

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

STATED MEETING

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August 21, 2014
Start: 1:40 P.M.
Recess: 3:30 P.M.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO
Speaker for 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
Julissa Ferreras

Daniel R. Garodnick
Vincent J. Gentile
Vanessa L. Gibson
David G. Greenfield
Vincent 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
Rose 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)

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2 [sound check]

3 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: So we're going to
4 get started on that. It's a great one. I want to
5 thank Danny Dromm for hosting this today. Danny
6 Dromm has a Proclamation for the Seven Summits Women
7 Team, and they're all coming up now. These are seven
8 women for Nepal who climbed Mount Everest, and then
9 stuck together and decided to climb the highest peaks
10 in each of the seven continents. So far, they have
11 climbed six. [applause] There's one missing, and
12 we want to know which one it is. But great. I'll
13 pass it over. Welcome and it's great to have you
14 hear, and I'll past it on to Council Member Dromm.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Well, thank you,
16 Speaker Mark-Viverito. This is a special day because
17 Saturday is Women's Equality Day. And I have to tell
18 you I was invited by some members of my community to
19 go to one of my favorite Nepali Restaurants,
20 Himalayan Yak, and to meet with these Seven
21 Summiteers. I just could not believe their story
22 when I heard their story. But to have women
23 summiteers who climbed six of the seven tallest
24 mountains, an accomplishment that most men I don't
25 think have ever done or tried to accomplish

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2 [applause] is truly fascinating and deserving of
3 honor. And that's why I wanted to bring them down
4 here today. And so their names are Maya Gurung,
5 Pujan Archarya, Pema Diki Sherpa, Nimdoma Sherpa,
6 Chunu Shrestha, Asha Kumari Singh, and Shailee
7 Basnet. And they are the Seven Summit Women Team,
8 and I want to thank them for inspiring people around
9 the world to reach new heights. And with that
10 [applause] I want to ask our Clerk to read the
11 Proclamation.

12 CLERK: Council City of New York
13 Proclamation.

14 Whereas, in celebration of Women's
15 Equality Day, the Council of the City of New York is
16 proud to honor Maya Gurung, Pujan Archarya, Pema Diki
17 Sherpa, Nimdoma Sherpa, Chunu Shrestha, Asha Kumari
18 Singh, and Shailee Basnet, known collectively as the
19 Seven Summits Women Team for inspiring people around
20 the world to reach new heights; and

21 Whereas, in 2007, these seven courageous
22 Nepali women came together to conquer the world's
23 highest ceiling, Mount Everest. Of the nearly 4,000
24 climbers who have scaled Mount Everest, more than
25 half have been from Nepal, and only 21 of those

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2 locals have been women. These seven pioneers became
3 the most success women's expedition on the mount
4 ever. Their success made history defied incredible
5 odds, and countless cynics, and shattered their
6 country's all-male image of mountaineering.

7 Following their death defying feat they chose to
8 stick together. They realized then the same message
9 they continue to proclaim to the world today:
10 Together We Reach Higher; and

11 Whereas, having climbed Mount Everest an
12 even bigger dream was born to climb the tallest peak
13 in each continent. Fewer that 350 people in the
14 world have climbed the seven summits including only
15 51 women with none from Nepal. Today, the Seven
16 Summits Women Team has climbed the highest mountains
17 in six of the world's seven continents; and

18 Whereas, although the mountains may vary,
19 the mission of the Seven Summits-- Seven-- Excuse me.
20 Seven Summits Women Team remains the same, to
21 encourage women in education empowerment and
22 environment. After each climb the women visited
23 schools of every kind as well as orphanages and
24 children's organizations. To date, they have met
25 more than 20,000 students to share their own journeys

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2 of struggle, success, and bigger dreams. This
3 component of their mission is so close to their
4 hearts that they have committed to doing this for the
5 rest of their lives; and

6 Whereas, the Seven Summits Women Team
7 hope to compile the knowledge they gained in all
8 seven continents in educational material that will be
9 distributed to young students worldwide. Their dream
10 is to wave the Nepali flag around the globe to
11 encourage youth and women everywhere to live their
12 dreams not only through words, but by real action and
13 positive impact; and

14 Whereas, for centuries women have
15 struggled to erase persistent inequalities to achieve
16 equal footing with men. But as the Seven Summits
17 Women Team have proven with their brave trailblazing
18 triumphs, it is up to each of us to ensure that
19 future generations face no barriers to equality, no
20 limits to their dreams, and no more ceiling to
21 shatter.

22 Now, therefore, be it known that the
23 Council of the City of New York is very proud to
24 honor the courageous members of the Seven Summits
25 Women Team for their extraordinary achievements and

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2 their inspiring message to women and men around the
3 world. Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the Entire
4 Council; Daniel Dromm, Council Member 25th District
5 Queens.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Well, thank you,
7 Mr. Clerk. [applause] And to Shailee, and I want to
8 give her an opportunity also to say a few words.

9 SHAILEE BASNET: Thank you very much.
10 This is a great honor for our team, and we are truly,
11 truly inspired. It was a big pat on our backs saying
12 what we do is good. Thank you very much. When we
13 started definitely we faced a lot of questions,
14 criticisms, apprehensions. It was not common for
15 women in Nepal to climb Everest even though we are
16 home to the biggest mountain in the world. But this
17 state of mind tells us it was no cool for women to
18 vote not even a hundred years ago. Still, there are
19 parts of the world where it is not expected for women
20 to go to schools or not even to go to hospitals when
21 they are not feeling well. Walk hours just to fetch
22 water. It's not cool for women to do so many things
23 in so many different parts of the world even today.
24 But instead of maybe complaining and say there is a
25 problem and nobody does anything about it, I think it

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2 is up to people living on the planet today to do
3 something about it. It's the 21st Century and the
4 Seven Summits Women Team is our way of doing
5 something about it. It's our way just to climb the
6 mountains because we want to. It's our way of saying
7 to everyone, telling everyone, every young person on
8 this planet that it's okay, that we can dream.
9 That's what we are all about. Thank you. This is
10 very, very inspiring. [applause]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: And Suma Lara
12 Subash [sp?] he is the Nepali person who brought this
13 to my attention

14 SUMA LARA SUBASH: Your Honorable
15 Speaker, Council Members, distinguished guests and
16 our friends from the Nepali community. Today, we are
17 very honored to be here, and it is my privilege to be
18 here in front of a great Seven Summits Women Team
19 from Nepal, and I would to special-- I would like to
20 give a special thanks to our Council Member from the
21 25th District of Queens, Mr. Danny Dromm, who has
22 brought us in this City Hall. [applause] So we are
23 very much honored to be here. Thank you very much
24 again, Danny Dromm.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Agatham Bajal
3 [sp?] who is the President of the Nepal American
4 Journalism Association, who also brought this effort
5 to my attention.

6 AGATHAM BAJAL: Thank you respected
7 Council Speaker, Councilmen, and our Councilman here.
8 It is our great pleasure and privilege to be here,
9 and we are here together some of our community
10 leaders. And on behalf of them and myself I would
11 like to give you a special thanks to councilmen and
12 all the councilmen here in the great City of New
13 York. New York is one of Nepali ties for our hub. I
14 would like to introduce some of the Nepali community
15 leaders together with these great ladies. I have a
16 written speech, but I think it would be too long.
17 Yeah. So we are proud that the Nepali ladies all the
18 way came from the tallest mountain in the world,
19 Mount Everest and at holy birth place our Buddha.

20 And we all are here to celebrate with
21 you. And I would like to introduce some of my
22 community leaders here. Professor Mr. Tara Meola
23 [sp?] He is a former officer of the Columbia
24 University, and he is a very recognized community
25 leader around the United States. And I don't whether

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2 he is here. [SIC] He is the Deputy Regional
3 Coordinator of all around the world non-residential
4 Nepalese organizers and NR and ICC Mr. Sonom Llama
5 [sp?]. Another leader, community leader, Mr. Allen
6 W. Star [sp?] he's been here since the past 15 years
7 in New York City, and he's the leader of the Nepali
8 Democratic Party. And another hero is here that I
9 would like to introduce. I feel proud to introduce
10 him. Mr. Anthony Sherpa. He is the first Nepali
11 journalist who climbed the tallest in the Old Mount
12 Everest in 2003 [applause], and he is the immediate
13 past president of this organization as well. So,
14 Shubash Llama [sp?] you know him well, and councilmen
15 already introduced. And I have a board member as
16 well with a Nepali hat, Mr. Wilson Raber [sp?]. He
17 is the leader of this community. This is a great
18 privilege and great honor to us, all Nepali community
19 here. And we especially thank you, Speaker,
20 Councilmen and City government. Thank you very much
21 for supporting our community. [sic] Thank you.
22 [applause]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: And the Speaker
24 asked me, What continent did they not conquer yet?
25 It's Antarctica, but they're going. They're raising

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2 funds and they're going to climb to the tallest
3 mountain. What mountain is that?

4 SHAILLEE BASNET: Mount Vinson Massif.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Mount Vinson
6 Massif. And happy Women's Equality everybody Day on
7 Saturday. Women can do anything. Thank you.

8 [pause]

9 [background noise]

10 SERGEANT-AT-ARM: Ladies and gentlemen--
11 Ladies and gentlemen, can I have your attention,
12 please? Can I please have your attention? Quiet on
13 the floor, please. Quiet on the floor. Quiet on the
14 floor. At this time, can you please place all cell
15 phones and electronic devices to vibrate. Will all
16 non-Council employees, all non-Council employees
17 please leave the main floor of the Chambers, and can
18 I have staff please clear the exits. Please do not
19 stand in front of the exits along the side railing
20 there as per the Fire Marshall. Thank you. All
21 rise.

22 CLERK: All rise.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All rise for the
24 Pledge of Allegiance.

25 [Pledge of Allegiance]

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Roll call.

3 CLERK: Arroyo.

4 [background noise]

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: May we have quiet
6 in the Chambers? Quiet in the Chambers. Everyone
7 please take their seats.

8 [background noise]

9 CLERK: Arroyo.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

11 CLERK: Thank you.

12 [background noise]

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please take your
14 seat, including those in the balcony. Everyone,
15 please take your seat including members. Quiet in
16 the Chambers. Continue with roll call.

17 CLERK: Barron.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

19 CLERK: Cabrera.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

21 CLERK: Chin.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

23 CLERK: Cohen.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.

25 CLERK: Constantinides.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Here.

3 CLERK: Cornegy.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: [off mic]

5 CLERK: Crowley.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

7 CLERK: Cumbo.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Present.

9 CLERK: Deutsch.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: [off mic] Here.

11 CLERK: Dickens.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.

13 CLERK: Dromm.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

15 CLERK: Espinal.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: [off mic] Here.

17 CLERK: Eugene.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: [off mic] Here.

19 CLERK: Ferreras.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.

21 CLERK: Garodnick.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: [off mic]

23 Here.

24 CLERK: Gentile.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

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2 CLERK: Gibson.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Here.

4 CLERK: Greenfield.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [off mic]

6 Here.

7 CLERK: Johnson.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Present.

9 CLERK: Kallos.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.

11 CLERK: King.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Present.

13 CLERK: Koo.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

15 CLERK: Koslowitz.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

17 CLERK: Lancman.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Here.

19 CLERK: Lander.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

21 CLERK: Eugene.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

23 CLERK: Levin.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

25 CLERK: Levine.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

3 SERGEANT-AT-ARM: Keep it down, please.

4 Keep it down.

5 CLERK: Maisel.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: [off mic] Here.

7 CLERK: Deutsch.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: [off mic] Here.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the

10 Chambers, please.

11 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please quiet in

13 the Chambers.

14 CLERK: Espinal.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Here.

16 CLERK: Matteo.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: [off mic]

18 CLERK: Mealy.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Here.

20 CLERK: Menchaca.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.

22 CLERK: Mendez.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

24 CLERK: Miller.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Here.

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2 CLERK: Palma.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: [off mic]

4 CLERK: Reynoso.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Here.

6 CLERK: Richards.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

8 CLERK: Rodriguez.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

10 CLERK: Rose.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: [off mic]

12 CLERK: Rosenthal.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

14 CLERK: TORRES.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Here.

16 CLERK: Treyger.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

18 CLERK: Garodnick.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

20 CLERK: Ulrich.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: [off mic] Here.

22 CLERK: Vacca.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

24 CLERK: Vallone.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Present.

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2 CLERK: Weprin.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: [off mic]

4 CLERK: Williams.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Present.

6 CLERK: Matteo.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.

8 CLERK: Wills.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Present.

10 CLERK: Ignizio.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZO: Here.

12 CLERK: Van Bramer.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Present.

14 CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Here.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

17 Please rise for the Invocation delivered by Reverend

18 Dr. Johnson Rethinasamy, Evangelical Emmanuel

19 Lutheran Church located at 149-40th Avenue,

20 Whitestone, New York.

21 REVEREND RETHINASAMY: Good afternoon.

22 We make our beginning in the name of the Father, Son,

23 and the Holy Spirit. Amen. Listen to my prayer, oh,

24 God. Do not ignore my plea. Hear me and answer me.

25 Reading from the scripture. First of all, then I

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2 urge that supplication, prayers, intercessions, and
3 thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings,
4 leaders, and all who are in high positions. So that
5 we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all
6 godliness and dignity. This is right and is
7 acceptable in the sight of God, our savior, who
8 desires everyone to be saved to know the knowledge of
9 the truth. I Timothy Chapter 2, verses 1 through 3.

10 Romans 30: Let every person be subject
11 to the governing authorities for there is no
12 authority except from God, and those that exist have
13 been instituted by God, his approval for he is God's
14 servant for your good.

15 Let us pray. Almighty God, thank you for
16 blessing us with an opportunity to live and serve in
17 the City of New York. Continue to grant and remind
18 us that we are people from different cultures, speak
19 different languages, eat different kinds of food, but
20 we are one united people. Support us in defending
21 our freedom and liberties. We pray for our elected
22 leaders, civic authorities and our civil servants.
23 We are holding them respectfully in the presence of
24 God. We hold them in the grace of God so that God,
25 the divine good, the way of love may have His way in

2 watching over us. We leave these public servants
3 before you, oh, God, with thanksgiving.

4 We intercede and lift up prayers for our
5 Honorable Mayor Bill de Blasio, our Honorable
6 Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito, and our Public
7 Advocate Letitia James, and all that are New York
8 City Council Members. May God embrace them with
9 light and love, wisdom and courage. We pray for the
10 families of our civic leaders. May their families
11 enjoy times of rest, renewal, and mutual
12 encouragement. We pray for every single servant, for
13 those who hold office, and for those who are their
14 community liaisons, the duties of administrative
15 assistants. We pray for healthcare workers,
16 lawmakers, law enforcement officers, fire personnel,
17 and merchants of services, teachers and janitors,
18 business administrators, entrepreneurs that they know
19 and remember and defend the common good.

20 When times are prosperous may our hearts
21 be always thankful, and in troubled times do not let
22 our trust in you fail. Help us to hold our leaders
23 and servants before God with respect, with gratitude
24 and with love. We ask this prayer through Jesus
25 Christ the Son of God, who lives and breathes with

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2 you on the Holy Spirit one God now and forever.

3 Amen. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make
4 his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto.

5 May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and
6 give you his peace. I'm going to say it in my own
7 language. [Sings song in foreign language.]

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Motion to spread
9 the Invocation in full upon the record? Council
10 Member Vallone.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Motion to spread
12 the Invocation in full upon the record.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you, and
14 that was said by?

15 CATENA VALLONE: Catena.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you,
17 Catena.

18 CATENA VALLONE: Reverend Dr. John
19 Rethinasamy is the Senior Pastor of Emmanuel Lutheran
20 Church in Whitestone, New York. This parish is a
21 growing mosaic ministry with Bible study and a
22 mission house, which services in five languages.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Excuse me,
24 Catena. May we have quiet in please, Chambers? May

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2 we have quiet in the Chambers so we can hear from
3 Catena Vallone. Good.

4 CATENA VALLONE: This parish is a growing
5 mosaic ministry with Bible study and a mission house
6 with services in five languages. Thank your,
7 Reverend for spreading your blessing upon us all
8 today.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And Catena,
10 you're joined by your sister and your sister's name?

11 CATENA VALLONE: Lea.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Lea. Welcome.
13 Adoption of minutes. Council Member Mendez.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Madam Public
15 Advocate, I make a motion that the Minutes of the
16 Stated Meeting of June 11th and June 26th of 2014 be
17 adopted as printed.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
19 Messages and Papers from the Mayor?

20 CLERK: None.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Communication
22 from City, County and Borough Offices?

23 CLERK: M-110 from the Manhattan Borough
24 submitting Anna Hayes for reappointment to the City
25 Planning Commission.

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2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Rules,
3 Privileges, and Elections.

4 CLERK: Preconsidered M-111: Transfer
5 City funds between agencies for Fiscal Year 2014.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Finance.

7 CLERK: Preconsidered M-112: Transfer
8 City funds between agencies for Fiscal Year 2015.

9 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Finance.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
11 Chambers, please. Petitions and Communications.

12 CLERK: None.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Land Use Call-
14 Ups.

15 CLERK: M-113 and M-114.

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled of call-
17 up vote and roll call.

18 CLERK: Arroyo.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

20 CLERK: Barron.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

22 CLERK: Cabrera.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Permission on
24 all items, all General Items and Resolutions.

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: I vote aye.

3 CLERK: Chin.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: May we have quiet
6 in the Chambers, please. Please, quiet in the
7 Chambers. Please close the door in the back. Thank
8 you. Continue with roll call.

9 CLERK: Cohen.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

11 CLERK: Constantinides.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

13 CLERK: Cornegy.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: [off mic]

15 CLERK: Crowley.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

17 CLERK: Cumbo.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.

19 CLERK: Deutsch.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Yes.

21 CLERK: Dickens.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Yes.

23 CLERK: Dromm.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Yes.

25 CLERK: Espinal.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Yes.

3 CLERK: Eugene.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Yes.

5 CLERK: Ferreras.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Yes.

7 CLERK: Garodnick.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

9 CLERK: Gentile.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

11 CLERK: Gibson.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Aye.

13 CLERK: Greenfield.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

15 CLERK: Johnson.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye.

17 CLERK: Kallos.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

19 CLERK: King.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye.

21 CLERK: Ferreras.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: I ask

23 permission to vote aye on all General Orders and

24 Resolutions.

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Thank you,
3 Madam.

4 CLERK: Koo.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

6 CLERK: Koslowitz.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

8 CLERK: Lancman.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

10 CLERK: Lander.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

12 CLERK: Levin.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

14 CLERK: Levine.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

16 CLERK: Maisel.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Aye.

18 CLERK: Matteo.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: [off mic]

20 CLERK: Mealy.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: [off mic]

22 CLERK: Menciahca.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.

24 CLERK: Mendez.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

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2 CLERK: Miller:

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.

4 CLERK: Reynoso.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.

6 CLERK: Richards.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.

8 CLERK: Rodriguez.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: [off mic]

10 CLERK: Rose.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: [off mic]

12 CLERK: Rosenthal.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.

14 CLERK: Torres.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye.

16 CLERK: Treyger.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Yes.

18 CLERK: Ulrich.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: [off mic]

20 CLERK: Vacca.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

22 CLERK: Vallone.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

24 CLERK: Weprin.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: [off mic]

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2 CLERK: Williams.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

4 CLERK: Wills.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: I'd like
6 permission to vote on all Land Use Items and the
7 General Order Calendar Call-Ups.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye on all.

10 CLERK: Ulrich.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

12 CLERK: Ignizio.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: [off mic]

14 CLERK: Van Bramer.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye on all.

16 CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye on all.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Today's Land Use
19 Call-Ups were adopted by a vote of 46 in the
20 affirmative and zero in the negative. Communication
21 from the Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito.

22 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Madam
23 Public Advocate. Before we start on it, we have a
24 lot of voting to do today. We're very excited about
25 the legislation. I just wanted to take a moment to

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2 personally express my thank you to all my colleagues,
3 all the staff, and others who have been expressing a
4 lot of support for me during these days. It really
5 means the world to me, and I truly, truly appreciate
6 it, and wanted to make sure it did not go unsaid. So
7 thank you all very much for that. [applause]

8 I had no idea when I decided to make that
9 public statement, I knew that I wanted to use this
10 platform in order to make certain awareness. I
11 really had no idea the level of attraction and
12 discussion that it would ensure. It really was
13 beyond my initial understanding. But I'm really
14 heartened to hear the level of public debate on an
15 issue that I know is very sensitive. And I am glad
16 that I am encouraging women to really look at their
17 personal health in a more serious way. So it is
18 definitely well worth taking that risk. So thank you
19 all.

20 So, I hope everyone has been enjoying
21 their summer. We have a very packed day today with
22 lots of legislation that is being voted on. Today,
23 we're voting on legislation sponsored by Council
24 Member Kallos Reforming the City's Requirement to
25 Print Voter Guides for Ballot Initiatives.

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2 Currently, the City is required to spend millions of
3 dollars printing voter guides for initiatives that
4 have already been struck from the ballot by the
5 courts. This law would amend the requirements so that
6 only initiatives, which will actually be on the final
7 ballot are subject to voter guide requirements. I
8 definitely want to thank David Seitzer, Rachel
9 Cordero, and Rod Calandra, for their work on this
10 bill. And Council Member Kallos who sponsored it you
11 could say a few words.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Thank you Speaker
13 Mark-Viverito. I also want to thank the Legislative
14 Division, Rod Calandra--

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: I can't hear you.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: -- and David
17 Seitzer. Today, we'll be voting on a common sense
18 fix that uses technology to save the City money, and
19 empowers the Campaign Finance Board to carry out its
20 important work of educating our voters. For a late
21 submitted referendum that may or may not be on the
22 ballot obligating the CFB to print and mail a voter
23 guide can waste the City millions of dollars and
24 resources. And in this case, it's an estimated \$3
25 million. In these rare cases, offering the Voter

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2 Guide online will allow residents to easily access
3 information without wasting necessary money and time.
4 This is another example of government using
5 technology to create a smarter, better city. It's
6 fair and common sense. The Voter Guide is a
7 necessary tool, one that engages New Yorkers, and
8 allows them to make informed choices. We should
9 empower the Campaign Finance Board to offer their
10 services efficiently and thoroughly. Thanks to Mayor
11 de Blasio and Speaker Mark-Viverito for their
12 continued commitment and leadership for a smart 21st
13 Century government.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
15 Council Member. The next bill is Intro Number 449
16 sponsored by Council Members Daneek Miller and
17 Mathieu Eugene at the request of the Mayor, which is
18 going to address compensation for school bus drivers.
19 Since 2011, school bus contracts have not included
20 employee protection provisions. The absence of EPPs
21 from DOE contracts with private bus companies has
22 raised concerns that less experienced school bus
23 employees are being hired, and we're starting to see
24 this in practice. In addition to ensuring that

25

2 experienced workers are not displaced, EEPs protect
3 employee's wages, benefits, and seniority.

4 And I want to thank Isa Schaumburg [sp?],
5 Joan Povolne [sp?] Jan Atwell, Jafar Jaloff [sp?],
6 Matthew Carlin, Lyle Frank [sp?], and Tursa Nassir
7 [sp?] for their work on this. I would like to ask
8 Council Members Miller and Eugene and then the Chair
9 of the Education Committee, Council Member Dromm, in
10 that order to please say a few words. Council Member
11 Miller.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you, Madam
13 Speaker, and thank you for your leadership on this.
14 I will be very brief because there has been a lot of
15 discussion on this topic obviously. My committee
16 held hearings back in March on this issue. But these
17 two bills related to the school bus industry today,
18 as we know are focusing on maintaining the most
19 experienced and well trained workforce in the City
20 school bus industry, and promoting the Employee
21 Protection Provision.

22 For all the reasons that you're going to
23 hear, and what the Speaker said that this is also a
24 common sense bill that will correct the injustice
25 that was done during the last Administration. And

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2 there has been some real discussion around this. But
3 for us and this Council to do nothing is for us to
4 continue to--

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Excuse me,
6 Council Member. Quiet in the Chambers, please.
7 Please quiet. Thank you.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: For us to do
9 nothing or not support this legislation will be
10 continuing to support that injustice that was done to
11 not just the over 4,500 workers, but most importantly
12 our children who need this piece of legislation.
13 This legislation is needed by our children. So, I
14 would ask that we all have a-- First of all, I also
15 want to thank the members of Council Member Dromm,
16 Chair of Education and the members of the Education
17 Committee for overwhelmingly endorsing and supporting
18 this legislation and Reso. And I would ask that we
19 continue to do so. So with that I--

20 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you Council
21 Member.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: -- appeal to the
23 Council Members.

24 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
25 Council Member. I would like to ask the sergeants.

2 I know that we have people outside, but there is a
3 lot of noise outside, which is reverberating and
4 coming inside. If we can ask people that are in the-
5 -- outside in the Rotunda if they just maybe they can
6 go downstairs. It's really distracting. Council
7 Members Eugene. Council Member Eugene.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you very
9 much, Madam Speaker and Madam Public Advocate.
10 First, I would like to thank Mayor de Blasio for his
11 support to this very important legislation. And I
12 would like also to thank Speaker Melissa Mark-
13 Viverito for her leadership and her dedication in
14 fighting for the hard working people in New York.

15 My colleagues arise this afternoon to
16 call for the passage of Intro 1634 and Reso 1635, a
17 troubling bill, which when enacted will make a very
18 big difference in the lives of school bus drivers,
19 attendants, mechanics, and dispatchers throughout the
20 City of New York.

21 In 1979, the Employee Protection
22 Provision or EPP was created for these workers. The
23 EPP was designed to maintain wages, benefits, and
24 seniority of nearly 8,800 school bus drivers, matrons
25 and mechanics. The EPP was also a good incentive to

2 attract and retain experienced and educated drivers
3 who know very well how to serve the children of the
4 good City of New York, and especially more than
5 50,000 of them who have physical and mental
6 disability. EPP has ensured that these children are
7 protected by eligible and devoted drivers.

8 Last year, EPP was abolished, and that
9 has resulted in the City losing talented school bus
10 drivers, who are adept at getting children to school
11 through busy city streets, and who are devoted and
12 skilled in caring for needs of children. Since these
13 changes have gone into place, many school bus drivers
14 and matrons have approached me with stories of
15 difficulties that they now cannot pay their rent,
16 their mortgages, and even maintain their families.

17 At this time when we are striving to
18 improve the quality of life of hard working people in
19 New York City by increasing the minimum wage, and
20 enacting the paid sick leave, it doesn't make sense
21 that we have left our bus drivers, matrons,
22 mechanics, and dispatchers and diesel [sic] mechanic.
23 We cannot shortchange the people who protect our
24 children, nor can we deprive them of the compensation
25 they have worked so hard to rightfully attain.

2 So, I ask your help in passing Intro 1634
3 sponsored by Council Member Miller and myself, and
4 the requested by Mayor Bill de Blasio as a means to
5 provide relief of those hard working people who have
6 dedicated their lives to serve the children of the
7 City of New York and their families who show
8 compassion, caring, and love. I also urge you to
9 pass Reso 1635, which calls upon or State government
10 to legislate such guided provisions and contract for
11 our quality and experienced school bus drives. This
12 wonderful legislation if enacted by the State
13 government will reinstate EPP, and there is also a
14 commitment to maintain a city where respect,
15 fairness, and justice for all working people who
16 maintain our city and make our city great. Thank you
17 very much and thank you for your attention.

18 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you Council
19 Member and Council Member Dromm.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you very
21 much, Madam Speaker. I, too, want to join in my
22 colleagues' support for this bill. I want to thank
23 Council Member Daneek Miller and Council Member
24 Mathieu Eugene for all that they did to make this a
25 reality. I, too, believe that we are today righting

2 a wrong, something that never should have happened in
3 the first place. And I am a proud supporter of this.
4 I urge my colleagues to support this as well. It may
5 not be the most perfect piece of legislation that we
6 ever want to see in the world, but it is certainly
7 something that is going to address the immediate
8 needs. And that is because school is opening in two
9 weeks, and we need to have bus drivers who will be
10 prepared to take care of our students and get them to
11 and from school safely. And I speak as having been a
12 New York City public school teacher for 25 years to
13 say how important I know, as has Council Member Inez
14 Barron indicated in our hearing prior to this about
15 the importance of school bus drivers and matrons.

16 Finally, let me say, I was very proud
17 that in committee this morning, we were able to pass
18 this piece of legislation by 12 to 1 and a unanimous
19 approval on the Resolution that accompanies it. So
20 thank you very much, and I look forward to having
21 this passed today.

22 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
23 Council Member. Maybe you want to stay standing
24 since you're next again. Who knows. We will also be
25 voting on legislation sponsored by Council Member

2 Dromm that will require the Department of Corrections
3 to report various information about conditions and
4 treatment of Rikers Island inmates, including:

5 The total number of inmates housed in
6 punitive segregation.

7 Their age, race and gender and length of
8 stay.

9 Whether they've been injured, attempted
10 or committed suicide while segregated.

11 Whether they were sexually or physically
12 assaulted.

13 Whether they were subject to use of
14 force.

15 Whether they received certain services,
16 such as recreation and showers, medical attention,
17 and phone calls, as well as a number of other
18 indicators.

19 The U.S. Attorney's recent report on
20 inmate abuse at Rikers Island highlights the need for
21 more accountability. And this bill helps make that
22 possible with heightened transparency. Additionally,
23 Council Member Dromm has sponsored a resolution
24 calling on the New York City-- Colleagues, if we
25 could get some quiet? Thank you. Additionally,

2 Council Member Dromm has sponsored a resolution
3 calling on the New York City Department of
4 Corrections to end the practice of placing
5 individuals returning to city jails into punitive
6 segregation. And we will be voting on this today as
7 well.

8 Obviously, there is a lot of work to do
9 in this area, and I'm glad that we're playing a role
10 in that. I want to thank Rob Calandra, William
11 Hungatch [sp], and Rachel Cordero for their work on
12 these items. And I'd like to ask Council Member
13 Dromm, and then Council Member Crowley, who chairs
14 the Fire and Criminal Justice Committees to say a few
15 words.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Well, thank you
17 very much, Madam Speaker. You weren't joking when
18 you said I should just stay standing, because to tell
19 you the truth, I have not have this opportunity
20 before to be able to pass so many pieces of
21 legislation. When you put this together on top of
22 the Municipal I.D.'s I have had, and thanks to you, a
23 very successful legislative session this year. So I
24 want to thank you very much, Madam Chair. I want to
25 thank the Chair of the Committee on Fire and Criminal

2 Justice Services, Elizabeth Crowley and Rob Calandra
3 of the Administration. And especially, the tireless
4 advocates for working to advance this very important
5 bill. Jennifer Parrish and Megan Crowe-Rothstein of
6 the Urban Justice Center and Sarah Kerr of the Legal
7 Aid Society, and Five Mualimm-ak of the Incarcerated
8 Nation Campaign, and Joanna Miller of the New York
9 Civil Liberties Union. Both bills that the Council
10 will vote on today will help us push New York City to
11 radically re-think how we deal with individuals
12 incarcerated on Rikers Island and other city jails.

13 Change begins with dispelling the
14 darkness that has shrouded the practice of solitary
15 confinement known as punitive segregation. Under
16 Intro 292-A 42 categories of data will be collected
17 ranging from the nature of infractions to mental
18 health indicators and details about the provision of
19 recreation time, phone calls, and showers. The
20 collection of these data will, I hope, bolster
21 efforts to reform a very broken system.

22 The other bill a resolution, calls on the
23 Department of Correction to end the practice of
24 placing individuals returning to city jails in
25 punitive segregation to complete time owed. The

2 Department of Corrections has moved to limit the
3 practice, but this resolution will encourage the
4 Board of Correction and the Department of Correction,
5 which is currently in the process of making rules
6 around punitive segregation, to end the use of time
7 owed altogether. The personal stories we heard, the
8 conditions at Rikers Island we witnessed, and
9 evidence of mistreatment and torture collected by the
10 United States Attorney, among others, has compelled
11 us as a Council to act. The fact is all New Yorkers
12 must deal with the aftermath of brutalizing
13 incarcerated individuals, many of whom have had
14 serious mental health and substance abuse issues and
15 are then released to the streets.

16 Taxpayers foot the bill for the
17 skyrocketing number of personal injury claims
18 emanating from Rikers Island, as Controller Scott
19 Stringer's recent report has shown. Corrections
20 officers who deserve a safe and professional work
21 environment as possible must contend with the
22 heightened levels of violence. And, of course, all
23 of our communities must contend with members who
24 return from periods in solitary confinement with more
25 severe problems than when they first entered Rikers.

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2 Any way you view it, from a public safety, financial,
3 or moral perspective the unfettered use of solitary
4 confinement makes no sense. I urge all of my
5 colleagues to join me in voting for Intro 292-A and
6 its accompanying resolution. Thank you very much.

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
8 Council Member. Council Member Crowley.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Thank you, Madam
10 Speaker. The bill we are voting on today will bring
11 an unprecedented level of transparency to Rikers
12 Island. The problems on Rikers Island have been
13 decades in the making, but we now have the right
14 climate and leadership to begin serious discussions
15 about reform and what is the threshold of acceptable
16 use of force in our city jails. Most recently, the
17 U.S. Department of Justice found serious abuses to
18 the use of punitive segregation to punish adolescents
19 being held on Rikers. Our Committee will continue to
20 explore the U.S. Attorney's recommendations for
21 reforming conditions for incarcerated youth. And I
22 want to thank again Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito,
23 and Council Member Dromm for your advocacy,
24 partnership, and commitment to reforming our City's
25 jails. I would like to also thank Counsel for the

2 Committee, Robert Calandra for his work on these
3 bills. Thank you.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
5 Council Member, and finally we have two pieces of
6 legislation dealing with campaign finance disclosure.
7 The first bill sponsored by Council Member Garodnick
8 would require campaign advertisements to identify
9 which candidate they were paid for and authorized by.
10 Similar to the Federal Regulation we have all become
11 accustomed to, this law will ensure that regardless
12 of what message a candidate chooses to focus on in an
13 advertisement, the public will be made aware whose ad
14 they are viewing and know which campaign sponsored
15 it.

16 In another piece of legislation sponsored
17 by Council Member Lander, independent expenditures by
18 non-candidate groups will also require more thorough
19 disclosure about the source of their funding. This
20 bill would require not only for the name of the group
21 sponsoring an advertisement to be disclosed, but also
22 the owner, chief executive officer, and the top three
23 donors to the political action committee.
24 Additionally, this legislation creates a new public
25 website nyc.gov/followthemoney, which allows members

2 of the public are allowed-- are able to easily
3 access detailed information about these groups and
4 their donors. Getting voters full information is
5 essential to having open and transparent elections,
6 and these reforms will help make that reality.

7 So I would like to thank David Seitzer,
8 Rachel Cordero, and Robert Calandra for the work on
9 both of these bills. And a special thank you to Matt
10 Giraud and Laura Popa for their work on all of
11 today's items. First, if we could hear from Council
12 Member Garodnick and then from Council Member Lander.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank you very
14 much, Madam Speaker, and I want to encourage my
15 colleagues to vote both for the bill that I have
16 authored as well as that of Council Member Lander.
17 Both of them were voted out of the Government
18 Operations Committee yesterday. And I want to
19 express my appreciation to Chair Kallos. We all know
20 that when you read something, to best understand it
21 you need to consider the source. Knowing, who is
22 speaking is often just as important as knowing what
23 is said. We are one step closer here to requiring
24 political candidates and independent expenditures to
25 own up to what they say. If your name is on the

2 ballot, you're going to need to put your name on your
3 communications. And if you are going to spend
4 extraordinary sums trying to influence a local race,
5 you are going to have to own up to your advocacy.
6 Political communications should not be a game of hide
7 and go seek.

8 With these bills, voters will have better
9 information on which they can make their decisions,
10 and perhaps it will even encourage more civil
11 discourse in our elections at the same time. So
12 Madam Speaker, thanks to you, Council Member Lander
13 and Chair Kallos, and I encourage all of my
14 colleagues to vote aye on both of the bills.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you, Madam
16 Speaker, and I want to say thanks to you and everyone
17 for welcoming my daughter Rosa here today, and
18 especially to the Public Advocate for sharing the
19 gavel. The Public Advocate is the favorite elected
20 official in the Lander household, myself included.
21 So, as Council Member Garodnick indicated a vibrant
22 democracy depends on voters being able to receive and
23 evaluate information about the candidates who are
24 running, and knowing who is behind it.

2 Unfortunately, Citizens United, a
3 decision I believe was wrongly decided at the Supreme
4 Court, but it is the law of the land, made a flood of
5 cash flow into our elections, much of it hidden
6 behind anonymous sounding names. And we saw this in
7 our 2013 elections with an extensive number of
8 independent expenditures in some Council races I.E.s
9 spent more than all of the candidates themselves on
10 mail and other advertisements communicating with
11 voters.

12 Many of them with bland names that hid
13 the interest behind them. Some of them nasty,
14 vicious, and false attack ads. Citizens United
15 requires that these ads be allowed, but it does no
16 require that we continue to let them operate in
17 secret. We are, in fact, invited to insist on more
18 disclosure. And that's what Intro 148 does. It
19 addresses this as the Speaker said by requiring the
20 owner, the CEO, the top three donors to be listed on
21 mails-- on campaign mailers. And there are
22 comparable requirements for TV ads and for radio ads,
23 as well as this inclusion of this URL
24 nyc.gov/followthemoney where voters will be able to
25

2 see all of the donors who are behind these
3 independent expenditure communications.

4 I want to thank Chair Kallos and Council
5 Member Garodnick. A special thanks to David Seitzer,
6 the Counsel of the Gov Ops Committee. We really had
7 to draft this legislation carefully, and amend it to
8 get the balance right between disclosure and First
9 Amendment Free Speech requirements. Matt Giraud, Ben
10 Smith, Michael Freedman Schnapp. The Common Cause is
11 another one that is here today. The Brennan Center
12 and Citizen's Union for their support.

13 I do want to note that the first version
14 of this bill contained clear language that these ads
15 that are independent expenditures that were in no way
16 requested, coordinated, reviewed, or approved by
17 candidates since this is a big area of concern.
18 Since we introduced that bill, the State enacted
19 legislation with some clunky language to this effect,
20 which we are required to defer to since they are the
21 State and we are the City. I look forward to working
22 with Council Member Treyger and others to see if they
23 can get the State to clean up that language and make
24 it a little clearer and more precise. Thank you very
25 much.

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you. One
3 additional note before we finish with our
4 communications. The Council's Fill the Food Banks --
5 Fill the Food Banks Food Drive will begin next week.
6 We're encouraging members in all 51 Districts to
7 conduct a local food drive to help reinforce the
8 inventories of the local food pantries.
9 Additionally, at New York City Hall there will be an
10 additional food drive to help charity efforts across
11 the City. So we ask everyone including our great
12 reporters that are based here to contribute. This
13 year Council enhanced funding for food banks and soup
14 kitchens by an additional \$750,000, but there is
15 always a need for more help. We do have a hunger
16 crisis, unfortunately. This initiative will provide
17 for aid. So I want to thank Council Member Vacca for
18 spearheading this effort as well as the Council's
19 General Welfare Chair Steven Levin. Council Member
20 Vacca, could you please say a few words about the
21 initiative?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Yes, thank you
23 Madam Speaker. Several weeks ago a senior citizen in
24 my district was without food, and when I tried to
25 assist I learned that the food banks in my community

2 all had no food left. Their shelves were empty, and
3 if that's a reality in my district, I thought that
4 this could be a reality in the City of New York. And
5 I'm learning more and more that because of the need
6 that we have for food this unfortunately exists
7 throughout our city. I contacted the Speaker and I
8 mentioned about doing a citywide food drive.

9 In my District on August 26th every year,
10 we mark the birthday of Mother Teresa by doing a food
11 drive like this to fill up the shelves. And with the
12 Speaker's support I'm pleased to report that now here
13 at the Council we are involved. So hopefully, your
14 offices will be supportive as we mark the 104th
15 birthday of Mother Teresa on August 26th. This issue
16 is an issue that people experience everyday. I know
17 it's really hard to contemplate and think about, but
18 we have too many people because one person is too
19 many. But we have many, many people in this city who
20 go to bed hungry who do not have food, people of all
21 ages. And perhaps by using the kickoff of August
22 26th, we can make an impact yearlong in making sure
23 the food banks which are a last resort for many New
24 Yorkers, never have to turn people away empty handed.
25 Thank you.

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
3 Council Member and finally I want to wish a happy
4 birthday to Council Member Debbie Rose.
5 Unfortunately, Council Member Rose is not here today.
6 She unfortunately was injured earlier this weekend.
7 I know that I speak for the entire Council when we
8 wish-- She's in our thoughts, and we hope she
9 recovers soon. I know we look forward to seeing her
10 back here at City Hall as soon as possible. So thank
11 you to all. And that finishes Communications from
12 the Speaker.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Madam
14 Speaker, we are joined at the rostrum here by the
15 daughter of Council Member Lander, Rosa Lander. We
16 have also been joined, as was earlier acknowledged,
17 by Catena and Lea and Vallone, the daughters of
18 Council Member Vallone. And, of course, in the back
19 we have a very fine young man, Diego Garcia, the
20 grandson of Council Member Arroyo. Welcome all.
21 Discussion of General Orders. Seeing none. Report
22 of Special Committees. Oh, sorry, Minority Leader
23 Council Member Ignizio. My apologies.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Thank you very
25 much, Madam Public Advocate and I hope everybody is

2 having a good summer. I rise to speak about Intro
3 449. I don't question the intentions of anyone who
4 is supporting it, but I wanted to raise some issues
5 that I believe are with the bill. First of all,
6 fundamentally what we're doing here is taking
7 taxpayer dollars and giving that money to a private
8 company in order to pay employees a higher wage
9 because they made an irresponsibly low bid. And
10 actually, we're rewarding folks who decided to pay
11 less to their employees.

12 This program also sets a terrible
13 precedent for future contracts in the City. But I
14 think most importantly as former Assemblyman the
15 issue that strikes me the most is that I believe that
16 this bill violates the State Constitution. Many
17 legal analysts that I pose this to also agree. So
18 ultimately, we're offering false hope to folks that
19 we are going to be able to help them this year when
20 ultimately this bill in my view will be voted down
21 and struck down in the courts. What happens if
22 Albany doesn't act this year? This program then
23 continues for years to come.

24 The reality is I think the solution is
25 that we offer, and we allow for Albany to take this

2 up, to allow the City, if they so decide, not
3 mandated, if they so decided on work on EPPs, and
4 they can do just that. But, I think the precedent
5 that we're setting here today is not acknowledged by
6 the City as a whole. And I'm trying to raise that
7 issue here that this is not how the City engages in
8 contract negotiations, and I think that ultimately
9 this bill that has been written with all good
10 intentions is ultimately illegal.

11 One other point I wanted to raise is that
12 we're taking \$42 million from the Department of
13 Education. At the hearing the Department of
14 Education testified that we have the money. We're
15 just going to move it in. Well, it's amazing how we
16 just find \$42 million out of the blue. If anyone of
17 you had a program you wanted them to fund, \$42
18 million would be like climbing Mount Everest. But
19 all of sudden, a message of necessity is written and
20 this bill is on the floor in five days, and \$42
21 million spent, is found for it.

22 So with that, I encourage my colleagues
23 to vote not. This is not the way to handle this
24 issue. I am sure there are other ways that we can
25 put our heads together and work with our colleagues

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2 in the state to do so. But I ultimately believe that
3 we are offering false hope to members of this union
4 who ultimately will never see this money because what
5 is being voted on today will be struck down in the
6 courts. Thank you.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
8 Again, my apologizes, Minority Leader. Any other
9 members on General orders? Seeing none, Report of
10 Special Committees?

11 CLERK: None.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reports of
13 Standing Committees?

14 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
15 Education, Preconsidered Intro 449, School Bus Driver
16 Compensation.

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
18 General Orders with a message of necessity.

19 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
20 Finance, Preconsidered M-111 and Reso 394 and M-112
21 and Reso 395 Transfer of City Funds.

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

24 CLERK: Preconsidered Reso 381, West
25 Shore Bid.

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

4 CLERK: Preconsidered Reso 382,
5 Organization Funding.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
7 General Orders.

8 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Fire
9 and Criminal Justice Services, Intro 292-A Regarding
10 Punitive Segregation.

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

13 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
14 Governmental Operations, Intro 6 Campaign Spending
15 Disclosures.

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

18 CLERK: Intro 148-A, Independent
19 Expenditure Disclosures.

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

22 CLERK: Preconsidered Intro 441, Voter
23 Guide Requirements.

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

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2 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land

3 Use, LU-70 and Reso 396 Tax Exemption.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on

5 General Orders.

6 CLERK: LU-104 and Reso 391 through LU-

7 106 and Reso 399, Sidewalk Cafes.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on

9 General Orders.

10 CLERK: LU-107 and Reso 400, Zoning

11 Amendment.

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on

13 General Orders.

14 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Rules,

15 Privileges and Elections, M-85 and Reso 401,

16 Approving the appointment of Margery Perlmutter,

17 Board of Standards and Appeals.

18 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on

19 General Orders.

20 CLERK: M-86 and Reso 402, Approving the

21 appointment of Adi Shamir Baron, Landmarks

22 Preservation Commission.

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on

24 General Orders.

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2 CLERK: M-87 and Reso 403, Approving the
3 appointment of John Gustafsson, Landmarks
4 Preservation Commission.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
6 General Orders.

7 CLERK: M-88 and Reso 404, Approving the
8 appointment of Jacques Jiha, Taxi and Limousine
9 Commission.

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
11 General Orders.

12 CLERK: On the General Order Calendar
13 Resolution appointing various persons Commissioner of
14 Deeds.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
16 General Orders and at this time I ask for a roll call
17 on all items on the Coupled General Order Calendar,
18 please.

19 CLERK: Arroyo.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

21 CLERK: Barron.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Permission to be
23 excused to explain my vote. Madam Public Advocate,
24 permission?

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. Thank
3 you. In regards to the bill that we're talking about
4 for the bus drivers, I think that we're correcting an
5 injustice that had been perpetrated by the previous
6 administration, an attempt to break unions, and an
7 attempt to undermine the whole concept that we have
8 of seniority. And providing very experienced bus
9 drivers and matrons to address the needs of special
10 needs children.

11 So I'm voting in favor of that, but I'm
12 very concerned that the DOE has the ability to
13 quickly give \$42 million to this program, and I would
14 ask that we examine their books. Obviously, there is
15 something that we don't know because I understand
16 that they said they may have as much as a billion
17 dollars that they're able to transfer or move or
18 address. I'm very concerned about that. I don't
19 want to call it a slush fund, but I certainly would
20 like to know what it is called, where it is, and
21 other areas that would be eligible to receive some of
22 that money. Because I certainly have some schools in
23 my district that could use \$42 million. But I'm
24 voting aye on all.

25 CLERK: Chin.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Permission to
3 explain my vote.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. I
6 wanted to congratulate the Speaker and Council Member
7 Miller on his leadership. I terms of correcting an
8 injustice that was done in the last administration
9 and to make sure that our children are being taken
10 care of by the most experienced people, and we're
11 saving quality, good paying jobs. And I'm so glad
12 that as a City Council we can at least do something
13 about it. But most importantly, the State
14 Legislatures needs to act and do the right thing.
15 And secondly, I wanted to congratulate Council
16 Garodnick and Council Member Lander for their bills
17 to bring another important step forward for
18 transparency in our electoral process. I vote aye on
19 all. Thank you.

20 CLERK: Cohen.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye on all.

22 CLERK: Constantinides.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Well,
24 congratulations to all my colleagues. I vote aye on
25 all.

2 CLERK: Crowley.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye on all.

4 CLERK: Cumbo.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission to
6 explain my vote.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I wanted to talk
9 about an amended law to amend the New York City
10 Charter in relation to increasing independent
11 expenditure disclosure requirements. I just want to
12 say I applaud Council Member Brad Lander. But as a
13 Council Member who I would say faced great challenges
14 because of the independent expenditures. I want to
15 work with our State Legislators to make sure that the
16 language is very definitive, and very clear so that
17 well meaning candidates have an opportunity to
18 demonstrate that they have had absolutely no
19 interaction, no understanding, no approval of these
20 I.E.s that are coming out in some ways and perhaps
21 benefit of the candidate.

22 So I support. I'm voting aye on all, but
23 I wanted to make sure that it was noted that in the
24 future moving forward that we have to make sure that
25 the State as well as our own internal languages show

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2 very clearly that candidates have nothing to do with
3 the I.E.s put forward. Aye on all.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

5 CLERK: Deutsch.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye on all.

7 CLERK: Dickens.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Permission to
9 explain my vote--

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: --Madam Public

12 Advocate. I have serious reservations about passing
13 Intro 449. I strongly support our workers, our
14 unions that have sworn to protect our workers, but
15 most importantly that they get paid fair wages. And
16 that most important of all is our children and their
17 safety. However, I believe that this Council is
18 setting a precedent that could open the Council and
19 the City up to a lawsuit.

20 To subsidize private businesses that have
21 won an RFP because they bid low, and then afterwards
22 after having won the bid, saying that they could
23 provide the best service at a lower contractual cost.
24 And after winning that RFP requires an additional
25 payment and subsidies to salaries is unfair to other

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2 businesses that have participated in that RFP. And
3 particularly in a city that has not been strong in
4 support of our MWBEs. So, I'm going to vote aye on
5 all, but I feel that we are opening up this Council
6 and this City to a lawsuit in the future. Thank you.

7 CLERK: Dromm.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye on all.

9 CLERK: Espinal.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye on all.

11 CLERK: Eugene.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.

13 CLERK: Garodnick.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Madam Public

15 Advocate just a moment to explain my vote.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Just because
18 of concern of the Constitutionality and the precedent
19 that is being set by Intro 449. And as I expressed
20 to the Education Committee, I vote no on 449 and aye
21 on the rest. Thank you.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

23 CLERK: Gentile.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye on all.

25 CLERK: Gibson.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Permission to
3 explain my vote.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Thank you, Madam
6 Public Advocate. I just want to congratulate all of
7 my colleagues, prime sponsors of all the great bills
8 today. And I want to send kudos to our Speaker for
9 her bravery and the courageous way that she is really
10 involved on a lot of conversation around health.

11 [applause] And I will be voting aye on all.

12 Congratulations.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

14 CLERK: Greenfield.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Pass.

16 CLERK: Johnson.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Permission to
18 explain my vote.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: I am going to
21 vote aye on all today, but I share similar concerns
22 around the precedent that is being set on the City
23 granting this money. My preferable hope and route
24 would have been for the State to act on this so we
25 would not have to do it this way. The reason that I

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2 am voting yes today on this is because I do not want
3 families to suffer, and their children who may lose
4 wages. So in the end, I will vote yes, but I share
5 similar concerns about whether or not this is the
6 correct route to go. I know there are good
7 intentions on all sides here to correct a wrong, and
8 I wish this could have been handled by the State. So
9 I will vote aye on all.

10 I also want to praise our Speaker Melissa
11 Mark-Viverito for her very brave disclosure on a very
12 incredibly personal medical issue. I myself as
13 someone who is HIV positive know the power of stigma,
14 and what it has in New York City as it relates to
15 chronic health conditions. And the way we break down
16 barriers and get people tested, treated, educated,
17 and prevent future infections is for people to come
18 forward and talk about their experiences. So I know
19 that her disclosure is going to help many other women
20 get tested, and ensure that their health and
21 wellbeing is taken care of. It is a very big deal,
22 and I commend her for her bravery. Thank you very
23 much, Madam Public Advocate.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

25 CLERK: Kallos.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye on all.

3 CLERK: King.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye on all.

5 CLERK: Koo.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Madam Public

7 Advocate, may I explain my vote?

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I have a similar
10 concern on Intro 449 on the Bus Driver Bill. I know
11 both sides we have good intentions, but I share
12 similar concerns with the Minority Leader and Council
13 Member Garodnick they shouldn't-- This bill didn't
14 give us enough time to consider. I hope in the
15 future this won't happen again. I will vote all-- I
16 will vote yes on all.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

18 CLERK: Koslowitz.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: May I be
20 excused to explain my vote.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, Council
22 Member.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I'd like to
24 recognize my intern Jonathan Abraham who is leaving
25

2 me tomorrow, and will be sorely missed. And my two
3 other interns David Arnov and--

4 [background conversation]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Anderson is
6 his last name, Alex Anderson, and I vote aye on all.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

8 CLERK: Lancman.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Lancman.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye on all.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

12 CLERK: Lander.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Request

14 permission to explain my vote?

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, sir.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I'll be voting

17 aye on all, and I want to give a special shout out to

18 Council Member Dromm. I think shining light into the

19 darkness is an extraordinarily important thing to do,

20 and I want to thank you for your leadership in

21 addressing issues of solitary confinement.

22 I strongly support Intro 449 to right the

23 wrong that was done to our bus drivers. This

24 solution inelegant. That is true, but I believe

25 inelegance is far better than injustice, and that was

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2 the only other alternative to have people who only
3 make \$45,000 a year see their salaries cut to \$25,000
4 and their seniority disregarded in the name of phony
5 savings is nothing short of unjust. Many of us voted
6 against it. This is our opportunity to do something
7 about it, and while the solution is inelegant, and I
8 hope in the future we won't have inelegant solutions.
9 I stand by this as a just one.

10 And finally, I just want to add my voice
11 in praise to the Speaker. As the father of a
12 beautiful daughter and a teenage son and a husband of
13 a staff member at Planned Parenthood, the importance
14 of bringing attention to HPD and the importance of
15 public awareness in addressing the stigmas are
16 incredibly important. I just want to say thank you
17 for your courage. I vote aye on all.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: How do you vote?

19 [Laughs]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I vote aye on
21 all. Thank you.

22 CLERK: Levin.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I vote aye on all.

24 CLERK: Levine.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye on all.

2 CLERK: Maisel.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: [off mic]

4 CLERK: Matteo.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: May I be excused
6 to explain my vote?

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: I just want to
9 begin on a personal level and give a shout out to my
10 father who is recovering from major knee surgery, and
11 I want to thank all my colleagues who have reached
12 out over the last few days. I want to speak on a few
13 bills. First on Intro 148-A. Council Member
14 Greenfield and I want to echo Laurie Cumbo's comments
15 that we want to work with our colleagues to make sure
16 that the language is stronger so that there is no
17 discrepancy or misleading when these mailings are
18 sent out with these extra names on the. So, I will
19 vote yes on 148-A with the notion that we do need to
20 work together for stronger language.

21 In terms of Intro 449, while I understand
22 and appreciate the good intentions of the bill, it
23 just quite simply I believe the bill is illegal, and
24 unconstitutional. And the precedent that we're
25 setting is the wrong precedent. And for those

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2 reasons, I'm going to vote no on Intro 449 and yes on
3 the rest.

4 CLERK: Mealy.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye on all.

6 CLERK: Menchaca.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye on all.

8 CLERK: Mendez.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

10 CLERK: Miller.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye on all.

12 CLERK: Reynoso.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye on all.

14 CLERK: Richards.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye on all.

16 CLERK: Rodriguez.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

18 CLERK: Rosenthal.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Permission to
20 explain my vote.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you. So
23 I'm voting no today on Land Use 105 and Res 398,
24 which is for a sidewalk cafe in my district within
25 the 100-foot commercial zone of Columbus Avenue but

2 on 72nd Street. This is a street, a side street that
3 is totally jam packed with pedestrians and tour
4 buses. It's no place for a sidewalk cafe. The
5 residents of this street oppose the petition, and I
6 stand with my community today by voting no.

7 This example demonstrates that this
8 Council needs to be able to add to the list of side
9 streets that are ineligible for sidewalk cafes. The
10 street should have been carved out from the list of
11 side streets where sidewalk cafes are permitted in
12 public space on the sidewalk, but it was not. We as
13 a Council need an opportunity to revisit the side
14 streets exempted from Land Use petitions such as this
15 one. And I look forward to working with my
16 colleagues to take another look at that list.

17 Separately, I'm very excited about the
18 steps the City Council is taking to increase
19 transparency in campaign finance through bills such
20 as Intro 148 and Intro 6, both of which I'm co-
21 sponsoring. I also look forward to continuing the
22 discussion, and considering clarifying the language
23 requiring Intro 148 such as that, which would be
24 proposed by my colleague Council Member Mark Treyger.

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2 So I vote aye on all except for Land Use 105 and Reso
3 398. Thank you.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

5 CLERK: TORRES.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye on all.

7 CLERK: Treyger.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Permission to
9 explain my vote.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: So I want to
12 just speak about Intro 148-A, and I want to
13 definitely commend Council Member Brad Lander and
14 Chair Ben Kallos on their work in pushing this very
15 important legislation through. I just want to make
16 it clear, however, that while this bill makes it more
17 clear who is responsible for the production of these
18 advertisements, it does not make it more clear who is
19 not responsible for the production of this
20 advertisement. And my concern is not just about the
21 candidates here today, the incumbents that are here
22 today. It's about the future candidates. '

23 The people that sit next to the Public
24 Advocate Tish James, who want to enter politics for
25 the right reasons. Who will be unfairly maligned

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2 with donors and people they have no affiliation with.
3 So we will work both in the City and the State to
4 make it equally clear who is responsible and who is
5 not responsible for the production of these flyers.
6 With that, I vote aye on all. Thank you.
7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
8 CLERK: Ulrich.
9 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye on all
10 except Intro 449.
11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
12 [background discussion]
13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
14 Ulrich, can you repeat your vote?
15 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I apologize. I
16 said I vote aye on all with the exception of
17 Preconsidered Introduction 449. I vote no on that
18 one.
19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
20 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: It's the bus
21 bill. Okay.
22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: (Laughs)
23 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Just in case.
24 CLERK: Vacca.
25

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I vote aye on all
3 except Intro 441 where I vote no.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

5 CLERK: Vallone.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Madam Advocate,
7 a moment to explain my vote?

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: First off, let
10 me thank all of my colleagues for your extreme warmth
11 and kindness to my daughters Catena and Lea, and to
12 our leader Madam Speaker, thank you for your
13 leadership on women's right. As a father of two
14 daughters and my wife, I thank you, and they have a
15 perfect guiding example of what they can do if they
16 work hard and stand up for these-- [applause]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER: It's the campaign
18 finance thing.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: I vote aye on
20 all except for Intro 449, and just a moment to
21 explain why. I think we're all, we're troubled by
22 this. And I've even reached out to many of the bus
23 companies that didn't receive the bid, or are still
24 struggling today to make ends meet. And my concern
25 for something like this is it's not helping the

2 overall problem. It's not helping the other
3 companies that did the right thing, submitted the
4 right bids, and were cut out by this company. And
5 it's not the way we should approach this. The City
6 has a process. This company should not be rewarded
7 and helped out for undercutting all of the good
8 companies and the hard employees that have worked
9 very hard for these companies. And by doing this,
10 we're setting a dangerous precedent. And where do we
11 say which company struggles enough? Which company is
12 not struggling enough? Who is doing the right thing?
13 Who is no getting paid enough.

14 I never want to get into that place where
15 I am depriving or choosing a company or an employee
16 over someone else. And I believe that's what we're
17 doing today, and that's not what we should be doing.
18 We should be watching the bidding process. We should
19 be making very clear that they should be included
20 from the beginning, and make sure what the Mayor did
21 before never happens again. So we have our employee
22 protection included. So I vote no on 449 and I thank
23 everyone for their help on these matters. Thank you.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

25 CLERK: Williams.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Pass. [sic]

3 CLERK: Greenfield.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you.

5 May I be excused to explain my vote?

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you
8 very much. First, I want to congratulate all my
9 colleagues on the legislation today especially the
10 Good Government Legislation that Council Member
11 Lander, Council Member Garodnick, and Council Member
12 Kallos are leading. I think that it's important
13 legislation. I echo the concerns that have been
14 raised by my colleagues. Because I'm on the clock,
15 I'll just say that I'll just say that I echo them. I
16 look forward to working with Council Member Lander
17 and Council Member Kallos to make sure those concerns
18 are reflected, and we can actually improve. What is
19 a good bill we can make it even better.

20 I do want to speak on the appointments
21 briefly, specifically the ones that relate to Land
22 Use. We have three appointments in that world today.
23 The first is Marjory Perlmutter, who has been
24 nominated for the Chair of the BSA. I met with
25 Marjory. We looked over her records, and I have to

2 say she is exceptionally qualified for the position.
3 She is an architect and an attorney highly regarded
4 in her field. I think she's going to do some
5 terrific work over there, and I enthusiastically
6 support her.

7 John Gustafsson also an attorney, someone
8 who has an expertise in the world of landmarks with
9 the work that he's done. Someone who dedicates
10 himself to many different voluntary projects and not-
11 for-profit works. And I think is also a stellar
12 candidate, and I'm proud to support him as well.

13 Finally, Adi Shamir Baron has a very
14 impressive resume. We did have some issues regarding
15 some communications, some details of some questions
16 that we wanted answered. And I'm very happy thanks
17 to the Chair's assistance, Chair Lander, as well as
18 the Administration, we are going to get those items
19 corrected on the record. And, therefore, I'm happy
20 to support her as well.

21 And finally, I'm running out of time,
22 Intro 449. I'm very, very torn on this primarily
23 because I support those workers, but at the same time
24 I think there are too many questions especially about
25 the money, the precedent and the legality, and that's

2 why I'm going to vote aye on all with the exception
3 of Intro 449, and I'm going to vote no.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

5 CLERK: Williams.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: May I be
7 excused to explain my vote?

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you.
10 First, I want to congratulate Council Members Dromm
11 and Garodnick and Lander. I do want to talk about
12 Intro 449, which also I was conflicted. And there I
13 still would say there are many issues that we have
14 keep in mind as we move forward. I'm going to vote
15 aye on it, but I want to make clear that if it comes
16 again next year, I will not vote aye on it. There
17 were a few things that very much concerned me. One,
18 there were very good actors that bid the way that
19 they should have bid, and they lost out because of
20 this.

21 Also, one of the biggest issues for me
22 was that during the hearing, we found that they
23 apparently had \$42 million, and it could be up to a
24 billion dollars apparently for emergency
25 transportation, but could no way say how the \$42

2 million would affect emergency transportation. Could
3 in no way say if they have the money available for
4 other projects. I think as the Council we have a
5 fiscal fiduciary responsibility. We have oversight
6 of this money. If we pass a budget there should not
7 be gaps of \$42 million or a billion dollars that we
8 know anything about.

9 And I hope that that question still gets
10 answered as we move forward. I do want to say is
11 what tipped it for me is I believe that government
12 has routinely and as a matter of practice -- to use
13 the word of Council Member Lander -- done inelegant
14 solutions that helped corporations and people I
15 believe who didn't necessarily need the help. And
16 I'm happy to be part of the body and the
17 administration that is trying to use some creativity
18 perhaps and elegancy to help people who really need
19 the assistance. And who I believe were intentionally
20 and egregiously specifically pointed out to have this
21 happen to them. And many of us supported them, and I
22 want to help and support them now. Hopefully, we'll
23 be able to find a better solution moving forward, and
24 I vote aye on all. Thank you.

25 CLERK: Ignizio.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZO: No on 449. Aye
3 on all others.

4 CLERK: Van Bramer.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye on all.

6 CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye on all.

8 [background conversation]

9 CATENA VALLONE: [off mic] I would like
10 acknowledge Global Kids, an Alliance for Climate
11 Education. There are youth leaders sitting in the
12 balcony.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Okay, one more
14 time.

15 CATENA VALLONE: [on mic] I would like to
16 acknowledge Global Kids, an Alliance for Climate
17 Education. There are youth leaders sitting in the
18 balcony. [applause]

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Okay, thank you.
20 All items on today's General Calendar were adopted by
21 a vote of 47 in the affirmative, zero in the
22 negative, and zero abstentions with the exception of
23 Intro 449, which was adopted by a vote of 41 in the
24 affirmative, 6 negative and zero abstentions. And
25 Land Use 104 and Resolution 398, which was adopted--

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2 CLERK: [off mic]

3 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Land Use 105?

4 CLERK: [off mic] Yes.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And Resolution

6 398, which was adopted by a vote of 46 in the
7 affirmative, 1 in the negative, and zero abstentions.

8 And Intro 441, which was adopted by a vote of 46 in

9 the affirmative, 1 negative, and zero abstentions. A

10 revised Land Use Call-Up vote is 47 in the

11 affirmative and zero negative. Introduction and

12 Reading of Bills.

13 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All bills are
14 referred to committees as indicated on the Agenda.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Discussion of

16 Resolutions? Seeing none we can now vote on

17 Resolution-- Preconsidered Resolution 379, a

18 resolution calling on the New York City Department of

19 Correction to end the practice of placing individuals

20 returning to City jails into punitive segregation,

21 also known as solitary confinement to complete time

22 owed. All those in favor say aye.

23 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Chorus of ayes.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All of those

25 opposed say no. Any abstentions? The ayes have it.

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2 The second resolution, Preconsidered Resolution 387 a
3 resolution calling upon the New York State
4 Legislature to pass, and for the Governor to sign
5 legislation that would mandate employee safeguards
6 for experienced bus drivers, attendants, dispatchers
7 and mechanics as part of all current and future bus
8 contracts. All of those in favor say aye.

9 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Chorus of ayes.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All of those
11 opposed. Any abstentions? The ayes have it. And
12 now General Discussion. Council Member Reynoso.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Thank you, Madam
14 Public Advocate. I want to call your attention today
15 to a package I'm calling the Equity in Education Act.
16 It's one bill and two resolutions that have the goal
17 of promoting equity within the school system for low
18 income children of color, and the children of
19 immigrants.

20 Intro 403 is a reporting bill that will
21 help us collect data about the inequitable
22 distribution of college readiness counselors in New
23 York City schools. Right now the ratio of students
24 to counselors in more than 50% of New York City High
25 Schools is higher than 250 students to one counselor.

2 And low income communities of color have the lowest
3 college readiness rates in the City. Having this
4 data will help us start to change the system to make
5 sure that the students who need the most help are
6 receiving it.

7 Resolution 198 calls for the Department
8 of Education to equitably distribute over-the-counter
9 students what the DOE calls students who do not calls
10 students who do not participate in the high school
11 students-- the high school choice process. These
12 students tend to be immigrants, have special needs,
13 homeless, or previously incarcerated. Right now,
14 these students are distributed at higher rates in
15 under-performing schools, which may not be equipped
16 to handle this extra challenge.

17 Reso 388 addresses New York City's nearly
18 160,000 students classified as English language
19 learners. Often are new immigrants or students who
20 speak another language at home. Currently, federal
21 testing requirements allow these students one year to
22 study English before their State results are measured
23 in a way that may be-- that may impact the school's
24 private support. This resolution supports the
25 State's request to the federal government to change

2 this time from one year to two years. I have
3 distributed a sign-off sheet and I appreciate your
4 support in the effort. Thank you very much.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
6 Treyger.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you,
8 Public Advocate. I speak in favor of three things
9 I'm introducing today. First is Reso 390, which is a
10 resolution in support of Assembly Bill A9182, which
11 would require the New York City Board of Elections to
12 hire Russian interpreters in polling sites where
13 needed in the City of New York. Currently, there are
14 none. I have personally witnessed the
15 disenfranchisement of Russian speaking voters coming
16 in and asking questions, and being told if they don't
17 speak English go home, which is unacceptable in the
18 City of new York. Someone who believes in democracy
19 and the idea that no citizen should be prevented from
20 casting a ballot due to language barriers, I urge my
21 colleagues to support this legislation and Reso 390.

22 Secondly, I'm introducing Intro 458,
23 which would require the New York City Department of
24 Consumer Affairs to prepare educational materials for
25 our young children ages 16 to 24 that would provide

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2 educational materials to help them prevent amounting
3 student debt and debt in general. The kids between
4 ages 16 and 24 are being targeted by major companies
5 and major corporations forcing them to get credit
6 cards, and other types of college loans. We want to
7 make sure that we're providing educational materials
8 to our young people to make sure that they make the
9 right decisions and avoid being buried in mounting
10 debt.

11 The last intro is Intro 459, which would
12 require the Department of Transportation to give 30
13 days notice to corporations and utilities before
14 commencing with a street resurfacing. Currently,
15 it's only 24 hours. Many of my colleagues would see
16 street resurfacing done in their districts. And then
17 you would see it the day after a Con-Edison truck in
18 and drill holes in the street. Again, wasting
19 taxpayer dollars, wasting precious tax resources. I
20 urge my colleagues to please again support Reso 390,
21 Intro 458 and Intro 459. Thank you.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
23 Vallone.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [off mic]

25

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Oh, take care.

3 No, sorry. Council Member Barron. [Laughs] Council
4 Member Barron.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Madam
6 Public Advocate. You may recall last session I
7 talked about remembering our girls in Nigeria. We
8 want to remember them, not forget them. And now I'm
9 adding the Council, calling the Council's attention
10 to the atrocities that are going on in the so-called
11 Middle East. There are 400 at least innocent
12 children who are the victims of that atrocity of the
13 war that's there that have been killed, 400 children.
14 The number of injured and dead is astronomical in
15 terms of innocent people who are being killed. And I
16 just want to urge us to be mindful of the situation,
17 and push for our government to be involved in coming
18 to resolution the recognizes the two-state solution
19 with equity for both parties. Thank you.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
21 Johnson.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam
23 Public Advocate. I want to start off today by
24 congratulating Council Member Danny Dromm on the
25 passage of Intro 292 in regards to reporting

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2 regarding punitive segregation and mental health. I
3 arise to ask my colleagues to sign on as sponsors of
4 Intro 440. Which would require the Department of
5 Health and Mental Hygiene to prepare annual reports
6 pertaining to health services in city correctional
7 facilities. Including intake, follow-up care,
8 patient safe, and preventable errors in the
9 evaluation of medical contractors at correctional
10 facilities.

11 I am deeply disturbed by the recent
12 reports regarding the poor and inadequate treatment
13 of inmates at Rikers including accounts heard at the
14 Joint Hearing held on June 12th with the Department
15 of Criminal Justice Services, Mental Health, and
16 Health Committee. Health staff has reported severe
17 deficiencies recently. According to social workers
18 at Rikers they see as many as 70 patients a week, and
19 only can provide a few minutes to each inmate
20 resulting in inmates lashing out to get attention,
21 and refusing to take medication. There's a lot I
22 want to say, but this bill will address accusations
23 that the Correctional Health Services has given
24 prison health services improper passing scores on
25 multiple occasions by improperly excusing

2 deficiencies and changing cores. And a potential
3 conflict of interest in having Correctional Health
4 Services be the entity that both awards the contract
5 to Prison Health Services as well as monitors their
6 performance.

7 The contract for the current provider
8 Corizon expires on December 31, 2015. And we need to
9 seriously evaluate whether they are properly
10 providing critical medical services to those who are
11 incarcerated in our city's correctional facilities.
12 If you are in jail and incarcerated, you still
13 deserve to get adequate health and mental health
14 treatment. This bill will give us tools and
15 transparency to make that determination. Again, I
16 would hope you would-- I hope you will join me in
17 sponsoring this bill. Thank you very much.

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

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you, Madam
21 Public Advocate. I urge my colleagues to join with
22 Council Member Vacca and myself in signing onto Intro
23 463 that will provide email and text message
24 notifications to New York City voters. This bill is
25 an enhancement of Intro 613-2011 where I introduced

2 at that time a similar bill. This will bring the BOE
3 into the 21st Century by providing emails and text
4 messages to all New Yorkers as to where to vote,
5 notify them to their poll site changes, and send
6 voters sample ballots and other election information.
7 This simple way of providing information will help
8 voters out tremendously. All they have to do is
9 supply their contact information, where they are
10 registered to vote or on the Board's website. Thank
11 you.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
13 Council Member Kallos.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I rise today to
15 introduce the Healthy Happy Meals Bill Introduction
16 442 co-sponsored by General Welfare Committee, Chair
17 Steven Levin and Health Committee Chair Corey Johnson
18 previously introduced by former Council Member, Leroy
19 Comrie. In New York City half of elementary school
20 children are overweight. One-fifth of kindergarten
21 students and one-fourth of Head Start students are
22 obese. That's a not fair start for our children. We
23 have the power to help. An estimated one-fourth of a
24 child's calories comes from restaurants or fast food
25 places that could be healthy calories. It is

2 difficult enough for parents to give their children
3 healthy food without the fast food industry spending
4 \$714 million per year advertising to children.
5 Nearly half of that on toys, according to the FTC in
6 2012. If a restaurant is incentivizing children to
7 eat, they should be incentivizing them to eat
8 healthy.

9 I also wanted to take a moment to thank
10 the American Heart Association, the Center for
11 Science and Public Interest, Citizens Committee for
12 Children, and all the other advocates who worked on
13 this bill and have been working on this throughout
14 our country. I'd also like to thank my Food Policy
15 graduate fellows, who helped make this possible.
16 Leah Eden, Debbie Desneski [sp?], Becky Morrison,
17 Ryan Renault, and my Food Policy Director Amanda
18 Melpolder. They've brought a great food team, and
19 hopefully, we can make our food a lot healthier.

20 I also want to take a moment to
21 acknowledge a summer inter who will be department
22 completing her summer internship, Amanda Court.
23 She's a resident of my district. She is a high
24 school student at my alma mater, the Bronx High
25 School of Science, and we wisher well. She has

2 promised to register to vote when she turns 18. Thank
3 you.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
5 Council Member Vacca.

6
7 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Thank you, Madam
8 Public Advocate. I would like to urge the members to
9 consider signing onto Intro 462, which I'm
10 introducing today. Right now in New York City, if
11 there is an emergency repair that has to be made, HPD
12 will make the repair if the violation is classified
13 as an Emergency Level C, or if there is a heat and
14 hot water situation, which poses an immediate threat
15 to tenants in the winter. They will go and fix the
16 boiler. And make sure that the landlord is given the
17 bill for the boiler repair or for the emergency
18 repair in the apartment.

19 But we have no emergency repair program
20 for elevators. If an elevator is out, the only
21 recourse the City has is to issue a violation, which
22 comes from the Buildings Department. Yet, we have
23 instances in this city where elevators are out for
24 months on end. Senior citizens and disabled people
25 are trapped in apartments in 12, 13, and 18-story

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2 buildings and more. If they don't have access to an
3 elevator, they cannot leave to go to doctor's
4 appointments, shopping, senior center, or any
5 activity.

6 To say it's not fair is really putting it
7 mildly. I don't think that an elevator is a luxury.
8 I think it is a necessity. And I never understood
9 why there was no provision in our city where when the
10 violations are issued and when the landlord has more
11 than enough due notice and he has received the
12 requisite number of violations, why don't we have the
13 same recourse that we established in HPD? To
14 authorize an emergency repair and levy the fine or
15 the bill against the landlord? Well, that's what my
16 bill does. I think it's time we come to grips with
17 this, and I urge my colleagues to sign on.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
19 Council member Espinal.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Thank you, Madam
21 Public Advocate. Well, first and foremost, I just
22 want to thank the Speaker for encouraging and talking
23 about on a very important woman's health issue. I'm
24 going to talk about another one, which is ovarian
25 cancer. I'm introducing Resolution 380, which would

2 declare September as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month
3 in the City of New York. This year 22,000 women in
4 the U.S. will receive a new diagnosis of ovarian
5 cancer. And for nearly 80% of those diagnosed, it
6 went undetected in the early stages.

7 It's very personal to me. My mom
8 actually died two years ago of what doctors believe
9 to have been ovarian cancer. Currently, there are no
10 reliable screening tests for ovarian cancer. And
11 research is continuing to look for a new test and
12 help diagnose those early. Two years ago, again, my
13 mom passed away, and since then, I made it my
14 business to try to raise awareness in New York City.
15 And I hope that my colleagues can sign onto the
16 Resolution and join me in that fight. Thank you.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: She would be
18 proud of you. Council Member Richards.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Good afternoon.
20 I rise to ask my colleagues to support Intro 451. As
21 we continue to make New York City a cleaner arena, I
22 bring to your attention Intro 451. I would like you
23 to support our efforts to require city owned marine
24 crafts owned and operated by our very own DEP use
25 cleaner fuel. If we are requiring our City's fleets

2 on ground to use cleaner fuel, we should also expect
3 the same from the marine vessels, especially City
4 vessels.

5 Also, I would like to bring to your
6 attention a reminder that the climate change is real.
7 The effects are becoming more visible than ever
8 before, and it is important that our children be
9 prepared with relevant study of earth science and out
10 living environment. For this reason, I along with my
11 colleague-- And I would like to thank him for his
12 leadership, Council Member Costa Constantinides--
13 Ask that we as the Council call on the State's
14 Education Department to include lessons on climate
15 change in the curriculum or our students. We should
16 be preparing our children now to be the engineers,
17 the tradesmen and women, and the research experts
18 that we understand-- That will understand climate
19 change helping all of us to adapt to a changing globe
20 rather than leaving them unaware and unrepaired
21 victims. I dare to say that it is too late to
22 consider ourselves to be ahead of the curve.
23 However, we still have an opportunity to be prepared.
24 Please join our Council Member Costa Constantinides

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2 and I in support of this legislation. Thank you.

3 [applause]

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
5 Chambers. Thank you. We're still in session.
6 Council Member Gentile.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Thank you, Madam
8 Public Advocate. I'm introducing Intro 439 today
9 with Council Member Reynoso as the prime co-sponsor.
10 It addresses the bad and potentially dangerous
11 behavior of building architects and engineers. Many
12 architects and engineers submit erroneous
13 applications for permits or applications for permits
14 to perform work that's not within the boundaries of
15 the law. And these architects and engineers that do
16 this are obviously the most likely to be the ones
17 that perform the faulty, hazard creating illegal work
18 such as legal conversions.

19 This bill will add to the law that when
20 two stop work orders are issued to one of these
21 design professionals in the same year, they must be
22 removed or suspended from self-certifying, or be
23 subject to audits or meeting other conditions in
24 order to continue self-certifying. This bill also
25 assures that Council Members will annually receive a

2 report on the design professionals that have had
3 these sanctions placed upon them, and it will be
4 broken down by community board. So this report will
5 tell us right away who the bad actors are in the
6 building and construction industry among architects,
7 engineers. And it will make it easier for us to make
8 sure that these actors are sanctioned by the DOB.
9 Again it's Intro 439. Both Council Member Reynoso
10 and I now that you sign on. Thank you.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
12 Council Member Constantinides.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Thank
14 you, Madam Public Advocate. I want to acknowledge
15 again Global Kids. As I begin my remarks on
16 Resolution 375. As Council Member and Chairman of
17 the Environmental Protection Committee Donovan
18 Richards's referenced we do need to make our City
19 more green and more sustainable. And in this case in
20 the best of democracy our young men and women from
21 Global Kids suggested the resolution that we're
22 introducing today calling upon the State Department
23 of Education to include lessons of climate change in
24 their curriculum. Whether it's science, or math or
25

2 social studies, economics or politics, climate change
3 affects us all in every subject.

4 It should not be relegated to one quick
5 discussing in a science course room, but it should be
6 permeating throughout our curriculum. So I urge all
7 of my colleagues to join us on Resolution 375. And
8 in that vain, I wish to call my colleagues' attention
9 to Introduction 378. We should call upon our City to
10 reduce emissions or greenhouse gases by 80% by 2050.
11 As we look to combat climate change, we need to get
12 to the core sources of it. And it's been, you know,
13 all environmental groups are saying this is the place
14 we need to go as city to be greener and more
15 sustainable. 80% reduction by 2050 is how we will
16 get there.

17 And lastly, I'm standing with my
18 colleagues Richard Torres and Council Member Paul
19 Vallone introducing Intro 434 today, which will be
20 creating a gun defender registry. Which will really
21 make it searchable, make it public, allow for email
22 notifications when a gun-- when someone who
23 committed a gun crime moves into a neighborhood, our
24 communities will know about it. They'll know who

2 lives there. They'll know the crime has been
3 committed. Thank you.

4 CATENA VALLONE: Thank you, Global Kids.
5 Council Member Koo.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you, Madam
7 Public Advocate. I would like to welcome the
8 following five interns from my office. Ms. Julie
9 Chan [sic], Mr. Patrick Bee [sp?], Stephanie Ing
10 [sp?], and Ki Chong [sp?] and Hala Jang [sp?] and
11 good luck to their future endeavors.

12 And I also want to use this opportunity
13 to ask my colleagues to support Intro 444, which is a
14 Local Law to amend the New York City Traveler [sic]
15 in relation to the despair of the POWs MIA [SIC] on
16 property under the care and control of the Department
17 of Education. And also, Resolution 383 calling upon
18 the United States Congress to pass and the President
19 to sign the Silent Skies. Thank you.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
21 Levin.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you, Madam
23 Public Advocate, and my colleagues. I ask you to
24 sign on and support Intro Number 446 that was
25 introduced today by myself and Council Member Corey

2 Johnson to a Local Law to amend the Administrative
3 Code of the City of New York in relation to banning
4 the discharge, disposal, sale, and use within the
5 City of New York of any wastewater or natural gas
6 waste produced from the process of hydraulic
7 fracturing. No issue in the State of New York has
8 garnered the public reaction so much as fracking has
9 in the last few years. We want to ensure that we
10 keep fracking out of, I believe, the State of New
11 York.

12 And we want to make sure that we keep all
13 bi-products, which are extremely harmful and contain
14 all types of nasty contaminants out of our city
15 limits. So we want to make sure that those
16 products, those bi-products cannot be disposed of in
17 our wastewater treatment facilities, both public and
18 private. And that no waste can be discharged,
19 disposed, or put for sale anywhere in the five
20 boroughs. So this is going to-- This bill will send
21 a strong message to other municipalities throughout
22 the State and throughout the country so that they,
23 too, can ban this, the use of wastewater from
24 fracking the boundaries of the municipalities. New
25

2 York City is the largest city in the country, and
3 needs to be a leader in this area.

4 I want to thank Food and Water Watch and
5 River Keeper and great environmental activists that
6 are here in the Chamber today for their help in
7 preparing this piece of legislation. I look forward
8 to its passage. Thank you very much, and I encourage
9 my colleagues to sign on. Thank you.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member--

11 [applause]

12 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet in the Chambers,
13 please. Quiet please.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
15 Chambers. Council Member Levine.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you, Madam
17 Public Advocate. I want to call the attention of my
18 colleagues to Intro 447, which addresses a program,
19 which we all are very familiar with the dramatic
20 expansion of a number of street trees in New York
21 City. But you might not know where those trees come
22 from. They don't come from Upstate New York. They
23 don't come usually from Connecticut. In many cases,
24 they don't even come from the East Cost. We are
25 trucking trees across the country from nurseries on

2 the West Coast in places like Oregon. And burning
3 diesel fuel and planting non-native species on our
4 streets. Which strikes me and many advocates as
5 being wasteful and counterintuitive. So this piece
6 of legislation will direct the Parks Department to
7 purchase trees from the local ecological region.

8 I also want to call your attention to
9 Reso Number 385, which would address the disruption
10 of public schools during primary days, primary
11 election days, which are not school holidays. And
12 often brings thousands of strangers into public
13 school buildings with limited security, potentially
14 disrupting learning, and potentially exposing our
15 children to a security risk. So we want to grant
16 principals the option to declare a professional
17 development day on such primary dates. So that at
18 their discretion they can prioritize security and
19 safety in their building. Thank you.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
21 Council Member Ulrich.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Thank you, Madam
23 Public Advocate. I tip my hat to my good friend and
24 Council Member Levine. That is a very, very good
25 proposal, and it is definitely worthy of our

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2 consideration when you consider the fact that we
3 constantly are hearing all these stories about sexual
4 predators, and those who wish to do harm to the most
5 vulnerable in our City. The fact that they can just
6 walk into a school without providing any
7 identification whatsoever, and potentially harm an
8 innocent one because they're under the guise of
9 voting or allegedly is really crazy the fact that's
10 even happening, but I tip my hat to him.

11 I rise to encourage my colleagues and ask
12 for their support on Intro 460, a bill that I'm
13 putting in today, which integrates the 311 hotline
14 with the Veteran's Crisis Line, VCL. This was a
15 policy recommendation that came from the Iraq and
16 Afghanistan Veterans of America and other veteran
17 service organization. Currently, when any New Yorker
18 calls 311 claiming that they are suicidal or that
19 they are contemplating suicide, they are forwarded to
20 Life Line, an invaluable service provided to all New
21 Yorkers. But, for veterans things are a little bit
22 different. As we know, 22 veterans a day on average
23 commit suicide in our country. Many, many more
24 suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, and bear

25

2 the wounds, the mental scars from the battles and
3 their experiences in the military.

4 What we're doing would provide a
5 veteran's suicide assistance through 311 where the
6 311 operator would connect the directly to VCL, the
7 same way they would connect them to Life Line. It
8 would be a toll free confidential resource that
9 connects veterans and their families and their
10 friends with qualified trained mental health experts
11 who know about these issues first hand. The
12 Council's work with the VA and healthcare facilities
13 funded by the federal government to ensure vets are
14 quickly connected to the services they need. And
15 these crisis call services reduce emotional stress,
16 and help everyone who calls them in anyway to
17 effectively and efficiently connect veterans and
18 military service members to VCLs and relevant
19 resources should be explored. I'm asking for your
20 support, and I appreciate it. Thank you very much.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
22 Council Member Cumbo.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I just wanted to
24 say as Chair of the Women's Issues Committee I want
25 to first start out by thanking our Speaker Melissa

2 Mark-Viverito. Her strength, courage, and leadership
3 has really been an inspiration to me, and
4 particularly for the women in the City Council. We
5 often talk so much about our accomplishments, our
6 goals, or credentials, all that we've accomplished.
7 It's very rare that we tell the full story of who we
8 are, and the challenges that we face. And I believe
9 that her honesty is going to encourage me, and many
10 others to speak more honestly about what it really
11 means to be a woman. What it really means to be a
12 woman leader, and I really thank you for coming out
13 in such a bold way. I hope that in many situations
14 moving forward that I'll also be able to exhibit that
15 same level of courage.

16 I also want to thank the Speaker and my
17 colleagues, the Brooklyn Delegation and all the City
18 Council Members that supported the Democratic
19 National Convention coming to Brooklyn, New York. I
20 feel very inspired, and I feel it in my gut that
21 Brooklyn and New York City will win this convention,
22 and that this is going to be a win for Brooklyn.
23 This is going to be a win for New York City. And we
24 are going to benefit and make sure that all of our
25 communities benefit from this amazing opportunity

2 that has been presented. And as a born and raised
3 Broolynite, this would be so incredible to see this
4 level of exposure come to the Borough of Brooklyn.

5 I also am introducing a resolution to
6 recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Mississippi
7 Summer Project, also know as Freedom Summer. As a
8 result of this project, more than 1,000 African-
9 American voters were registered and 40 freedom
10 schools or alternative free schools for African-
11 American youth were established to cultivate
12 political participation and activism in Mississippi.
13 It's something that we look to see more of. And on
14 Saturday, which is so very important, and I know I'm
15 on the clock, at 11:00 a.m. I invite you all to join
16 the March for Justice in Staten Island with the
17 Family of Eric Garner who will walk from the
18 intersection where he took his final breaths to the
19 District Attorney's office, then host a rally a few
20 blocks away. We will not go back. I just want to
21 add also that the family of Michael Brown, an 18-
22 year-old unarmed Black teenager who was shot and
23 killed by Police Officer Darren Wilson on August 9th,
24 his family will also be there. And I encourage all
25 of those to come out together collectively. Because

2 we have all seen the video, and it's important that
3 we show our collective voices on this matter. Thank
4 you.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
6 Dickens.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you, Madam
8 Public Advocate. Council Member Cumbo, I think it's
9 great if the Democratic National Convention does come
10 to Brooklyn to New York City. However, I hope that
11 the Council will be diligent to see to it that MWBE
12 participation is steadfast and in high numbers. But
13 having said that, last Friday our Speaker and the
14 Mayor announced an increase from the \$3 million in
15 their original Anti-Gang Violence Initiative to \$12.7
16 million in the Gun Violence Crisis Management System.
17 That was on Friday in Harlem Hospital. Yet, on
18 Saturday night there were 13 shootings in six hours.
19 Two died at 151st Street and Broadway. One of those
20 young men resided in the same building as my staff
21 person, Frances. Three were shot in Jefferson Park,
22 just an hour and a half after I had departed that
23 same park handing out school supplies to the children
24 who were in abundance there. One was shot at 127th
25 Street and St. Nicholas Terrace, but found at 135th

2 Street and 7th Avenue trying to make his way to
3 Harlem Hospital. Three students in the Bronx, and
4 four shootings in the 113th Precinct, and Southeast
5 Queens.

6 This is a tragedy and I'm so sorry that
7 it's necessary, although I'm grateful to the Speaker
8 that the increase in funding for anti-gun and anti-
9 gun violence we were able to put in, but it's awful
10 that I should be able to stand here and talk about
11 that number of shootings. Thank you, Madam Public
12 Advocate and thank you, Speaker.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: We join with you.
14 Council Member Williams to close.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you. I
16 want to thank Council Member Dickens for mentioning
17 the task force, and I want to make sure that I thank
18 the Speaker and the entire Council for the work that
19 was done in expanding the task force. The Mayor had
20 a great press conference a few days ago, but this
21 Council should be very proud it was based off
22 recommendations that were made in this Council.
23 Based off of pilot funding that was given in this
24 Council, and additional funding that was given in
25 this Council. I thank the Mayor for taking those

2 recommendations and expanding on it, but we as a
3 Council should be very, very proud. Thank you for
4 bringing up the gun violence issue. And I just want
5 to also echo Council Member Cumbo to please join us
6 in Staten Island for the deaths of Eric Garner and
7 even bigger issues of accountability when these
8 things happen. Thank you.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: I apologize.
10 Council Member Chin to close.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you, Madam
12 Public Advocate. I'd like to draw my colleagues'
13 attention to Intro 432, legislation that will enable
14 the transfer of vendor permits in cases where a
15 vendor is no longer able to vend due to medical
16 illness or other conditions. For many, vending is a
17 family business, and if a vendor can no longer
18 support his or her family, this will allow the permit
19 to be transferred to someone in the family who can.

20 We had a situation in my district where a
21 vendor, Mr. Zang, ran a street store that was his
22 family's only source of income. Because of a medical
23 condition he was no longer able to vend, and his wife
24 Yen had to work the store without him. And because
25 the permit was in her husband's name, she was

2 considered an illegal vendor. She was arrested 11
3 times until DCA out of compassion for the vendor
4 situation was able to transfer-- arrange for a
5 temporary transfer of the license. As a City we must
6 make sure that our Administrative Code leave room for
7 compassion, and that is just what this bill aims to
8 do. It will give the Commissioner greater ability to
9 transfer licenses in these particular situations, and
10 enable working families to continue doing what they
11 do everyday to support themselves and their families.

12 I would like to thank Rachel Cordero for
13 helping to draft this legislation and I hope my
14 colleagues will join me in supporting it.

15 I would also like to make you aware of
16 Reso 374, which covers--

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: We are still in
18 session, please.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: --a little
20 discussed and widely felt issue in city public
21 schools. Temperature. We all have received numerous
22 requests from our schools to fund air conditioning
23 systems with Reso 8, but because this is not
24 capitally eligible, we were never able to do that.
25 In my district we have a school building that lacks

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2 adequate facilities, and temperatures in classrooms
3 can reach as high a 100 degrees. It is not a healthy
4 or productive environment for our students and
5 teacher. And I believe it's time for the Department
6 of Education to begin reviewing and investing in this
7 issue. [Bell] I hope my colleagues will join me in
8 supporting this Reso. Thank you.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Speaker Mark-
10 Viverito, closing comments?

11 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: No, thank you, as
12 always Madam Speaker, and thank you to my colleagues.
13 It's just about 3:30 and I guess we will be
14 adjourned.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

16 CATENA VALLONE: We now stand adjourned.

17 [gavel]

18 [applause]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date August 24, 2014