

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED
MEETING

----- X

September 12, 2024
Start: 2:30 p.m.
Recess: 4:00 p.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Adrienne E. Adams, Speaker

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Shaun Abreu
- Joann Ariola
- Alexa Avilés
- Diana I. Ayala
- Chris Banks
- Joseph C. Borelli
- Erik D. Bottcher
- Justin L. Brannan
- Gale A. Brewer
- Selvena N. Brooks-Powers
- Tiffany L. Cabán
- David M. Carr
- Carmen N. De La Rosa
- Eric Dinowitz
- Amanda C. Farias
- Oswald J. Feliz
- James F. Gennaro
- Jennifer Gutiérrez
- Shahana K. Hanif
- Robert F. Holden

Crystal Hudson
Rita C. Joseph
Shekar Krishnan
Linda Lee
Farah N. Louis
Kristy Marmorato
Christopher Marte
Darlene Mealy
Julie Menin
Francisco P. Moya
Mercedes Narcisse
Sandy Nurse
Chi A. Ossé
Vickie Paladino
Keith Powers
Lincoln Restler
Kevin C. Riley
Yusef Salaam
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.
Pierina A. Sanchez
Lynn C. Schulman
Althea V. Stevens
Sandra Ung
Inna Vernikov
Nantasha M. Williams
Julie Won
Kalman Yeger
Susan Zhuang

And

Public Advocate Jumaane Williams

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

2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Close the back doors, please.

3 Sergeants, close the back doors, please. Quiet on
4 the floor, please. Quiet on the floor, please.

5 Guys, guys.

6 Ladies and gentlemen, at this time, please place
7 all electronic devices, all electronic devices to
8 vibrate. Madam Majority Leader.

9 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Good afternoon and
10 welcome to the stated meeting of September 12, 2024.
11 I am Majority Leader, Amanda Fariás, and I'd like to
12 thank you for joining us. If you would like to
13 follow along, the agenda for today's meeting is
14 posted on our website.

15 On behalf of the body, today, I welcome the
16 members of the public who have joined us. During
17 stated meetings, only members of the council may
18 speak. Members of the public shall remain silent.
19 If you wish to express your support of any remarks,
20 you may make the silent approval gesture.

21 I want to remind my colleagues that decorum is to
22 be respected at all times. Insulting each other is
23 not appropriate. All remarks are to be addressed to
24 the Chair, and members shall not speak unless

25

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2 recognized by the chair. It is essential that even
3 if we disagree, we treat each other with respect.

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Please join us for the Pledge
5 of Allegiance.

6 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Roll Call.

7 CLERK: Abreu?

8 COUNCILMEMBER ABREU: Present.

9 CLERK: Ariola?

10 COUNCILMEMBER ARIOLA: Present.

11 CLERK: Avilés?

12 COUNCILMEMBER AVILÉS: Presente.

13 CLERK: Ayala?

14 COUNCILMEMBER AYALA: Here

15 CLERK: Banks?

16 COUNCILMEMBER BANKS: Here.

17 CLERK: Bottcher?

18 COUNCILMEMBER BOTTCHER: Present.

19 CLERK: Brannan?

20 COUNCILMEMBER BRANNAN: Here.

21 CLERK: Brewer?

22 COUNCILMEMBER BREWER: Here.

23 CLERK: Brooks-Powers?

24 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Present.

25 CLERK: Cabán?

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2 COUNCILMEMBER CABÁN: Present.

3 CLERK: Carr?

4 CLERK: De La Rosa?

5 COUNCILMEMBER DE LA ROSA: Here.

6 CLERK: Dinowitz?

7 COUNCILMEMBER DINOWITZ: Here.

8 CLERK: Feliz?

9 CLERK: Gennaro?

10 COUNCILMEMBER GENNARO: Here.

11 CLERK: Gutiérrez?

12 COUNCILMEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Presente.

13 CLERK: Hanif?

14 COUNCILMEMBER HANIF: Here.

15 CLERK: Hanks?

16 CLERK: Holden?

17 COUNCILMEMBER HOLDEN: Here.

18 CLERK: Hudson?

19 COUNCILMEMBER HUDSON: Present.

20 CLERK: Joseph?

21 COUNCILMEMBER JOSEPH: Present.

22 CLERK: Krishnan?

23 COUNCILMEMBER KRISHNAN: Here.

24 CLERK: Lee?

25 COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Here.

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2 CLERK: Louis?

3 COUNCILMEMBER LOUIS: Present.

4 CLERK: Marmorato

5 COUNCILMEMBER MARMORATO: Present.

6 CLERK: Marte?

7 COUNCILMEMBER MARTE: Here.

8 CLERK: Mealy?

9 CLERK: Menin?

10 COUNCILMEMBER MENIN: Here.

11 CLERK: Moya?

12 COUNCILMEMBER MOYA: Here.

13 CLERK: Narcisse?

14 COUNCILMEMBER NARCISSE: Present.

15 CLERK: Nurse?

16 COUNCILMEMBER NURSE: Here.

17 CLERK: Ossé?

18 COUNCILMEMBER OSSÉ: Present.

19 CLERK: Paladino?

20 CLERK: Powers?

21 COUNCILMEMBER POWERS: Present.

22 CLERK: Restler?

23 COUNCILMEMBER RESTLER: Here

24 CLERK: Riley?

25 COUNCILMEMBER RILEY: Present.

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2 CLERK: Rivera?

3 CLERK: Salaam.

4 COUNCILMEMBER SALAAM: Present.

5 CLERK: Salamanca?

6 CLERK: Sanchez?

7 COUNCILMEMBER SANCHEZ: Present.

8 CLERK: Schulman?

9 COUNCILMEMBER SCHULMAN: Here.

10 CLERK: Stevens?

11 COUNCILMEMBER Stevens: Here.

12 CLERK: Ung?

13 COUNCILMEMBER UNG: Present.

14 CLERK: Vernikov?

15 CLERK: Williams?

16 COUNCILMEMBER WILLIAMS: Present.

17 CLERK: Won?

18 COUNCILMEMBER WON: Present.

19 CLERK: Yeger?

20 COUNCILMEMBER YEGER: Here.

21 CLERK: Zhuang?

22 COUNCILMEMBER ZHUANG: Here.

23 CLERK: Borelli?

24 MINORITY LEADER BORELLI: Present.

25 CLERK: Farías?

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2 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Present.

3 CLERK: Paladino?

4 CLERK: Speaker Adams?

5 SPEAKER ADAMS: Present.

6 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Thank you. We will now
7 have Today's invocation, which will be delivered by
8 Pastor Louis Straker of Reflections Church, which is
9 located at 1078 Utica Avenue in Brooklyn.

10 SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise.

11 PASTOR STRAKER: Madam Speaker, the Honorable
12 Adrian Adams, Majority Leader Fariás, to our
13 illustrious councilmember of the 45th District of New
14 York City, Farrah Louis, thank you for your gracious
15 invitation to deliver the invocation before this body
16 in our city's council chambers.

17 It is with great honor I stand before you on this
18 historic day, as you deliberate on the passage of
19 this most significant legislation that serves as a
20 milestone towards restoring opportunity for those who
21 have been disadvantaged and disenfranchised, And to
22 create a hollowed space for peace, conversation, and
23 inclusion. Let us all pray.

24 Most gracious Lord and our Heavenly Father, we
25 humbly beseech your throne of grace and mercy. As we

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2 invoke your presence with us today, we ask that your
3 spirit would descend upon us in this chamber and give
4 guidance to the hearts and the minds of those whom
5 you have sovereignly chosen to represent the people
6 of this great city, grant them wisdom, knowledge and
7 understanding to govern over the affairs of your
8 people and the complexities that we face in our ever-
9 changing world, give to them the insight of the sons
10 of Issachar that they may be able to discern the
11 times and seasons in which we live, and respond
12 justly with grace and mercy, and walk humbly before
13 you, who is the creator and sustainer of all life.

14 I command a blessing upon every elected official
15 assembled here today. As these great men and women
16 commence on this afternoon session, may your justice
17 roll down in these chambers like waters, and your
18 righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, I ask that
19 you bind them together in the power of unity and the
20 sacrificial love exemplified by your son, the
21 greatest representative of all humanity. It is in
22 his mighty and matchless name that I humbly make
23 these requests and petitions known, with respect and
24 acknowledgement of all faith traditions present here

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2 today, I pray this in the precious name of my Lord
3 and Savior, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

4 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: I thank you. I would
5 now ask Councilmember Farrah Louis to spread the
6 invocation on the record.

7 COUNCILMEMBER LOUIS: Thank you, Madam Majority
8 Leader. Good afternoon. I'm honored to host with
9 you all a distinguished and outstanding community
10 leader, clergyman and activist for my district in
11 central Brooklyn today. Pastor Louis Hilton Straker
12 is a native New Yorker and the proud son of former
13 deputy prime minister of St Vincent in the Grenadines
14 and Minister of Foreign Affairs, trade and commerce,
15 Honorable Sir Lewis Hilton Straker, Sr., and Lady
16 Linda Straker.

17 After spending the first five years of his life
18 raised in his hometown of Port Spain, Trinidad,
19 Pastor Straker began his formal education, and is a
20 byproduct of the New York City public school and CUNY
21 system. Raised in the church his entire life. He is
22 currently the founder and lead pastor of Reflections
23 Church in Utica Avenue in Brooklyn. Through his
24 leadership, this ministry is the heart of East
25 Flatbush, and has grown substantially touching the

2 lives of hundreds of people who have been enriched by
3 the powerful sermon and empowered through the
4 numerous community programs that he leads, designs,
5 and enhances the lives of young people in our
6 community and beyond.

7 Beyond his church, which he serves as a steadfast
8 community institution in my district, Pastor Straker
9 is an active member and serves as the chairman of the
10 board for the six-seven clergy Council, also known as
11 The God Squad, an influential clergy led anti-gun-
12 violence organization in Brooklyn. In addition, he
13 also serves as the Advisory Council for one of the
14 flagship projects in my district, the Shirley
15 Chisholm Recreation Center, and is a proud member of
16 the Mayor's Caribbean Advisory Council.

17 I now spread-- yeah, across the record. Thank
18 you.

19 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Thank you,
20 Councilmember. We will now have the adoption of
21 minutes by councilmember Joanne Ariola.

22 COUNCILMEMBER ARIOLA: I would like to make a
23 motion that the minutes of the Stated Meeting of
24 August 15, 2024, be adopted as printed.

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2 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Messages and papers from
3 the mayor?

4 CLERK: M-66, withdrawal of corporation council
5 appointment.

6 SPEAKER ADAMS: Received, ordered, printed, and
7 filed.

8 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Communication from city,
9 county and borough offices?

10 CLERK: None.

11 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Petitions and
12 communications?

13 CLERK: None.

14 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Land use callups?

15 CLERK: M67 through M70, various applications.

16 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on callup vote. I now
17 ask that the Clerk take a roll call vote on today's
18 land use call ups.

19 CLERK: Abreu?

20 COUNCILMEMBER ABREU: Aye.

21 CLERK: Ariola?

22 COUNCILMEMBER ARIOLA: Aye.

23 CLERK: Avilés?

24 COUNCILMEMBER AVILÉS: Aye.

25 CLERK: Ayala?

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2 COUNCILMEMBER AYALA: Aye.

3 CLERK: Banks?

4 COUNCILMEMBER BANKS: Aye.

5 CLERK: Bottcher?

6 COUNCILMEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye.

7 CLERK: Brannan?

8 COUNCILMEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.

9 CLERK: Brewer?

10 COUNCILMEMBER BREWER: Yes.

11 CLERK: Brooks-Powers?

12 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Permission to vote
13 on all items on today's agenda?

14 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Permission granted.

15 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: I vote aye on all.

16 Thank you.

17 CLERK: Cabán?

18 COUNCILMEMBER CABÁN: Aye.

19 CLERK: Carr?

20 COUNCILMEMBER CARR: Aye on all.

21 CLERK: De La Rosa?

22 COUNCILMEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye.

23 CLERK: Dinowitz?

24 COUNCILMEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye.

25 CLERK: Feliz?

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2 CLERK: Gennaro?

3 COUNCILMEMBER GENNARO: Aye.

4 CLERK: Gutiérrez?

5 COUNCILMEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye.

6 CLERK: Hanif?

7 COUNCILMEMBER HANIF: Aye.

8 CLERK: Hanks?

9 CLERK: Holden?

10 COUNCILMEMBER HOLDEN: Aye.

11 CLERK: Hudson?

12 COUNCILMEMBER HUDSON: Aye.

13 CLERK: Joseph?

14 COUNCILMEMBER JOSEPH: Aye.

15 CLERK: Krishnan?

16 COUNCILMEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye.

17 CLERK: Lee?

18 COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aye.

19 CLERK: Louis?

20 COUNCILMEMBER LOUIS: Aye.

21 CLERK: Marmorato

22 COUNCILMEMBER MARMORATO: Aye.

23 CLERK: Marte?

24 COUNCILMEMBER MARTE: Aye.

25 CLERK: Mealy?

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2 CLERK: Menin?

3 COUNCILMEMBER MENIN: Aye.

4 CLERK: Moya?

5 COUNCILMEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

6 CLERK: Narcisse?

7 COUNCILMEMBER NARCISSE: Aye.

8 CLERK: Nurse?

9 COUNCILMEMBER NURSE: I vote aye.

10 CLERK: Ossé?

11 COUNCILMEMBER OSSÉ: Aye.

12 CLERK: Paladino?

13 COUNCILMEMBER PALADINO: Aye.

14 CLERK: Powers?

15 COUNCILMEMBER POWERS: Aye.

16 CLERK: Restler?

17 COUNCILMEMBER RESTLER: Aye.

18 CLERK: Riley?

19 COUNCILMEMBER RILEY: Aye.

20 CLERK: Rivera?

21 CLERK: Salaam?

22 COUNCILMEMBER SALAAM: Aye.

23 CLERK: Salamanca?

24 COUNCILMEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye.

25 CLERK: Sanchez?

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2 COUNCILMEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye.

3 CLERK: Schulman?

4 COUNCILMEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye.

5 CLERK: Stevens?

6 CLERK: Ung?

7 COUNCILMEMBER UNG: Aye.

8 CLERK: Vernikov?

9 COUNCILMEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye.

10 CLERK: Williams?

11 COUNCILMEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

12 CLERK: Won?

13 COUNCILMEMBER WON: Aye.

14 CLERK: Yeger?

15 COUNCILMEMBER YEGER: Aye.

16 CLERK: Zhuang?

17 COUNCILMEMBER ZHUANG: Aye.

18 CLERK: Borelli?

19 CLERK: Powers?

20 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: I vote aye on all

21 CLERK: Speaker Adams?

22 SPEAKER ADAMS: I vote aye.

23 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Today's land use call

24 ups are adopted by a vote of 44 in the affirmative

25

2 and zero in the negative. We will now have
3 communication from Speaker Adrian Adams.

4 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you so much, Madam Majority
5 Leader, and good afternoon everyone.

6 Before we begin, I want to start with a special
7 remembrance of a beloved member of our council family
8 and this city, Carlos Carino. Carlos served the city
9 of New York as council staff for 25 years. He worked
10 for every speaker in the city's history, and was the
11 heart of our Community Engagement Division, most
12 recently as co-director of the Community Outreach
13 Unit.

14 Carlos' passion for community shown through in
15 everything he did. He mentored countless public
16 servants and taught people to care for this city, its
17 diverse communities, and people in the way he knew
18 best. Whether he was promoting IDNYC or volunteering
19 to provide New York City's annual estimate of
20 unhoused New Yorkers, Carlos sought to make sure
21 everyone was counted, because for Carlos, everyone
22 did. When New Yorkers traveled to Carlos' beloved
23 Puerto Rico, for SOMOS, he seized the opportunity to
24 help organize the council's volunteer cleanup

2 efforts, because he was so proud of his roots and his
3 birthplace.

4 Carlos lived by the code that we should strive to
5 leave a place better than we found it, and he always
6 did. He was known to soften a tough day and brighten
7 the good ones with a reminder of our purpose, not
8 just our role, but of our duty to New Yorkers. His
9 work made it possible for our neighbors to live a
10 good life in our great city. Carlos sparked a light
11 in each of us and made us smile.

12 In his memory, we carry his enduring light
13 forward. And for my own personal note, as I noted at
14 his memorial, Carlos was that go-to guy, where you
15 looked in a room and said, "There you are again." And
16 when you said that, there was his smile, there was
17 his warmth, and there was his love, there was his
18 passion and his heart for the work that he did for
19 this council for over 25 years, and the work that he
20 did for the people of the city of New York. We will
21 always remember him with love and with light.

22 Our hearts are with his siblings, Willie and
23 Marilyn, Lily, Bruni, and Ada. And on November 18,
24 we will be holding the council's Puerto Rican
25 heritage celebration in the chambers right here in

2 Carlos' honor. The celebration will be co-hosted by
3 councilmember Alexa Aviles, who was a dear, dear
4 friend to Carlos, and I invite everyone to attend.

5 On September 1, Hirsch Goldberg Polin's parents
6 braved the unimaginable, and laid their beautiful,
7 beloved son to rest. No parent should have to bear
8 the weight of burying their child. Hirsch and the
9 other five hostages killed by Hamas should never have
10 been taken in the first place. The impact of the
11 ongoing violence in Palestine and Israel has
12 reverberated through our own communities, carrying
13 unimaginable grief and trauma. Too many lives have
14 been lost. We must work together to protect civilian
15 life, bring all hostages home, and end the cycle of
16 violence that continues to tear families apart.

17 On September 2, a gunman shot into the crowd at
18 the West Indian Day Parade, harming five New Yorkers,
19 leaving one dead. My thoughts are with the victim,
20 Denzel Chan, and his family, who are grieving this
21 tragic loss. It's incumbent on us to come together
22 in the fight against gun violence so that our
23 communities can truly be safe.

24 Last week, we lost a resident to a tragic
25 basement fire in Councilmember Shulman's district.

2 He was remembered as a loving grandfather and father
3 who helped raise two of his grandchildren.

4 Yesterday, we observed the 23rd anniversary of
5 September 11, and as a native New Yorker, I
6 personally can still recall the experience of shock
7 and pain of that day which forever altered our city
8 and nation. We honor the memories of the innocent
9 lives that we lost, and acknowledge the ongoing grief
10 of their loved ones.

11 As one who walked down Second Avenue, feeling
12 shell shocked on September 11, I can tell you that
13 trauma comes back every September 11 for me,
14 wondering how I was going to get from midtown
15 Manhattan back to Queens, and how it happened when I
16 finally got there, looking back over my right
17 shoulder and seeing the towers that we treasured
18 burning to the ground. The trauma never goes away as
19 a New Yorker, if we saw it, if we lived it, and if we
20 breathe in those toxins.

21 We must also continue to pay tribute to the
22 heroes who ran towards danger to save lives,
23 including the first responders, rescue workers and
24 everyday New Yorkers, many are still suffering from
25 life-threatening illnesses after being exposed to

2 toxins that led to negative health impacts. We must
3 renew our commitment to all who continue to be
4 affected by mental and physical consequences of this
5 tragedy by ensuring they receive the care,
6 recognition, and the information they deserve.
7 Through this commitment and action, we can honor
8 their sacrifice and continue towards healing.

9 Last Sunday, we celebrated Labor Day, honoring
10 the labor movements and leaders who fought for so
11 many of the benefits we enjoy in the workplace today,
12 from paid sick leave, to the 40-hour work week. As
13 the daughter of two long time union workers, I was
14 raised to value organized labor, and I saw what's
15 possible when we work together to win our collective
16 rights. As we honor this history, we must recognize
17 the ongoing fights for fair wages, safer workplaces,
18 improved benefits and the right of all workers to
19 organize without fear of retaliation. These are
20 essential protections that workers deserve, and a
21 priority for this city council.

22 On September 2, we also celebrated the
23 Independence Day of Vietnam, and September 7 marked
24 Brazil Independence Day. The 15th marks the start of
25 Hispanic Heritage Month, when we uplift the

2 contributions and achievements of Latino communities
3 across the country. New York City is home to 2.5
4 million Latino residents of diverse backgrounds,
5 cultures, and traditions. We also recognize the
6 groundbreaking Latino leaders in this body who
7 continue to serve this city with passion and
8 dedication to their communities. I also want to wish
9 a Happy Independence Day to our Costa Rican,
10 Honduran, Salvadoran, and Guatemalan communities, who
11 are celebrating on September 15, as well as a happy
12 Mexican Independence Day on the 16th, Chile
13 Independence Day on the 18th, and Belize Independence
14 Day on the 21st.

15 September 17 marks the start of the mid-autumn
16 festival, a traditional festival celebrated in China
17 According to the lunar calendar. Countries across
18 Asia that also observe the lunar calendar are
19 celebrating their own holidays, including Chuseok,
20 which is South Korea's Thanksgiving, and Sukimi,
21 which is Japan's version of the mid-autumn festival.
22 Have a happy and healthy celebration. Somebody's
23 already started celebrating back there. Good for
24 you.

2 September is Suicide Prevention Month, as our
3 city continues to grapple with our mental health
4 crisis, it's important that New Yorkers know where to
5 go for support and treatment. As a council, we will
6 continue to work to secure the resources our
7 communities need. NYC Well counselors are available
8 24 by seven in over 200 languages. Know that you can
9 always call 888-NYC-WELL, or 988, the suicide and
10 crisis lifeline for help.

11 September is also national Sickle Cell Awareness
12 Month. Sickle cell disease is the most common
13 inherited blood disorder in the United States and
14 disproportionately affects African Americans. The
15 council has been active on this front, enacting
16 important legislation to create guidance to educate
17 medical professionals and the public on detecting and
18 managing sickle cell disease. Earlier this year, we
19 enacted a bill to require reporting on sickle cell
20 disease for DOE students so we can provide better
21 health outcomes for our students.

22 This Sunday is the 55th annual African American
23 Day Parade in Harlem. Please join us as we celebrate
24 the indelible contributions of our African American

2 community here in New York City and across our
3 country.

4 Finally, please join me in wishing a Happy
5 Birthday to Councilmember Camilla Hanks, whose
6 birthday was on the fourth [APPLAUSE], Councilmember
7 Gale Brewer, whose birthday was on the sixth, and
8 that's also the birthday of Tanisha Edwards
9 [APPLAUSE], Councilmember Sandra Ung who celebrated
10 on the ninth [APPLAUSE], and councilmember Jennifer
11 Gutiérrez, whose birthday is Sunday. [APPLAUSE]
12 Happy birthday.

13 Now let's move on to our stated agenda. First,
14 we'll vote on the following land use items. We are
15 approving three Landmark Preservation Commission
16 designations, the Heckscher Building, now the Crown
17 Building as a historic landmark and councilmember
18 powers district. The Heck Building is one of Fifth
19 Avenue's best-known and most visible early
20 skyscrapers. It is one of the earliest surviving
21 skyscrapers that was built to conform with the 1916
22 zoning resolution, which required higher stories of
23 tall buildings to taper increased light and air to
24 the street below.

2 The interior of the Temple Court Building Atrium,
3 now the Beekman Hotel, as a historic landmark and
4 councilmember Marte's district. The Atrium is a
5 unique, full-height, skylit atrium in the city's
6 earliest remaining tall, fireproof office building.
7 Restored in the 2016 conversion of the Temple Court
8 Building to the Beekman hotel. The Atrium boasts
9 eight levels of historic galleries and intricately
10 designed ironwork arch doors and windows.

11 The Frederick Douglass Memorial Park is a
12 historic landmark and Councilmember cars district.
13 Frederick Douglass Memorial Park is the city's only
14 existing nonsectarian cemetery built by and for
15 African Americans. Opened during a time of
16 widespread racial discrimination, this cemetery
17 provided dignified burials for African Americans as
18 an alternative to the substandard burials permitted
19 at colonial-era white-constructed cemeteries.

20 Next, we'll vote on the following finance items:
21 the transparency resolution approving new
22 designations and changes of certain organizations
23 receiving funding in the expense budget, a
24 preconsidered resolution sponsored by Councilmember
25 Justin Brannan, establishing a new 40-year Article

2 11, tax exemption for four buildings and
3 councilmember De La Rosa's district. Introduction
4 898, sponsored by Councilmembers Sandy Nurse and
5 Shaun Abreu, which would create the Cypress Hills
6 Fulton Business Improvement District. Introduction
7 906, sponsored by Councilmember Julie Won, which
8 would expand the existing Queens Plaza Court Square
9 Business Improvement District, and rename it the Long
10 Island City Business Improvement District.

11 Today, we will also vote on the following pieces
12 of legislation: Resolution 438 sponsored by
13 councilmember Gale Brewer, would recognize Landing
14 Day in the second week of September annually, to
15 commemorate the arrival of the first Jewish community
16 in New Amsterdam in 1654, and to celebrate the
17 continuing importance of the Jewish community in the
18 city of New York. Thank you to our staff member
19 Regina Paul.

20 Introduction 746-A sponsored by councilmember
21 Oswald Feliz, would require the Department of
22 Transportation, in collaboration with the Department
23 of Parks and Recreation and the Department of
24 Environmental Protection to improve paved medians by
25 planting vegetation or adding stormwater management

2 infrastructure. The bill would also require DOT to
3 report on its efforts to make such improvements. We
4 thank our staff member, Mark Chen.

5 Next, we will be voting on two bills that will
6 bolster support for fire emergency victims.
7 Introduction 89 sponsored by Councilmember Pierina
8 Sanchez, would require an agency designated by the
9 mayor to provide notice to councilmembers of certain
10 serious fires located within their districts. These
11 notifications would need to be sent within three
12 hours of the fire department's deployment to the
13 scene of the fire and contain specific information
14 relating to the incident. Thank you to our staff
15 members, David Seitzer, Josh Kingsley, and William
16 Hongach.

17 And Introduction 6-A, sponsored by Councilmember
18 Alexa Aviles, would require the Department of
19 Housing, Preservation, and Development in
20 consultation with the Fire Department and Department
21 of Buildings to develop procedures to ensure that
22 occupants of multiple dwellings receive relevant
23 information in connection with the issuance of
24 residential vacate orders following fires. This bill
25 would require HPD to designate a person on site to

2 distribute relevant materials to occupants of the
3 building, inform occupants of their rights and their
4 landlord's responsibilities, and provide information
5 in the designated citywide languages on where
6 occupants can find additional resources. Thank you
7 to our staff member, Taylor Zelony.

8 Finally, we will be voting on a package of bills
9 from the Committee on Civil and Human Rights to
10 acknowledge, study and address the legacy of slavery
11 and racial injustices that are a result, in New York
12 City. The legacy of slavery and systemic racism has
13 impacted all facets of our society today, from
14 housing and education to our physical, mental, and
15 economic health. It's important that our city not
16 just recognize these longstanding injustices
17 inflicted on black New Yorkers and communities, but
18 that we take steps to redress these harms through
19 potential remedies. As the first black speaker
20 leading the most diverse city council in our city's
21 history, we've been intentional about confronting
22 historic inequities perpetrated by systemic racism,
23 disinvestment, and policies. We've advanced
24 legislative solutions to create a more diverse
25 municipal workforce, address racial disparities in

2 maternal and birthing health, address
3 disproportionate harms related to public safety,
4 expand opportunities for MWBEs and much more. We've
5 also supported the work of the Racial Justice
6 Commission, the New York City Commission on racial
7 equity and policy changes it produced by voter
8 approval of ballot initiatives.

9 Today's package of legislation, which will be
10 coordinated with the New York State Community
11 Commission on reparations and remedies, marks the
12 next step to advancing racial justice and equity in
13 our city. It is what our city and communities
14 deserve. We need honesty and understanding the
15 historical legacy of slavery in New York City, and
16 its impact on New Yorkers, as well as a path towards
17 healing, reconciliation, and repair. This council is
18 proud to advance these efforts.

19 Introduction 833 a sponsored by Public Advocate
20 Jumaane Williams, would require the Department of
21 Transportation to facilitate the installation and
22 maintenance of an informational sign near the
23 intersection of Wall and Pearl streets in Manhattan
24 to mark the site of New York's first slave market.
25 Thank you to our staff member Jessica Boulay.

2 Introduction, 471 a sponsored by Councilmember
3 Natasha Williams, would establish a task force to
4 consider the creation of a citywide New York City
5 Freedom Trail and a lower Manhattan Freedom Trail.
6 The task force would be required to submit a report
7 of its recommendations to the mayor and council no
8 later than one year after the task force is first
9 convened. Thank you to our staff members Declan
10 McPherson and Jessica Boulet.

11 Introduction 279-A sponsored by Councilmember
12 Farrah Louis, would require CORE to work with subject
13 matter experts to study the historical and present-
14 day role of New York City government in perpetrating
15 or perpetuating slavery and related racial injustices
16 and to consider reparative measures for such
17 injustices. The reparations study would document the
18 harms of slavery and its legacies in the city,
19 identify associated rights violations and recommend
20 potential legal, policy, and other measures to help
21 remedy or redress associated harms. The study would
22 also propose eligibility criteria for receiving
23 reparations. CORE would coordinate with the New York
24 State Community Commission on reparations remedies.

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2 Thank you to our staff members, Jessica Boulay and
3 William D'Ory.

4 And introduction 242-A sponsored by Councilmember
5 Crystal Hudson, would require the Commission on
6 Racial Equity or CORE, to establish a truth healing
7 and reconciliation process in connection with the
8 city's historic involvement in slavery and its
9 present day legacies. The objectives would be to
10 establish facts about slavery in New York City and
11 its ongoing legacies, protect and acknowledge
12 affected persons and communities, and recommend
13 changes for government and institutions to prevent
14 recurrence and perpetuation of harm. Thank you to our
15 staff members, Jessica Boulet and Wiam Diori.

16 Thank you for your attention. Now I turn it back
17 over to our Majority Leader.

18 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Thank you Speaker Adams.
19 We will now move into discussion of general orders.
20 I'd like to recognize Councilmember Louis, followed
21 by Hudson, then Sanchez.

22 COUNCILMEMBER LOUIS: Thank you, Madam Majority
23 Leader and good afternoon colleagues. Today marks a
24 pivotal moment in our city's history with the passage
25 of Intro 279, a bill that mandates a comprehensive

2 study on reparations as part of a major legislative
3 package with my colleagues, Councilmember Williams
4 and Hudson, related to slavery and its enduring
5 legacies in our city.

6 Throughout my tenure in the city council, we have
7 heard countless testimonies revealing the ongoing
8 impacts of persistent disparities affecting our black
9 and brown residents. Past harms continue to resonate
10 today, manifesting in systemic inequalities that
11 disadvantage black and brown people, especially black
12 and brown women in both public and private sectors.

13 The reparations movement is often misunderstood
14 as merely a call for compensation, but it is far more
15 than that, enslavement and its aftermath evolved into
16 systemic forms of oppression that continue to impact
17 lives today, including redlining, environmental
18 racism, and underfunded services in predominantly
19 black neighborhoods.

20 With Intro 279 we are taking a bold step to
21 confront These issues head on. The study conducted
22 by CORE in consultation with the Mayor's Office of
23 Equity and Racial Justice, as well as the New York
24 State Commission on reparations will document and
25 quantify the impacts of enslavement, oppression, and

2 discrimination and recommend concrete reparative
3 measures.

4 This is not just an acknowledgment of the past,
5 it is about rectifying the present and building a
6 better future.

7 I want to thank Speaker Adams, Committee Council
8 Jessica Boulet for their support, as well as Linda
9 Tijani from CORE, Councilmember Williams, also Chair
10 Williams for her leadership to get this bill to the
11 finish line.

12 Let this be a call to action for us all to
13 continue to fight for justice and equity together. I
14 encourage my colleagues to vote for intro 279, 242,
15 471-A, and 833-A. Thank you.

16 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: I'd like to recognize
17 Councilmember Hudson, followed by Sanchez and then
18 Public Advocate Williams.

19 COUNCILMEMBER HUDSON: Thank you. And just
20 before I get into my formal remarks, I just want to
21 acknowledge the passing of Denzel Chan, who was a
22 constituent of Councilmember Louis, but was very
23 unfortunately--

2 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Councilmember, that
3 portion should be spoken about during general
4 discussion.

5 COUNCILMEMBER HUDSON: Okay, I'll just go to my--

6 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Thank you.

7 COUNCILMEMBER HUDSON: --remarks. Thank you.

8 Good afternoon, and thank you for the opportunity to
9 speak on intro 242-A, which the council is voting on
10 today.

11 It should be no surprise that our city is still
12 reckoning with the long shadow cast by the
13 enslavement of African and indigenous American people
14 and its enduring impact on black Americans. Since
15 slavery was banned in New York in 1827, our city
16 still generated significant income from the illegal
17 trade of enslaved people, and black New Yorkers
18 continue to experience racially motivated
19 discrimination, riots, segregation and violence, and
20 these practices continue to this day.

21 Black New Yorkers are eight times more likely to
22 be stopped by the police under suspicion of a crime
23 because of nothing more than the color of their skin.
24 Black homeowners in previously redlined neighborhoods
25 are preyed upon by real estate speculators looking to

2 trick them into signing away their homes, commonly
3 known as deed theft.

4 New York City must confront these injustices head
5 on and prioritize the needs of its black residents to
6 forge a path toward genuine equity and healing. My
7 Black Agenda for New York City, originally published
8 in 2021 includes a comprehensive citywide truth,
9 healing, and reconciliation process to acknowledge
10 the breadth of the historical mistreatment of black
11 New Yorkers and confront the city's racist practices.

12 I'm proud that the passage of intro 242-A will
13 make this a reality, and by passing 242-A alongside
14 intro 279-A, introduced by councilmembers Lewis and
15 Williams and a number of other bills, the city
16 council underscores its commitment to confronting and
17 acknowledging the destructive racist policies that
18 have harmed black communities.

19 I look forward to continuing to work alongside my
20 colleagues in the council to dismantle the
21 generations of systemic and structural anti-black
22 racism ingrained in our city, and I urge all my
23 colleagues to vote aye. Thank you.

24 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: I'd like to recognize
25 councilmember Sanchez.

2 COUNCILMEMBER SANCHEZ: Thank you, Madam Majority
3 Leader. Displacement following a fire or structural
4 emergency in your home is one of the most disruptive
5 experiences a family can have. Imagine running for
6 your life, barely remembering to grab shoes, probably
7 insufficient clothing, and certainly not identifying
8 information in your wallet, only to stand or sit on
9 your sidewalk for hours looking up, not being sure
10 what is next.

11 This happens over 2000 times per year across the
12 city of New York. In New York City, we thankfully
13 have some processes designed to help New Yorkers
14 through these destabilizing times. Gratitude, first
15 to our first responders who risk their lives to pull
16 us out of fires and emergency conditions, the
17 American Red Cross, per contract with HPD, who visits
18 Fire and other emergency sites to help residents with
19 emergency shelter and provisions in certain
20 circumstances, and our agencies from Emergency
21 Management to Buildings to Housing Preservation and
22 FDNY, again, who each have different roles to ensure
23 buildings are safe and that there is some degree of
24 interagency coordination.

2 Yet for all that New Yorkers have, we can and
3 must do better. On dozens of occasions, my office,
4 me, myself, have visited fire sites. We all have, as
5 colleagues, discovering issues: Buildings or HPD
6 didn't issue a vacate order where they should have,
7 apartments being dwelled in with no windows in the
8 middle of winter, as an example, American Red Cross
9 not being notified, and residents left in limbo.

10 And that brings me to Intro 89. Intro 89 would
11 provide councilmembers and other key public
12 officials, including community boards, with
13 notifications when a fire occurs in their district
14 within three hours of FDNY initial response. This is
15 important because we're creating infrastructure to
16 stabilize New Yorkers and their families after a fire
17 event that is redundant and that gives us the
18 opportunity to catch any mistakes or any gaps that
19 were left behind by agencies.

20 This is personal for me, as my own family was
21 displaced in a fire when I was just three years old,
22 left with nowhere to go and no one to turn to, except
23 for the flames of what had been her home. I hope you
24 join me in voting aye. Thank you.

2 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: I'd now like to
3 recognize Public Advocate Williams, followed by
4 Councilmember Williams, followed by De La Rosa.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you so much, and
6 thanks so much to Speaker Adams, Chair Williams, and
7 members of the council for allowing me the
8 opportunity to speak in support of this bill.

9 During today's stated meeting, I am asking my
10 colleagues to support my bill. Intro 833-A, which
11 would ensure that a sign is placed at Pearl and Wall
12 Street, the location of the first slave trade in
13 1711. The sign will also include an inscription that
14 describes the role of the slave market in the city's
15 economy, the role of the city's government in
16 establishing the market, and the use of the market in
17 the sale of African and indigenous persons.

18 I first introduced this bill in 2014 when I was a
19 member in this body, but the legislation never came
20 to a vote. The administration at the time placed a
21 sign in Manhattan Park on the corner of Wall and
22 Water Street.

23 It has been 10 years since it was installed, and
24 while I'm grateful that a sign was placed conveying
25 our history, it is not at the current location. In

2 2022 two of my staffers went to the intersection of
3 water and Wall Street to see the sign. They
4 encountered a senior citizen standing in front of the
5 place they were told when they saw a documentary on
6 the New York slave trade on Manhattan Neighborhood
7 Network. She went searching for the sign on three
8 separate occasions and found it that day. She had
9 been looking at the correct location where there was
10 no sign.

11 The wealth of America was born from the violence
12 and greed of human chattel slavery. The Emancipation
13 Proclamation, along with the passage of the 13th
14 Amendment in 1865 began to dismantle the institution
15 of chattel slavery in America. But inequity and
16 resources hardly ended there. From the adoption of a
17 black hole during reconstruction to the
18 implementation of Jim Crow laws to the fight against
19 a living minimum wage, we can directly see the ways
20 this violence and deliberate exclusion from economic
21 safety has provided prosperity to our city today.

22 At this very moment, Louisiana, New Hampshire,
23 and Tennessee and others introduced legislation to
24 not teach this history. It is critical that people
25 see the connection between what is happening today

2 and what happened at this market. Enslaved Africans
3 were emancipated on paper, but shared no part of the
4 wealth land and the institutions their labor had
5 financed and created. These structures have never
6 been adequately addressed.

7 We sometimes talk about the enslavement in
8 America as just part of our past, but communities
9 still feel the crippling generational effects of the
10 brutal violence that built the wealth of the
11 financial institutions located on Wall Street.

12 Passing legislation will allow this city, to
13 acknowledge enslaved men, women, and children and pay
14 our respects to their descendants.

15 I would like to thank those who worked on the
16 bill, Kay Bain, my legislative director in 2014, and
17 the historian Christopher Cobbs, who's present here
18 today, who brought to my attention and my staff.

19 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Public Advocate, your
20 time has expired.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Can I ask to sign on
22 to intro 279, 242, and 248 as well.

23 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Thank you, Public
24 Advocate. I'd now like to recognize Councilmember
25 Williams, followed by De La Rosa, Avilés, and Feliz.

2 COUNCILMEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you so much,
3 Majority Leader. Good afternoon, everyone. I'm
4 filled with a profound sense of pride and purpose in
5 this Juneteenth package of bills. We already passed
6 two. Today, we are passing four, and we have one
7 more left to go.

8 These bills were designed to honor the legacy of
9 those who fought for freedom and continue the crucial
10 work of rectifying historical injustices and
11 empowering affected communities through much-needed
12 restitution. This momentous legislative effort
13 demonstrates the New York City Council's commitment
14 to addressing systematic racism and working toward
15 lasting justice for all. We gather, not to just
16 discuss legislation, but to address a shared
17 commitment, a commitment to truth, to justice and to
18 healing.

19 The bills we are here to support are about much
20 more than politics. They are about recognizing our
21 history, understanding its deep and lasting impacts,
22 and working together to chart a pathway forward.

23 For over 200 years, the city of New York, like so
24 much of this country, was built on the backs of
25 enslaved Africans and indigenous peoples. It is an

2 ugly truth, one that for too long, many have been
3 hesitant to confront, but today, through the actions
4 of the New York City Council under the leadership of
5 speaker Adrienne Adams, we are taking steps to
6 confront this history head on. Four pieces of
7 legislation, truth, healing and reconciliation
8 process, a study of reparations, a Freedom Trail Task
9 Force, and the marker at the site of New York's first
10 slave market.

11 Each of these pieces of legislation is a
12 reflection of the values we hold dear: justice,
13 equity and community.

14 In my very short time that I have left here, I
15 just want to thank The Administration, Linda Tigani,
16 chair and executive director of the Commission on
17 Racial Equity, Andrea, Jeff, Jessica, William, my
18 staff, for their tireless efforts.

19 And as we leave here today, I encourage each of
20 you to take the lessons from these bills into your
21 own communities, speak the truth, engage in the hard
22 conversations, and remember that healing is a
23 journey, and it's a journey we are on together.
24 Thank you.

2 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: I'd like to recognize
3 councilmember De La Rosa, followed by Avilés, and
4 then Feliz.

5 COUNCILMEMBER DE LA ROSA: Thank you so much,
6 Majority Leader. I'd like to take the opportunity to
7 thank Speaker Adams, Finance Chair Justin Brannan,
8 the Land Use staff as well as the Finance staff, and
9 ask my colleagues to support preconsidered Land Use
10 Item 142 and the accompanying resolution 570. Given
11 the ongoing housing crisis and the increasing need
12 for affordable housing and the preservation of
13 affordable housing, we are pleased today to advance
14 an Article 11 process for the Rachel Bridge HDFC
15 buildings in my district, 960 units of housing that
16 will be preserved for an additional 40 years. This
17 initiative will involve maintaining an open line of
18 communications with tenants and management. I'm
19 specifically proud of the work that my team has done
20 as we held a Community Town Hall on this particular
21 item to ensure that tenants voices were heard.

22 This Article 11 process will provide tax
23 incentives for the rehabilitation of the Rachel
24 Bridge Apartments and ensure that residents can
25 remain in rent-stabilized units.

2 This Article 11 will provide for the Rachel
3 Bridge to do rehab work that is needed on vacant
4 units. But in addition, it will set aside 96 units,
5 10% of the units to be set aside for formerly
6 homeless tenants, and the tiers of AMI are, in my
7 opinion, in line with the affordability needs of my
8 district. The scope of work that we will provide for
9 this Article 11 will include facade repair, window
10 replacements, balcony railing repairs, and much more,
11 including an assessment of the aging tenant
12 population in these units that will be able to have
13 accommodations made for them.

14 If not with this Article 11, it would be
15 basically impossible to maintain this large
16 development in my district. And I want to thank the
17 council staff for their hard work on this, HPD, as
18 well as the management company for coming to the
19 table for our community. I ask my colleagues to
20 support it. Thank you,

21 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Recognizing
22 Councilmember Avilés, followed by Feliz.

23 COUNCILMEMBER AVILÉS: First, I'd like to start
24 by thanking the speaker, Chair Sanchez, legislative
25 staff, HPD, for their work on Intro 6.

2 This legislation is especially important to me
3 because it comes directly from the lived experience
4 of residents in my district who have been impacted by
5 fires, many of whom are non-English speaking.

6 Unfortunately for this vulnerable population
7 experience, experiencing a fire while already
8 traumatizing experience may prove doubly challenging.
9 In some cases, families are being prevented from
10 returning to their apartments by their landlord, and
11 are unaware of their right to return to apartments,
12 leaving some reassigned to complete displacement
13 and/or loss of their possessions.

14 This bill, Intro 6, will close the information
15 gap through a very simple education process, which
16 would be available in the top-10 most commonly spoken
17 languages in our city, allowing families and New
18 Yorkers to have a better chance at recouping their
19 livelihood in the aftermath of a devastating fire.

20 This is one of many steps to come that we are
21 moving in the right direction to continuously and
22 comprehensively protect and support New Yorkers who
23 are experiencing such a trauma. We have much more
24 work to do.

2 I want to thank my staff member, Christina
3 Botego, and all my colleagues for your support on
4 this legislation and for supporting New Yorkers
5 across the city in dealing with the trauma of
6 experiencing fires and displacement. Thank you.

7 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Recognizing
8 Councilmember Feliz.

9 COUNCILMEMBER FELIZ: Thank you, Majority Leader.
10 I'm very proud of the many bills that we're passing
11 today, including my bill, Operation Green NYC, a bill
12 which will make New York City greener and will help
13 resolve challenges that we have by requiring that
14 paved street medians be converted into green
15 infrastructure, including trees, vegetation, and
16 other stormwater infrastructure.

17 This beautification will easily achieve millions
18 of benefits in the communities that need them the
19 most, including helping clean out the air that we
20 breathe, including improving quality of life by
21 reducing noise pollution, beautifying communities to
22 making them more attractive for those that live
23 there, work there, shop there, improving mental
24 health, and even helping us prepare for the

2 environmental threats that we face, including those
3 related to flooding.

4 Unfortunately, low-income communities have had
5 the least amount of access to green spaces, spaces
6 that are important to our mental and physical well
7 being. You can easily see the Tale of Two Cities
8 idea by just looking at our medians. When I drive
9 around wealthy communities, generally, the medians
10 are so improved that no more green would fit in them.

11 When I get back to the Bronx or other low-income
12 areas, generally, these street medians have nothing
13 but asphalt. A lack of greenery has been harmful to
14 our communities. There's a region in the South Bronx
15 that's called asthma alley. That's how much air
16 pollution there is due to many reasons, including the
17 lack of green.

18 We need to tackle this issue through every angle
19 possible, including by greenifying our city. We need
20 to make sure that we create communities that work for
21 everybody.

22 I want to thank Speaker Adams for helping get
23 this bill to the finish line. Also want to thank all
24 colleagues, including the prime co-sponsors,
25 Councilmembers Krishnan, Avilés, Nurse, Banks, and

2 Restler. I look forward to seeing all the positive
3 results that it's going to bring to the city of New
4 York. We're not only asking for equity. We've been
5 asking for equity for a long time. We're requiring
6 equity. Thank you so much.

7 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Seeing no one else
8 signed up, I'd like to recognize Councilmember
9 Gennaro.

10 COUNCILMEMBER GENNARO: Thank you, Madam Majority
11 Leader. I just want to speak on Intro 242-A, 279,
12 471, and 833. I just want to go back to what the
13 voters did in 2022 when they approved by a margin by
14 ballot referendum of 70 to 30, the creation of the
15 Commission on Racial Equality.

16 This is what it said: There should be
17 established a Commission on Racial Equity-- Oh no,
18 it's the Commission on Racial Equity. There should
19 be established Commission on Racial Equity, the
20 purpose of which is to enable community members with
21 equity experience, or lived experience relevant to
22 the goal of equity, to propose priorities for racial
23 equity in city decision making and policy and assess
24 performance towards those priorities.

2 Very nice, but a little bit-- a little bit vague,
3 quite frankly. And so-- so the council comes along,
4 as it well should, to give more context and texture
5 and to really drill down on what the voters voted
6 for, overwhelmingly, in 2002.

7 To me, this is what these bills represent. No
8 one should be afraid of a conversation. No one
9 should be afraid of a of a dialogue, you know, a
10 colloquy, a diverse commission, or diverse task force
11 that'll work very closely with CORE. We have our own
12 Pesach Osina, who is one of the commissioners for
13 CORE. So, this is a very, you know, diverse group of
14 people that are going to look at something that
15 desperately needs to be looked at. And I support
16 these bills, and this is what the people asked for
17 very appropriately in 2002.

18 We're delivering on that. We're making it
19 better. We're taking this, expanding it, giving it
20 more context and texture. And I thank the speaker
21 and everyone involved in bringing this forward. So,
22 thank you very much.

23 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Thank you. Seeing no
24 one else signed up to speak...

25 Report of special committees?

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2 CLERK: None.

3 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Reports of standing
4 committees.

5 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Civil and
6 Human Rights, Intros 242-A and 279-A, a Study Of
7 Reparations and Reconciliation In Relation To
8 Slavery.

9 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and coupled on general
10 orders.

11 CLERK: Intro 471A, Freedom Trail Task Force.

12 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and coupled on general
13 orders.

14 CLERK: Intro 833, an informational sign near New
15 York's first slave market.

16 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and coupled on general
17 orders.

18 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Finance,
19 Intros 898 and 906, Business Improvement Districts

20 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on general orders.

21 CLERK: Preconsidered Reso 559, organization
22 funding.

23 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on general orders.

24 CLERK: Preconsidered LU 142, and Reso 570, tax
25 exemption.

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2 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on general orders.

3 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Fire and
4 Emergency Management, Intro 89-A fire department
5 notifications.

6 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and coupled on general
7 orders.

8 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Housing and
9 Buildings, Intro 6-A, a residential vacate orders.

10 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and coupled on general
11 orders.

12 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land Use, LU
13 108 and Reso 571 through LU 131 and Reso 573,
14 landmark designation.

15 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and coupled on general
16 orders.

17 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Transportation
18 and Infrastructure, Intro 346, pedestrian crossing
19 guidelines.

20 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and laid over.

21 CLERK: Intro 746-A, stormwater management.

22 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and coupled on general
23 orders.

24 CLERK: General orders calendar, resolution
25 appointing various persons, Commissioner Of Deeds.

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2 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and coupled on general
3 orders.

4 I now ask that the clerk take a roll call vote on
5 the items coupled on today's general orders calendar.

6 CLERK: Abreu?

7 COUNCILMEMBER ABREU: Aye.

8 CLERK: Ariola?

9 COUNCILMEMBER ARIOLA: I'd like to disclose for
10 the record, through the Transparency Resolution, that
11 my son works for DSNY, and my grandson attends CUNY.
12 I am a no on 242-A, 279-A, and 746-A, and aye on all
13 the rest. Thank you.

14 CLERK: Avilés?

15 COUNCILMEMBER AVILÉS: Aye.

16 CLERK: Ayala?

17 COUNCILMEMBER AYALA: Aye.

18 CLERK: Thank you, one moment. Banks?

19 COUNCILMEMBER BANKS: Aye on all.

20 CLERK: Bottcher?

21 COUNCILMEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye.

22 CLERK: Brannan?

23 COUNCILMEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.

24 CLERK: Brewer?

25 COUNCILMEMBER BREWER: Aye.

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2 CLERK: Cabán?

3 COUNCILMEMBER CABÁN:

4 CLERK: Carr?

5 COUNCILMEMBER CARR: I'd like to disclose on the
6 record that we're funding the Jewish Community Center
7 Staten Island in this transparency resolution, and I
8 am a member of that organization, and I vote no on
9 Introductions 242-A, 279-A, and 746-A. Aye on the
10 rest.

11 CLERK: De La Rosa?

12 COUNCILMEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye.

13 CLERK: Dinowitz?

14 COUNCILMEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye on all.

15 CLERK: Feliz?

16 COUNCILMEMBER FELIZ: Aye on all.

17 Congratulations, everyone.

18 CLERK: Gennaro?

19 COUNCILMEMBER GENNARO: Pardon me. I was talking
20 to my staff. I vote aye.

21 CLERK: Gutiérrez?

22 COUNCILMEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye.

23 CLERK: Hanif?

24 COUNCILMEMBER HANIF: Aye.

25 CLERK: Hanks?

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2 CLERK: Holden?

3 COUNCILMEMBER HOLDEN: Aye on all, except for
4 Intro 742-A and 279-A, which I vote no.

5 CLERK: Hudson?

6 COUNCILMEMBER HUDSON: Aye on all. Thank you.

7 CLERK: Joseph?

8 COUNCILMEMBER JOSEPH: Aye on all.

9 CLERK: Krishnan?

10 COUNCILMEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye.

11 CLERK: Lee?

12 COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aye on all.

13 CLERK: Louis?

14 COUNCILMEMBER LOUIS: Aye on all.

15 CLERK: Thank you. One moment. Marmorato?

16 COUNCILMEMBER MARMORATO: I vote aye on all with
17 the exception of 242-A, 279-A, and 746-A, I vote no.

18 CLERK: Thank you. Marte?

19 COUNCILMEMBER MARTE: I vote aye.

20 CLERK: Mealy?

21 COUNCILMEMBER MEALY: May have permission to vote
22 on today's land use callups?

23 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Permission granted.

24 COUNCILMEMBER MEALY: I vote aye on all. Thank
25 you.

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2 CLERK: Thank you. Menin?

3 COUNCILMEMBER MENIN: Aye.

4 CLERK: Moya?

5 COUNCILMEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

6 CLERK: Thank you. Narcisse?

7 COUNCILMEMBER NARCISSE: I vote aye on all. And
8 congratulations for the three bills.

9 CLERK: Thank you, Councilmember. Nurse?

10 COUNCILMEMBER NURSE: Permission to explain my
11 vote?

12 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Permission granted.

13 COUNCILMEMBER NURSE: Thank you Majority Leader.

14 I just wanted to say how proud I am today to cast my
15 vote in support of Intro 898, which will formally
16 establish the Cypress Hills Fulton Business
17 Improvement District. This legislation is a result
18 of four years of really, really hard work, and it's a
19 real rare startup in that it was founded by-- truly
20 by grassroots effort with small businesses and
21 merchants, and I'm just really eager and excited to
22 work together to achieve the BID's vision to improve
23 pedestrian safety, beautify the commercial corridor,
24 and support local businesses in their day-to-day
25 operations. I just want to commend the Cypress Hills

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2 Local Development Corporation, and above all the
3 merchants, some of whom might be here today for their
4 tireless efforts in reaching this milestone. And
5 with that, I vote I on all.

6 CLERK: Thank you. Councilmember Hanif?

7 COUNCILMEMBER HANIF: I'd like to disclose on the
8 record that my spouse is affiliated with the United
9 Way of New York City, which is being funded in this
10 transparency resolution.

11 CLERK: Thank you. Ossé?

12 COUNCILMEMBER OSSÉ: Aye on all.

13 CLERK: Paladino?

14 COUNCILMEMBER PALADINO: I vote aye on all except
15 for 242-A, 279-A, and Intro 746A. Thank you.

16 CLERK: Powers?

17 CLERK: Restler?

18 COUNCILMEMBER RESTLER: Aye.

19 CLERK: Riley?

20 COUNCILMEMBER RILEY: I just want to state for
21 the record for the transparency resolution that my
22 children go to a DOE school. And I vote aye on all.
23 Thank you.

24 CLERK: Thank you. Rivera.

25 CLERK: Salaam?

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2 COUNCILMEMBER SALAAM: Aye on all.

3 CLERK: Salamanca?

4 COUNCILMEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

5 CLERK: Sanchez?

6 COUNCILMEMBER SANCHEZ: I'd like to disclose on
7 the record that my sibling works at CUNY BMCC, and I
8 vote aye.

9 CLERK: Thank you. Schulman?

10 COUNCILMEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye.

11 CLERK: Stevens?

12 COUNCILMEMBER STEVENS: Majority Leader, I ask
13 for permission to vote on land use items callups?

14 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Permission granted.

15 COUNCILMEMBER STEVENS: Aye on all.

16 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Thank you.

17 CLERK: Ung?

18 COUNCILMEMBER UNG: Aye on all.

19 CLERK: Vernikov? We'll come back.

20 CLERK: Williams?

21 COUNCILMEMBER WILLIAMS: Permission, to explain
22 my vote?

23 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Permission granted. I
24 am so excited to vote aye on all, and I want to thank
25 all of my colleagues for your votes and much thanks

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2 to the bill sponsors, and again to the staff. And
3 also want to thank even my colleagues across the
4 aisle who voted on-- have been voting on two out of
5 the four of the Juneteenth package. Thank you.

6 CLERK: Thank you. Won?

7 COUNCILMEMBER WON: Aye on all.

8 CLERK: Yeger?

9 COUNCILMEMBER YEGER: Aye on all with the
10 exception of Intros 242, 279, 898, and 906.

11 CLERK: Thank you. One moment.

12 CLERK: Zhuang?

13 COUNCILMEMBER ZHUANG: I vote aye on all. And
14 also, I want to just close on the record my kids go
15 to GCH Bensonhurst after-school program.

16 CLERK: Thank you. Borelli.

17 MINORITY LEADER BORELLI: Permission to vote on
18 all land use callups?

19 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Permission granted.

20 MINORITY LEADER BORELLI: I vote aye on all
21 except 242-A, 279-A, and 746-A. Thank you.

22 CLERK: Vernikov?

23 COUNCILMEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye on all, except no on
24 242-A, 279-A, and 746-A. Thank you.

25 CLERK: Thank you. Fariás

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2 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: I vote aye on all.

3 CLERK: Speaker Adams?

4 SPEAKER ADAMS: Aye on all.

5 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: All items on today's
6 general order calendar are adopted by a vote of 49 in
7 the affirmative, 0 in the negative and 0 abstentions,
8 with the exception of Introduction 242-A, which was
9 adopted by a vote of 41 in the affirmative, 8 in the
10 negative and 0 abstentions, and Introduction 279-A,
11 which was adopted by a vote of 40 in the affirmative,
12 9 in the negative and 0 abstentions, and Introduction
13 746-A, which was adopted by a vote of 43 in the
14 affirmative, 6 in the negative and 0 abstentions, and
15 Intros 898 and 906, which was adopted by 48 in the
16 affirmative, 1 in the negative and 0 abstentions.
17 The revised land use call up vote is 48 in the
18 affirmative and 0 in the negative.

19 Introduction and reading of bills.

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

22 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Thank you. We will now
23 move into the discussion of resolutions, and I'd like
24 to recognize Councilmember Brewer.

25

2 COUNCILMEMBER BREWER: Thank you very much. I'm
3 talking about 438, Landing Day. It calls on the
4 council to recognize Landing Day every September to
5 commemorate the 23 Sephardic Jews who arrived in
6 1654. They were preceded one month prior by three
7 Ashkenazi Jews, and they formed the first Jewish
8 community in North America.

9 The week of September 7, 1654, a few days before.
10 Rosh Hashanah, this group landed near the southern
11 tip of the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam. 370 years
12 later, New York is home to 1.6 million Jews. The
13 landing is marked by a monument and a Flagstaff, and
14 it is placed in the Peter Minuit Plaza by the State
15 of New York.

16 This year, events were held for months across New
17 York and the US to celebrate, but in decades in the
18 past, there have only been a few gatherings at the
19 site.

20 Ruth Messinger wrote it's a great resolution, and
21 she pointed out that there were among this group that
22 came at the time I just indicated, they were saved by
23 being allowed to stay because a Dutch East India
24 Company overrode the antisemitic position of Governor
25 Peter Stuyvesant.

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2 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Councilmember, your time
3 has expired.

4 COUNCILMEMBER BREWER: Thank you very much.

5 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Thank you. Seeing no
6 one else signed up to speak, we will now have a voice
7 vote on today's resolution. If you wish to vote
8 against or abstain from today's resolution, please
9 notify the legislative documents unit by email or by
10 approaching the dais.

11 I'll now read today's resolution into the record.
12 Resolution 438 recognizes Landing Day in the second
13 week of September annually to commemorate the arrival
14 of the first Jewish community in New Amsterdam in
15 1654, and to celebrate the continuing importance of
16 the Jewish community in the city of New York.

17 Will all those in favor say Aye?

18 VOICES: Aye.

19 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: All opposed say nay?

20 Any abstentions?

21 The ayes have it. We will now move into general
22 discussion.

23 I'd like to recognize Councilmember Ariola,
24 followed by Hudson, then Nurse.

25

2 COUNCILMEMBER ARIOLA: Thank you, Madam Majority
3 Leader. Today I'm introducing a bill which will
4 greatly enhance safety across this city. Intro 1015
5 would prohibit the wearing of ski masks in public
6 places, thus depriving any criminal of anonymity that
7 all-too-often emboldens them to act and commit crimes
8 without the ability of identifying them.

9 The term ski mask for this bill is ident is
10 defined as a close fitting garment covering the whole
11 head and face with holes for eyes, mouth, or nose, or
12 any combination of the three. Already we've seen
13 similar legislation passed by our neighbors in
14 Philadelphia. The bills just like the ones that are
15 being considered in cities throughout our country,
16 are very similar as well.

17 Through this legislation, we can work towards
18 making New York City a safer place for all residents.
19 That's why I urge all my colleagues to join me in
20 signing on to Intro 1015. I'd like to thank Pauline
21 Cernik of the legislative division and my
22 incomparable Chief of Staff Phyllis Incivilo, for
23 their hard work in crafting this bill. Thank you.

2 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Recognizing
3 Councilmember Hudson, followed by Nurse and then
4 Sanchez.

5 COUNCILMEMBER HUDSON: Thank you. And I'd like
6 to apologize for speaking out of turn earlier. It
7 just didn't feel right to say anything without
8 acknowledging first the passing of Denzel Chan, who
9 was killed in my district on Labor Day, along with
10 four other people who were shot. And he was a
11 constituent of Councilmember Louis's, and we both
12 attended his viewing. And so just wanted to send my
13 condolences again to his family and friends.

14 I'd also like to quickly highlight three of the
15 six bills I'm introducing today, all six bills are
16 great, but we've been here a little while, and I only
17 have two minutes. Well, just a minute and a half.

18 Intro 1028 will require DSS to establish a system
19 to automatically enroll eligible individuals in city
20 benefits programs like Fair Fares NYC by using
21 existing records such as tax and social services
22 data, thus eliminating the need for cumbersome
23 applications.

24 The second, Intro 1026, would address concerns
25 that correction officers are canceling video visits

2 by falsely claiming incarcerated people are rejecting
3 the visits by requiring more detailed record keeping
4 for jail visits. And the bill would mandate the
5 Department of Correction to report separately on in-
6 person and video visits and provide more thorough
7 explanations for any canceled visits.

8 And third, Intro 1027 aims to reduce the
9 dehumanization of trans and gender nonconforming
10 people in city jails by requiring the Department of
11 Correction to create a process for people in custody
12 to obtain gender affirming items like hair
13 extensions, chest binders, prosthetics and medical
14 devices that support their self-identified gender.
15 The bill also ensures that Department Of Corrections
16 staff have access to these gender-affirming items and
17 medical devices while on duty to match their own
18 self-identified gender.

19 It's already received a glowing endorsement from
20 the New York Post. [LAUGHTER] So you know, it's a
21 great bill, and I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor
22 these bills, and the three others I've introduced
23 today. Thank you.

24

25

2 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Recognizing
3 Councilmember Nurse followed by Sanchez and then
4 Hanif.

5 COUNCILMEMBER NURSE: Thank you Majority Leader.
6 Today, I'm putting forth four bills that I hope you
7 all will consider co-sponsoring.

8 Intro 1036 calls for the Department of Correction
9 to report on people in city custody who have been
10 ordered to undergo a mental health exam. It's
11 estimated that 40% of people in custody have severe
12 mental illnesses, and we need to continue to get more
13 accurate data in order to better address mental
14 health appropriately.

15 Intro 1035 calls for a study of the potential use
16 of lower strength pepper sprays in DOC facilities.
17 This is based on the board of correction
18 recommendations, and this would explore how we can
19 maintain a balance between quickly de-escalating
20 situations while reducing harm to those with poor
21 respiratory health.

22 Intro 1038 would call on the city to produce a
23 detailed master plan for developing the wastewater
24 recovery facility and renewable energy production,
25 storage, and distribution on Rikers Island. The

2 recent studies show Renewable Rikers is viable, and
3 now we need a concrete plan to get there.

4 And then lastly, Intro 1037 is really a simple
5 awareness measure to bring transparency within rent
6 stabilized buildings. It would require landlords who
7 have any rent stabilized units in their buildings to
8 post a sign that says this building has rent
9 stabilized units. This bill will further empower our
10 city's tenants and protect our rent-stabilized
11 housing stock. Thank you for your time and hope for
12 your support on moving these bills forward. Thank
13 you Majority Leader.

14 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Thank you. Recognizing
15 councilmember Sanchez, followed by Hanif, and
16 Narcisse.

17 COUNCILMEMBER SANCHEZ: Thank you, Majority
18 Leader. One year ago, Nicolas Felice Dominici made
19 international news in the worst of ways in our
20 community. This one-year-old baby died in his
21 daycare following exposure to fentanyl. In his
22 memory, I'm introducing a package of bills today that
23 I hope you will support, and as I've become so close
24 with this family, I speak today on their behalf to
25 invite my colleagues and members of the public to

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2 support the Feliz-Dominici family this Sunday, as we
3 remember Nicholas through a street renaming on
4 Kingsbridge road and Kingsbridge terrace at 5 p.m.
5 and a memorial mass.

6 The bills I hope you will join me in CO
7 sponsoring are Intro 1041 which is an outreach
8 campaign to inform parents about their rights, like
9 the fact that you can enter a daycare at any time to
10 see how your child is doing, Intro 1042 which
11 requires reporting on the training for child care
12 inspectors, 1043, which is an outreach campaign,
13 notifying public health sanitarians and teaching
14 staff of child care programs on overdose prevention
15 and reversal training, and resolution 563, which I'm
16 proud to have worked with my state overlapping
17 elected officials, Senator Gustavo Rivera and
18 Assembly Member, George Alvarez, which is a bill that
19 would develop training for child care facility
20 inspectors on controlled substances, educate child
21 care providers on overdose prevention and increase
22 transparency for parents.

23 That's-- That's it. I hope you can join me.

24 Thank you.

25

2 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Thank you Councilmember.
3 I'd like to recognize Councilmembers Hanif followed
4 by Narcisse, then Gutiérrez.

5 COUNCILMEMBER HANIF: Thank you, Majority Leader.
6 23 years and one day after the September 11 attacks,
7 I want to honor the nearly 3,000 lives tragically
8 lost on that day. We also hold our thoughts for the
9 over 10,000 first responders and New Yorkers who
10 develop long-term illnesses in the aftermath of the
11 attack. Their bravery, courage and sacrifice remain
12 in our hearts and memories.

13 I want to highlight firefighter Albert A Felosa,
14 a Park Slope resident of 70 years who passed away
15 from cancer caused by digging through the rubble in
16 search of remains in the days after 9-11.

17 I had the pleasure of co-naming Seventh Avenue
18 and Third Street this past May in honor of his
19 legacy.

20 Amidst a concerning effort to marry patriotism
21 and xenophobia in our national politics, I also feel
22 compelled to specifically acknowledge the 67
23 undocumented workers who were killed on that day and
24 the nearly 2000, who assisted with recovery efforts
25 to rebuild Our city. Shamefully, these heroes have

2 been largely excluded from subsequent aid initiatives
3 and memorialization efforts. Immigrants have always
4 been an integral part of New York City and America,
5 and I reject the despicable campaign to demonize new
6 arrivals, especially our Haitian siblings.

7 Thank you.

8 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: I'd like to recognize
9 councilmember Narcisse, followed by Gutiérrez, then
10 Brewer.

11 COUNCILMEMBER NARCISSE: Thank you, Madam
12 Majority Leader. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

13 Today, I feel compelled to address the harmful
14 and baseless allegations being spread about Haitian
15 immigrants, even by members of our very councilmember
16 here.

17 As a proud Haitian American, I know firsthand the
18 pain that such lies can inflict. When I was younger,
19 our community was wrongly blamed for the spread of
20 AIDS, leading to bullying and discrimination.

21 Now I fear that a new generation of Haitian
22 American children will face the same harmful
23 treatment because of this dangerous rhetoric. As
24 leaders, we must understand that what we say and
25 share, especially on social media, has real

2 consequences. It can deeply impact the lives of
3 innocent people. The migrant issue is real, and it
4 demands solution. I agree totally. But using
5 falsehoods to sow hatred and division is a disservice
6 to us all. Our words carry weight, and it is our
7 duty to use them responsibly, with the understanding
8 that they can either unite or divide, uplift, or
9 harm.

10 Unfortunately, the blind allegiance to party
11 politics is often fused with harmful discourse.
12 Instead of addressing the real issues, some exploit
13 fear and misinformation for political gain. This is
14 detrimental, not only to our city, but to our nation.

15 In this sacred week, as we commemorated 911
16 attacks, we must remember that we are all one people.
17 What divides us is so much smaller than what unites
18 us. Let us rise above partisan politics and focus on
19 lifting the standard of political discourse. Enough
20 is enough. And I'm going to leave this with saying,
21 may Carlos rest in peace. May my father,
22 [inaudible], rest in peace. Thank you all.

23 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Thank you Councilmember.
24 Recognizing Councilmember Gutiérrez, followed by
25 Brewer, then Avilés.

2 COUNCILMEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you majority
3 leader, and thank you speaker, and to my colleagues
4 for the early birthday wishes. Much appreciated.

5 I want to take a few seconds to just talk to my
6 colleagues and encourage them to sign on to a couple
7 of bills that intro'ing today. First is the
8 Expanding NORCs Act. With over 1.5 million New
9 Yorkers age 65 and older, it's critical that we
10 ensure our seniors have the resources they need to
11 age in place comfortably, independently, and with
12 dignity. Right now, there are only 37 recognized
13 NORCs (Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities)
14 and the process to establish them is far too slow and
15 next to impossible to identify and manage if there is
16 no existing nonprofit infrastructure that can take
17 this on. This legislation will change that, and I'm
18 thankful to have the support of chair Hudson and to
19 have this bill heard this month.

20 Next, I'm introducing a bill that brings more
21 transparency and accountability to AI use in city
22 government, which we deserve. This bill will create
23 a centralized, publicly accessible list of AI tools
24 approved for city agencies. The goal is to enhance

2 transparency, promote collaboration, and ensure we're
3 using technology and our dollars responsibly.

4 Finally, we have the Family Connect Act, which
5 I'm proud to cosponsor with Chair Nurse and
6 Councilmember Louis, this bill is about making it
7 easier for families to stay connected with their
8 loved ones who are incarcerated, many who are held
9 without bail and have not been convicted of a crime.

10 Right now, this can feel impossible. Families
11 might take a day off work, travel for hours, only to
12 be told they can't visit their loved ones, or their
13 visit wasn't approved. This bill will create an
14 online system for booking in person and virtual
15 visits (it's 2024), not at all different from the
16 Project Cupid that OTI recently built for the city
17 clerk's office. It's a win. I hope you can join me
18 and sign on to these bills. Thank you very much.

19 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Recognizing
20 Councilmember Brewer, followed by Avilés, and then
21 Restler.

22 COUNCILMEMBER BREWER: Thank you. I too want to
23 say that I miss Carlos Carino. I spoke at his
24 funeral, and his sister was my maid of honor at my
25 wedding.

2 Also I want to thank Landing there. I didn't get
3 a chance to. I want to thank Carlina Rivera, Shula
4 Pooter, JCRC, the Manhattan Jewish History
5 Initiative, the Jewish Labor Council, the Museum of
6 Jewish Heritage, the Jewish Caucus, and Regina Paul
7 from Legislative Affairs.

8 I'm introducing something brand new called
9 binding-- it's called a Binding Resolution 560 and it
10 utilizes Section 803, of the city charter to direct
11 the Department of Investigation to assess the
12 knowledge city government possessed on the
13 environmental toxins produced by September 11 attack
14 on the World Trade Center.

15 As you know, no administration has indicated what
16 the city has in terms of these documents. DOI would
17 have two years to do this. I want to thank Ben
18 Shabbat of the 911 Health Watch, from the Division
19 Legislative, Stephanie Alley, Wes Jones, and Juanita
20 John, and most particularly John Houston and Sam
21 Goldsworth from my office. Never been done. Let's
22 hope that this is the way that we can get the
23 information.

24 I'm also introducing Intro 1020 regarding the
25 Inspector General for the New York Police Department.

2 I don't think the public even knows there is an
3 Inspector General. The current ID was appointed in
4 August '23. The Job had been vacant since the end of
5 the de Blasio administration. This bill would
6 require DOI to appoint an IG within 90 days of a
7 vacancy. They've only issued six reports during this
8 administration, and I can think of six things more to
9 investigate, or more, and this would require DOI to
10 report on the number of investigations, the subject
11 of each investigation, and a description of each
12 incident where the police department did not give
13 timely access to information.

14 I hope we will sign on and take note of Section
15 803 of the charter. Thank you very much.

16 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Recognizing
17 Councilmember Avilés, followed by Restler and
18 Bottcher.

19 COUNCILMEMBER AVILÉS: Thank you, Majority
20 Leader. I just want to take a moment to say a little
21 bit about Carlos Carino Higgins. If you didn't know
22 Carlos, you should have. He was truly an exceptional
23 human. Something many of us strive to be. He was
24 strong. He was a quiet force with an unwavering
25 commitment to justice and compassion for all.

2 Carlitos, as some of us affectionately called
3 him, was a proud Afro-Boricua who believed in the
4 liberation of all people, especially the liberation
5 of Puerto Rico. At Council, he did his work with so
6 much pride and love. This chamber will forever hold
7 his spirit, and while filled with many people that he
8 loved and loved him, it's always going to be
9 something is just not right without him.

10 Carlos will be forever missed. He will never be
11 forgotten. I-- We will continue to fight for
12 justice for all people, especially the most
13 vulnerable among us. Gracias, Carlito. Gracias to
14 the Carino-Higgins family for sharing your beloved
15 Carlos with us. Thank you for the work you did for
16 New York City for more than 20 years. Walk tall
17 among the ancestors, Carlito. Gracias.

18 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Recognizing
19 Councilmember Restler, followed by Bottcher, then
20 Mealy.

21 COUNCILMEMBER RESTLER: I just want to thank
22 Councilmember Avilés for those beautiful words and
23 express my condolences to the friends and family and
24 colleagues of Carlos Carino-Higgins. Never easy to
25 transition from those statements.

2 I think, as everybody in this room knows, I
3 really love Citi Bike. I have taken like 4,500 Citi
4 Bike trips. This year the costs of Citi Bike have
5 skyrocketed. There have been two price increases,
6 and now it costs \$10 to ride a Citi Bike from
7 Greenpoint to Carroll Gardens. We are introducing a
8 bill today, and I want to thank Councilmembers Marte,
9 Ossé, and Hudson for cosponsoring, to cap the cost of
10 a city bike ride to a subway fare. It shouldn't cost
11 any more to take the subway than should to ride a
12 bike. It's that simple.

13 Bike share is an essential part of the New York
14 City Transit landscape. We need to make it
15 affordable and accessible to all the current pricing
16 of our bike share program fails us.

17 I think it's a good time for us to be having a
18 public conversation about how we can invest in the
19 future of Citi Bike, ensure that the docks are
20 connected to our electrical grid so that batteries
21 are automatically recharging instead of hundreds of
22 Citi Bike vans driving around New York City swapping
23 out dead batteries. That makes zero sense.

24 And in turn, for those new public investments, we
25 should be capping the fares and making sure that the

2 price of a subway is the same price to ride a bike,
3 never more.

4 I really want to ask everyone-- I don't know
5 what the number is. I'm not going to make it up, but
6 find the Citi Bike bill and please co-sponsor it.
7 Thank you.

8 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Councilmember Bottcher?

9 COUNCILMEMBER BOTTCHER: I also want to add my
10 voice mourning the loss of Carlos Carino. We worked
11 together, a few feet away from each other in the
12 Community Outreach Unit back at the beginning of my
13 career in 2009, and he is-- it's a huge, huge loss
14 for the council. His smile, his laugh, his great
15 work on our behalf will be missed.

16 Over 40,000-- over 43,000 people died from gun-
17 related injuries in the United States, in 2023 and
18 gun violence has recently surpassed car accidents as
19 the number one cause of death for American children.

20 I can't think of a deadlier consumer product that
21 requires no public health messaging at the point of
22 sale.

23 Many, if not most, of the purchasers of the
24 millions of guns every year, and so far this year,

2 1.4 million people have purchased firearms every
3 month, in 2024.

4 Most, if not most of these purchasers are likely
5 not aware that the gun that they're bringing into
6 their home is more likely to kill someone in the home
7 than to be used for self-defense.

8 So today, we're introducing for the first time in
9 the United States legislation that will require gun
10 stores to display graphic imagery in addition to
11 warning-- written warning signage that conveys the
12 dangers of firearm ownership. The graphics could
13 depict scenarios such as a young child reaching for a
14 gun in an unsecured door. It will be accompanied by
15 warning language.

16 And I am hopeful, and I believe that one day when
17 every gun store in the United States has written
18 warning language over the counter in those stores,
19 we'll be able to look back today in New York City as
20 a day that we started this effort.

21 I want to thank Hannah Moses and Carl Wilson and
22 my staff, Jessica Boulet at the--

23 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Councilmember?

24 COUNCILMEMBER BOTTCHEER: Ledge Unit, and everyone
25 else who helped make this possible.

2 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Thank you.
3 Councilmember Mealy?

4 COUNCILMEMBER MEALY: I want to just say my
5 condolences to the Carlos family, and if anyone know
6 Carlos, he was like a gentle giant. We all will miss
7 him. And I want to thank-- take a special thank you
8 to our speaker, Madam Speaker Adams, who have now
9 changed 420 seniors who at one time, for seven years,
10 did not have food, and I want to just tell her, thank
11 you. The whole community salutes you.

12 And we had our first 9-11 event yesterday, that
13 we had standing room only. We had a singer La Rose,
14 DJ Justice and our very own Reverend Bachus of the
15 Mount Ali Baptist Church. And I mean, we cried and
16 we danced, and that has enhanced so many seniors.

17 So I just want to thank the city and to thank our
18 Madam Speaker and all Finance Department that helped
19 us get this senior center open. Thank you.

20 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Thank you. Seeing no
21 one else signed up to speak, I would like to make a--
22 put a revision into the record on today's general
23 order calendar, on Introduction 279-A, which was
24 adopted by a vote of 41 in the affirmative and 8 in
25 the negative with 0 abstentions.

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2 I'll now call on speaker Adrian Adams to close
3 today's stated meeting.

4 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Madam Majority Leader.
5 I would like to associate myself with all the
6 comments of Councilmembers Narcisse and Avilés, and
7 also to-- just to offer up to my colleague,
8 Councilmember Mealy, please do let the seniors know
9 that this is what we do best for them. They are our
10 jewels.

11 So with that note, the Stated Meeting of
12 September 12, 2024, is hereby adjourned.

13 [GAVEL]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date September 14, 2024