can still do State-allowed  
7 assessment to determine which convictions conflict  
8 with the job, but by delaying the background checks,  
9 this law will make it possible for some qualified  
10 applicants who happen to also have a record to make  
11 it through an initial screening process and thereby  
12 stand a better chance of being considered for a job.

13           The Fair Chance Act allows people with a  
14 conviction history to be evaluated on their merits,  
15 without compromising safety and security on the job.  
16 Under the act, employers must make a conditional job  
17 offer before inquiring into the criminal history of  
18 an applicant or conducting any criminal history  
19 search.

20           We are right now, in the nation and in  
21 New York City, trying our best to deal with many  
22 issues, particularly around violence and gun violence  
23 in the city; I believe this bill has the pleasure of  
24 being a jobs bill, of being a criminal justice reform  
25 bill and being a public safety bill. I'm very happy

1  
2 that this will affect and help people with criminal  
3 backgrounds and even more happy that black and Latino  
4 neighborhoods that too often have a higher rate of  
5 interaction with the criminal justice system will be  
6 helped, and in particular, black males, who have  
7 among the highest interaction, will be helped by  
8 this. We do know that hurt people hurt people and we  
9 think of Kalief Browder, who took his own life, he  
10 hurt himself; it's disappointing that we couldn't  
11 save him; there are other young men who are hurting  
12 each other because they're feeling some of the same  
13 pain and it's important that we recognize; either  
14 young black males are more prone genetically to be  
15 criminals or they're the systemic problem, and if you  
16 believe the first part, I don't know what to say to  
17 you; if you, like me, are better-minded and believe  
18 the second part, please join us in trying to address  
19 the systemic issues, not just in criminal justice; in  
20 housing, in education and unemployment, so that we  
21 can get to the root of the problem.

22 I'd like to thank Chair Mealy for  
23 supporting this bill and The Speaker and would like  
24 to additionally thank the many staff and advocates  
25 who worked on the bill, including on the Council

1  
2 side, Matt Gewolb, Rob Newman, Committee Counsel  
3 Alicia Brown, the Committee's former Counsel, Julene  
4 Beckford, Maya Wiley from the Mayor side, Abades  
5 Debasu [sp?], Britney Moore. My staff -- William  
6 Berlick [sp?], special thanks to Paul Keefe from the  
7 Community Service Society for helping to draft the  
8 bill, Alicia from Vocal, and of course the co prime  
9 sponsor, Borough President Gale Brewer, who  
10 originally introduced this bill in the previous  
11 session and her staff -- Shula Warren and Hallie Chua  
12 [sp?] -- apologize if I forgot anyone, but I do wanna  
13 give special shout-outs to my Deputy Chief of Staff,  
14 Nick Smith; since he got here this is what he's been  
15 working for, and Committee Counsel Rachel Cordero,  
16 who I know I've annoyed incessantly; I know advocates  
17 has annoyed incessantly, but we've reached this day  
18 and I wanna thank everybody.

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,  
20 Council Member. Before I forget, I just wanna say;  
21 today's Stated Meeting will stand in recess until the  
22 budget is adopted and while the State Legislature is  
23 still in session; needed to say that for the record.

24 Okay, we're also voting on several  
25 resolutions of particular importance. One of them

1  
2 calls upon the State Government to extend and  
3 strengthen rent regulations in New York. Last week  
4 many of us went to Albany to demand action on this  
5 matter. Keeping New York affordable for the middle  
6 class is a defining issue of our time and the last  
7 thing we need is skyrocketing rents for New Yorkers  
8 across the five boroughs due to inaction in Albany.  
9 This Council will continue to fight for middle class  
10 and low-income New Yorkers struggling to make ends  
11 meet and it's essential that rent regulations be  
12 protected so we can move forward, not backward in  
13 this fight.

14           Additionally, the Council will vote today  
15 on a resolution calling on President Obama to grant  
16 clemency to Oscar Lopez Rivera, a Puerto Rican  
17 political prisoner who has served more than 34 years in  
18 prison for his activism and political beliefs.  
19 Rivera has served more time than Nelson Mandela.

20           In 1999, Oscar was offered clemency by  
21 President Bill Clinton, but in an act of solidarity  
22 with other political prisoners he declined. He was  
23 never convicted of specific crimes that resulted in  
24 deaths or injuries, nor was he ever convicted of any  
25 act of violence. Nobel Peace Prize winners, leaders

1  
2 from across the political spectrum and members of all  
3 walks of life have called for his release. Today the  
4 Council will join its collective voice to this human  
5 rights plea.

6           And finally, this is an issue that has  
7 just been extremely emotional during these last  
8 couple of days; I wanna -- and by asking everyone to  
9 join me in honoring the life and memory of Kalief  
10 Browder, a bright young man with even a brighter  
11 future.

12           Kalief Browder was a New Yorker; he was  
13 one of ours and one of us. I know he will be missed  
14 by those who loved him and I know that there are  
15 millions of people in this city standing in  
16 solidarity with his family in the face of this  
17 unspeakable loss.

18           In the wake of this senseless tragedy  
19 it's important that we recognize that what happened  
20 to Kalief Browder happens every day to too many New  
21 Yorkers, particularly young men of color. Fully, 85  
22 percent of the population of Rikers, yes, that's 85  
23 percent of the population of Rikers Island, are pre-  
24 trial detainees, innocent in the eyes of the law and  
25 we know from the alarming reports coming out of



1  
2 Rikers Island that Kalief Browder was not alone in  
3 suffering abuse, physical and psychological torment  
4 while jailed on Rikers Island. Our criminal justice  
5 system locked him up for three years and stole his  
6 freedom, his future and ultimately his life. What  
7 happened to Kalief Browder was an injustice.  
8 Policies that systematically and unfairly  
9 marginalize, criminalize, stigmatize and demoralize  
10 our young people of color are not justice. If we  
11 needed a wakeup call, this is it. We need  
12 comprehensive criminal justice reform and we need it  
13 now here in New York City and across the nation; we  
14 cannot throw away any more time or any more lives.  
15 From proposing the creation of a citywide bail fund  
16 to advocating for a summons system that is fair and  
17 just to increasing accountability and transparency at  
18 the Board of Corrections, the City Council is  
19 committed to fixing this broken system.

20 In fact, one week from today we will be  
21 holding a hearing on our broken bail system, the same  
22 system that kept Kalief Browder in jail because his  
23 family could not afford \$3,000 in bail, because we  
24 can do better than this; we must do better than this,  
25

1  
2 because we already have paid too high a price. May  
3 he rest in peace.

4 And with that I end Communication from  
5 The Speaker.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Discussion of  
7 General Orders, Council Member Elizabeth Crowley.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: First, Speaker;  
9 I wanna thank you for your kind words about Kalief  
10 Browder; I want to give you my full commitment as  
11 Chair of Criminal Justice that we could work to right  
12 this injustice and bring real reform to Rikers  
13 Island.

14 Today I also wanna urge my colleagues to  
15 vote no on Preconsidered 298. The Mayor's plan still  
16 has a second class for newly hired uniformed  
17 personnel; it does not fix the problem of inequality.  
18 After years of a hiring freeze in the Fire  
19 Department, 56 percent of newly hired firefighter  
20 probies are either women or people of color; the  
21 reduced benefits disproportionately affect groups of  
22 new hires. I ask; is this the direction that we  
23 should be taking our city? The Mayor is trying to  
24 justify support for the reduction of benefits as a  
25 cost savings. At a time when our city budget is

1  
2 growing, with over \$500 million in new proposed  
3 programs, do we really need to find a cost savings on  
4 the backs of our bravest and finest? In November I  
5 introduced a resolution which calls for parity for  
6 disability benefits for all New York City  
7 firefighters and police officers; this was brought to  
8 a hearing two weeks ago and is co-sponsored by 39 of  
9 my colleagues. Despite the support of the super  
10 majority of the Council, Mayor de Blasio is  
11 attempting to push an alternative proposal through  
12 the Council with less than 24 hours in notice.  
13 Pushing a bill of this significance through the  
14 Council without time for discussion is wrong.  
15 Uniform personnel respond to the same emergencies and  
16 face the same dangers regardless of when they were  
17 hired; therefore, they are deserving of equal  
18 benefits if sustained a disability [bell] injury;  
19 equal means equal. Thank you.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

21 Seeing none other on General Orders, Report of  
22 Special Committees.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reports of  
25 Standing Committees.

1  
2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee  
3 on Civil Rights, Int. 318-A, Fair Chance Act.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
5 Coupled on General Orders.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee  
7 on Civil Service and Labor, Int. 125-B, licensing car  
8 wash businesses.

9 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
10 Coupled on General Orders.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee  
12 on Consumer Affairs, Int. 726-A, Department of  
13 Consumer Affairs education events.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
15 Coupled on General Orders.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Int. 729-A, Department  
17 of Consumer Affairs' tribunal.

18 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
19 Coupled on General Orders.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee  
21 on Finance, M 293 and companion Res. 735-739.

22 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
23 General Orders.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered LU 237  
25 and Res. 750, Rose Ellen Smith HDFC.

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
3 General Orders.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee  
5 on Governmental Operations, Int. 456-A, OATH tribunal  
6 dismissals.

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
8 Coupled on General Orders.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Int. 725-A, agency  
10 inspector customer service training.

11 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
12 Coupled on General Orders.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee  
14 on Land Use, LU 229 and Res. 751 and LU 230 and Res.  
15 752, various UDAAPs.

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

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 231 and Res. 753,  
19 Crown Heights North Historic District.

20 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
21 General Orders.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 232 and Res. 754  
23 through LU 236 and Res. 758, property tax exemptions.

24 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
25 General Orders.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Small Business, Int. 723-A, protocols for non-English speakers.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and Coupled on General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Int. 724-A, Small Business Services advocates.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and Coupled on General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on State and Federal Legislation, Preconsidered M 296, Saint Michael's Park.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered M 297, abutting property owners.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered M 298, disability benefits.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered SLR 1, certificates of occupancy for unmapped streets.

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SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered SLR 2,  
promotions of captains.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: On the General Order  
Calendar, LU 223 and Res. 759, zoning amendment.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Resolution appointing  
various persons, Commissioner of Deeds.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
General Orders and at this time I ask for roll call  
on all items on the Coupled General Order Calendar.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye. Is the time  
where I'd explain my comment on the resolution about...  
[crosstalk]

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: No, not yet.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Okay. Aye.

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SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you...

[crosstalk]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: No on M 298 and  
aye on the rest.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen.

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: No on 318-A and  
aye on all the rest.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Constantinides.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye on  
all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: No on 125-B and  
yes on all the rest.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: No on 298...

[interpose]

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: and aye on the  
rest. So that's no on Preconsidered 298 and aye on  
all the rest.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cumbo.



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COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Congratulations to all my colleagues and aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: No on 298 and yes on everything else.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dickens.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye on all except no on Preconsidered 298.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dromm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Espinal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: No on Preconsidered M 298 and no on Int. 125-B and aye on the rest.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye on the Land Use Call-Ups and aye on the rest. Thanks.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: No on Preconsidered M 298, abstain on Int. 318-A; aye on the rest.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gibson. Greenfield.

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Greenfield.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you;  
I'm here. I vote aye on all with the exception of  
298, which I vote no.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Johnson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: King.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lancman.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: No on M 298 and  
aye on the remainder.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Request  
permission to explain my vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you. I  
vote aye on all. I wanna give a special  
congratulations to The Speaker on the Car Wash  
Accountability Act, which I think is a dynamite piece  
of legislation which is... [applause, cheers]

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Excuse me.

2

Excuse me. Excuse me. [gavel]

3

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: which sets...

4

[crosstalk]

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: a standard for

7

how we protect low-wage workers in dangerous

8

industries. I wanna give a big congratulations also

9

to Council Member Williams on the Fair Chance Act;

10

I'm proud of a city that's giving everybody a real

11

fair chance to work. And I also wanna say that I

12

really [interpose, background comments] think the

13

Council is doing the right thing in supporting the

14

resolution on M 298; we had a hearing two weeks ago

15

at which we were presented something that we thought

16

needed some work; we considered it in Committee, we

17

pushed back; this is a fair bill that strikes the

18

right balance; makes sure people with severe

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disabilities are restored to that higher level of

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pension where they were before, thanks to the pushing

21

of this Council that makes sure that workers in their

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early and there for seven years [sic] are elevated up

23

above where they would've been; doesn't make people

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make a difficult choice between those two things; I

25

1  
2 think we've significantly improved the proposal and I  
3 think we're doing the right thing here today and I  
4 proudly vote aye on all.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. All  
6 spectators, please demonstrate your support with a  
7 wave. Thank you.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Permission to  
10 explain my vote.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Madame Public  
13 Advocate, Madame Speaker, I'm gonna be voting aye on  
14 all. I wanted to speak for a second here about  
15 Preconsidered M 298.

16 I had to do a lot of thinking about this  
17 piece of legislation and I was a sponsor of Council  
18 Member Crowley's resolution since December, when two  
19 police officers, Officers Ramos and Liu from the 84th  
20 Precinct, were assassinated and you know ultimately  
21 we have to do something; the status quo is something  
22 that we view as unacceptable and this piece of  
23 legislation before us today is doing something, it is  
24 better than the status quo; many more cops and  
25 firefighters that are severely injured through this

1  
2 legislation would be covered at full 75 percent  
3 disability than are covered today and that is doing  
4 something. If legislation or if a compromise is  
5 reached between uniformed unions and the  
6 Administration is proposed in the future, I would  
7 look forward to that; that would cover more cops and  
8 firefighters, but this legislation that is before us  
9 today that we are charged with voting on does in fact  
10 improve the status quo significantly and for that I  
11 will be voting aye. Thank you.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye on all.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Permission to  
17 explain my vote.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: On the Reso 740,  
20 I've always believed that an unjust to one is an  
21 unjust for all and as I vote for this... [interpose]

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member...

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.  
24  
25

1  
2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: you can speak  
3 regarding a resolution at a later point in the  
4 program.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Okay, alright.  
6 Then no on M 298.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: No on M 298, no  
10 on 125 and no on 318; aye on the rest.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Pass.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: MENCHACA.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Permission to  
15 explain my vote.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Just really  
18 quickly, I also wanted to give a shout-out to all the  
19 advocates that have been really hard, including The  
20 Speaker of the City Council and all the members,  
21 including those of us who were fighting district  
22 battles in Brooklyn for the car wash workers; the  
23 Fair Chance Act in Council Member -- thank you,  
24 Council Member Jumaane Williams and Torres and Corey  
25 and all the members who've really fought and fought

1  
2 hard on that piece of legislation and thank you to  
3 all advocates as well.

4 I also just wanna just mention the 723-A  
5 piece of legislation that really brings language  
6 access to small businesses and we are slowly  
7 transforming that access for everybody on the  
8 language access issue. I vote aye on all. Thank  
9 you.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mendez.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I abstain on M  
13 298 and I vote aye on all the rest.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Miller.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Permission to  
16 explain.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I first wanna  
19 congratulate my colleagues on the phenomenal, well  
20 thought-out, commonsense legislation put forth today;  
21 [background comment] there were so many great pieces  
22 today, but in particular I wanna -- Council Member  
23 Williams, I think that is an extraordinary piece of  
24 legislation, very necessary and I simply wanna say,  
25

1  
2 but there before the grace of god go I. And I vote  
3 aye on all, except abstain on 298. Thank you.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

5 Continue with roll call.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Palma.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Permission to  
10 explain my vote.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: I feel that  
13 along with affordable housing it is also extremely  
14 important that our communities have affordable places  
15 to shop and eat and that the good shops that these  
16 establishments often provide continue to be available  
17 for people who need them. These bills are a great  
18 step in the right direction and I hope that we as a  
19 Council can continue to do more to preserve small  
20 businesses.

21 I would also like to thank the Council  
22 Members for allowing me to have this experience as  
23 Council Member for a Day. Special shout-out to the  
24 community schools and the UFT.



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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And how do you  
vote, Council Member?

[laughter]

COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Aye on all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Excellent job.  
[applause] Okay, outburst on that, okay. Continuing  
with roll call... girl power... [crosstalk]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards. Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: We vote aye;  
we would also like to congratulate Council Member  
Jumaane Williams.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Excellent. Girl  
power. Yes. Next.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rosenthal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres.

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Permission to  
explain my vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: First, I couldn't  
3 be prouder about the passage of the Car Wash  
4 Accountability Act and the Fair Chance Act; these are  
5 two of my favorite pieces of legislation; I think  
6 they embody the progressive conscience of the City  
7 Council, so I wanna congratulate The Speaker, as well  
8 as Council Member Jumaane Williams and I feel like I  
9 should explain; I'm going to vote yes on all the  
10 items, but I am... was... I still am on the resolution,  
11 Council Member Crowley's resolution, but you know as  
12 an elected official I do reserve the right to rethink  
13 my position in light of new information and I do  
14 believe that the Mayor's plan strikes a thoughtful  
15 balance between fairness and fiscal responsibility,  
16 so I'm at peace with the decision that I'm making. I  
17 vote aye.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Continuing.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Treyger.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Permission to  
21 explain my vote.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: So I, like  
24 Council Member Levine mentioned as well, in my  
25 district Officer Guerra gave the ultimate sacrifice

1  
2 and died trying to save lives in a burning building  
3 in Coney Island and Officer Rosa has been permanently  
4 injured and I appreciate certainly some of the big  
5 improvements that have been made; I still however  
6 have a major problem and a concern with leaving it to  
7 the Social Security Administration to decide if  
8 injured officers and firefighters and service people  
9 are ultimately disabled or not; the same way I have  
10 problems with accessori [sic] determining whether  
11 people are disabled or not and people who have walked  
12 in... who barely could even walk have been denied. So  
13 I remain concerned about that, while I still  
14 appreciate many people's efforts to try to improve  
15 the bills. But I will vote no on M 298 and aye on  
16 the rest. Thank you.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

18 Continuing with roll call.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I'm voting no on  
21 Int. 125-B, 318-A and also voting no on Preconsidered  
22 M 298 and aye on all others.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vacca.  
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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: No on 298 and 318  
and aye on the rest.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Madame  
Advocate, I vote no on M 298 and aye on all remaining  
items.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Excellent.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: And Madame  
Advocate, if I may just say a special farewell to  
Mark Weprin whose been a friend, a mentor and our  
delegation chair; he's been nothing but a friend to  
me since day one and our family, often referred to as  
the fourth Vallone and we happily will adopt him.  
Mark, thank you for your leadership and you will be  
missed.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Weprin.

[background comment]

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Opportunity to  
explain my vote. And I apologize to my Council  
Member for a Day, Stella Shay, who is here, but this  
may be my last chance to speak on the floor, so  
you'll forgive me. I vote aye on all but no on 298  
also. But I do just want to say thank you to  
everybody for the nice warm welcome. Stella, you can

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stay till November, actually if you want, you know, we're gonna have an open seat. [laughter] No one's gonna throw you out, don't worry about it.

So just briefly, this has been a great experience for me; I have loved serving in the New York City Council; it's been great working with all of you. I love this job, I love being a Council Member and what I think I love most about politics and government is really getting to know people from different places and different backgrounds and the Imam gave a great opening invocation today where he talked about the diversity of this body and the work you do; you work very hard, your City Council works extremely hard every day, they're the frontline and we're close to the people and this room really is full of people who really have the right motivations and working hard for their constituents and doing a great job and I've enjoyed getting to know you and making friends, it really is a real honor to be here. And I wanna thank the staff... [interpose]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Don't worry, we're gonna stop the clock.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Oh okay, [background comments] that went quick... that went

1  
2 quickly. [background comment] I wanna thank all the  
3 staff, they've just been so kind to me over the  
4 years; I loved working with them, so many of the  
5 advocates who come here everyday -- this is a great  
6 body, a real example of democracy. Madame Speaker,  
7 you've done a great job of opening up this body,  
8 giving members a chance to speak out and to be heard.  
9 It's a bittersweet day today; I'm very excited about  
10 my next job, I'm very excited about the new  
11 challenges and to continue my public service. I  
12 wanna thank member of the press even who are here  
13 today, even -- no -- who really do an incredible job  
14 as well, and I'm not in politics anymore, you know  
15 running anymore, I don't have to kiss up to them, but  
16 I [laughter] continue to because I tell you, they  
17 work a -- you have a very tough job and you spend  
18 many, many hours and stand around a long time waiting  
19 for things to happen and then spending a lot of time  
20 writing about it and really do a good job.

21 But I thank you all really for the  
22 friendships. I'm not going far away, I'm still gonna  
23 be living here in beautiful Queens, New York and  
24 working in Manhattan for the most part, traveling  
25 around the state a little bit, but I look forward to

1  
2 continuing our friendships, working together on  
3 behalf of the people of this city and the state and  
4 without getting choked up, I just wanna say thank you  
5 very much.

6 [cheers, applause, background comments]

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Continuing with  
8 roll call and let's resume the clock.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: May I be  
11 excused to explain my vote?

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I just wanna  
14 say, Mark, I think the love you're receiving is real  
15 and I wanna pay you the highest honor that I can pay  
16 someone in this business that we have; you are a  
17 genuine person and I really appreciate that. Yes  
18 means yes; no means no and I think you genuinely care  
19 about your colleagues and the people you represent,  
20 so I'm gonna miss you here; hopefully I'll see you on  
21 Twitter, and when the Knicks are playing, I'll always  
22 be able to catch you over there, but good luck on  
23 everything you're doing. [background comment] Yes  
24 we can; we can still go to the game.

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I just wanna say I'm very proud of this Council; I think we are doing a lot of things to chip away at the systemic and structural issues that are preventing people from moving forward and I'm proud that I'm able to be here, I'm proud to be in a body that not only talks about it, but takes it seriously to move it forward. So I proudly, I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Pass.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I abstain on 125-B; I vote no on [background comments] M 298 and all on the rest.

[background comments]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Wills.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: I vote no on 125-B and yes on M 298. Aye on all the rest.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Permission to explain my vote briefly... [crosstalk]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.



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COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: and number one, I wanna thank and recognize my Council Member [background comment] for a Day, Sabria Islam [sp?], who is just wonderful [background comment] and makes me feel good about the future because she's so spectacular.

I want to also thank my colleague, Mark Weprin; Council Member Williams said genuine, [background comment] which is true, but Mark is also inherently [background comment] decent; he is just an incredibly decent person and human being and I will miss him, but congratulate him, and with that, I vote aye on all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Vote aye on all.

[sic]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
Council Member Gibson.

[background comments]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Gibson.

[pause]

[background comments]

FEMALE VOICE: What happened?

1  
2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: She'd like a  
3 minute. [background comments] While Council Member  
4 Gibson is reviewing the agenda, I'd like to invite my  
5 colleagues to sign on to Int. 820, a bill to increase  
6 recycling throughout our city. This bill would  
7 require the Department of Sanitation to establish a  
8 pilot program to provide incentives to all residents  
9 to encourage recycling. The model envisioned by this  
10 legislation leverages participation by retailers,  
11 [background comments] restaurants and other  
12 businesses. This model has been successful at  
13 spurring increases in recycling in a number of  
14 jurisdictions, including Philadelphia, Fort Worth,  
15 Texas and some 75 other jurisdictions. Department of  
16 Sanitation data demonstrates that recycling rates are  
17 lower in community districts with higher rates of  
18 public housing residents; this is due in part to  
19 infrastructure challenges. In order to overcome some  
20 of these challenges, we of course need NYCHA to do  
21 more to ensure that recycling is feasible at their  
22 developments and I believe that by adding a set of  
23 incentives we can truly encourage recycling. We must  
24 [background comments] reduce waste in our city and  
25

1  
2 recycling is one meaningful thing we can all do.  
3 Please sign on to the bill. Council Member Gibson.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you very  
5 much, Madame Public Advocate; I do apologize for  
6 being late.

7 I want to first comment Council Member  
8 Williams on passing the Fair Chance Act, I think it's  
9 a great bill that gives an opportunity for many  
10 people to get a second chance at life, at opportunity  
11 and future employment; I don't think they should be  
12 discriminated against based on any criminal  
13 background and I do appreciate all of the work of the  
14 advocates that was put into making this bill a  
15 reality. And I also want to commend our Speaker for  
16 passing the car washers bill; the carwasheros, many  
17 of whom I represent in the Bronx, and I know this was  
18 a long, hard-fought battle and I appreciate all of  
19 the work that has been put into that. And I would  
20 like to vote aye on all, with the exception of  
21 Preconsidered M 298; I will be abstaining on that and  
22 I will be voting aye on all. Thank you very much,  
23 Madame Public Advocate.

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
Council Member Wills. [background comment] No.  
[background comment] No. Sorry.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: I will; how close  
is the count? I will vote... oh okay.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Sorry.  
[background comments] While they're calculating the  
vote, I believe we have a reception for Council  
Member Weprin offsite, and is the Caucus meeting  
after Stated as well? What? [background comments]  
Four o'clock. As we await the vote... Caucus meeting...  
[background comments] No? [background comments]  
Okay, we're all going to Council Member Weprin's  
party. Quiet in the chambers for the vote.  
[background comments]

All items on today's General Order  
Calendar were adopted by a vote of 51 in the  
affirmative, 0 in the negative and 0 abstentions,  
with the exception of Preconsidered M 298, which was  
adopted by a vote of 31 in the affirmative, 17  
negative and 3 abstentions. And Int. 125-B, which is  
adopted by a vote of 43 in the affirmative, 7  
negative and 1 abstention. And Int. 318-A, which was  
adopted by a vote of 45 in the affirmative, 5

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2 negative and 1 abstention. The revised Land Use  
3 Call-Up vote is 51 in the affirmative, 0 negative.

4 Introduction and Reading of Bills.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All bills are  
6 referred to Committees as indicated on the agenda.

7 [background comment]

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And now,  
9 discussion of resolution, beginning with Res. 740,  
10 led by Council Member Mendez.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you, Madame  
12 Public Advocate and thank you, Madame Speaker. Today  
13 we are... [interpose, background comments]

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the  
15 chambers, please. Excuse me, Council Member. Quiet  
16 in the chambers. If you're leaving the chamber,  
17 [background comments] please leave quietly. Thank  
18 you.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Today we are  
20 introducing Preconsidered Res. 740 and in 1998 in  
21 this body, [interpose, background comment] former  
22 Council Member Jose Rivera introduced a resolution  
23 asking the President to give clemency to the Puerto  
24 Rican political prisoners and in 1999 President  
25 Clinton did offer clemency to almost all the

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2 prisoners; Oscar Lopez Rivera was offered clemency,  
3 but since [interpose, background comment] everyone  
4 else was not offered the same, he rejected it. As he  
5 had done previously in his life, he refused to leave  
6 his compatriots behind. When he was in the Vietnam  
7 War, his group was under siege by a hidden mine; he  
8 brought people to safety, got a perimeter where a  
9 helicopter could land and bring people back and he  
10 saved lives; he did not abandon [bell] them then; he  
11 did not abandon them now. He is the only political  
12 prisoner still in jail after 35 years, of which 12  
13 were in solitary confinement. President Clinton said  
14 that the punishment was unjust, did not fit the  
15 crime, and today... [crosstalk]

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member,  
17 please conclude your remarks.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I ask all my  
19 colleagues to vote yes. Thank you... [crosstalk]

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Thank  
21 you. Council Member Mark Levine.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you, Madame  
23 Public Advocate. I also wanna urge my colleagues to  
24 vote yes on this important resolution.

25

1  
2 Oscar Lopez was not convicted of an act  
3 of violence; the most serious charge which he was  
4 convicted was seditious conspiracy, a charge rarely  
5 used in American history; in fact, the last time it  
6 was used was widely was in the Civil War, it's a  
7 relic of another era and a sentence of 55 years which  
8 he received is virtually without precedent for this  
9 charge and in fact, after the Civil War, virtually  
10 all -- not virtually; all of the southern soldiers  
11 who were convicted of seditious conspiracy were  
12 released in short order. By any reasonable  
13 assessment, Oscar Lopez has received a sentence far  
14 out of proportion with the crime for which he has  
15 been convicted, and an incredibly diverse array of  
16 leaders have stood up to say just that, people like  
17 former President Bill Clinton, Desmond Tutu, Cardinal  
18 John O'Connor, here from New York City, and many  
19 others of many faiths and many backgrounds [bell] and  
20 I urge my colleagues to support this resolution  
21 today. Thank you, Madame Public Advocate.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member  
23 Inez Barron.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Madame  
25 Public Advocate. I want to do several things in my

1  
2 two minutes; one, add my voice to those who are  
3 calling for the adoption of this resolution; I think  
4 that it's important, given the circumstances, given  
5 the history of Oscar Lopez Rivera and given the  
6 excessive time that he was given, and given his  
7 integrity to say no, since all of us are not being  
8 offered clemency, I will decline this officer, but I  
9 think that now it certainly is an opportunity for  
10 President Obama to take that on.

11           And I want to call attention to Resos  
12 that are being introduced; is this is the time for  
13 that? [background comments] No. Okay. So then I  
14 want to just encourage my colleagues to please vote  
15 in the affirmative on this very important issue and I  
16 think that it also addresses the issue of the use of  
17 something -- seditious conspiracy, as has been  
18 indicated, is a throwback to a time that goes back to  
19 [bell] Civil War days; it's outdated, it's excessive  
20 time that he has already served and we're calling on  
21 the President to again grant him clemency. Thank  
22 you.

23           PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
24 Council Member Maisel.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Thank you very much. I've always believed that an injustice for one is an injustice for all and I'm going to be voting for this resolution for Oscar Lopez Rivera.

I would also like to ask my colleagues, when a similar resolution comes up on behalf of Jonathan Pollard, who is in Federal penitentiary way beyond the number of years that he should have sentenced for what he did. So I think Oscar Lopez Rivera deserves to be released and I think so does Jonathan Pollard and when the resolution to that effect comes along, I hope members of the Council will support that as well. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member King.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Yes, just a brief reminder, due to time constraints, the BLAC will be on the steps at four o'clock with Laurie Cumbo for the Father's Day Pledge, so today's meeting will be postponed; we'll be outside on the steps at four o'clock; that's for a caucus [sic]. And for...

COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: My name is Caitlyn [sp?]... [crosstalk]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And now...

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: I'm 6 years  
3 old; I go to PS 41; I'm the Council Girl and I just  
4 wanna say congratulations to everybody.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. And  
6 now we will be voting on the resolutions.

7 Res. 692, a resolution calling upon the  
8 New York State Legislature to pass and the Governor  
9 to sign Assembly 4762 and Senate 1291, which would  
10 extend labor protections to farm workers. All of  
11 those in favor say aye. [collective aye] All of  
12 those opposed. Any abstentions? The ayes have it.

13 Preconsidered Res. 731, a resolution  
14 calling upon the New York State Senate to pass and  
15 the Governor to sign Assembly 7526 in relation to  
16 strengthening rent regulation. All of those in  
17 favor. [collective aye] All of those opposed. Any  
18 abstentions? The ayes have it.

19 And Preconsidered Res. 740, a resolution  
20 calling on President Obama to grant clemency to Oscar  
21 Lopez Rivera so that he is immediately released from  
22 prison, as his continued incarceration is unjust and  
23 serves no legitimate purpose. All of those in favor  
24 say aye. [collective aye] All of those opposed.  
25 Any abstention? The ayes have it.

1  
2 And now a revised vote on Int. 125-B,  
3 which was adopted by a vote of 44 in the affirmative,  
4 6 in the negative and one abstention.

5 Now General Discussion, beginning with  
6 Council Member Kallos.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: [background  
8 comment]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Today I will  
10 introduce four bills, three are co-sponsored with  
11 Council Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: The legislation  
13 introductions 807, 810, 811; 812 will improve the way  
14 the City issues and collects Environmental Control  
15 Board fines. Our city is owed \$1.5 billion in unpaid  
16 fines, 84 percent of which is over two years old.

17 I am sponsoring a bill to allow issuing  
18 agencies to suspend or revoke licenses and permits  
19 for large unpaid ECB debts, dangerous constructions  
20 sites that owe tens of thousands in fines could  
21 finally be suspended.

22 We also have a bill requiring specific  
23 location details, including lot and building ID  
24 numbers so the City can follow up with those who do  
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2 not pay, and a bill allowing 30 days to correct typos  
3 or small errors in violations issued.

4 Council Member Ferreras is prime-  
5 sponsoring a bill requiring agencies in Department of  
6 Finance to seek to [background comments] find the  
7 actual name of the violator so tickets do not get  
8 thrown out.

9 I believe these bills will go a long way  
10 towards improving quality of life.

11 I want to take a moment to introduce  
12 Annabel Dennis, in 6th grade at MS 177 and Alison  
13 Lee, in 5th grade at PS 183. They wrote very special  
14 essays on what they'd like to do as council member.  
15 Alison would start knocking docking on doors to find  
16 out what people wanted from her, which is something  
17 we've all had experience with. And Annabel would  
18 like to keep our [background comments] streets clean  
19 and amongst many other pieces, and they won our  
20 office's contest.

21 And I just wanna thank Mark Weprin for  
22 his years of leadership and for this program and  
23 allowing a member of the Manhattan Delegation to join  
24 the Queens Delegation for this amazing program.

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2 I also wanna thank and congratulate Miss  
3 Rachel Belsky [sp?], as well as Miss Ashley  
4 Silverstein, who taught both students. I expect  
5 these two back in City Hall some day, as we soon have  
6 as many women in the City Council as we do in the  
7 rest of the city; there are more than 50 percent of  
8 our city that are women and that needs to be  
9 reflected in our legislative body. Thank you.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. We  
11 are still in session; please, quiet in the chambers.  
12 Council Member Richards.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Good afternoon.  
14 First I'd like to acknowledge my Council Member for a  
15 Day, from Excelsior Prep High School and the  
16 Springfield Gardens Complex of Queens, Miss Christine  
17 Saturn, and also I would like to acknowledge my  
18 newest addition, Intern Danny Hupper [sp?], who's  
19 joined me from Whitman [sp?] College and I would like  
20 to thank both of them for their hard work.

21 So I also am going to speak on Int. 803,  
22 which I have the pleasure of following The Speaker's  
23 lead on, so I will begin. Chemicals like  
24 formaldehyde, benzene, lead, mercury, arsenic,  
25 cadmium or cobalt can impact the ability of children

1  
2 to learn [background comments], harm their  
3 reproductive systems and are linked to various  
4 cancers. With the introduction of this bill, the  
5 Council is moving to make sure that our children will  
6 be protected from harm and their parents can rest  
7 assured that when they go shopping for clothing,  
8 school supplies and other children's products that  
9 they are not playing Russian roulette with their  
10 children's lives. Passing this bill is not only good  
11 for children and their parents, but it also good for  
12 business. Leading companies are increasingly looking  
13 to identify new safer alternatives to the toxic  
14 chemicals currently used in their products. Passing  
15 a bill like this would send a strong signal that  
16 there is a market in New York City for those  
17 businesses to thrive. And as New York City goes, so  
18 goes the nation and our ability to impact the market,  
19 which will benefit many children and parents well  
20 beyond the boards of our great city. Some parents  
21 can afford to [background comments] buy less toxic  
22 toys and children products, but if you live in the  
23 Rockaways, East Harlem or the South Bronx, that is  
24 likely not an option to many parents. This bill  
25 would level the shopping field for all parents in the

1  
2 City of New York; it would make the Dollar Store on  
3 the corner, where a recent study conducted this year  
4 found that 81 percent of these products tested  
5 contained at least one hazardous chemical [bell] as  
6 safe as the most high end stores.

7 I'd like to thank Speaker Melissa Mark-  
8 Viverito for her outstanding leadership... [crosstalk]

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member,  
10 please conclude.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: also Peggy  
12 Shepard from WE ACT, my staff, Jarrell Burney,  
13 Mercedes Buchanan, Laura Popa, and also my newest  
14 addition, once again, Danny Hupper... [crosstalk]

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Thank you,  
17 Public... [interpose]

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
19 Council Member Williams.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you.  
21 First, I just wanna thank my colleagues for passing  
22 Int. 318, the Fair Chance Act, and just wanna say,  
23 not 15 minutes did we pass it an employee of the City  
24 Council came to me with tears in his eyes to thank us  
25 for passing this bill because of what he went

1  
2 through. I just want people to know we are having an  
3 impact on real people's lives with what we're doing  
4 here. So just, I think it's an amazing thing that we  
5 did and know that people here are even affected by  
6 that.

7           On that same vein, I just want to  
8 continue in saying there's just a lot more to do in  
9 these communities; the New York Times had a piece  
10 that mentioned 1.2 million black males between 25 and  
11 50 are missing from everyday life; just in New York  
12 City 120,000 black makes from 25-54 are missing from  
13 everyday life; we have to address these issues and we  
14 can't just address it with police, although they are  
15 partner. We have to make sure that the structural  
16 issues in these communities are dealt with; we have  
17 to make sure the budget reflects all of the things  
18 that we have to do to address these structural  
19 issues; we know that Commissioner Bratton made some  
20 comments yesterday; my hope is that that wasn't his  
21 final comment on the issue; we wanna make sure that  
22 we don't overly stigmatize communities. In addition,  
23 we have to fix the issue, there are two places where  
24 we lose applicants; one is in the criminal background  
25 history, the other is in psychological questions that



1  
2 are asked; we need to look at those to make sure that  
3 they're being applied evenly and across the board; we  
4 need to make sure that the psychological testing is  
5 evenly applied across the board because they're not  
6 specific questions that are the same for everyone;  
7 depends on the psychologist you see. And I would  
8 like to see that there are questions that are asked  
9 about people's feelings on race and religion that I  
10 think we should ask as well to make sure that people  
11 who are being hired have the appropriate mental  
12 health. So there's a lot of issues that we have to  
13 follow-up on; my hope is that what we did today  
14 [bell] was a good movement and we have to keep moving  
15 forward. Thank you.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
17 Council Member Barron.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Madame  
19 Public Advocate. I do want to acknowledge the  
20 passing of one of the great education leaders in  
21 Brooklyn; her name was Ollie McClean and she ran the  
22 Sankofa International Academy, a small private,  
23 independent Afrocentric school; she passed recently  
24 and I just want to put into the record the great  
25

1  
2 accomplishments that she was able to achieve through  
3 students and the programs that she ran at her school.

4 I also want to commend all of those who  
5 were able to have legislation passed today,  
6 especially the Fair Chance Act, which will now have a  
7 greater opportunity for those who have had negative  
8 encounters with the criminal justice system to have a  
9 greater opportunity to get a better shot at moving  
10 forward. I'm very concerned about comments that  
11 Commissioner Bratton has made recently while in  
12 Harlem as well as the reported comments that he made  
13 to the magazine interview that he did and I think it  
14 bears a close watch on.

15 And I want to call my colleagues'  
16 attention to several pieces of legislation that I'm  
17 going to be introducing; one is a reso that calls for  
18 the changing of the title of one of our standing  
19 committees to the Committee on Civil and Human  
20 Rights; I invite you to sign onto that. Another is a  
21 resolution calling on the State to make the necessary  
22 investment to be able to reach an equitable contract  
23 settlement with PSC, which are the people who work at  
24 our City University.

1  
2 And finally, there is an intro for  
3 reasonable accommodations so that those persons who  
4 need accommodations at their workplace will be able  
5 to have a good faith interactive dialogue with their  
6 employers so that they can come to a common  
7 agreement. Thank you.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: May Miss McClean  
9 rest in peace. Council Member Miller.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you, Madame  
11 Public Advocate. I have my Council Member for the  
12 Day with me, Ms. Ianna [sp?] Cox and I'm proud to  
13 have her here today. I also wanna mention that we  
14 were joined by my second Council Member for the Day,  
15 Ms. Jada [sp?] Miller, who had to return back to the  
16 district, and we have a couple of resolutions that we  
17 wanna speak on.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: I have a  
19 number of resolutions being introduced to the Council  
20 today, most pertaining to state matters and would  
21 like to draw your attention to them for a moment.

22 Res. 741, to require that every foreign  
23 procurement contracted entered into by a state agency  
24 contain a statement from the contractor that no  
25 forced labor was used. This includes child labor,

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2 slave labor and indentured servitude and provides for  
3 stiff penalties.

4 Res. 742, calling on the State to allow  
5 lawful permanent residents of the United States to  
6 serve on juries.

7 Res. 743, calling on the State to ensure  
8 that much-discussed pension for future provisions are  
9 limited only to elected public officials and are not  
10 used as a tool to disparage [sic] our civil servants.

11 Res. 744, a Federal item in support of  
12 the Student Loan Interest Deduction Act to increase  
13 the maximum tax deduction for interest paid on any  
14 qualified education loans to \$5,000 and \$10,000 for  
15 joint filers and also to remove qualifying income  
16 caps on this deduction.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you,  
18 Council Member. And finally, I would like to  
19 highlight Res. 745, co-sponsored by Council Members  
20 Wills, Richards, Barron, Rose and Garodnick, calling  
21 on Albany to allocate funds received through  
22 settlements with lending institutions for subprime  
23 and predatory loans to those communities most  
24 affected by those loans and foreclosed crisis. We  
25 have seen over 100,000 foreclosed homes in the city

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2 since 2008 and a few new federal policies [bell] will  
3 now allow for cities across the nation to get a first  
4 chance to buy back FHA insured discounted homes,  
5 allowing municipalities like ours... [interpose]

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member,  
7 please conclude your remarks.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: to keep their  
9 families in the home, provide affordable housing and  
10 mitigate the impact of foreclosed crisis on our  
11 cities and communities of color. I urge you to sign  
12 onto this resolution and help keep homeowners in  
13 their homes.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
15 Council Member Mark Levine.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you, Madame  
17 Public Advocate. I just want to invite colleagues to  
18 join me and many others in toasting to our colleague  
19 Mark Weprin at five o'clock at Barleycorn. There  
20 will be free snacks, just in case you need more  
21 motivation; a chance to toast our wonderful  
22 colleague. Thank you.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
24 Council Member Rosenthal.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you very  
3 much, Madame Public Advocate. You know I'm really  
4 proud today to be introducing and then to be second  
5 on the introduction of a bill that will help us  
6 alleviate the problem of illegal hotels in New York  
7 City. With the advancement of Airbnb and other  
8 short-term rental platforms we've been seeing our  
9 affordable housing stock, you know, plummet even  
10 faster than it would normally do. In my district,  
11 we're losing 650 units of affordable housing every  
12 month; most recently at the Imperial Court Hotel,  
13 which is an SRO with 227 units; we watched as the  
14 owner has harassed and evicted out 180 of the tenants  
15 in order to warehouse those units which he is now  
16 renting out illegally as short-term rentals on a  
17 short-term rental platform; there are only 40  
18 remaining tenants; those tenants report seeing the  
19 maids' carts going in and out of rooms; it's  
20 outrageous and we need to make our violations against  
21 these landlords serious, mean something; be more than  
22 the cost of doing business, which is why I'm so  
23 pleased that one of these bills will raise the  
24 minimum amount of the violation from \$1,000 to  
25 \$10,000. Also, with Council Member Rodriguez's bill,

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2 we'll be able to track exactly what happens to each  
3 of these violations. What we're seeing right now is  
4 at least 10 percent get dismissed altogether; we need  
5 to stop those dismissals, we need to make these  
6 violations serious, we need to go out against these  
7 illegal hotel operators, but also [bell] tenants who  
8 illegally rent out their units... [interpose]

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member,  
10 please conclude your remarks... [crosstalk]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you very  
12 much.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
14 Council Member Cumbo.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you so much.  
16 I wanna welcome my Council Member for the day, Will  
17 Shapiro, who's an intern with me in my office as  
18 well, but he's also a junior at Birch Wathen Lenox on  
19 the Upper East Side and so it's a great Brooklyn and  
20 Manhattan collaboration.

21 I also want to... [interpose, background  
22 comment] Now I like Manhattan, right; I tried to mix  
23 it up really quickly. I'm also very pleased but also  
24 saddened at the same time that Mark Weprin is going  
25 to be leaving us to join the Governor's Office and

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2 Mark, you are an incredible friend, you bring such an  
3 energy of humor as well as bringing up the tough  
4 topics that are so difficult to talk about. So I  
5 thank you for your friendship; I thank you for your  
6 mentorship; I thank you for always bringing a smile  
7 to every situation, and you're gonna be missed and  
8 I'm so thankful that you were here in this Council; I  
9 feel like -- I just feel like you can't go, but we're  
10 gonna let you go and I know that you'll remain  
11 friends with all of us.

12 I'm so pleased today at four o'clock the  
13 Father's Day Pledge; we are going to be so honored  
14 because Mayor Dinkins will be joining us today; he is  
15 a father of two and really the Mayor and the father  
16 of New York City. So I'm so pleased that he'll be  
17 joining us for the Father's Day Pledge and I hope  
18 that all of you will come out with us.

19 This Saturday is also Brooklyn Pride and  
20 I hope to see all of you in Brooklyn, New York for  
21 this amazing celebration that's going to bring  
22 together all of New Yorkers in the Borough of  
23 Brooklyn.

24 But I also wanna bring to your attention  
25 something that I've been talking a great deal about,



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2 as we are finalizing on the budget, as we all know,  
3 there are 14 day care centers, many of you have seen  
4 children all over here at City Hall, they're not  
5 coming here for a class trip or to shake the Mayor's  
6 hand, they are coming here to fight for their day  
7 care centers, many of which have been in business for  
8 30, 40 and 50 years and through a process that we  
9 feel is untransparent or that we know is  
10 untransparent, many of these centers, because of the  
11 result of three people in a room and we don't know  
12 who those three people are, have unilaterally decided  
13 that these businesses and organizations don't deserve  
14 a right [bell] to continue to service our children.  
15 So the movement is growing and I hope that all of you  
16 will continue to join me in this fight for our day  
17 care centers, 'cause we can't let these institutions  
18 close. Thank you... [crosstalk]

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you, yes,  
20 keep our day care centers open. Council Member Rose.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you, Chair.  
22 I'm not standing, but I solicit [laughter] support  
23 for Int. 824, police deployment, and Int. 825,  
24 domestic workers bill.  
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2 Last year I was shocked to read in the  
3 press that 7 of the 10 most-sued police officers in  
4 the NYPD were based in my district; it left me and my  
5 constituents with a lot of questions. Today I'm  
6 introing [sic] Int. 824, a bill that will require the  
7 New York City Police Department to report to the  
8 Mayor and Council the locations of 200 officers with  
9 the most accumulative CCRB complaints, substantiated  
10 CCRB complaints, and lawsuits alleging police  
11 brutality. This information will enable us to look  
12 at where officers are and why these complaints might  
13 be happening; it may also help the Police Department  
14 determine whether additional training is needed; it  
15 will also allow us to review where there are problems  
16 and help us to rectify them. I am introducing this  
17 bill because accurate information and transparency  
18 can only strengthen our department and our public  
19 safety.

20 The domestic workers bill, Int. 825, the  
21 human rights law, prohibits employers from engaging  
22 in workplace discrimination. Currently this  
23 prohibition only applies to employers with four or  
24 more employees. This bill will extend protection to  
25 include employers of domestic workers, even if only

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2 one employee is a domestic worker. I am introducing  
3 this legislation in an effort to send a message to  
4 all that discrimination in New York City will not be  
5 tolerated. Additionally, it will give New Yorkers in  
6 the domestic service industry the opportunity to seek  
7 recourse if they have been discriminated against in  
8 the workplace. Domestic workers deserve the same  
9 civil rights protections as other workers.

10 And I'm also asking my colleagues to  
11 consider supporting the Women's Suffrage reso and the  
12 predatory loans; [bell] many of our districts are  
13 impacted greatly by predatory lending. Thank you.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
15 Council Member Lander.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you, Madame  
17 Public Advocate. First I wanna call attention to a  
18 big package of bills introduced by lots of different  
19 members that go to strengthening the New York City  
20 human rights law; in some ways The Speaker spoke of  
21 in her State of the City. I think Council Members  
22 Dromm, Barron, Rose, Mealy, Mendez, Torres, Williams  
23 and I all have bills in that regard and a few spoke  
24 about them already; many of them will be heard at a  
25 Civil Rights Committee hearing chaired by Chair Mealy

1  
2 on June 24th, and I urge people to co-sponsor them  
3 and also come to that hearing.

4 Our friends from Families for Safe  
5 Streets were here, so folks may have the opportunity  
6 to see them afterwards and obviously always inspire...  
7 [interpose]

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: They are still  
9 here.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: still here;  
11 thanks to them for being here, for continuing to  
12 inspire us and standing up for Vision Zero and  
13 standing up for this Council's Right-of-Way law,  
14 which is so important to do.

15 And finally, Mark, what can I say --  
16 first I wanna point out that the Council Member for a  
17 Day I think was something that you originated here,  
18 so it's nice to see your traditions will continue  
19 even after you go, but just personally, you've been a  
20 wonderful friend to me and our families have gotten  
21 to be friends, you're a real person of decency and  
22 integrity in public service, which we don't always  
23 get, and just as we say, a real mensch and we're  
24 really gonna miss you, so thank you.

1  
2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: We welcome Safe  
3 to this body. Council Member Dickens.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you,  
5 Madame Public Advocate. I congratulate all of my  
6 colleagues on the passage of their bills; I join with  
7 Council Member Barron on encouraging the State that  
8 there should be a fairness and a contract for PSC in  
9 order to protect our young people and their minds so  
10 that the staff is secure in their positions.

11 I also encourage that as we talk about  
12 fairness for the workers that we talk about MWBEs,  
13 that our small businesses be protected and that there  
14 should be a fairness and that the State, although  
15 they have raised their threshold to 30 percent, is  
16 for all agencies, that in New York City that it  
17 should be the same, that when we discuss MWBE that it  
18 should be for all agencies and that none of the City  
19 agencies should be exempt from MWBE.

20 I wanna thank my colleague, Council  
21 Member Mark Weprin, I have enjoyed sitting next to  
22 him; not only has he brought levity, he has also  
23 brought parity and a fairness, he has been supportive  
24 and loyal to this institution. Thank you, Mark for  
25 your years here; I look forward to the work that you

1  
2 will bring to the State, to the Governor's Office and  
3 I look forward to continuing to work with you. Thank  
4 you.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member  
6 Crowley.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Thank you,  
8 Madame Public Advocate. I too want to give great  
9 thanks to my colleague Mark Weprin, he has made the  
10 Council a better place to work; I am sad to see him  
11 go, but I know that he won't be too far and we'll see  
12 him often, I hope. But I really wanna thank you for  
13 your years of service to this body, you've been an  
14 exceptional Council Member and a good friend.  
15 [background comment] Thank you, Mark.

16 I'd like to introduce my Council Member  
17 for a Day, Gretchen Flugger [sp?]. Gretchen is a  
18 student at IS/PS [sic] 113 in Glendale; she will soon  
19 be going to high school to the Academy for Careers in  
20 Television and Film and what she loved most about her  
21 years at 113 was the respect that students have for  
22 all and the lack of bullying that happened there and  
23 Gretchen was a big part of making sure that students  
24 respect each other; her favorite subject is social  
25 studies and she's a great debater; she learned that

2 in her social studies teachers class and I'd like to  
3 have Gretchen just say hello and tell us about how  
4 she enjoyed being a Council Member today.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Okay. Well I  
6 just wanna thank everyone like for the experience and  
7 it's like really cool seeing like what you guys do  
8 and it's like pretty awesome, and yeah, so...

9 [laughter]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: See that; we are  
11 awesome. [interpose, background comment] Yeah.

12 Thank you, Council Member for a Day.. [crosstalk]

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: and thank you  
15 all.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member  
17 Steve Levine [sic].

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you, Madame  
19 Public Advocate. I just too want to stand and  
20 acknowledge the wonderful service to this council of  
21 Council Member Mark Weprin, it has been a great joy  
22 for me to be able to serve with Mark; Mark  
23 illustrates and embodies the best about public  
24 service, which is about caring, conscientiousness,  
25 being circumspect and being respectful to everybody

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2 and I really look up to him as somebody that has set  
3 a great example for me and sets a great example for  
4 this entire body and for public servants everywhere.  
5 So really, really sad to see him go, but I'm glad  
6 that he's gonna be continuing public service and  
7 working on behalf of New Yorkers around the state.  
8 But Mark, it's been a great, great joy. Thank you.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And I believe  
10 that's all of our speakers; let me just say, a number  
11 of us are wearing orange as our -- Council Member  
12 King.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Just real quick.  
14 Mark Weprin, I wanna thank you; I'm gonna miss you;  
15 you and I are truly Met fans, but I'm gonna wear the  
16 blue and gold for both of us. So thank you, stay  
17 strong; the Governor's getting a wonderful and a  
18 great man. Thank you.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. A  
20 number of us are wearing orange as a symbol of our  
21 ongoing commitment to end gun violence in our streets  
22 and in our nation. A shout-out to the Families Safe,  
23 we look forward to working with them to keep our  
24 streets safe. Council Member Weprin, I do not say  
25 goodbye, but I say I'll see you later; we will close



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with comments from our Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito. Quiet in the chambers.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Madame Public Advocate, as always and thank you to my all my colleagues, our meeting is adjourned at -- I'm sorry, recessed again until we adopt a budget and until the Albany legislative session. So ending a little bit later than usual, but it's about 4:05. Thank you very much.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And we stand in recess in memory of Kalief Browder.

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 June 13, 2015