

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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January 11, 2018
Start: 1:31 p.m.
Recess: 2:17 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: RORY I. LAN
COUNCIL MEMBER
Public Advocate

COREY JOHNSON
Speaker for the Council

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

ADRIENNE E. ADAMS
MARGARET S. CHIN
CARLINA RIVERA
KEITH POWERS
BEN KALLOS
HELEN ROSENTHAL
MARK LEVINE
DIANA AYALA
BILL PERKINS
YDANIS RODRIGUEZ
ANDREW COHEN
ANDY KING
MARK GJONAJ
RITCHIE TORRES
FERNANDO CABRERA
VANESSA L. GIBSON

RAFAEL SALAMANCA, JR.
RUBEN DIAZ, SR.
PAUL VALLONE
PETER KOO
FRANCISCO MOYA
COSTA CONSTANTINIDES
BARRY GRODENCHIK
RORY I. LANCOUNCIL MEMBERAN
DANIEL DROMM
JIMMY VAN BRAMER
I. DANEEK MILLER
KAREN KOSLOWITZ
ROBERT HOLDEN
DONOVAN J. RICHARDS
ERIC A. ULRICH
STEPHEN T. LEVIN
ANTONIO REYNOSO
LAURIE A. CUMBO
ROBERT E. CORNEGY, JR.
RAFAEL L. ESPINAL, JR.
CARLOS MENCHACA
BRAD LANDER
MATHIEU EUGENE
ALICKA AMPRY-SAMUEL
INEZ BARRON
JUSTIN BRANNAN
KALMAN YEGER
JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS
ALAN N. MAISEL
CHAIM M. DEUTSCH
DEBORAH ROSE
JOSEPH C. BORELLI
STEVEN MATTEO
RITCHIE J. TORRES
MARK TREYGER

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

Rabbi Joseph Potasnik
Rabbi emeritus of Congregation Mount Sinai at 250
Cadman Plaza West in the Borough of Brooklyn

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[gavel]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Everyone please take their seat, may we have quite in the chambers, members please take your seats. Members please take your seats, quite in the chambers. May we have quite in the chambers. May we have quite in the chambers and may members please take their seats, and may we close the door. Thank you, quite in the chambers please, quite in the chambers. All rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: All rise.

[Pledge of Allegiance]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please be seated, roll call. Quite in the chambers.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Adams?

COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ampry-Samual?

COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUAL: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ayala?

COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Borelli? Brannan?

COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Here.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin?

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen?

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: [off-mic] Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Constantinides?

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy?

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: [off-mic]
Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cumbo?

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch?

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Diaz?

COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: [off-mic] Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dromm?

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: [off-mic] Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Espinal? Eugene?
Gibson?

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: [off-mic] Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gjonaj?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: [off-mic]
Present.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Grodenchik?
COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Here.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Holden?
COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: [off-mic] Here.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos?
COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.
COMMITTEE CLERK: King?
COUNCIL MEMBER KING: [off-mic] Present.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo?
COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz?
COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Lancman?
COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: [off-mic] Here.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander?
COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [off-mic] Here.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin?
COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine?
COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel?
COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: [off-mic] Here.

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Menchaca?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: [Spanish acknowledgment]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Miller?

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Moya?

COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Perkins?

COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: In the house.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Powers?

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso?

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards?

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rivera?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez? Rose?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: [off-mic] Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rosenthal?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Salamanca?

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres?

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COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Treyger?

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER? Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich? Vallone?

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer?

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams? Yeger?

COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo?

COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: [off-mic] Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Johnson?

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Here.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you, all quite in the chambers please. All rise for the invocation.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: All rise.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: The invocation will be delivered by Rabbi Joseph Potasnik, the Rabbi emeritus of congregation Mount Sinai at 250 Cadman Plaza West in the borough of Brooklyn.

JOSEPH: Thank you Public Advocate Letitia, I was also the chaplain of the federal prison for a number of years thankfully I don't see

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2 any familiar faces here from those years. Let me
3 share one story with you which I think has great
4 meaning, years ago it was Senator Bill Bradly who was
5 invited to speak at the Waldorf Astoria before he
6 spoke the waiter came around with the butter and
7 Bradly looked at him and said I'll have an extra pat
8 of butter and the waiter said to him sorry sir we
9 have a strict rule at the Waldorf one pat per person
10 and Bradly looked at him and said do you know who I
11 am, he said no sir, who are you, he said I'm the
12 Senator from New Jersey I was flown with the New York
13 Nicks, I went to Oxford and the guy said that's very
14 impressive, do you know who I am, he says no, who are
15 you, he said I'm the guy with the butter. There is a
16 lesson there for all of us, whether you are the
17 server or whether you are the Senator in our eyes as
18 people of faith you are the same person, whether you
19 are born here or brought here, you are the same
20 person. People who are homeless are not people who
21 should be seen as honor less and to those brave women
22 who stand up and identify with me too, we as men need
23 to stand with, with them and say we too stand with
24 you too. So, thus a house of worship as your city
25 council has windows, the reason for windows is what

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2 we say on the inside we have to see on the outside.
3 It was Martin Luther King who said years ago, our
4 days of life begin to end when we are silent about
5 things that matter, we as clergy, you as council, we
6 cannot afford to be silent. So, we come here today
7 belonging to our different faith traditions, but we
8 also stand with one another belonging to one human
9 family. Amen.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please be seated.
11 Council Member Stephen Levin for the motion to spread
12 the Invocation.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you very
14 much Madame Public Advocate. I want to welcome my
15 friend and Rabbi, Rabbi Joseph Potasnik who's the
16 Rabbi Emeritus at the congregation of Mount Sanai in
17 downtown Brooklyn, you know Rabbi Potasnik... Rabbi
18 Aryeh Kaplan was once asked, I'm reading this, if
19 there are any jokes in the Talmud and his response
20 was yes, but they're all old. Rabbi Potasnik has...
21 carries on a, a, a long tradition of infusing humor
22 into the most... into the most serious of times, into
23 the most joyous of times. I know there are many times
24 in, in my life in recent years that his humor has,
25 has played a very important role in lifting me up in,

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2 in times of trial and, and provided me with a joyous
3 context in times of celebration and I know that he
4 has done that for many New Yorkers whether you know
5 him from Tin, Tin Winds or whether you're a member of
6 his congregation he, he has always provided New York
7 with, with that light of humor and, and the smile
8 that acknowledges all the... all the great things that
9 are around us and so Rabbi Potasnik I want to thank
10 you very much for being here and for you invocation
11 and I would like permission to spread the motion... the
12 motion... permission to, to advance the motion to
13 spread the invocation in full upon the record Madame
14 Public Advocate.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: So moved and..
16 [cross-talk]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you very
18 much... [cross-talk]

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: ...thank you Rabbi
20 Potasnik, thank you so much, god bless you. Adoption
21 of minutes?

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Messages and
24 papers from the Mayor?

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Communication from city, county and borough offices?

COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Petitions and communications?

COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Land Use Call-Ups?

COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And now... quite in the chambers as we now hear at the first stated, the Speaker of the City Council, Speaker Corey Johnson.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Good afternoon everyone. As we begin this new legislative session I want to just say that I am very excited to work with every single one of you in serving the people of the city of New York. This Monday we will celebrate the life and career of a man who defined the Civil Rights Movement, Martin Luther King Jr., devoted every moment of his life to ensure that all men and women are treated equally. We continue to be inspired by Dr. King's word and will continue to fight for social justice in his honor. I want to mention that earlier this week I was at the funeral services for Erica

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2 Garner, I was joined by my colleague here, Debbi Rose
3 and by my colleague Donovan Richards and the Public
4 Advocate was there as well as was the Comptroller and
5 the Borough President and the Garner family has gone
6 through so much and Erica Garner was an activist for
7 social justice in New York City and I wanted to have
8 a moment of silence for the Garner family today, if
9 people could stand for a moment of silence.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All rise.

11 [pause of silence]

12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you, if you could
13 remain standing I would like to recognize the recent
14 passing of Mary Audrey Gallagher, mother of my dear
15 friend and our dear friend and colleague, Council
16 Member Daniel Dromm, she was a warm, loving woman who
17 brought joy to everyone she met. Like my mom, Audrey
18 was a PFLAG mom, I'm lucky to have known her. One of
19 the last I think conversations that Danny had with
20 his mom was about his new position in the council and
21 the fact that I looked like I was going to be elected
22 speaker and it was actually, I think one of the last
23 lucid moments that she had with Danny. She was so
24 proud of you, I remember being at the Queens Museum
25 for your LGBT Pride event this past June seated next

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2 to her and you know that she loved you with all of
3 her heart and I want to take a moment of silence for
4 Danny and his family.

5 [pause of silence]

6 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you and then
7 lastly if we could remain standing, there have been
8 numerous tragic fires throughout the city in the last
9 few weeks and I know that Council Member Levin was on
10 the scene the other night in his district responding
11 to constituents for, I think a six alarm fire in his
12 district and there have been other members who had to
13 deal similarly with tragic fire incidents, I know
14 Council Member Torres had many fatalities in his
15 district, the deadliest fire since Happy Land and I
16 want to give a moment of silence to all the victims
17 and families and folks who have been affected by
18 these fires and I want to thank the men and women of
19 the FDNY for their tremendous service. So, if we
20 could have a moment of silence as well.

21 [pause of silence]

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you all very
23 much.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please be seated.
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2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I want to recognize
3 that we are joined by our colleague, Council Member
4 Cabrera's wonderful wife and his beautiful
5 grandchildren one of whom it's their first time
6 inside of city hall so I want to welcome them and
7 congratulate you and thank you for being here today.
8 I also want to say that during the Charter Meeting,
9 oh I think it was, was it a week ago, during the
10 Charter Meeting a week ago when I read everyone's
11 name and said that I wanted to work with each and
12 every one of you, when I read Karen Koslowitz's name
13 I looked up and I said I love you Karen and when I
14 looked back down I missed Keith Power's name and his
15 mom was watching from home and said boy the speaker
16 doesn't like you, you're the only one that, that you...
17 that he didn't mention so I love you Karen Koslowitz
18 and I love you Keith Powers, I look forward to
19 working with you, we're going to do good work
20 together and I want to right the wrong from that
21 crazy day that I barely remember. So, jumping into
22 our docket for the day over the past week I've had
23 the honor to meet with each and everyone of you, each
24 and every Council Member, I think I've met with every
25 single one of you to discuss our vision for this

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2 council over the next four years. As we spoke, as we
3 have many, many times before the last few months to
4 say nothing about the last four years of
5 conversations, about how to most effectively harness
6 the charter mandated authority and power of this City
7 Council to best serve New Yorkers one thing became
8 abundantly clear, our members are strong, each and
9 every one of our members are strong, our members are
10 diverse, and our members are talented. New Yorkers
11 should feel proud about that. Whether we grew up in
12 public housing, were raised by a single parent,
13 immigrated from another country or left college early
14 our backgrounds reflect the myriad of experiences of
15 8.2 million people who call New York City home. And
16 though we may come from different walks of life, the
17 common thread that binds us together is our deep
18 commitment to public service and our love for this
19 city. The committees, subcommittees and task force
20 positions we're voting on today will help us hone in
21 on some of the most pressing issues facing our city
22 today. I want to announce the leadership team which
23 was not announced as part of the rules committee
24 hearing earlier and this will be voted on at a
25 separate rules committee hearing but I want to

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2 announce this; for our Majority Leader it is going to
3 be Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo, for our Majority...

4 [applause]

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: ...for our Majority Whip
6 it is going to be Council Member Majority Whip
7 Fernando Cabrera...

8 [applause]

9 SPEAKER JOHNSON: The Chair of the
10 Democratic Conference which is a new position and
11 we'll talk more about what it means, it's going to be
12 Council Member Robert Cornegy.

13 [applause]

14 SPEAKER JOHNSON: We created a, a new
15 position that's going to work on the council's
16 digital strategy and communication and amplifying the
17 council's voice, engaging people civically when it
18 comes to social media and new media and so Rafael
19 Espinal is going to be Deputy Leader for Digital
20 Communication.

21 [applause]

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I am really proud that
23 Council Member Brad Lander who was Deputy Leader for
24 Policy over the last four years is going to remain in
25 that position, he is going to Chair the Policy

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2 Working Group of the New York City Council which we
3 are going to reinvigorate, give staff resources to
4 and I'm sure Council Member Lander, myself and the
5 staff are going to have conversations with members
6 that would like to participate in it, I really want
7 this group to be strengthened to work on issues on a
8 very regular basis. Council Member Lander has taken a
9 leading role in local progress nationally in looking
10 at progressive policies and other forward-thinking
11 issues that the New York City Council should tackle
12 and that New York City should look at and so Brad I
13 really look forward to serving with you in that
14 position as Deputy Leader for Policy.

15 [applause]

16 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I want to give my
17 condolences to Minority Leader Steve Matteo for
18 having to put up with me over the last week, but he
19 is a dear friend and I'm really, really proud that
20 his conference decided to reelect him as Minority
21 Leader in this body. We have collegiality, our
22 friendships cross ideology and cross-party lines, we
23 respect each other even when there are significant
24 differences when it comes to public policy, I feel
25 that way about Steve, I feel that way about Joe and I

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2 feel that way about Eric, I look forward to working
3 with the Minority Leader and his entire conference on
4 issues that matter to them in this body and issues
5 that effect their districts so congratulations to
6 you.

7 [applause]

8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: The rest of the
9 leadership team is going to be Council Member
10 Margaret Chin, Council Member Chaim Deutsch, Council
11 Member Vanessa Gibson, Council Member Karen
12 Koslowitz, Council Member Antonio Reynoso, Council
13 Member Donovan Richards, Council Member Carlina
14 Rivera, Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez, Council
15 Member Debbi Rose, Council Member Mark Treyger,
16 Council Member Ritchie Torres. Council Member Jimmy
17 Van Bramer, and Council Member Jumaane Williams;
18 congratulations to each and every one of you, I look
19 forward to serving with...

20 [applause]

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: ...you and helping to
22 lead this great body. I want to also recognize that
23 Council Member Menchaca who has done an incredible
24 job leading participatory budgeting in his own
25 district in having the most number of people

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2 throughout the city participate in participatory
3 budgeting in his district, he is going to serve in a
4 new position related to expanding participatory
5 budgeting to more districts in the city ensuring that
6 members get the staff support and resources that they
7 need and for him to think more creatively about how
8 we can engage with the Office of Management and
9 Budget, other city agencies that work on these issues
10 and the body as a whole to increase participatory
11 budgeting and to even engage more New Yorkers as he's
12 done in his district, maybe he can teach each one of
13 us lessons who do PB in our own district. So, I want
14 to congratulate him on taking that role as well.

15 [applause]

16 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I, I want to... I want to
17 say that I'm inspired and thrilled to work with all
18 my colleagues in their new roles and I look forward
19 to our continued work together to make New York City
20 stronger and more effective for all and now I'm going
21 to go off script. So, the off script is that, is
22 everyone 100 percent happy, no, are some people
23 happier than others, yes, I did my best. I... over the
24 last week I...

25 [applause]

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2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Ramon and I were here..
3 Ramon and I were here all weekend, we met with every
4 single member over the course of about 72 hours, we
5 had crazy documents and spreadsheets and matrixes of
6 how to try to ensure that even if people didn't get
7 the top thing or the second thing or the third thing
8 that they got something that they would be happy with
9 and I, I say this... I mean... I'm not just saying it I'm
10 saying there was no level of vindictiveness towards
11 any member of this body from me, there was no member
12 of vindictiveness, there was no score settling, there
13 was no keeping track of what happened during the
14 Speakers race, what I said is what I meant a week ago
15 at the Charter Meeting, whether you supported me or
16 didn't support me, whether you're a new member or
17 returning member I have your back and even if on a
18 piece of paper you didn't get exactly what you wanted
19 I am going to have the relationship with each and
20 every one of you to be able to deliver on behalf of
21 your districts whether it's through the budget
22 process, whether it's through helping out on a day to
23 day basis, whether it's continuing to think
24 creatively about other areas where the council should
25 take a lead or should start to explore issues that

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2 matter to individual members into the body and so
3 this is not even a final document because I want us,
4 each one of us to continue to have a conversation
5 collectively and with each other about how I can
6 continue to help each member serve their districts,
7 serve the city of New York and feel good about the
8 work they're doing. Every member has my respect, I
9 have every member's back and I look forward to
10 facilitating and helping every single member be
11 successful. So, for, for people who are disappointed
12 I'm sorry, it wasn't purposeful but there will be
13 other ways for us to work together and to be helpful
14 but I hope that the vast majority of people are happy
15 and feel good because I want to start this council
16 off on a good foot where everyone feels good and we
17 can get to work and start to have hearings and get
18 into the preliminary budget process and do all of the
19 things that we were elected to do for the
20 neighborhoods across the city. So, with that I end
21 communication from the Speaker. Thank you very much.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

23 [applause]

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Discussion of
general orders, seeing none, Report of Special
Committees?

COMMITTEE CLERK: None. On the report of
standing committees, the report of the Committee on
Rules, Privileges and Elections preconsidered
Resolution One, Council Rules and Committees.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General
Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered M6,
Committee Chairs and membership?

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General
Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: On the General Order
Calendar Resolution appointing various persons,
Commissioner of Deeds.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General
Orders and I'd like to ask for a roll call vote on
all items coupled on the General Order calendar
today.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Adams?

COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ampy-Samual?

COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUAL: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Ayala?

COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Borelli?

COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Brannan?

COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin?

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen?

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: [off-mic] Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Constantinides?

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy?

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cumbo?

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission to
explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you, I rise
today to recognize the tremendous opportunity that

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2 I've been given to be appointed the Majority Leader
3 of this body is certainly something that I'm very
4 proud to do to represent this entire body and I want
5 to thank each and every member here because so much
6 of what I've been able to accomplish is because of
7 you and because of your support over this last year
8 as a new mom I was able to come back in 2018 and to
9 serve and this is such a joyous occasion for me and I
10 want to thank Speaker Corey Johnson for his
11 leadership and I look forward to working with him
12 closely in this position. What's so special about
13 this is coming as the former Chair of the Women's
14 Issues Committee, as Majority Leader this is going to
15 be an incredible time to amplify what we are seeing
16 nationwide in this body, we have an opportunity to
17 take the times up movement, the me-too movement and
18 turn it into powerful legislation as well as to make
19 sure that our budget and financing priorities are in
20 alignment with that and I look forward to doing just
21 that with this entire body. So, as your Majority
22 Leader I look forward to continuing to do this great
23 work, I thank Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer for his
24 incredible service and when he heard the rumors of
25 potentially that I might become Majority Leader he

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2 came over to me and wished me well and gave me that
3 hug of support that he's going to continue to work
4 with me to amplify the voice of the Majority Leader
5 but to share his experiences with me and so I thank
6 everyone for that and I applaud again Speaker Corey
7 Johnson, he's done a tremendous job at unifying the
8 body, working around the clock in order to make sure
9 that at the end of the day as he said that, that good
10 is where we're trying to get and we shouldn't allow
11 great to be the enemy of good and we should continue
12 to work together. So, I thank you as your Majority
13 Leader and the first African American woman to ever
14 hold this position but its not only a matter of being
15 the first what really matters and what's really
16 important is making sure that we do the first as far
17 as budget and legislative priorities that advance
18 women, minority communities and those that have been
19 disenfranchised. Thank you and I proudly vote aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Permission to
22 explain?

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.
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COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: So, I second what Council Member Laurie Cumbo said except that I did not have a baby, sorry.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Diaz?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Diaz? That's yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dromm?

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Espinal?

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: [off-mic] Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene?

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gibson?

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: With my warmest congratulations to all of my colleagues and certainly I want to congratulate our Speaker for his creativity and certainly leading a new Subcommittee on Capital Budgets, I'm looking forward to working with all of you, my colleagues to advance the priorities of our great city and with that I congratulate everyone, and I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gjonaj?

COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Grodenchik?

COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Holden?

COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: [off-mic] Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos?

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: King?

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lancman?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: [off-mic] Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: [off-mic] Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel?

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Menchaca?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Permission to
explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: I vote aye on all and I'm really happy to welcome my family, part of my family that are here today; my sister Mary, my sister Erica, my sister Christina, there are seven of us total and sitting next to me is Kristin Joiner who one day maybe be on a floor somewhere representing with a lot of truth to power, Kristin is joined by her sister Kaitlyn and brother Troy and, and so with that I want to say thank you not only to Speaker Corey Johnson but the entire team that has brought forth this incredible team of fearless fighters. As the Chair of the Immigration Committee I'm going to continue to fight not just for immigrants but for every New Yorker in the future. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Welcome Kristin.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Miller?

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Moya?

COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Perkins?

COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Powers?

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso?

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: [off-mic] Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards?

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Permission to explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I want to thank the Speaker for the new appointment, but I also wanted to thank the staff that I worked with formally as the Chair of the Zoning Committee and I wanted to acknowledge and, and tell them thank you for the partnership that, that we had; Raju Mann, Amy Leviton, Dillon Casey, Julie Lubin, Brian Paul, John Douglas, Rosie Perez, James Lloyd, Jeffrey Ewing, Margaret Griffin, Maria Sabrabaro, I just wanted to say thank you and I look forward.. I'm still going to sit on zoning, I look forward to continuing to work with you, but I want to thank you for your partnership over the past two years, thank you and I vote aye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rivera?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye, thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez? Rose?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rosenthal?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Salamanca?

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Permission to explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Thank you. I am incredibly proud to have the confidence of the Speaker and my colleagues to serve as the Land Use Chair for the session. Our cities at a crossroads including my community in the South Bronx. This body led by a Speaker who understands the importance of having a strong independent council should be on the fore... on the frontlines on shaping, the planning, development and all other land use actions in a way that listens to and addresses the concerns of all New Yorkers. I believe we can and will do that. After seeing much development in my district and working to approve over 4,000 units of affordable housing in under two years I believe that I'm ready to work with each and every member of the council to ensure the needs of the constituents are met with any given land use action. With that said I am ready to roll up my

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2 sleeves and visit as many neighborhoods as I, I can
3 and most importantly listen on how I can help to
4 shape land use for the five boroughs over the next
5 four years so let's get to work, I vote aye, thank
6 you.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Permission to
10 explain my vote?

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I just want to
13 commend the Speaker who has been as masterful and as
14 magnanimous as he could be in the handling of his
15 first week and I, I look forward to partnering with
16 you to set a new standard for city council oversight,
17 it's going to be exciting and I have a deep
18 attachment to the Public Housing Committee, it's
19 been... Chairing the Public Housing Committee has been
20 the most fulfilling four years of my life and I
21 cannot think of a better person in whose hands that
22 committee should be placed than Alicka Samuel who is
23 deeply rooted in public housing, who knows it, who
24 breathes it so I'm looking forward to serving under
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2 your leadership of the Public Housing Committee. So,
3 with that I said aye... I, I...

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Treyger?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER? Permission to
7 explain my vote?

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I, I'd like to
10 also just echo the comments of my colleagues and to
11 commend Speaker Corey Johnson, the outstanding staff
12 who literally worked day and night, 24/7 to unite the
13 body and successfully worked hard to unite this body,
14 heard every member, heard issues in our communities.
15 So, deeply, deeply appreciate the Speaker's
16 leadership. This is a powerful and shining example of
17 a peaceful civil transition of power and I think he
18 has handled this masterfully as my colleague Ritchie
19 Torres said. I also want to just publicly thank, you
20 know Chair Dromm who has significantly raised the bar
21 as Chair of Education Committee, hit on many issues
22 that historically have not been touched upon and he
23 really has hit a home run in many respects and
24 there's a lot of work to do to catch up to your
25 leadership Chair Dromm but I, I will look to you to,

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2 to you for guidance and wisdom and, and your support
3 and my condolences again on the passing of your
4 beautiful mother but you are a friend and a colleague
5 and proud to call you a fellow educator and its great
6 that we continue the tradition of having educators
7 run the Education Committee and with that I vote aye
8 on all.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Very good.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on all.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Permission to
18 briefly explain my vote?

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: First of all
21 I want to thank Majority Leader Cumbo for those very
22 kind words, I meant what I said when I went to her
23 when I heard the good news for her and I'm sure
24 she'll do a great job but I want to say thank you to
25 the Speaker because what has mattered to me most over

1
2 the last eight years in this body is that number one
3 I Chair the Cultural Affairs and Libraries committee,
4 the only committee I asked for when I was elected
5 eight years ago and because of this I will serve my
6 entire 12 years as the Chair of the Cultural Affairs
7 and Libraries Committee, the only committee that I
8 truly really wanted when I ran for city council but
9 in addition I asked Speaker Johnson to be on
10 leadership and on the budget negotiating team and I
11 walk away today with all three of the things that I
12 wanted so I want to thank him for all of that and
13 with that I proudly vote aye.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams? Yeger?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Johnson?

20 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I vote aye and I also
21 want to say, I mean the press knows this already but
22 members should know this, the reason why Council
23 Member Williams and Rodriguez are not here today is
24 they were arrested, I don't know what the exact
25 charges were, I, I don't know exactly what happened,

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2 I was there on the scene trying to protect a very
3 well-known immigration activist, Council Member
4 Lander was there, Council Member Menchaca was there,
5 who am I forgetting, I think that was all of us and
6 there was an incident outside of Federal Plaza coming
7 down Broadway so Council Member Williams and Council
8 Member Lander... Council Member Williams... Council
9 Member Lander's here, Council Member Williams and
10 Council Member Rodriguez were placed under arrest and
11 I believe that they are currently under arrest, I
12 don't know exactly what happened and I look forward
13 to learning more about what happened today, I'm sure
14 there'll be questions about it at the press
15 conference after this but I wanted to mention that
16 they did not skip this meeting today, they are
17 somewhere else. So, thank you and I vote aye on all.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you, all
19 items on today's General Order calendar were adopted
20 by a vote of 48 in the affirmative, zero in the
21 negative and zero abstentions. Introduction and
22 reading of bills, none. Discussion of resolutions,
23 there's no resolutions and now we will begin with the
24 general discussion beginning with Council Member
25 Gibson.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you very
3 much Madame Public Advocate and I wanted to take a
4 very quick opportunity to certainly thank all of the
5 members of this body for the incredible honor and
6 privilege to have served for four years as your Chair
7 of the Committee on Public Safety. As the first woman
8 and the first person of color it's nothing that I've
9 ever forgotten about in terms of the great
10 responsibility that I was given over the past four
11 years and under the leadership of our former Speaker,
12 Melissa Mark-Viverito, we set forth on an incredible
13 ambitious agenda of criminal justice reform of
14 ensuring that every New Yorker receives equal access
15 to services and I hope and pray that you all are
16 proud of the work we've done over the four years and
17 now we are turning the Public Safety Committee over
18 to Council Member Donovan Richards who I want to
19 congratulate and wish well working with the NYPD and
20 COMMITTEE CLERKRB and certainly I wanted to recognize
21 the dynamic staff of the Public Safety Committee led
22 by Deepa Ambekar, our Senior Legislative Council and
23 my Council Beth Golub and our Legislative Aid Casey
24 Addison and our Financial Analyst Steve Riester and
25 Laura Polper, this team has been by my side for the

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2 past four years and certainly it was not easy, a
3 great deal of challenge but a great deal of reward
4 and I am so proud of the work we have done over the
5 last four years. It was not easy to look at a new
6 opportunity, I've built incredible relationships with
7 the NYPD that certainly will not falter but I look
8 forward to remaining a member of the committee
9 working now under the leadership of our new Chair,
10 Council Member Donovan Richards and I look forward to
11 getting to work. Congratulations Council Member and
12 thank you so much.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: The revised vote
14 for today was a vote in... of 49 in the affirmative,
15 zero negative and zero abstentions and now we'll hear
16 from Council Member Lander.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you Madame
18 Public Advocate, I want to first thank the Speaker
19 for the appointment as Deputy Leader for Policy and
20 Chair of the Policy Working Group, that's a space
21 last time we were able to work on the Fair Work Week
22 legislation for retail and fast food workers, for gig
23 workers, for our neighborhoods, for the environment,
24 there is so much more to do this term and I look
25 really forward to a productive partnership. Today

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2 even more than that I want to thank you for joining
3 Ravi Ragbir and Sanctuary Coalition, Ravi's a
4 longstanding activist, the founder and leader of the
5 new Sanctuary Coalition, a real leader in immigration
6 reform and protection and the person who has
7 mobilized people to bear witness at ICE for check
8 ins, hearings and detentions. Its 22 years that he
9 has been engaged with ICE and he's been doing regular
10 check ins for the last decade. There was no reason to
11 detain him and potentially deport him today other
12 than the leadership that he has taken, the courageous
13 leadership that he has taken on behalf of other
14 immigrants in this city, I was really proud that
15 there were four Council Members there standing with
16 him today, hundreds of people out there in the street
17 with real respect to Council Members Williams and
18 Rodriguez for their willingness to face arrest in his
19 support and defense with gratitude to Council Member
20 Menchaca and the Speaker as well. We have a lot of
21 work to do this coming term at the city level but boy
22 the relentless work to make sure this city is a
23 sanctuary city, is a welcoming city, is not a place
24 where peaceful and safe and law-abiding leaders risk
25 getting swept up and detained and deported and I'm

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2 proud to be a part of a council that stands for that
3 so thank you Mr. Speaker.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: The last speaker
5 is Council Member Levine... Levin, excuse me.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you very
7 much Madame Public Advocate. I didn't say it when I
8 voted but I do want to thank Speaker Johnson and
9 Council staff for having the faith in, in the job
10 I've done over the last four years as Chair of the
11 General Welfare Committee and I want to thank you
12 very much for your vote of confidence in assigning me
13 to Chair that committee for the next four years and I
14 look forward to working with all of my colleagues to
15 ensure that those New Yorkers most in need, those
16 that are homeless, the children that rely on city
17 services, children that are abused and neglected and,
18 and New Yorkers who rely on, on, on public benefits
19 receive all of those services in the way that they..
20 in which they're entitled and, and the way in which
21 they deserve with dignity and competence and so thank
22 you very much Mr. Speaker, I look forward to
23 continuing to work over the next four years to
24 improve the lives of many New Yorkers. Thank you.

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SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thanks Steve... [cross-talk]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: I, I apologize Mr. Speaker, Council Member Espinal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I too didn't get a chance to say a few words when I voted but I really want to give a big thank you to the Speaker for trusting in me to allow me to join the leadership team and be the Deputy Leader in Communications. I think now more than ever we should be doing everything we can to connect New Yorkers to the work we're doing here in the City Council, making us aware of all of the important work we're doing. Now when cities are up to the challenge of, of leading all of the important issues that we can't count on our federal government to do so I look forward to serving in that capacity and also am thrilled to be the Chair of the Consumer Affairs Committee again as well and to continue working on behalf of Nightlife. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member Grodenchik.

COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Thank you Madame Public Advocate. Just very briefly I want to

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2 thank the Speaker and my colleagues for their vote of
3 confidence in me to chair the Parks Committee. In the
4 summer of 1935 my father Nathan, a blessed memory,
5 was walking across Crotona Park in the Bronx, it's
6 going to take a while Mr. Speaker and... [cross-talk

7 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Make... he's on the
8 clock.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: I'm on the
10 clock... and there was a parkee who asked him, him and
11 his friends if any of them wanted to learn to play
12 tennis and my father stopped and his friends kept
13 walking, the upshot of this story Mr. Speaker is that
14 my father played tennis for 62 years until he
15 couldn't any longer at the age of 79. So, I know the
16 transformative effect that New York City parks can
17 have not only on the life of Nathan Grodenchik and
18 his son Barry but on the life of every single New
19 Yorker. I am a native New Yorker, I grew up in Pomona
20 playground and if there wasn't two people... if there
21 were two people we played stick ball, if there were
22 four or six it was basketball and those magical
23 moments when we had 20 it was softball, so I am here
24 today to say thank you to everybody for your vote of
25 confidence and I look forward to working with

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2 everybody to make our great parks that much better.
3 Thank you.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
6 Koslowitz.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Thank you. I
8 also want to thank the Speaker for having confidence
9 in me and I look forward to chairing the Rules,
10 Elections, I'm trying to find out what the privileges
11 are. Thank you very much.

12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Madame Public Advocate
13 I regret to inform the new Chair that we took all the
14 privileges away last term.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
16 Debbi Rose.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I just want to be
18 very brief, I was not here to give my vote of
19 confidence, so I want to say aye on, on the vote for
20 Corey Johnson as Speaker and I want to say thank you
21 to Corey for entrusting me with the Youth Committee
22 Chair. I'm started my career in youth development and
23 I'm really excited to get back into that field. So,
24 thank you Speaker Johnson and I vote on his... my...
25 that's my vote for speaker, thank you.

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. We
3 have three more speakers, Council Member Kallos.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Affordable
5 housing remains out of reach for New Yorkers. As the
6 administration continues to announce progress
7 preserving and building new housing, we will watch
8 every deal closely to ensure New Yorkers are actually
9 getting the affordable housing we need. The
10 independent budget office has questioned whether the
11 city is overstating or worse, overpaying for
12 affordable housing. I look forward to continuing to
13 fight for affordable housing alongside our Speaker,
14 Corey Johnson as Chair of the Subcommittee on
15 Planning, Dispositions and Concessions by ensuring
16 every hard-earned tax dollar is maximized to drive a
17 hard bargain and generate significantly more
18 affordable housing. I also plan to ensure the
19 committee empowers communities in the planning
20 process, that concessions throughout our city create
21 opportunities for minority and women owned small
22 businesses and I'll make sure New Yorkers are getting
23 a full return on any city land and any resources we
24 are giving up. Thank you.

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And because I don't want his mother yelling at me, Council Member Keith Powers.

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COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you, no more... no more yelling. I want to say first congratulations everybody on their... on their new committees, congratulations to our new Majority Leader and to the new leadership as well. Thank you to Speaker Johnson, I know it's a difficult task but some... one that you took with a lot of caution and care to make sure that people were in places where they could do really good work for their communities and for the city of New York. I once again wanted to express my condolences to Council Member Dromm, I know this has been a tough week for you and all your colleagues are here to, to join by your side and last to my... to my colleague, to the... to the left I wanted to wish Council Member Moya a belated birthday, he won't tell me how old he is, he just says old but he had a birthday this past week and, and I want to just wish him a belated birthday. Thank you.

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member Alicka Samuels.

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COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Thank you
Madame Public Advocate. I just want to say thank you
so much for just having the faith and just believing
in me and I look forward to chairing the Public
Housing Committee and I just really look forward to
working with my colleagues because we know we have
over half a million New Yorkers who are living in
some very serious and disgusting conditions and this
is nothing new and I know that my predecessor,
Council Member Torres has worked so hard on behalf of
all of those families and I look forward to
continuing your fight in making sure that our
residents, our families have and.. what they deserve
and so with that I'm a product of public housing,
everyone knows I'm a voice for public housing, I used
to work at public... in the... at NYCHA and we have a lot
of work ahead of us but I look forward to the
challenge and we're going to do what we have to do so
thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
Cumbo did you have some additional remarks?

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Yes Public
Advocate. I too want to share my condolences to
Council Member Dromm. I remember when I met you five

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2 years ago, and I was contemplating running for office
3 you were managing the difficult task of meeting with
4 potential candidates but also visiting your mom and I
5 remember how special it was that you took time out to
6 meet with me and, so I certainly appreciate that and
7 I certainly appreciate your mom sharing you with us
8 over these last four years. I also want to add that
9 Public Advocate, Letitia James, now that I've been
10 elected as the Majority Leader I am pleased to know
11 that you are open to sharing your seat of power as
12 I've seen today, and I also want to... [cross-talk]

13 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Oh boy... [cross-talk]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: ...recognize...

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Oh boy.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: And I also want to
17 ask the, the members of the Women's Caucus to remain
18 behind up front so that we can take a group photo
19 following today's meeting. Thank you.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And now closing
21 remarks by the Speaker, Speaker Johnson.

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Today's meeting is
23 adjourned. Thank you very much.

24 [gavel]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date

January 14, 2018