

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

-----X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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February 6, 2013  
Start: 2:23 p.m.  
Recess: 3:45 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E:  
CHRISTINE C. QUINN  
Speaker

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Maria del Carmen Arroyo  
Charles Barron  
Gale A. Brewer  
Fernando Cabrera  
Margaret S. Chin  
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.  
Elizabeth S. Crowley  
Inez E. Dickens  
Erik Martin Dilan  
Daniel Dromm  
Mathieu Eugene  
Julissa Ferreras  
Lewis A. Fidler

## A P P E A R A N C E S

## COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Helen D. Foster  
Daniel R. Garodnick  
James F. Gennaro  
Vincent J. Gentile  
Sara M. Gonzalez  
David Greenfield  
Daniel J. Halloran III  
Vincent M. Ignizio  
Robert Jackson  
Letitia James  
Andy King  
Peter A. Koo  
G. Oliver Koppell  
Karen Koslowitz  
Brad S. Lander  
Jessica S. Lappin  
Stephen T. Levin  
Melissa Mark-Viverito  
Darlene Mealy  
Rosie Mendez  
Michael C. Nelson  
James S. Oddo  
Annabel Palma  
Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.  
Diana Reyna  
Joel Rivera  
Ydanis A. Rodriguez  
Deborah L. Rose  
James Sanders, Jr.  
Eric A. Ulrich  
James Vacca  
Peter F. Vallone, Jr.  
James G. Van Bramer  
Albert Vann  
Mark S. Weprin  
Jumaane D. Williams  
Ruben Wills

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

Walter Sinche  
Founder  
Alianza Ecuatoriana Internacional

Danny Landberg  
Coach of the varsity football team  
Erasmus Hall High School

Martin Jacobson  
Coach of the varsity soccer team  
Martin Luther King, Jr. High School

1  
2                   SPEAKER QUINN: We are going to  
3 start our three ceremonials. The first one is  
4 being led by Council Member Danny Dromm. Correct?  
5 Is that what you just said? Alright. Council  
6 Member Dromm with Alianza Ecuatoriana  
7 Internacional, if they could make they would make  
8 their way up. Our Ecuadorian friends, come on,  
9 make your way up. Come on down. Don't be shy.  
10 Danny, Julissa, Jimmy, everybody wants to say  
11 hello.

12                   [background conversation]

13                   COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Alright,  
14 Madam Speaker. Thank you very much. We are very  
15 pleased today to be able to honor Andean culture,  
16 and we were supposed to do this actually a while  
17 ago in June when they have their annual new year,  
18 and then we were supposed to do it, and we were  
19 interrupted again by the hurricane, but it is the  
20 year of Andean culture, so it's a good thing that  
21 we got it in before Friday's snowstorm, but they  
22 are used to that in those Andes Mountains as well.  
23 Today we pay tribute to the importance of Andean  
24 culture by honoring Alianza Ecuatoriana  
25 Internacional for its outstanding support of the

1 Latin American immigrant community in District 25  
2 and across the country. We also honor and  
3 recognize the Andean Amazonic New York or Ano  
4 Nuevo Andino Amazonico. Being a nation of  
5 immigrants the United States owes its success to  
6 the countless people who have made new home here,  
7 and from sea to shining sea, who believe in the  
8 American dream including many who have arrived  
9 with nothing but a dream of a better life. They  
10 have been integral to the success of New York City  
11 form our earliest days to the future we share with  
12 them today. These include roughly half a million  
13 citizens from the Andean region, Ecuador, Peru,  
14 Colombia and Bolivia, in our city and another  
15 million in the surrounding states. In addition to  
16 the thousands of Ecuadorians in Corona, Queens,  
17 Colombians in Jackson Heights, Peruvians in  
18 Elmhurst, and Bolivians in East Elmhurst, there  
19 are an increasing number making positive impacts  
20 as residents of the Bronx, Brooklyn, Staten Island  
21 and Manhattan, so this is not only a Queens,  
22 Jackson Heights, Elmhurst, Corona thing, this is a  
23 city-wide celebration of our Andean culture and  
24 here to say a few words—should we do that or the  
25

1  
2 proclamation first? Mr. City Clerk, may I have the  
3 reading of the proclamation please?

4 CLERK: Council, City of New York  
5 Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of  
6 New York is proud to honor Alianza Ecuatoriana  
7 Internacional for its outstanding support of the  
8 Latin American immigrant community across the  
9 country. And whereas, being a nation of  
10 immigrants, the United States owes its success to  
11 the countless people who have made a new home here  
12 from sea to shining sea including many who have  
13 arrived with nothing but a dream of a better life.  
14 They have been integral to the success of New York  
15 City from our earliest days to the future we share  
16 today. These include roughly half a million  
17 citizens from the Andean region, Ecuador, Peru,  
18 Colombia and Bolivia, in our city and another  
19 million in the surrounding states. In addition to  
20 the thousands of Ecuadorians in Corona, Queens,  
21 Colombians in Jackson Heights, Peruvians in  
22 Elmhurst and Bolivians in East Elmhurst, there are  
23 an increasing number making positive impacts as  
24 residents of the Bronx, Brooklyn, Staten Island  
25 and Manhattan. And whereas, several Ecuadorian

1  
2 immigrants were killed by perpetrators of hate  
3 crimes, Alianza Ecuatoriana Internacional or AEI,  
4 organized to bring attention to growing violence  
5 against Latino immigrants. The organization  
6 provided support to the families who were directly  
7 affected by the hate crimes, kept the issue alive  
8 in the media and worked with public officials and  
9 community members to develop a response. The hate  
10 motivated attacks propelled AEI to educate others  
11 about Ecuadorian culture, while strengthening  
12 Ecuadorians' identity. And whereas today AEI is  
13 developing services to meet the community's long  
14 term needs in the areas of immigrant rights,  
15 education, employment, health and culture, to  
16 address immigrant rights. AEI is educating  
17 Ecuadorians about the U.S. system of government,  
18 immigration laws and procedures. And whereas,  
19 since 2008, AEI has addressed community health  
20 concerns and promoted Andean culture. It's annual  
21 run walkathon - - well known Ecuadorian athletes  
22 and celebrities join forces to promote a healthier  
23 lifestyle. Now therefore be it known that the  
24 Council of the city of New York gratefully honors  
25 Alianza Ecuatoriana Internacional for fostering a

1  
2 greater understanding of Andean culture, reducing  
3 hate crimes and hereby recognize its Ano Nuevo  
4 Andino Amazonico in New York City. Christine C.  
5 Quinn, Speaker for the entire council, Daniel  
6 Dromm, Council Member 25<sup>th</sup> District Queens.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you  
8 very much, and before I turn it over to Walter to  
9 say a few words, you know, I had the opportunity,  
10 Madam Speaker, to visit Peru recently and I went  
11 to the Puno [phonetic] region where this woman is  
12 from, and the Uros Indians still to this very day  
13 live on Lake Titicaca, which borders with Bolivia  
14 and they cut the reeds, and they are water level,  
15 but then the ones that have been cut, they tie and  
16 they create islands that they live on even to this  
17 very day, so it was a fascinating experience.

18 [background conversation]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Exactly—the  
20 creative use of land and water. Anyway, ladies  
21 and gentleman, I would like to now present Walter  
22 Sinche.

23 WALTER SINCHE: This is a very  
24 historic moment and day. Thanks for giving this  
25 recognition to the Alianza Ecuatoriana



1  
2     Internacional, - - Andean people not only from New  
3     York City for the Tri-State area, but the great  
4     things that are happening here is happening right  
5     here today in New York, and I am very thankful for  
6     this dream come true. Mr. Daniel Dromm and all of  
7     the City Council - - I'm very honored to be in a  
8     place with a lot of great things happening, and  
9     hopefully, this will be a great future for us also  
10    working with you in the near future. Thank you.  
11    I'm very happy.

12                   SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much  
13    and congratulations. Danny, the third time was  
14    the charm, and thank you for having this event to  
15    remind us the great diversity within our diversity  
16    in New York City so congratulations everybody.  
17    Thank you. Thanks, Danny.

18                   [applause]

19                   SPEAKER QUINN: Okay. We are next  
20    going to ask the folks from this event to move out  
21    because we have a pretty large group that is  
22    coming down for the next ceremonial, so if the  
23    first ceremonial could move to the back or the  
24    committee room, that would be great. Thanks,  
25    guys. 'Cause we want--the next ceremonial is

1  
2 going to be led by Council Member Dr. Mathieu  
3 Eugene, and it is an honor of the Dutchmen, the  
4 Erasmus Hall High School varsity football team, so  
5 if we could ask Dr. Eugene and the team to come on  
6 down. You guys step forward a little bit, so they  
7 can fall in behind.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you  
9 very much, Madam Speaker. Would the champions  
10 please come? Those are the champions. Come on,  
11 very good. For the third consecutive year, the  
12 championship stays in Brooklyn. Thank you very  
13 much, Madam Speaker. I would like to congratulate  
14 the Erasmus Hall Dutchmen football team on their  
15 undefeated season that culminated in winning the  
16 city championship Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012.  
17 Woo. Congratulations, guys. It was Erasmus' ever  
18 first public school interleague championship for  
19 football, and we could not be more proud to have  
20 the champions as part of the 40 district, the  
21 district I am fortunate to serve. Thank you guys.  
22 Thank you so much. Thank you. In Brooklyn for  
23 the third consecutive year - - 2011, - - won in  
24 2010. - - in Brooklyn. The Dutchmen's victory is  
25 a proud achievement not just for Erasmus Hall but

1  
2 for the entire community. It highlights the  
3 importance of and positive impact that physical  
4 and academic education have on our children.  
5 These young men led by their coach, Danny  
6 Landberg, exemplify perseverance, dedication and  
7 discipline that will help lead them to success as  
8 they go forward in life. As someone who runs a  
9 youth organization also dedicated to these  
10 principles, I am aware of how important leaders  
11 such as Coach Landberg can be in young people's  
12 lives. I on behalf of all the lives he has  
13 touched extend my deepest gratitude for the  
14 dedication he shows to the young men he coaches  
15 and to the community a large on a daily basis.  
16 This championship is yet another proud chapter in  
17 Erasmus Hall's 116 years of history. With this  
18 football team, we could be looking - - students  
19 who will end up in the Super Bowl, maybe someone  
20 along the line of my fellow Haitian New York  
21 Giant, Jason Pierre-Paul, JPP. The community is  
22 fortunate to have such a great institution,  
23 Erasmus High School. Great teachers, principal,  
24 staff and students. As the well-deserved  
25 celebration takes place, remember what the - -

1  
2 champions. Champions do not become champions when  
3 they win the event, but in the hours, weeks,  
4 months and years they spend preparing for it. The  
5 victorious - - itself is - - the demonstration of  
6 their championship character. Let me conclude by  
7 saying that we always said that we have to provide  
8 to our young people to the students the best  
9 education possible. Let me say that good  
10 education is not only about providing them with  
11 mathematics, science, biochemistry, but we have to  
12 provide them with all of the resources that they  
13 need to become positive and proactive citizens,  
14 and that is exactly what you are doing at Erasmus  
15 High School. Guys, thank you so much. I am so  
16 proud of you. Congratulations to all of you.  
17 Coach, thank you very much. Madam Speaker? Would  
18 you please read the proclamation for us?

19 MALE VOICE: Council, city of New  
20 York Proclamation. The Council of the city of New  
21 York is proud to honor and congratulate Erasmus  
22 Hall High School's varsity football team, the  
23 Dutchmen, for winning the 2012 public school  
24 athletic league championship division football  
25 title game. And whereas, Erasmus Hall High School

1  
2 has a long history of excellence in athletics  
3 having won the B championships in football in 1986  
4 and again in 1987; however, this victory was the  
5 first PSAL championship division title that the  
6 school has won since its inception. And whereas,  
7 after a devastating loss to Abraham Lincoln High  
8 School during the 2011 title game, the Dutchmen  
9 did not lose faith. Instead this season they  
10 chose to come back stronger and more determined  
11 than ever. Through teamwork, discipline and  
12 dedication, the Dutchmen went into the  
13 championships with an undefeated season. And  
14 whereas, prior to the title game, the Erasmus High  
15 Dutchmen preserved in spite of the challenges  
16 presented by Hurricane Sandy in late October into  
17 early November. During this horrific event, their  
18 coach Mr. Danny Landberg faced his own personal  
19 difficulties having almost lost his home during  
20 the storm. And whereas, despite these setbacks,  
21 the Erasmus Hall Dutchmen football team went on to  
22 beat the Tottenville Pirates 15-14 and in doing  
23 so, winning the city championship. Today the  
24 Dutchmen are the pride of Flatbush, Brooklyn. Now  
25 therefore be it known that the Council of the city

1  
2 of New York proudly honors the Dutchmen, the  
3 Erasmus Hall High School varsity football team,  
4 for their outstanding teamwork and victory in the  
5 2012 New York City PSAL championship. Christine  
6 C. Quinn, Speaker for the entire Council, Mathieu  
7 Eugene, Council Member 40<sup>th</sup> District, Brooklyn.

8 SPEAKER QUINN: Before I talk about  
9 the team, I have a really important question, who  
10 is this?

11 FEMALE VOICE: Coach - - daughter.

12 SPEAKER QUINN: Well, let's hear it  
13 for the coach's daughter. Alright. She was the  
14 good luck charm everybody. Right? Alright. Well,  
15 I just wanted to on behalf of all of my colleagues  
16 congratulate all of you, to thank you guys for  
17 your great perseverance after the storm, remaining  
18 focused, keep moving forward, supporting your  
19 coach while he was dealing with his challenges  
20 with his home, and you guys are just another  
21 reason why we are so proud of Erasmus in New York  
22 City and why we in the Council want to make sure  
23 we support important athletic programs like yours  
24 across this city. But I have one question, did  
25 you show Fort Hamilton any mercy? Well,

1

2 congratulations and do you want to hear from the  
3 coach, Dr. Eugene?

4

DANNY LANDBERG: We just want to  
5 thank the city of New York for acknowledging us  
6 today. It is really important to us for all of  
7 the things that our kids do, and how hard they  
8 work. I don't think it's every understood how  
9 hard our kids work, and the more time that they  
10 put in after school while other kids go home. Our  
11 kids - - have to be student athletes and have to  
12 give all to their academics as well, and we are  
13 very proud of our kids moving onto college and so  
14 forth. We are very thankful to Mathieu Eugene for  
15 all of his support and help in our community, and  
16 it means a lot to us. We'd just like to keep that  
17 going every year. Thank you.

18

SPEAKER QUINN: Alright.  
19 Congratulations, guys. We are going to ask you  
20 guys to kind of move out of the middle, and we are  
21 going to bring in another important team—the  
22 Martin Luther King Jr. High School varsity soccer  
23 team. So if we could move the football players  
24 out and the soccer team in and out of the last 17  
25 years Martin Luther King won the championship 14

1  
2 times, which is pretty incredible, so Gale and the  
3 soccer team are going to make their way up. I  
4 think they have been here a couple of times  
5 before.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you  
7 very much. I am Gale Brewer. I represent Martin  
8 Luther King Jr. High School, and we are here with  
9 an amazing team as the speaker indicated. They  
10 are very scary. They have won 14 out of 17 in the  
11 last 17 years, and that is a PSAL. I think you  
12 will hear more about it in the proclamation, but  
13 we are very proud of them because - - Martin  
14 Jacobson, who is a west sider in addition being in  
15 charge of the athletics at this—actually, there  
16 are quite a few schools on the campus. Students  
17 and the athletes draw from all of the schools, and  
18 I think Principal Noonan is here wherever he is,  
19 and he is an amazing supporter of this team. What  
20 is wonderful is if you drive up or walk up or  
21 bicycle up Amsterdam Avenue you will see - - High  
22 School, and usually the big huge letters that say  
23 soccer wins, but more importantly, it is a school  
24 that also emphasizes academics, emphasizes support  
25 for the athletes, follows them and I often every



1  
2 year go to the concluding dinner at the school,  
3 and alums come by, parents come, and people are  
4 very supportive year after year after year, and it  
5 has a lot to do with this amazing coach who really  
6 cares about the young people, and I think they  
7 appreciate it. So Madam Speaker, we are very  
8 proud of them. We know that other schools are  
9 scared to death of them. Everybody I know in  
10 soccer is, but what the other schools and what the  
11 city should know is that it is a proud team also  
12 because they have a very rounded perspective on  
13 athletes and academics. Thank you very much. May  
14 the clerk please read the proclamation?

15 CLERK: Council, city of New York  
16 Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the city of  
17 New York is proud to honor the Martin Luther King  
18 Jr. High School varsity soccer team in celebration  
19 of their 14<sup>th</sup> win of the New York City Public High  
20 School Championship. In the past 17 years and  
21 thanks all players, coaches, staff, teachers and  
22 parents for the support they have shown to the  
23 team members in all facets of their lives. And  
24 whereas, since 1994 when Martin Luther King Jr.  
25 High School's varsity soccer team came under the

1  
2 guidance of Coach Martin Jacobson, its teams have  
3 amassed a 344-25-14 record and have been  
4 nationally ranked multiple times over the last 17  
5 years. In November 2012, the team defeated  
6 Aviation High School to win its 14<sup>th</sup> New York City  
7 Public High School Championship. And whereas, the  
8 Martin Luther King soccer team finished the season  
9 with an overall record of 21-1. Additionally, the  
10 team was ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in the country in the National  
11 Soccer Coaches Association of America's final poll  
12 of the season. The team's supportive network  
13 within the school has created a team that not only  
14 practices together, but eats lunch and attends  
15 class together. And whereas, the Martin Luther  
16 King soccer team has one of the highest graduation  
17 rates of any team in New York City public schools  
18 with more than 90 percent of players completing  
19 their high school education. The team has seen  
20 hundreds of players go on to college and many have  
21 gone on to play soccer at the professional level  
22 demonstrating the importance of team sports to  
23 educational success. Now therefore be it known  
24 that the council of the city of New York proudly  
25 honors the Martin Luther King Jr. High School

1  
2 varsity soccer team for their 14<sup>th</sup> New York City  
3 Public School Championship and its exemplary work  
4 in fostering educational success through team  
5 sports. Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the  
6 entire Council, Gale A. Brewer, Council Member 6<sup>th</sup>  
7 District, Manhattan.

8                   SPEAKER QUINN: You guys are just  
9 about regulars on the City Council calendar. It  
10 is almost so guaranteed that you will win, but of  
11 course, it's not a guarantee; it's a guarantee  
12 'cause you work hard, you are focused, you show  
13 up, you have great principals and teachers and  
14 coaches who work with you, and it's really  
15 impressive in the proclamation the graduation and  
16 the college acceptance and college completion  
17 rates, so we just want you to know how proud we  
18 are of you in the City Council, particularly on  
19 the West Side that Gale and I are lucky enough to  
20 represent, and you guys really are just great role  
21 models for other students across the city as your  
22 staff is for staffs across the city, so  
23 congratulations. I can't wait for you to be back  
24 in this building next year champions again. Let's  
25 give the coach a sec.

1  
2 MARTIN JACOBSON: Thank you. I  
3 want to thank Councilwoman Brewer, Council Speaker  
4 Quinn, my principal Mr. Noonan, who is a PSL  
5 principal, Mr. - - , assistant principal in charge  
6 of physical education and of course, my boys and  
7 Coach - - , my assistant. It has been a great  
8 run. We are not done. We are already looking  
9 forward to next year. As mentioned, I just want  
10 to let you know that of these this year we will  
11 have 100 percent graduation rate. All our kids  
12 are going to go on, and we do have a 95 percent  
13 graduation rate of the kids, and that is what we  
14 are here for. I just do want to let you know we  
15 are really proud to represent the city as being a  
16 national power, and we thank you very much for  
17 having us.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: We'd like  
19 to hear from the captain.

20 MALE VOICE: I want to say thank  
21 you - - . I want to say thank you for everybody  
22 that showed up today - - . This is my last year.  
23 Hopefully, they'll do their best next year. Keep  
24 it going. Thank you.

25 SPEAKER QUINN: Alright. That

1 great note ends today's ceremonials.

2  
3 Congratulations, guys. You are welcome. See you  
4 later.

5 [background conversation]

6 MALE VOICE: Could I have your  
7 attention please? At this time, please place all  
8 cell phones and pagers to vibrate. Will all non-  
9 Council employees please leave the main floor of  
10 the chambers? Thank you.

11 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: My  
12 colleagues, please rise for the pledge of  
13 allegiance.

14 MALE VOICE: All rise.

15 MULTIPLE VOICES: I pledge  
16 Allegiance to the flag of the United States of  
17 America and to the Republic for which it stands,  
18 one nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty  
19 and Justice for all.

20 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Roll call.

21 CLERK: Arroyo?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

23 CLERK: Barron?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.

25 CLERK: Brewer?

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: [no audible response]

CLERK: Cabrera?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

CLERK: Chin?

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

CLERK: Comrie?

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Here.

CLERK: Crowley?

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

CLERK: Dickens?

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [no audible response]

CLERK: Dilan?

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Here.

CLERK: Dromm?

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

CLERK: Eugene?

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: [no audible response]

CLERK: Ferreras?

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.

CLERK: Fidler?

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: [no audible

2 response]

3 CLERK: Foster?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: [no audible

5 response]

6 CLERK: Garodnick?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: [no

8 audible response]

9 CLERK: Gennaro?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.

11 CLERK: Gentile?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

13 CLERK: Gonzalez?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Here.

15 CLERK: Greenfield?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [no

17 audible response]

18 CLERK: Halloran?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: [no

20 audible response]

21 CLERK: Ignizio?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: [no

23 audible response]

24 CLERK: Jackson?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Here.

1

STATED MEETING

24

2

CLERK: James?

3

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here.

4

CLERK: King?

5

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Present.

6

CLERK: Koo?

7

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

8

CLERK: Koppell?

9

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.

10

CLERK: Koslowitz?

11

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [no

12

audible response]

13

CLERK: Lander?

14

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [no audible

15

response]

16

CLERK: Lappin?

17

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: [no audible

18

response]

19

CLERK: Levin?

20

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

21

CLERK: Mark-Viverito?

22

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

23

Here.

24

CLERK: Mealy?

25

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: [no audible



1

2 response]

3

CLERK: Mendez?

4

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: [no audible

5

response]

6

CLERK: Nelson?

7

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: [no audible

8

response]

9

CLERK: Palma?

10

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

11

CLERK: Eugene?

12

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

13

CLERK: Recchia?

14

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: [no

15

audible response]

16

CLERK: Reyna?

17

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.

18

CLERK: Rodriguez?

19

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: [no

20

audible response]

21

CLERK: Greenfield?

22

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Here.

23

CLERK: Rose?

24

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

25

CLERK: Ulrich?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.

CLERK: Vacca?

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

CLERK: Vallone?

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [no  
audible response]

CLERK: Van Bramer?

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

CLERK: Vann?

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Here.

CLERK: Weprin?

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

CLERK: Williams?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [no  
audible response]

CLERK: Wills?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Here.

CLERK: Fidler?

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.

CLERK: Oddo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: [no audible  
response]

CLERK: Rivera?

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Here.

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CLERK: Speaker Quinn?

SPEAKER QUINN: [no audible response]

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Quorum is present. My colleagues, please rise for the invocation being delivered today by Reverend Edison Bahn [phonetic].

REVEREND EDISON BAHN: Please bow your heads as I pray. Dear wise and loving God, first let me say thank you on behalf of all who are gathered here today. Thank you for your many and abundant blessings. Thank you for life itself for the measure of health we need to fulfill our callings, for sustenance and for friendship. Thank you for the ability to be involved in useful work and for the honor of bearing appropriate responsibilities for our perspective districts. Thank you for loving us even so from your boundless and gracious nature. The scriptures reminds us that citizens are to obey the governing authorities since you have established those very authorities to promote peace, mercy and justice; therefore, I pray for the leadership of our city, the mayor, the Speaker and the various levels of

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2 city officials and in particular for the assembled  
3 Council. I am asking that you graciously grant  
4 them wisdom to govern among the conflicting  
5 interests and issues of our times, a sense of the  
6 welfare and true needs of our people, a keen  
7 thirst for justice and rightness, confidence in  
8 what is good and fitting, the ability to work  
9 together in harmony even when there is honest  
10 disagreement, personal peace in their lives, in  
11 their joy in their tasks. I pray for the agenda  
12 set before them today. Please give an assurance  
13 of what would please you and what would benefit  
14 those who live and work in our beloved city. It  
15 is in your most blessed name I pray. All the  
16 people say amen.

17 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Thank you  
18 very much. Council Member Vann?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Thank you. I  
20 am very pleased to welcome everyone to our  
21 chambers and thank you both for your presence and  
22 your prayer, and I want to motion to spread the  
23 invocation in full upon the record.

24 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: So  
25 ordered.

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2                   SPEAKER QUINN:  If I could ask my  
3 colleagues to remain standing, on January 23<sup>rd</sup>,  
4 2013, Felix Santana, who was 84, and who is the  
5 father in law of our terrific chief sergeant at  
6 arms, Rafael Perez, passed away at his home in the  
7 Dominican Republic.  Mr. Santana served six years  
8 as mayor of his town, and 54 years as deputy mayor  
9 of his town—is that number correct?  Wow.  That is  
10 what it says.  No term limits there, and he must  
11 have been pretty popular and pretty good at it  
12 too, which we are not surprised given he is Rafe's  
13 father in law.  As a sign of respect and esteem  
14 that he earned over the years, his funeral was  
15 attended by 400 people in a hometown of only 100  
16 people.  Deputy Mayor Santana is survived by his  
17 wife - - , seven children, including Rafe's wife,  
18 Leonada [phonetic], 21 grandchildren, 25 great  
19 grandchildren.  Our thoughts and prayers go out to  
20 Rafe and his wife and the entire Santana family,  
21 and I just want to say that Rafe, a lot of the  
22 family went to the Dominican Republic—part of the  
23 time he stayed here, and kept coming to work and  
24 was just as professional and wonderful and  
25 thoughtful and considerate as any other day of the

1  
2 week and never wavered in his service to all of us  
3 and the city. So Rafe, for that thank you and  
4 again, please extend our deepest sympathies to  
5 everyone in your family.

6                   On February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013, former  
7 Manhattan Assemblywoman Sylvia Friedman, 76,  
8 passed away peacefully in her home. A longtime  
9 community activist and a member of her community  
10 Sylvia devoted much of her time to housing and  
11 homeless issues. Sylvia earned two master's  
12 degrees from Columbia, and at one time was a  
13 public school teacher. Following the resignation  
14 of Assemblyman Steve Sanders in 2006, she was  
15 chosen by the Democratic party to fill out his  
16 unexpired term. Our thoughts and prayers go out  
17 to her family and all those she ably and  
18 tirelessly served. If I could call on Council  
19 Member Mendez to say a few words.

20                   COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you,  
21 Madam Speaker. Sylvia struggled with emphysema  
22 for the last few years of her life, and when she  
23 lost her race in the Assembly one of the things  
24 she said is, "I am not going to miss the cold."  
25 That really took a lot out of her and out of her

1  
2 health. One of the things she always spoke about  
3 not only loving her time that she spent at the  
4 Assembly, but mostly her time that she spent  
5 teaching public school children in East New York  
6 for many, many years. She will be missed. She  
7 has been our state committeewoman now for about 15  
8 years, and we will miss her deeply. Thank you.

9           SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Rosie.

10 As I note the passing of former mayor Ed Koch, I  
11 would like to say that I think he probably would  
12 have liked to have met Deputy Mayor Santana,  
13 somebody who had that long a run, I think Ed Koch  
14 would have had a lot of respect and somebody who  
15 had that many people at their funeral, Ed Koch  
16 would also have had a lot of respect for, but I  
17 think we all obviously know that now that the city  
18 has lost mayor Ed Koch, he was 88 years old when  
19 he passed away. He was born in the Bronx, raised  
20 part of his life in Newark. He was very proud of  
21 the fact that he was a World War II combat veteran  
22 achieving the rank of sergeant and being given  
23 numerous medals and commendations for his service  
24 to the country. He has been a Greenwich Village  
25 district leader from 1964 until his election to

1  
2 the City Council, where he served from 1967 to  
3 1969. He was elected to Congress and served from  
4 January 1969 until his resignation to become mayor  
5 on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1977, which was a time in our  
6 city that is almost hard to remember the depths of  
7 despair and devastation that existed in our city  
8 then. He served three terms as mayor. After  
9 leaving office, he became a law firm partner, a  
10 commentator, a host of the people's court for two  
11 years, which I had forgotten after Judge Wapner  
12 retired, a movie critic, a lecturer, a radio host,  
13 a wide guy, an author, and even a children's book  
14 writer, and I think there has been much written  
15 about the fact that Mayor Koch had picked out his  
16 cemetery plot and his tombstone before he died,  
17 and that his tombstone was installed before he  
18 died, and one of the things that is inscribed on  
19 his tombstone, and Mayor Koch was a fierce  
20 defender of the state of Israel where the last  
21 words of Wall Street Journal journalist, Daniel  
22 Pearl, the last words he spoke before he was  
23 beheaded by terrorists in 2002, and Daniel Pearl  
24 said, "My father is Jewish. My mother is Jewish  
25 and I am Jewish." And Ed Koch passed away on the



1  
2 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Daniel Pearl's death, which I  
3 think is just a remarkable fact in a remarkable  
4 life, and this chamber saw Mayor Koch here as a  
5 Council Member, - - capacities as a Mayor, and  
6 also for many of us saw him sitting at the witness  
7 table when he would come not infrequently to tell  
8 us exactly what he thought he should do and how we  
9 should do it, and then send us clear documentation  
10 on that after he left, but he was a friend to many  
11 of us, a boss to some folks on the City Council  
12 and somebody who will be sorely missed in the  
13 months and weeks ahead as we all continue to  
14 struggle with the challenges of our city. Thank  
15 you, Mr. Majority Leader.

16 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Thank you,  
17 Madam Speaker. We now move on to adoption of the  
18 minutes. Council Member Lappin?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: I move that  
20 we adopt the minutes of the Stated Meeting of  
21 December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

22 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: So  
23 ordered. Messages and papers from the mayor.

24 MALE VOICE: Reappointment to the  
25 New York City Council Conflict of Interest Board,

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M1032.

SPEAKER QUINN: Rules, Privileges  
and Elections.

MALE VOICE: M1033 through M1040,  
preliminary budget documents.

SPEAKER QUINN: Finance.

MALE VOICE: M1041, maximum amount  
of debt services.

SPEAKER QUINN: Received, ordered,  
printed and filed.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA:  
Communications from city, county and borough  
offices?

MALE VOICE: M1042, maritime lease.

SPEAKER QUINN: Landmarks, Public  
Siting and Maritime Uses.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Petitions  
and communication.

MALE VOICE: None.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Land Use  
call ups.

MALE VOICE: M1043 and M1044.

SPEAKER QUINN: If we could couple  
those please and have a roll call on the coupled

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2 Land Use call ups, but before we do that, I just  
3 want to make two announcements. I think everybody  
4 heard that after we kicked Council Member  
5 Rodriguez out of the last Stated Meeting, his wife  
6 had a healthy and beautiful baby girl, and all are  
7 doing well, and Ydanis made it there in time.  
8 Thank God. Also, we want to congratulate Ralph  
9 Hernandez of our Finance division. Ralph and his  
10 wife, Kay, yesterday gave birth to a baby boy,  
11 Alexander, who came in at a health 8 pounds, 19  
12 and a half inches long, so I want to congratulate  
13 when we see him. I am also sad to announce that  
14 today is our last Stated Council meeting for our  
15 parliamentarian and counsel to the Rules  
16 Committee, Emerson Sykes [phonetic]. Emerson is  
17 moving to Washington D.C. where he is going to  
18 work on international legal issues with a focus on  
19 helping African countries. We want to wish  
20 Emerson best and thank him for his service to the  
21 Council. Emerson, I don't know if - - is on the  
22 floor, but we never got a picture of you sleeping  
23 as we once did when Jim was filling in as the part  
24 time parliamentarian, so you might want to raise  
25 that with him before you head down to Washington,

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2 but best of luck. If we could have a roll call on  
3 the coupled Land Use call ups please, and remember  
4 there are two resolutions today as well.

5 CLERK: Arroyo?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

7 CLERK: Barron?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I request  
9 unanimous consent to vote on all items on the  
10 general calendar.

11 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: No. Yes,  
12 go right ahead.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Since you  
14 did that, I want to recognize also today is  
15 February 6<sup>th</sup>. Bob Marley legendary reggae artist  
16 and human rights activist, so happy birthday to  
17 Bob Marley, and I vote aye on all.

18 CLERK: Brewer?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

20 CLERK: Cabrera?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

22 CLERK: Chin?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

24 CLERK: Comrie?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

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2 CLERK: Crowley?  
3 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.  
4 CLERK: Dickens?  
5 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: - - .  
6 CLERK: Dilan?  
7 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.  
8 CLERK: Dromm?  
9 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.  
10 CLERK: Eugene?  
11 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.  
12 CLERK: Ferreras?  
13 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.  
14 CLERK: Fidler?  
15 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.  
16 CLERK: Garodnick?  
17 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.  
18 CLERK: Gennaro?  
19 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.  
20 CLERK: Gentile?  
21 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Yes.  
22 CLERK: Gonzalez?  
23 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.  
24 CLERK: Greenfield?  
25 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

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CLERK: Halloran?

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Mr.

Majority Leader, request unanimous consent to vote on all items on today's calendar?

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Aye on

all.

CLERK: Ignizio?

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: [no

audible response]

CLERK: Jackson?

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on

all.

CLERK: James?

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye.

CLERK: King?

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye on all.

CLERK: Koo?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Mr. Majority

Leader, I would like to have permission to vote on all Land Use call ups and introductions and coupled general orders on the general order calendar.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Yes.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote yes on  
all. Thank you.

CLERK: Koppell?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: [no  
audible response]

CLERK: Koslowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye, and  
I ask for permission to vote on all general  
coupled orders.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I vote  
aye.

CLERK: Lander?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [no audible  
response]

CLERK: Lappin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

CLERK: Levin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

CLERK: Mark-Viverito?

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

CLERK: Lander?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [no audible  
response]

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CLERK: Mealy?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: [no audible

4

response]

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CLERK: Mendez?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Yes.

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CLERK: Nelson?

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COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: [no audible

9

response]

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CLERK: Palma?

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

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CLERK: Recchia?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: [no

14

audible response]

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CLERK: Reyna?

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: [no audible

17

response]

18

CLERK: Rodriguez?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: [no

20

audible response]

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CLERK: Rose?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye on all.

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CLERK: Ulrich?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

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CLERK: Vacca?



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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

CLERK: Vallone?

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [no  
audible response]

CLERK: Van Bramer?

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

CLERK: Vann?

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

CLERK: Weprin?

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

CLERK: Williams?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

CLERK: Wills?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye.

CLERK: Oddo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

CLERK: Rivera?

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Yes.

CLERK: Speaker Quinn?

SPEAKER QUINN: Yes.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Today's  
Land Use call ups are adopted by a vote of 47 in  
the affirmative, with zero in the negative. We  
now move on the communications from the Speaker.

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2                   SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
3 much. We are voting on a number of important  
4 pieces of environmental and sustainable  
5 legislation today. I just want to make a note  
6 before I speak of the bills if folks need to note  
7 the preliminary budget hearing schedule is  
8 attached on the back of your agenda, so take a  
9 look at that and make sure you understand finance  
10 membership, finance committee membership, et  
11 cetera, what the attendance et cetera is. First  
12 we are voting on Intro 985-A, which has been  
13 passed out of the Consumer Affairs Committee, and  
14 I want to thank Chair Garodnick, but I  
15 particularly want to thank Council Member Comrie,  
16 who is the lead sponsor on this. I want to thank  
17 Jeff Baker, Chris Sartori, Rachel Cordero, Laura  
18 Popa [phonetic], for their work on this piece of  
19 legislation. During Hurricane Sandy, we saw that  
20 over 50 percent of the New Yorkers who were  
21 without power some for over two weeks, 50 percent  
22 of them were customers who get their power from  
23 overhead lines even though only 16 percent of New  
24 Yorkers get their power from overhead lines. Now  
25 that was during Hurricane Sandy. Talk to Vinny

1  
2 Ignizio. The power goes out in his district with  
3 overhead lines any time it is windy. If we want  
4 to have a city that has a decent sustainable  
5 energy supply system, we have to bring to the  
6 boroughs outside of Manhattan what Manhattan has—  
7 underground power lines. Now we are not going to  
8 be able to do it tomorrow in every neighborhood,  
9 but we need to develop a plan, a prioritized plan  
10 based on where the power goes out most frequently  
11 and where what lines supply the most New Yorkers  
12 and then commit to implementing that plan, and  
13 force Con Ed to not pass the entirety of the cost  
14 along to New Yorkers and rate payers 'cause make  
15 no mistake, notwithstanding a slight dip in Con  
16 Ed's revenues recently because of Sandy, they for  
17 many years have been doing quite well financially,  
18 which is why I have already sent a letter  
19 protesting their inclusion of the cost of  
20 underground lines in their most recent request for  
21 rate increases. That said, I am grateful to Con  
22 Edison that they have agreed to participate and be  
23 at the table in this six months study that will be  
24 done by the mayor's office of long term  
25 sustainability and planning. This six months

1  
2 study when it is done will be our roadmap as a  
3 city about how to move forward to get overhead  
4 power lines in a thoughtful, practical and  
5 immediate way prioritized put underground. I want  
6 to thank everyone who has worked on this. Let me  
7 call on the lead sponsor of the bill, Council  
8 Member Comrie, and then the chair of the  
9 Committee, Dan Garodnick.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Thank you,  
11 Speaker Quinn. Thousands of residents were out of  
12 power for weeks after super storm Sandy. It was  
13 an unacceptable situation that can be avoided in  
14 the future for moving power lines underground.  
15 The study that this legislation mandates will give  
16 us a better understanding of where power lines can  
17 be and need to be moved underground to help  
18 prevent people from losing power when future  
19 storms hit our shores. By identifying these  
20 areas, the city will be able to start discussing  
21 the viability of these projects at a more  
22 efficient rate. I want to thank Speaker Quinn and  
23 as far as my colleagues on the City Council, I  
24 want to thank Alex - - and Rob Newman [phonetic],  
25 and all the people that worked on this

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2 legislation. I would urge my colleagues to vote  
3 aye.

4 SPEAKER QUINN: I just want to make  
5 note as I use this microphone to call on Chair  
6 Garodnick that I totally would have betted against  
7 Chuck Mara [phonetic] and his ability to get these  
8 mics here on time, so I think he stepped out, but  
9 we should give Chuck a round of applause for  
10 making sure we really did get the microphones. I  
11 know. Chair Garodnick?

12 CHAIRPERSON GARODNICK: Thank you  
13 very much, Speaker Quinn, and thank you for your  
14 advocacy on this issue and of course also to  
15 Council Member Comrie for sponsoring the bill.  
16 Intro 985-A as the Speaker indicated would require  
17 the administration to conduct a study to assess  
18 the feasibility of moving above ground power lines  
19 below ground. I think of this as an appropriate  
20 and proactive measure given Hurricane Sandy's  
21 devastating impacts. Two weeks after Sandy swept  
22 over our city New Yorkers filed more than 15,000  
23 requests to deal with downed trees and some of  
24 those requests actually came in following the  
25 nor'easter that hit our area ten days after Sandy,

1  
2 and as the Speaker noted in Council Member  
3 Ignizio's district and other districts, a strong  
4 wind can have the same effect, and it reminds us  
5 that a storm of Sandy's magnitude isn't necessary  
6 to topple trees onto power lines. New Yorkers  
7 whose homes are served by above ground power lines  
8 are always susceptible to power outages caused by  
9 downed trees and may also have a longer wait  
10 before power is restored. Following Sandy, Con Ed  
11 forecasts that it would restore power to homes  
12 served by underground lines in four days, but it  
13 would need a week to restore power to homes served  
14 by above ground lines. Also it became clear  
15 during our committee's post Sandy hearing last  
16 month that the power companies and the city need  
17 to improve communication with one another about  
18 tree removal and downed power lines. The system  
19 that is currently in place regarding  
20 responsibility for removing downed trees is  
21 confusing and may potentially lead to outages that  
22 are much longer than necessary, so I think it  
23 makes good sense to identify New York City  
24 locations where the undergrounding of power lines  
25 is possible, and where undergrounding may actually

1  
2 reduce the risk of outages and repair costs during  
3 and after any future storms. So I thank you  
4 again, Madam Speaker, Council Member Comrie, and I  
5 encourage my colleagues to vote yes.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: Thanks, Dan. We  
7 are also voting on a Jim Gennaro extravaganza of  
8 environmental packages, which includes an  
9 important piece of legislation from our whip, Al  
10 Vann. We are voting on Intro 75-A and for all  
11 three of these bills I want to thank Laura Popa,  
12 Jeff Baker, Samara Swanson and Dan Avery. Intro  
13 75-A is a piece of legislation that will require  
14 the city of New York, the Parks Department mainly,  
15 to when they do plantings, which they do a lot, to  
16 do plantings which are storm tolerant plantings,  
17 which through the types of grasses, types of  
18 trees, types of soil, through the way that they  
19 are made, are more likely to absorb storm water.  
20 Now this is not going to absorb the storm water of  
21 Hurricane Sandy, but this is going to help in  
22 neighborhoods that have flooding on a regular  
23 basis out there and places that suffer from sewage  
24 overflow, which can cause comingling of the sewage  
25 system to back up into our waterway, which is a

1  
2 very significant problem, so I want to thank Jim  
3 Gennaro, who is the chair of the Environmental  
4 Protection Committee, and the lead sponsor of this  
5 bill. He is also the sponsor of 887-A, which is a  
6 piece of legislation, which will require that the  
7 city of New York create a renewable energy web  
8 portal. That means if you are a New Yorker, and  
9 you want to put solar power in your house or use  
10 geothermal and you don't know how to do that, you  
11 don't know if there is a certification your  
12 contractor should have, you don't know what  
13 agencies you have to go to, you will now just be  
14 able to go to the city of New York's web portal,  
15 get all your questions answered. We hope this  
16 will get info out there that will really encourage  
17 and incentivize New Yorkers to go green in their  
18 homes and in their offices. Also part of our  
19 package is a piece of legislation introduced by  
20 Council Member Vann, which is in relation to  
21 increasing native biodiversity in New York City.  
22 Right now we have a situation believe it or not  
23 where we have a lot of trees and plantings that  
24 are not indigenous to the city of New York. The  
25 degree to which we reduce indigenous plantings the



1  
2 degree to which we reduce the supply of vegetation  
3 that supports birds and other animals, A. B, out  
4 of town trees or plants—there is a word I can't  
5 think of—but non-native I guess, whatever—they  
6 don't have animals, plants, et cetera that eat  
7 them so they go on and live a lot longer and  
8 reproduce and make other trees and plants and then  
9 we end up with way too many of them, and it's a  
10 big problem. In the pre-stated I had all of my  
11 tree knowledge and it's gone now. So Al and Jim  
12 Gennaro are going to—apparently there is a  
13 Norwegian tree that is a big, big problem. So  
14 anyway, we are now going to turn it back to Jim  
15 Gennaro, who is going to be serious, and then Al  
16 Vann.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you,  
18 Madam Speaker.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: - - sometimes, it's  
20 hard, Jim.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you  
22 for making science so much fun, and what the  
23 Speaker wanted to get out was the word invasive  
24 species. These are species that really crowd out  
25 the other species and make a mono culture. This

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2 is not what we want. We rely on our natural  
3 vegetation to do a lot for the city in terms of  
4 processing storm water, doing a lot of things, and  
5 we have to keep that biodiversity healthy, and  
6 this is what the Al Vann bill does. It basically  
7 requires the Parks Department to literally write  
8 the book on how we can do this better. The Parks  
9 Department does a good job, but we want them to  
10 write the book that will be available not only for  
11 city government, but also for people who want to  
12 work on their own properties, and also people who  
13 are in the planting business. With regard to  
14 Intro 75-A, which is the storm water tolerant  
15 plantings, back in 2008 when the city did the land  
16 breaking—I'm having the same moment the Speaker  
17 had. When we did the sustainable storm water  
18 management plan, no one really talked a lot about  
19 storm water, and now it is on the tip of  
20 everyone's tongue after the storms we have had,  
21 particularly Sandy, and it's critically important  
22 that what we plant are able to absorb much of the  
23 storm water, but also can tolerate it. People who  
24 know plants know that there are many, many species  
25 that don't tolerant having their roots thoroughly

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2 saturated for a long period of it. It tends to  
3 deprive the plant of oxygen and so we have to be  
4 ready for the climate change which is upon us, and  
5 I think taken together Intro 75-A and Intro 887-A  
6 get us to where we need to be in that regard, and  
7 with regard to the renewable energy web portal,  
8 this is a very important bill because this is  
9 really going to help local city residents that  
10 want to go green, that want to go solar, they want  
11 to do geothermal, they want to do something. They  
12 hear about all these kinds of inducements that are  
13 available from various levels of governments, and  
14 this will be one stop shopping where you can  
15 figure out what you need to do, what it costs,  
16 what your payback period is going to be and every  
17 form that you need you can download right from  
18 this portal. The Council due to the laws we have  
19 done has put us on a course to reduce greenhouse  
20 gas emissions by 30 percent by 2030. We need  
21 everyone in the city of New York partnering with  
22 us to reach that mandated goal, and this will be a  
23 wonderful way to get there. I want to thank the  
24 Speaker for her leadership, for her love of  
25 science, and all the members of the Committee on

1  
2 Environmental Protection. I want to thank Council  
3 Member Vann, all of the bills' sponsors, who  
4 sponsored all of these bills. I want to thank the  
5 Bloomberg Administration. Karen Becker from the  
6 Parks Department and Reggie Thomas in the mayor's  
7 office were very helpful. Members of my staff,  
8 Bill Murray and Paul Leonard, who worked long and  
9 hard on these bills, and it certainly bears  
10 repeating to thank the people that the Speaker  
11 thanked—Laura Popa, Jeff Baker, a very big shout  
12 out for Jeff Baker, who worked so hard on these  
13 bills, and of course Samara Swanson and Dan Avery.  
14 Thank you again, Madam Speaker, and certainly I  
15 urge everyone to vote yes on these good bills.

16 SPEAKER QUINN: Council Member  
17 Vann?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Okay. Let me  
19 give it a shot in plain English. There is a  
20 saying that when you know better you do better.  
21 Intro 399, the increasing native diversity in  
22 public landscapes bill, which is before us today,  
23 is about really using the knowledge we have  
24 developed through experience over many years to do  
25 better by our environment. Hurricane Sandy has

1  
2 shown us very clearly that our status as a world  
3 class city does not exempt us from environmental  
4 concerns, so as we invest in increasing our  
5 wetlands to protect the coast - - our city to  
6 improve air quality and energy efficiency, we  
7 should strive to make choices that are  
8 environmentally and fiscally sound [phonetic].  
9 That means selecting plants that are well suited  
10 to this particular place, our place, plants that  
11 are hearty enough to survive our winters with the  
12 salt we use on our sidewalks and streets. It  
13 means selecting plantings that will keep rainwater  
14 out of the sewer system when downpours occur, but  
15 also tolerate our hot summers without requiring  
16 excessive watering. It means avoiding the use of  
17 species that would harm flora and fauna that are  
18 native to this environment and require costly  
19 eradication efforts down the line. Intro 399, a  
20 solid public policy backed by science and  
21 experiences of municipalities across the country.  
22 By voting yes today, we will be committing to  
23 using native species in public plantings and  
24 supporting individuals, block associations and  
25 businesses in making the same fiscally and

1  
2 environmentally sound choices. It really is that  
3 simple. I'd like to thank obviously Speaker  
4 Quinn, Chairman Gennaro, Dottie - - from my staff,  
5 all who have supported this, and I thank my  
6 colleagues who I know will be supporting this  
7 common sense legislation. Thank you.

8 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
9 much, Al. I am going to try to be more serious on  
10 our final item. We are also voting today on a  
11 very important Land Use item related to a West 57<sup>th</sup>  
12 Street project in Council Member Brewer's  
13 district. This corner has been a long challenge  
14 on the West Side for decades really, and I just  
15 want to congratulate everyone who has brought this  
16 project forward today. First and foremost Council  
17 Member Brewer, Chairs Comrie, Chairs Weprin, Gail  
18 Benjamin [phonetic], Ann, our new counsel whose  
19 last name we are not sure of, and Alonzo Carr  
20 [phonetic] and also Ramon Martinez in the  
21 Speaker's office. This is a very important  
22 project again that is going to make a very big  
23 difference on a critical corner in the West Side,  
24 so thank you Gail and Alonzo, Ramon. Let me call  
25 on Chair Comrie and then Chair Weprin, and then

1

2 Council Member Brewer—and also Community Board 4,  
3 thank you.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I want to  
5 thank Council Member Brewer and Community Board 4  
6 for everything they did to make this project  
7 happen. It's a signature project in a blighted  
8 area, and it will make a real change in the Upper  
9 West Side. I want to thank the Durst Corporation  
10 for everything that they have done also to ensure  
11 that this project would be an opportunity to  
12 improve that area of the community. I want to  
13 thank also Council Member Weprin for conducting  
14 another excellent hearing to get all of the facts  
15 out about the issue, so that an acceptable  
16 solution could be brought forth.

17 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, and as I  
18 call on Chair Weprin, it's Anne McCoy [phonetic].  
19 Thank you very much, Carl. Chair Weprin?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Thank you,  
21 Madam Speaker. Just briefly, this project at our  
22 hearing was praised by the local community people  
23 as well as other people who testified. I have got  
24 to compliment the community board for working with  
25 us on trying to get this project as successful as

1  
2 possible. It's a very unique building. The  
3 architectural design is that—it looks like a  
4 pyramid, and it will change the West Side skyline,  
5 and it is something that is going to be  
6 sustainable, a top LEEDS standard building, and  
7 it's going to be something that is going to be a  
8 real benefit for the area. So thank you very  
9 much, Madam Speaker.

10 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. Council  
11 Member Brewer?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you  
13 very much. I also want to thank all the parties  
14 involved, certainly the two chairs of the  
15 Committee, Comrie and Weprin, Ramon Martinez and  
16 Gail Benjamin, Alonzo Carr and all of Land Use and  
17 certainly the housing conservation coordinators.  
18 I want to thank from Board 4 Joe Ristuccia, Sarah  
19 Desmond, J.D. Nolan and the district manager, Bob  
20 Benfatto, and I also want to thank Ben - - and  
21 Moses Gates from the Association of Neighborhood  
22 Housing Development, the borough president and all  
23 involved, and certainly Jesse Bodine [phonetic]  
24 from my office. This is a project on West 57<sup>th</sup>  
25 Street between 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. It does has as Chair



1  
2 Weprin indicated a one of the buildings is a very  
3 interesting Danish architect designed—a pyramid,  
4 and then there is a second building behind it,  
5 which is currently a storage facility, so it's  
6 about 750 units total residential, mostly one  
7 bedrooms I believe, some two and maybe a couple of  
8 three. The biggest discussion and point of  
9 contention was how much affordable housing. By  
10 law the developer must and is providing 20 percent  
11 income restricted affordable for 35 years—that is  
12 the law, and then after that under this particular  
13 program, 80/20 program, the units are rent  
14 stabilized and there is succession just like there  
15 is in any rent stabilized unit. In addition  
16 working with the Speaker's office and the  
17 community board the developer will provide a  
18 million dollars to be put into a city income  
19 producing account, which will then be used for  
20 affordable housing in the neighborhood. There is  
21 a lot of plans I think some related to the Hudson  
22 Yards for affordable housing in the neighborhood,  
23 but it could always use more affordable housing.  
24 In addition we have been able to negotiate again  
25 thanks to the Speaker's office and the community

1  
2 board and the developer some extra streetscape  
3 amenities along 58<sup>th</sup> Street, which is right next to  
4 the Con Edison building, the very large, quite  
5 lovely structure, and we have also been able to  
6 make more pedestrian friendly areas between the  
7 buildings, one of the ones that is current and one  
8 of the ones that has been built previously, and we  
9 also have managed to make sure that any community  
10 facility space in the future that is built will go  
11 through the community board for their input, so  
12 it's a long process. I think it was a good  
13 process, and I thank everybody who participated.  
14 Thank you, Madam Chair.

15 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
16 much. Mr. Majority Leader, and that concludes  
17 communications from the Speaker.

18 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Thank you  
19 very much. We will now move on to discussion of  
20 general orders. We will call on Council Member  
21 Vann first.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Thank you,  
23 Majority Leader. I request unanimous consent to  
24 vote on all Land Use call ups coupled under  
25 general orders and all resolutions.

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MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: I vote aye on all. Thank you.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Thank you very much. Seeing no others, we will now move on to reports of special committees.

MALE VOICE: None.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Reports of standing committees.

MALE VOICE: Report of the Committee on Consumer Affairs, Intro 985-A, relation to underground power lines?

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled under general orders.

MALE VOICE: Report of the Committee on Environmental Protection, Intro 75-A, requiring city planting to be storm water tolerant.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on general orders.

MALE VOICE: Intro 399-A, increasing the native biodiversity of public landscapes.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled

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on general orders.

MALE VOICE: Intro 887-A, in relation to the creation of a renewable energy system web portal.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on general orders.

MALE VOICE: Report of the Committee on Land Use, Intro 719 and Reso 1656, Eastern Parkway extension.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

MALE VOICE: L.U. 749 and Reso 1657 through L.Y. 751 and Reso 1759, Durst development.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

MALE VOICE: L.U. 752 and Reso 1660, Landmark Preservation Commission, East Village.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

MALE VOICE: L.U. 753 and Reso 1661, unenclosed sidewalk café Manhattan.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general

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orders.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: General  
order calendar.

MALE VOICE: Resolution appointing  
various person commissioner of deeds.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general  
orders, and at this time, I'd like to ask for a  
roll call on all items that are coupled n the  
general order calendar please.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: So  
ordered.

CLERK: Arroyo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

CLERK: Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

CLERK: Cabrera?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

CLERK: Chin?

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

CLERK: Comrie?

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

CLERK: Crowley?

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

CLERK: Dickens?

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response]

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

CLERK: Dilan?

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: [no audible

CLERK: Dromm?

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

CLERK: Eugene?

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

CLERK: Ferreras?

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

CLERK: Fidler?

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

CLERK: Foster?

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.

CLERK: Garodnick?

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

CLERK: Gennaro?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

CLERK: Gentile?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Yes.

CLERK: Gonzalez?

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Yes.

CLERK: Greenfield?

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [no

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audible response]

CLERK: Ignizio?

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: No on Land  
Use 752 and aye on all others.

CLERK: Jackson?

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on  
all.

CLERK: James?

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye on all.

CLERK: King?

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye on all.

CLERK: Lander?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye on all.

CLERK: Lappin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

CLERK: Levin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye on all.

CLERK: Mark-Viverito?

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye  
on all.

CLERK: Mealy?

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

CLERK: Mendez?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

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CLERK: Nelson?

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COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.

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CLERK: Palma?

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

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CLERK: Recchia?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: [no

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audible response]

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CLERK: Reyna?

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: [no audible

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response]

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CLERK: Koppell?

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

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CLERK: Rose?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

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CLERK: Recchia?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.

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CLERK: Greenfield?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

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CLERK: Dilan?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.

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CLERK: Ulrich?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

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CLERK: Vacca?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: If I can

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explain my vote?

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I vote aye on all, but I did want to note that we cannot discuss the issue of underground wires without being aware that the tree pruning issue has to be front and center. Many of our neighborhoods were blacked out, but they were blacked out because trees that had not been pruned for years were falling onto the Con Ed wires that were overhead, so the issue remains that heavy branches brought down the Con Ed wires, and when the Parks Department goes there and they want to remove those branches from the wires, they won't touch the branches until the Con Edison people get there to deactivate the wires, and that makes sense. If I worked for the Parks Department, I would not be able to touch or I would never touch the branches until I knew the wires were dead, so that is why neighborhoods in the city were blacked out for long periods of time, so while it's one thing to tell Con Edison to put the wires underground, they will tell you it's going to cost them a fortune. They have no choice, but to pass it on to the

1  
2 consumers, and our bills are already high enough,  
3 but the reality is that the city of New York has a  
4 role to play. We have got to have a tree pruning  
5 program that works. We cannot wait eight to ten  
6 years cycles for a tree to be pruned in this city  
7 because Sandy can come at any time and hit any  
8 place. But with that note of caution, I vote yes.

9 CLERK: Vallone?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on  
11 all.

12 CLERK: Van Bramer?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye on  
14 all.

15 CLERK: Weprin?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye on all.

17 CLERK: Williams?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: On this  
19 fantastic mic, I say aye on all.

20 CLERK: Wills?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye on all.

22 CLERK: Oddo?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Aye on all.

24 I would just say to Council Member Vacca—Council  
25 Member Vacca, I would just say to you that

1  
2 everything you said is true and that is why it is  
3 such a great thing, and it's a good thing that the  
4 city of New York is not indiscriminately planting  
5 trees—oh, wait a second. That is exactly what  
6 they are doing. I'm sorry. I vote yes on all.

7 CLERK: Rivera?

8 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: I vote aye  
9 on all.

10 CLERK: Speaker Quinn?

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Aye on all.

12 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: All items  
13 on today's general order were adopted by a vote of  
14 49 in the affirmative with zero in the negative  
15 and zero abstentions with the exception of L.U.  
16 752 and Reso 1660, which was adopted by a vote of  
17 48 in the affirmative with one in the negative and  
18 zero abstentions and the revised Land Use call ups  
19 were adopted by a vote of 49 in the affirmative.  
20 We now move on to introduction and reading of the  
21 bills.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: All bills have been  
23 referred to the committees as indicated on the  
24 agenda.

25 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Okay. We

1  
2 now move on to resolutions. We have two  
3 resolutions on today's calendar. The first one is  
4 Reso 982-A, an amended resolution calling upon the  
5 United States Congress and the President of the  
6 United States to increase funding for research on  
7 stroke prevention and treatment. Amended and  
8 adopted by the Committee on Health. We have  
9 Council Member Eugene to speak on this resolution.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you  
11 very much. Let me first thank Madam Speaker for  
12 her leadership and also her support addressing  
13 this issue, and I want to thank also - - and his  
14 staff and also my staff for working on this, and I  
15 want to thank also the Chairwoman of the Health  
16 Committee. This resolution would address a  
17 critical health issue facing our communities by  
18 requesting an increase of funding for research and  
19 treatment. This will lead to the development and  
20 implementation of better healthcare solutions. As  
21 we know, stroke is a serious life threatening  
22 condition that affects over 750,000 people  
23 nationwide each year and is often fatal. In  
24 purely monetary terms stroke costs our nation  
25 approximately \$54 billion a year. Stroke is the

1  
2 fourth leading cause of death in the United  
3 States, and although not always fatal, it can  
4 often result in severe conditions such as  
5 paralysis, emotional - - and disability. It is a  
6 very important step, and I commend all of you who  
7 support this legislation because we have the  
8 obligation to improve the quality of life, and I  
9 am asking all of my colleagues to vote yes.

10 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Thank you  
11 very much. Does anyone else want to speak on this  
12 resolution? So we will go to a voice vote on this  
13 reso, Reso 982-A. All in favor say aye.

14 MULTIPLE VOICES: Aye.

15 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: All  
16 opposed say nay. Any abstentions? The ayes have  
17 it. We now will talk about pre-considered  
18 Resolution 1647, a resolution commending Governor  
19 Cuomo and the New York State Legislature for  
20 enacting the New York Secure Ammunition and  
21 Firearms Enforcement (SAFE) Act of 2013 and urging  
22 other states to pass similar gun control  
23 legislation adopted by the Committee on Finance.  
24 Anyone want to speak on this resolution? Council  
25 Member Gennaro?

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you,  
3 Mr. Leader. I think it's important that we as a  
4 Council make our voices heard to support what  
5 Governor Cuomo did to pass this needed  
6 legislation. When I see that there are some parts  
7 of this state that circulating petitions saying  
8 this piece of legislation that the state put  
9 forward is not a good idea, I think it's important  
10 for all local governments and all citizens to  
11 speak out. In the wake of the horrible tragedy  
12 that took place at Sandy Hook, I think we have to  
13 make our voices known. I'm running out of time  
14 here, but people know the basic elements of the  
15 bill, and I think it's very important that we not  
16 only make our voices heard to the people in this  
17 state, but to call upon other cities and other  
18 states to do likewise, and I urge my colleagues to  
19 vote yes on this important resolution. I want to  
20 thank Speaker Quinn and Chairman Vallone for  
21 moving this forward. Thank you, Mr. Majority  
22 Leader.

23 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Thank you  
24 very much, Council Member. Next we move to  
25 Council Member Williams?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank  
3 you, Mr. Majority Leader. I am proud of all the  
4 support this bill. I thank the Speaker and  
5 Council member Gennaro, but I do want to make sure  
6 we mention that while this was a very laudable  
7 act, there is still a lot more work that needs to  
8 be done, and a lot of the things that are in the  
9 SAFE Act do not get to the gun violence that  
10 happens in New York City so hopefully we can still  
11 move forward to reach the type of handgun gun  
12 violence that seek as well as getting to the  
13 demand side in addition to the supply side of the  
14 problem. Thank you.

15 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Thank you  
16 very much, Council Member. Seeing no others, we  
17 will now take a vote on this resolution,  
18 Resolution 1647. All in favor say aye.

19 MULTIPLE VOICES: Aye.

20 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: All  
21 opposed say nay. Any abstentions? The ayes have  
22 it. We now move on to general discussion. We  
23 have Council Member Jackson first up followed by  
24 Council Member Comrie.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you,

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2 Majority Leader and my colleagues. I rise in  
3 order to communicate with you on several things.  
4 First, our colleague, Margaret Chin, along with  
5 the Confucius Institute at Pace University and the  
6 New York Chinese Opera Society held the lunar new  
7 year celebration 4,711, the year of the snake at  
8 Pace University and it was an excellent affair.  
9 So Margaret Chin, I thank you as a leader along  
10 with everyone else in putting that together. I  
11 really enjoyed it. We were joined by at least a  
12 half a dozen of our colleagues at that event. But  
13 also I wanted to let everyone know that Domenic  
14 Recchia, the chair of the Finance Committee, and  
15 myself will be holding an oversight hearing on the  
16 cost of pupil transportation and obviously as you  
17 know, there is a bus strike that is currently  
18 pending, and that oversight hearing will be held  
19 this Friday at 10 a.m. on the 16<sup>th</sup> floor at 250  
20 Broadway, so I am asking all of you to come to be  
21 involved in that particular oversight. But also  
22 as you know, yesterday Michael Rebell, who was the  
23 attorney for the Campaign for Fiscal Equity, we  
24 went into court and filed a lawsuit asking order  
25 to show cause trying to stop the state from



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2 holding back \$250 million that our children are  
3 entitled to, and in fact, Michael spoke to me  
4 today, and Justice Manuel Mendez will be hearing  
5 our oral arguments this coming Wednesday, February  
6 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. at his courthouse at 71 Thomas  
7 Street, Room 210. So you should let your parents  
8 and other know that we will be fighting to ensure  
9 that we don't lose that money and that the state  
10 is obligated to give it to us with respect to a  
11 CFE [phonetic], so I wanted to share that with  
12 you. Thank you very much.

13 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Thank you  
14 very much. We now move on to Council Member  
15 Comrie followed by Council Member Koppell.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Thank you,  
17 Majority Leader. I just want to rise to note the  
18 passing of State Committeeman Elmer Griffin in the  
19 33<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District part B in my area and also  
20 Lucille Hill, the owner of Theater of Dance  
21 Movement. I want to just note that for the  
22 record, but I wanted to ask my colleagues to look  
23 at my new introduction, Intro 999, which would  
24 create parking permits for poll workers. Many  
25 poll workers that are already struggling to get to

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2 locations around the city find that they cannot  
3 have parking access because invariably they are  
4 schools or in locations that they wind up not  
5 being able to park to and having to go to a local  
6 at 5:30 in the morning, it only makes sense that  
7 they get temporary permits to park that day. I  
8 hope that our colleagues would look at that Intro  
9 and that we try to get it passed as quickly as  
10 possible. I would ask people to sign on to Intro  
11 999 and if you have any further questions to reach  
12 out to me directly. Thank you.

13 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Thank you  
14 very much. Council Member Koppell?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Thank you,  
16 Majority Leader and Madam Speaker and colleagues.  
17 Many of you know Jamon Sul [phonetic], who has  
18 acted as my counsel for the last nine years and  
19 who has been active not only in advancing my work  
20 here personally, but also particularly active in  
21 supporting the work of the Mental Health  
22 Committee—I won't say the whole title, but  
23 essentially working for the benefit of the  
24 disabled in the city of New York both those with  
25 mental disabilities and physical disabilities, and

1  
2 I think that the disabled community I know that  
3 the community that represents the disabled is very  
4 grateful for Jamon's service and I am very  
5 grateful for his help to me over nine years. He  
6 is going to be leaving in about a week. He is  
7 joining the private sector, but still working with  
8 government, which is a good thing, and I do want  
9 to thank him on my behalf, on behalf of the entire  
10 Council and the people of the city for his very  
11 good service over these nine years.  
12 Congratulations, Jamon and thank you.

13 [applause]

14 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Okay.  
15 Seeing no others, I'll conclude the comment  
16 period. I just wanted to join in the Speaker's  
17 remarks about Emerson Sykes, who is the right hand  
18 man in Rules Committee, my committee. He has done  
19 a stellar job over the past few months, almost a  
20 year that we have been together, and it is going  
21 to be a heavy loss for us on the Rules Committee  
22 and on the Council, but I am sure that his  
23 expansion and his moving forward in his career is  
24 going to be a great move, and I wish him much,  
25 much success. Our loss is his next endeavor's

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gain. Thank you.

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[applause]

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MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: And that

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concludes today's Stated Council meeting.

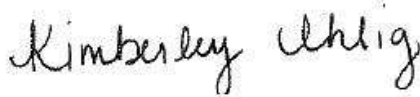
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[gavel]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Kimberley Uhlig certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



Date \_\_\_\_\_

2/20/13