

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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August 22, 2012
Start: 2:00 p.m.
Recess: 3:18 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Maria Del Carmen Arroyo
Charles Barron
Gale Brewer
Fernando Cabrera
Margaret Chin
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Elizabeth Crowley
Erik Martin Dilan
Daniel Dromm
Mathieu Eugene
Lewis A. Fidler
Helen D. Foster
Daniel R. Garodnick
James F. Gennaro
Vincent J. Gentile

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Sara M. Gonzalez
David G. Greenfield
Daniel J. Halloran III
Vincent Ignizio
Robert Jackson
Letitia James
Peter Koo
G. Oliver Koppell
Karen Koslowitz
Stephen Levin
Melissa Mark-Viverito
Darlene Mealy
Rosie Mendez
Michael C. Nelson
James S. Oddo
Annabel Palma
Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.
Diana Reyna
Joel Rivera
Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Deborah L. Rose
James Sanders, Jr.
Eric A. Ulrich
James Vacca
James G. Van Bramer
Albert Vann
Mark S. Weprin
Jumaane D. Williams

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

Thomas Duane
State Senator
New York

Luis Lujan
Member
Chelsea Garden Club

Steven St. Bernard
Resident
New York City

Gregory Wetzel
Resident
New York City

Aidan, Giselle and Morgan
Members
Chelsea Garden Club

Reverend Anita Burson
Pastor
Elpida Community Church of Christ Baptist

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: Let's get the
3 Chelsea Garden Club up. Come on up, Chelsea
4 Garden Club. All right, well, just let me get
5 started with our first ... Mr. Quinn and Council
6 Member Fidler, now you are being disruptive. All
7 my members of the Quinn family being disruptive.
8 So we are very excited, Senator Duane and I, to
9 recognize and thank the Chelsea Garden Club, and
10 for folks who may not know it, we have bike lanes
11 and medians in Chelsea, and on 8th and 9th Avenue
12 from 30th Street to 17th Street, and a little bit of
13 7th Avenue, Chelsea residents took it upon
14 themselves to make the medians beautiful. And
15 really, it was just one of ... kind of seemingly out
16 of nowhere one day on 9th Avenue we see somebody
17 with a shovel and plants, and everybody just got
18 their money together and went out there and
19 decided to make our neighborhood more beautiful,
20 and I just want to thank everybody in the Chelsea
21 Garden Club for everything you've done, I smile
22 every day when I walk out of my apartment on 9th
23 Avenue, I see those sunflowers, they're my
24 favorite flowers. Wayne went up and like accosted
25 you one day, Wayne went up to the poor gardener

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2 and he thought he was going to get arrested by
3 Wayne, but we really just wanted to say thank you
4 and invite you all down for this. So thank you so
5 much, let me ask the clerk to read the
6 proclamation and then we'll hear from Tom and the
7 gardeners. Tom, have you been doing any gardening
8 yet?

9 STATE SENATOR DUANE: (inaudible)

10 SPEAKER QUINN: Okay, and Mike.

11 CLERK: Council, City of New York,
12 proclamation. The Council of the City of New York
13 is proud to honor the members of the Chelsea
14 Garden Club for their contributions and commitment
15 to making our neighborhood such a beautiful place
16 ... a beautiful place to live, work and love. And
17 whereas the Chelsea Garden Club has sparked a new
18 level of community engagement since being formed a
19 little over a year and a half ago.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: That's true.

21 CLERK: It was the adoption of a
22 local tree pit that ignited a movement to green
23 the neighborhood, which led to the beautification
24 of the New York City Department of
25 Transportation's protected bike path's tree pits.

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2 This effort was tirelessly supported by Senator
3 Thomas K. Duane.

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Yea!

5 CLERK: Who played an instrumental
6 role in securing the approval to plant in the bike
7 lane tree pits, and insuring the group got off to
8 a solid start. And whereas collectively the
9 Chelsea Garden Club has accomplished an incredible
10 amount within a short time, the efforts to
11 beautify the bike lane tree pits have made that
12 project, and thus the whole neighborhood, more
13 beautiful. Yet it is because of the caring and
14 generous individuals that make up the group that
15 we are all able to reap such wonderful benefits.
16 These individuals selflessly tend to the tree pits
17 along Chelsea's avenues at their own cost, taking
18 great pains to improve the neighborhood one tree
19 pit at a time. And whereas the Chelsea Garden
20 Club's volunteers represent all backgrounds and
21 lifestyles, they all share a passion for
22 horticulture and are united in their efforts to
23 enlighten careless dog walkers about their own
24 neighborhood contributions.

25 SPEAKER QUINN: Not me, I'm good

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2 with a bag, I just want to say, very good with a
3 bag.

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CLERK: The Chelsea Garden Club's
volunteers prefer, as they put it, to look at
plants instead of poo, and strive to keep Chelsea-
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SPEAKER QUINN: (Interposing)

Repeat that sentence please, Mike, please, the
poo-related sentence, please, yes.

CLERK: The Chelsea Garden Club's
volunteers prefer, as they put it, to look at
plants instead of poo, and strive to keep Chelsea
tree-lined and flower-filled. This idea has
really taken off and today we see the work of the
Chelsea Garden Club expanding beyond the original
avenues and even beyond the neighborhood. And
whereas the Chelsea Garden Club members have
established clear stewardship recommendations for
caring for these tree pits, while these spaces may
be small, the compassionate gardeners have a big
responsibility and play a vital role in Chelsea,
beautifying these barrier islands safely across
seasons. Now therefore be it known that the
Council of the City of New York proudly honors the

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2 dedicated members of the Chelsea Garden Club for
3 their meaningful service to the community.

4 Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the entire
5 Council.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: Yea! And before I
7 give the mic to Tom, let's have the two ... the
8 couple, the junior gardeners, introduce
9 themselves. What's your name?

10 AIDAN: My name is Aidan.

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Aidan, all right.
12 And your name?

13 GISELLE: Giselle.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Giselle.

15 MORGAN: Morgan.

16 SPEAKER QUINN: Morgan. Any other
17 junior gardeners I missed? All right, Tom, and
18 then let's hear from the gardener.

19 STATE SENATOR DUANE: Okay, all
20 right, now you should ... I do think it's important
21 that there are people who just look at them and
22 don't pick them, and I'm one of those people. And
23 I really just ... I commend the beautiful job and
24 the adoption that the Chelsea Garden Club has
25 done, and made the neighborhood beautiful. And

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2 they're missionaries, so as, yes, so as other
3 neighborhoods get tree pits along their protected
4 bike lanes, which I happen to support, pedestrians
5 first, then bicycles, then vehicles, right?
6 That's the order, right? And there was a poll
7 that said that people like them today, so that's
8 good. So I'm being told to wrap up. Anyway, so
9 as you get your tree pits along your protected
10 bike lanes, because you know you're getting them,
11 so you can help the neighborhood make it
12 beautiful, go to the community board, and I want
13 to thank the Speaker and her whole staff, because
14 you worked very closely, we all worked together,
15 on this, and also I want to say in my office,
16 particularly Sarah and Jared, and Board #4 and
17 Board #7, and other boards jumping on. Dan
18 Garodnick is not here, he's getting them, whether
19 he likes it or not, and ... well, he likes that
20 green space, he's for that. All right, Laura says
21 to tell me to hurry. So anyway, I love you guys,
22 and I just ... it's unbelievable, right, what a
23 small group of people can do and our neighborhood
24 is so beautiful, and I love looking at it every
25 day when I walk out of my workers' paradise, Penn

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2 South, because it's even more beautiful now.

3 Thank you. Thank you, Speaker Quinn, for the
4 proclamation.

5 SPEAKER QUINN: Who wants to speak
6 for the gardeners? Yea! My corner gardener.

7 MR. LUJAN: Yes, I live right
8 outside your building, those are my tree plots.
9 My name is Luis Lujan. Three of them? Okay,
10 yeah, okay. Well, I'm just a guy who started
11 planting flowers to give back to this great city.
12 I also use the bike lanes every single day. But
13 it was really the work and the woman's touch of
14 Missy Adams that worked the city to get and
15 organize the club and got the sanction from the
16 city for all of this. And we want to thank the
17 Office of Christine Quinn and Tom Duane for your
18 efforts and your recognition, thank you very much.
19 And flower power, more bike lanes, thank you.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: Well, thank you,
21 guys, thank you Melanie La Rocca and Wayne, but I
22 really want to echo what Tom said, you guys have
23 made Chelsea, which is a beautiful neighborhood
24 always, even more beautiful. I hope you know, you
25 really do, I see people stop and look at the

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2 flowers on the median, you hear people talk about
3 where did they come from. I'm sure they thank
4 you, they really, really made people happy, and
5 with all the trouble and struggle in the world, to
6 have something that is just pretty and nice and
7 makes you smile, and that you all did it on your
8 own, we really are just so grateful, so thank you
9 so very, very much, and have a great rest of your
10 summer, and we can't wait to see what the other
11 seasons will bring now. Oh, these are all from
12 the bike lanes? Thank you. All right, well, we're
13 going to leave them on the dais to decorate this
14 Stated Council Meeting, we'll dub this a flower-
15 power Council meeting, in recognition of the
16 Chelsea Garden Club. Thank you all very much.
17 You'll have to circulate that between homes.
18 Thank you, guys, thank you. (pause) All right,
19 our next ceremonial is being led by Council Member
20 Domenic M. Recchia, Jr., our Finance Chair, and if
21 I could ask Steven St. Bernard and anybody who is
22 here with Steven to come up to the front, and I
23 really ... we had a lot of fun in that last
24 ceremonial, which is great, but this is really
25 important that people pay attention to this

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2 ceremonial, because Mr. St. Bernard, as he and his
3 family make their way up, is a real New York City
4 American hero. So Domenic, let me turn the mic
5 over to you.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA, JR.: I ask
7 Steve to come up with his whole family, Rosaya
8 (phonetic). Let's hear it for Steve St. Bernard
9 from Coney Island, and I ask all my colleagues to
10 please join us, come up to the front, Tom Duane,
11 Senator Duane, please come on up. We've got the
12 whole family, here come on, make a ... put Steve
13 right in the middle. Okay, I ask all my
14 colleagues ... okay, Steve is a real hero in the
15 Coney Island community. This gentleman was
16 walking by a housing development one day, looked
17 up, people said, the children that were playing
18 out there screamed, a little girl on top of an air
19 conditioner. This man ran over there, and this
20 girl had autism, on the air conditioner. She
21 jumped, this man ran, caught her, saved her life.
22 He is a real hero, he didn't think twice, he
23 didn't stop, he just did what a real hero would
24 do, go right into action. He works in the MTA, we
25 invited the union here today. Are they here?

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2 Anybody from TW ... we invited them. But we want
3 you to know, Steve, as the Council Member from
4 Coney Island, and your whole family, and of course
5 Rosaya, who is a great leader in Coney Island.
6 You know, she called me up, she goes, "We have to
7 honor Steve". I said, "We are, Speaker Quinn
8 called me up, we have to bring the whole ..." She
9 calls the shots. But Steve, I just want to thank
10 you, you're a hero, and many ... may you have many
11 more years of happiness with your family, because
12 you are well-deserving. At this time I turn the
13 mic over to Speaker Quinn. Oh, clerk, please read
14 the proclamation.

15 CLERK: Council, City of New York,
16 proclamation. Whereas the Council of the City of
17 New York is very proud to honor Steven St. Bernard
18 for a valiant life-saving rescue on July 16th,
19 2012, and whereas after graduating from Herron
20 High School as a valedictorian in 1978, and
21 attending City College for a year, Mr. St. Bernard
22 worked in construction before transitioning to
23 work for a school bus company for six years. For
24 the last ten years he has worked as a bus operator
25 for the MTA New York City Transit, assigned to the

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2 Flatbush depot. As a hard-working father of four
3 children and grandfather to one, he is truly a
4 person who lives his life in the service of
5 others. He is also a passionate fan of the New
6 York Knicks, New York Yankees and the New York
7 Giants, but his recent quick-thinking action
8 resulted in one of the most daring and important
9 plays on or off the field. And whereas on the
10 afternoon of July 16th, 2012 Mr. St. Bernard was
11 returning from work to his home at Coney Island
12 Housing, a complex of 14-story buildings, when he
13 saw a crowd looking up in horror. Outside a
14 third-floor apartment there was a seven-year-old
15 girl, the same age as one of his children. The
16 youngster above, however, has autism and had
17 crawled out the third-floor window atop the air
18 conditioning unit. When the girl lost her footing
19 and fell, Mr. St. Bernard flew into action and
20 without a second to spare caught her with a life-
21 saving grab. And whereas Mr. St. Bernard's
22 courageous act resulted in a torn shoulder tendon,
23 but fortunately the young girl was taken to Coney
24 Island Hospital and treated for minor injuries,
25 the entire incident was caught on amateur video

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2 and replayed on virtually all news stations, Mr.
3 St. Bernard's heroic act energized the city and
4 captured the interest of the world press. Despite
5 this dramatic rescue, he has said he does not
6 consider himself a hero. "No", he has said, "the
7 hero is a sandwich, I just did what I would do for
8 one of my own kids." Now therefore be it known,
9 the Council of the City of New York is extremely
10 proud to honor Steven St. Bernard for his life-
11 saving heroism on July 16th, 2012.

12 SPEAKER QUINN: Yea!

13 CLERK: Christine Quinn, Speaker
14 for the entire Council, Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.,
15 Council Member for the 7th District, Brooklyn.

16 SPEAKER QUINN: Well, Mr. St.
17 Bernard, I just wanted to echo everything Domenic
18 said on behalf of all of my colleagues. You know,
19 we all would like to think we would have done what
20 you did, but the truth is, very few people would
21 have done what you did, but thank God you are one
22 of those people, because now that wonderful
23 child's life has been saved, that child will go on
24 to have a full life, that family has been just
25 spared that terrible tragedy, so on behalf of all

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2 of us, thank you so much. And we'd ask you to say
3 a few words.

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MR. ST. BERNARD: Thank you for
5 this honor. Thank you, thank you very much.

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SPEAKER QUINN: The mark of a true
7 hero, a man of few words. Thank you all very
8 much, have a great and safe rest of your summer.
9 Thank you. So just as Mr. St. Bernard makes his
10 way out, we're going to have our next ceremonial,
11 led by Council Member Gale Brewer, and believe it
12 or not, the individual who is going to come up,
13 Gregory Wetzel, is another New York hero, who
14 saved another New Yorker's life, so it's really a
15 day here, whether it's people doing small things
16 in their neighborhoods or individuals doing huge
17 heroic acts, we're reminded of how great New
18 Yorkers are, so just as we finish up the pictures
19 here ... congratulations and we should have Gregory
20 and Steven shake hands, two heroes seeing each
21 other on the way out, and let's have Gale and
22 Gregory Wetzel come on up.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: My
colleagues are welcome to join us, Gregory Wetzel
... could you ask everyone to be quiet please?

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2 Thank you very much. Yes, it's Senator Duane's
3 district also. Gregory Wetzel on Saturday May
4 29th, 2012 was on the 72nd Street subway on the IRT
5 on the West Side of Manhattan where he and his
6 wonderful wife, three children live. And he saw
7 somebody who was in great need because the train
8 was coming and this woman was on the tracks. He
9 jumped onto the tracks, saved the woman, while his
10 three children were watching, got back up. She's
11 alive, he's alive, and he is a New York hero.

12 SPEAKER QUINN: Yea!

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: As the
14 Speaker has said, very few people would do this,
15 he has three children in public school on the West
16 Side, he is somebody who embellishes the
17 neighborhood and goes well, well beyond what most
18 of us would do. So it's really an honor for this
19 entire family, and as his wife said, "He's an
20 everyday hero", but for those of us who knew this
21 and who want to honor him today, he's a New York
22 hero. Thank you, Gregory Wetzel.

23 SPEAKER QUINN: If we could have
24 the clerk please read the proclamation, what a
25 great day here, right?

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2 CLERK: Council, City of New York,
3 proclamation. Whereas the Council of the City of
4 New York is very proud to honor Gregory A. Wetzel
5 for his courageous rescue on May 20th, 2012, and
6 whereas that Sunday afternoon Mr. Wetzel who
7 frequently teaches his own children the merits of
8 platform safety was waiting for the uptown 1 Train
9 at the West 72nd Street station. Sensing a
10 disturbance and ever willing to be of assistance,
11 Mr. Wetzel walked toward the opposite end of the
12 platform where a crowd had gathered and saw a
13 woman on the subway tracks unconscious. And
14 whereas with everyone else on the crowded platform
15 watching, including his three young children, sons
16 six and seven and daughter four, Mr. Wetzel jumped
17 down onto the track bed and hoisted the woman up
18 to the platform just 60 seconds before the train
19 roared into the station. And whereas although
20 straphangers dubbed him a hero, Mr. Wetzel has
21 been remarkably self-effacing about his own
22 performance, simply calling it "the right thing to
23 do". Despite this humble valor, he truly risked
24 his own life saving the life of a fellow New
25 Yorker, a complete stranger who was treated at

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2 Roosevelt Hospital and released. And whereas Mr.
3 Wetzel, a caring upper West Side parent, has
4 always cautioned his children about the importance
5 of subway safety, but with his single act of
6 heroism he has instilled in them both the wisdom
7 of subterranean wariness and the true meaning of
8 courage. Now therefore be it known that the
9 Council of the City of New York is extremely proud
10 to honor Gregory A. Wetzel for his life-saving
11 heroism on May 20th, 2012. Christine C. Quinn,
12 Speaker for the entire Council, Gale A. Brewer,
13 Council Member 6th District Manhattan.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Well Gregory, I
15 just want to say thank you. It's kind of, you
16 know, the one story, Mr. St. Bernard, was
17 unbelievable, your story is unbelievable. And to
18 have both of you here today, it really just does
19 remind us that there is both superheroes and
20 angels living right among us. So thank you for
21 being both of those things. And Mr. St. Bernard
22 for being both of those things wrapped up into
23 one. And for having such adorable little ones who
24 are with us today. And let me give you the mic to
25 say a few words.

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2 MR. WETZEL: I would just say thank
3 you for this very unexpected honor. As I heard
4 the proclamation, it just seemed like the right
5 thing to do, and I think New Yorkers take care of
6 one another when you get right down to it, so you
7 know, that's about it.

8 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
9 much, thank you. All right, so you got pictures?
10 All right, thank you very much. Now we have one
11 more ceremonial, so the next ceremonial is going
12 to ... we're going to need some audience
13 participation, so some of you had heard that
14 earlier in the summer my father had had valve
15 replacement surgery, aortic valve replacement
16 surgery, which went very well. And yesterday he
17 turned 86, so we're going to have some birthday
18 cake before the stated meeting, so as Wayne
19 theoretically makes his way in with the birthday
20 cake, I'm stalling here, Wayne and Barbara, let's
21 all sing happy birthday.

22 ALL: (sing happy birthday).

23 SPEAKER QUINN: Well, we will now
24 cut the cake, and unlike those heroes who are men
25 of few words, I will not give the microphone to my

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2 father, and we will all just wish him a happy
3 birthday. He can eat it up here, he doesn't have
4 to be chained to his desk in the basement. So
5 thank you all, and happy birthday. We'll cut the
6 cake over there. Yesterday was Debbie Rose's
7 birthday. Happy birthday. Separated at birth.

8 ALL: (sing happy birthday).

9 SPEAKER QUINN: Nobody here better
10 quit their day job, is all I have to say. So with
11 the commitment for people to go get cake in the
12 Committee Room, the ceremonials are over. Happy
13 birthday, Mr. Quinn. Just before we end, you
14 don't have to pay for the cake, but I just wanted
15 to recognize, you might know that he's here, State
16 Senator Tom Duane, and ... stop it ... and one
17 another, Staten Island's own, our former sergeant-
18 at-arms Doug Appel, I want to thank Doug for being
19 back visiting with all of us today. So, and that
20 concludes ceremonials. (pause)

21 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: At this time
22 will all non-Council personnel please clear the
23 main floor, all non-Council personnel please clear
24 the main floor. There is no cell phone use
25 permitted in the chambers, so please set your cell

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2 phones to vibration. Thank you very much for your
3 cooperation.

4 CLERK: Barron.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.

6 CLERK: Brewer.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

8 CLERK: Cabrera.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

10 CLERK: Chin.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

12 CLERK: Comrie. Crowley.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

14 CLERK: Dickens. Dilan.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Here.

16 CLERK: Dromm.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

18 CLERK: Eugene. Ferreras. Fidler.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.

20 CLERK: Foster. Garodnick.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

22 CLERK: Gennaro.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.

24 CLERK: Gentile. Gonzalez.

25 Greenfield.

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Here.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Here.

CLERK: Halloran.

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN, III:

CLERK: Ignizio. Jackson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Here.

CLERK: James. Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Here.

CLERK: Koppell. Koslowitz.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

CLERK: Lander. Lappin. Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

CLERK: Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.

CLERK: Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

CLERK: Nelson.

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Here.

CLERK: Palma.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

CLERK: Recchia.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA, JR.: Here.
3 CLERK: Reyna.
4 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.
5 CLERK: Rodriguez.
6 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.
7 CLERK: Rose.
8 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.
9 CLERK: Sanders. Ulrich.
10 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.
11 CLERK: Vacca. Vallone. Van
12 Bramer.
13 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.
14 CLERK: Vann.
15 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Here.
16 CLERK: Weprin.
17 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.
18 CLERK: Williams. Wills. Koppell.
19 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.
20 CLERK: Oddo.
21 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Here.
22 CLERK: Rivera.
23 PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: Here.
24 CLERK: Speaker Quinn.
25 SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

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CLERK: We have a quorum.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: Thank you very much. My colleagues, please be advised that the invocation is being delivered today by Reverend Anita Burson from the Elpida Community Church of Christ Baptist in Brooklyn.

REV. BURSON: Will you all just take a deep breath in, and just release a deep breath out, and look to your neighbor on your left and on your right, those with whom you will deliberate today. Let us pray. O eternal God, Lord of history, we thank You for this day of opportunity, as we assemble here with representatives sent from many walks of life, disciplines, various faiths, and divergent views, to represent people of the same. We pause in this moment to lift our thoughts in gratitude, to share our common interests in problems of this city. It is through Your power that men and women won liberty, and by whose justice they held a vision of a righteous nation and indeed a righteous city. People who laid down their lives to purchase our freedom, let us be ever mindful of the legacies we share that brought with it diligence, scholarship

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2 and sacrifice. Help our leaders by worthy to
3 stand in this place with courage and an unwavering
4 hope to fulfill the task Your will demands be
5 done. Let us commit ourselves to the purpose of
6 making our communities better places in
7 particular, and the world in general a better
8 place for all humankind. Let us also be reminded
9 of those who so recently served this deliberation,
10 Hope and Lynette. Our hearts grieve the
11 relationships, the friendships, and the collegial
12 nature of working for this august body. Let us
13 remember their families and their loved ones,
14 especially her mother as she also grieves, Hope's
15 father, Mr. Reichbach. May we be ever reminded
16 that grief shows that we loved. Guide the Mayor,
17 Speaker and all of the Council officials elected
18 to serve to develop our city and communities in
19 Your way for Your name's sake we pray. Let all of
20 the people here assembled say amen.

21 PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: If
22 everybody could remain risen.

23 SPEAKER QUINN: I want to thank
24 Reverend Burson so much and say what an honor and
25 a joy it is for all of us to have her with us. On

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2 July 14th, 2012, Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Gus
3 Reichbach, 65, passed away from complications of
4 pancreatic cancer. Born in Brooklyn, the son of a
5 union organizer, he graduated Midwood High School,
6 SUNY Buffalo and Columbia Law School. At Columbia
7 Justice Reichbach became an anti-war advocate and
8 leader of the Students for a Democratic Society.
9 First selected to the civil court in 1990, he was
10 assigned to night court, where he began handing
11 out condoms to prostitutes who had been arrested,
12 to stop the spread of HIV. He was subsequently
13 dubbed the "Condom Judge" on the cover of the
14 Daily News. His activism continued up till very
15 recently, even while he was suffering very
16 terribly from cancer. In May he wrote an op ed in
17 the New York Times imploring the State Legislature
18 to make marijuana available for medical purposes.
19 He was not just a judge, but a long-time community
20 activist, political activist. Justice Reichbach
21 is survived by his wife Ellen, by his brother,
22 sadly, as I think we all remember, his young
23 daughter Hope, who was a very important and
24 significant member of Council Member Levin's
25 staff, passed away, so this is a great deal of

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2 loss for the Reichbach family in a very short
3 period of time. So our thoughts remain with them,
4 and let me call on Council Member Levin to say a
5 few words.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you,
7 Madam Speaker. On Saturday July 14th, 2012, New
8 York City lost the Honorable Gustin Reichbach,
9 esteemed justice of the New York Supreme Court,
10 father of Hope Reichbach and husband of Ellen
11 Meyers, a tough Brooklynite who embodied that
12 borough's great tradition of progressive politics,
13 an iconoclast of the highest order, and a true New
14 York original. One quality that you could
15 associate with Gus, who was a personal hero of
16 mine, from his days at Columbia Law School in 1968
17 to his fight to be admitted to the bar because of
18 his days at Columbia Law School in 1968, to his
19 work as a private attorney, and later as a civil
20 and Supreme Court judge, where he weighed every
21 decision with the gravity it merited, that one
22 quality is courage. Courage to stand for his
23 beliefs in the face of overwhelming opposition,
24 courage to stand for his beliefs when his own
25 personal career was at stake, courage to face life

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2 head-on after suffering overwhelming, the
3 overwhelming loss of his beloved daughter, and
4 courage to fight pancreatic cancer against the
5 odds for over three years and never let it win.
6 Gus will be remembered by the thousands of people
7 whose lives he touched and made better. Everyone
8 who ever entered his court knew they had in their
9 judge a man who was fair, compassionate,
10 deliberate and kind. He loved his work, he loved
11 the law, he loved politics, he loved his friends,
12 but most of all he loved Ellen and Hope. Our city
13 is a richer and better place because of Gus
14 Reichbach and we will miss him dearly. Thank you.

15 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Steve.
16 On August 5th, as we all know, a white supremacist
17 gunman entered a Sikh temple in Wisconsin and
18 opened fire on worshipers, killing six people and
19 critically wounding three others, including one of
20 the responding police officers, who we should make
21 note that when the emergency responders came upon
22 Officer Murphy, he flagged them off and said, "Go
23 inside and take care of the others first."
24 Officer Murphy is from Brooklyn and his brother
25 recently retired from the police department. This

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2 tragedy, following on the heels of the Aurora
3 massacre and the many random acts of gun violence
4 that seem to be plaguing our city this summer,
5 further point out the critical need for stronger
6 efforts to occur to fight gun violence. Our
7 thoughts and prayers go out to the victims and
8 their families, but in particular to the entire
9 Sikh community who this Council has worked very
10 closely with on many different issues, this has
11 hurt the Sikh community just very, very deeply.
12 Unfortunately, closer to home here in the Council
13 on August 18th, Ruthie Del Franco, our long-time
14 LTS systems administrator and executive assistant
15 to our administrative services director, lost her
16 mother, Kathleen, after a long, long battle with
17 lung cancer. During her mother's illness, Ruthie
18 was by her side every step of the way, during
19 radiation and chemotherapy treatments, if they
20 were five-hour treatments, Ruthie would be there
21 with her mother for all five hours. Ruthie showed
22 the same love, dedication and loyalty to her
23 mother as she has done here at the Council for 25
24 years, our thoughts and prayers go out to Ruthie,
25 as well as her fiancé, our director of security,

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2 Carl D'Alba, and her sister Annie and her entire
3 family. I think most folks know, but not everyone
4 may know, that on Monday we suddenly and
5 tragically lost a very cherished member of the
6 Council family, when our Deputy Majority Leader
7 Inez Dickens' chief of staff Lynette Velasco
8 passed away suddenly. Always smiling and
9 incredibly cheerful, Lynette started working for
10 the Council in 2001, for Council Member Juanita
11 Watkins, and then for Council Member James Sanders
12 before returning to the Council in January of 2006
13 to head up Council Member Dickens' office. A
14 graduate of Hampton University, Lynette worked in
15 the fields of government, art, not-for-profit
16 management and journalism, she was a very well-
17 known and well-respected poet as well. A trusted
18 and supremely competent confidant and long-time
19 friend of Inez, Lynette was a tireless advocate on
20 behalf of the residents of Harlem and our entire
21 city, and our thoughts and prayers go out to Inez,
22 to Pascal Bernard, to everyone in the Harlem
23 family, to Lynette's family and to the entire
24 Council family, I know we will all miss Lynette,
25 and in particular, as I said, that incredibly

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2 cheery, happy smile, and just kind of abundant joy
3 she would bring to every meeting and gathering.

4 Thank you, and may Lynette rest in peace.

5 PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: Thank
6 you very much, Madam Speaker, we ... Council Member
7 Vann?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: A motion to
9 spread the invocation in full upon the record.

10 PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: So
11 ordered. We now move on to adoption of the
12 minutes.

13 CLERK: Done.

14 PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: Messages
15 and papers from the Mayor.

16 CLERK: M874, 77, 78, and 76.

17 SPEAKER QUINN: Received, ordered
18 printed and filed.

19 CLERK: M875.

20 PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: Can we
21 get silence in the chambers?

22 CLERK: M875.

23 SPEAKER QUINN: Landmarks, Public
24 Siting, Maritime Usage.

25 PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA:

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Communications from city, county and borough officers?

CLERK: M876, Mayor's approval of conveyance.

SPEAKER QUINN: Planning, Dispositions and Concessions.

CLERK: M877 and 878, approval base stations.

SPEAKER QUINN: Transportation.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: Petitions and communications.

CLERK: None.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: Land use call-ups.

CLERK: M879 and M880.

SPEAKER QUINN: If we could couple those and please have a roll call on the coupled land use call-ups.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: So ordered.

CLERK: Arroyo.

Cx01 Aye.

CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

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2 CLERK: Brewer.
3 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.
4 CLERK: Cabrera.
5 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.
6 CLERK: Chin. Comrie.
7 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE, JR.: Aye.
8 CLERK: Crowley.
9 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.
10 CLERK: Dilan.
11 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.
12 CLERK: Dromm.
13 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: ... general
14 orders?
15 PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: Yes.
16 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you, I
17 vote aye.
18 PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: Thank
19 you.
20 CLERK: Fidler.
21 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.
22 CLERK: Eugene.
23 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.
24 CLERK: Foster. Garodnick.
25 Gennaro.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.
3 CLERK: Gentile.
4 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.
5 CLERK: Gonzalez.
6 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.
7 CLERK: Greenfield.
8 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.
9 CLERK: Halloran.
10 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN, III: Aye.
11 CLERK: Ignizio.
12 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.
13 CLERK: Jackson.
14 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye.
15 CLERK: James.
16 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye.
17 CLERK: Koo.
18 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.
19 CLERK: Koppell.
20 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.
21 CLERK: Koslowitz.
22 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.
23 CLERK: Levin.
24 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.
25 CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.
3 CLERK: Mealy.
4 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.
5 CLERK: Mendez.
6 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.
7 CLERK: Nelson.
8 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.
9 CLERK: Palma.
10 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.
11 CLERK: Recchia.
12 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA, JR.: Aye.
13 CLERK: Reyna.
14 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.
15 CLERK: Rodriguez.
16 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.
17 Point of order?
18 PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: So
19 ordered.
20 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.
21 CLERK: Rose.
22 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.
23 CLERK: Sanders. Ulrich.
24 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.
25 CLERK: Vacca.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

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CLERK: Vallone. Van Bramer.

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PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: So

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ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

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CLERK: Vann. Weprin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

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CLERK: Williams.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

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CLERK: Oddo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

13

CLERK: Rivera.

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PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: Yes.

15

CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Yes.

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CLERK: Land Use call-ups, Council

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Member Sanders. Council Member Sanders.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS, JR.: Yes.

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PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: All

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right, today's land use call-ups were adopted by a

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vote of 43 in the affirmative, with zero in the

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negative, we now move on to communications from

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the Speaker.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very

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2 much. First we are voting on Intro 834A, a piece
3 of legislation that comes out of the Environmental
4 Protection Committee and is chaired by our
5 terrific EP Chair, Jim Gennaro. I want to thank
6 Samara Swanson, Jeff Baker and Laura Popa, it is
7 amazing what a team Laura, Samara, Jeff and Jim
8 and Jim's staff are, and always pushing us either
9 further to do things to protect our city, state
10 and world, and 834A will codify into law the New
11 York City panel on climate change and the climate
12 adaptation task force, as well as expanding the
13 breadth and depth of those entities to cover more
14 important parts of the city and different
15 communities that get affected by climate change.
16 Last month in the United States we had the hottest
17 month on record, the hottest month on record since
18 they began to keep temperature records. That is
19 an incredibly startling fact, it's a fact that in
20 part has led to one of the worst corn crops in
21 history, which has led to significant failures for
22 cattle ranchers across the country, which will
23 lead potentially among other things to higher food
24 costs for New Yorkers. It's something that as we
25 come up on the year anniversary of the hurricane

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2 needs to remind us about what a rising water table
3 could do to a city of five boroughs, four of which
4 are on or are islands. So I want to thank Chair
5 Gennaro for making sure that the work we've done
6 on climate change and climate adaptation isn't a
7 one-time thing, it doesn't rest on whether or not
8 the Mayor or the Speaker care about the
9 environment, that it's a permanent part of our
10 city, and that we will keep working to keep our
11 city safe as it relates to climate change, but
12 also we will be leading cities across America and
13 across the world in how to deal with climate
14 change. So thank you so much, Chair Gennaro, and
15 if I could call on you for a few words.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you,
17 Madam Speaker, thank you for your leadership and
18 all of the staff that you mentioned to bring this
19 bill forward. Just to put this in a little bit of
20 context, everyone remembers in 2008 when we became
21 the national leader in reducing greenhouse gases
22 by pledging, by mandating that we reduce them by
23 30%, this is what all jurisdictions throughout the
24 country should be doing. But just as everyone
25 reduces their greenhouse gases, it's very

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2 important to prepare for, and implement, very
3 commonsense strategies to protect against the rise
4 of sea level and devastating climate change, and
5 it's important that we act and we act now to put a
6 mechanism in place, that's what this bill will do.
7 I am told that this is the first legislative
8 effort of its type, of any state or local
9 government, which is really a terrific thing, and
10 the first to focus on vulnerable communities. I'm
11 very grateful to my staff who worked on this, to
12 Bill Murray and Jeremy Walsh, also to the
13 Bloomberg administration that has been doing very
14 good work on climate change adaptation, the Office
15 of Long-term Planning and Sustainability, and I
16 will close where I started in thanking you, Madam
17 Speaker, for your great environmental leadership
18 and all my colleagues. Hold it, I have a special
19 note to thank all of the sponsors of the bill and
20 all the members of the Environmental Committee,
21 particularly Council Member Koppell who added
22 something very valuable to this bill, and who
23 worked with us, and I want to thank him in a
24 special way during these remarks. Thank you,
25 Madam Speaker, for your leadership.

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
3 much, Chair Gennaro, I want to thank Chair Rivera
4 and Chuck Davis and the members of the Rules,
5 Privileges and Elections Committee, and Joseph
6 Douek, he's appointed to the City Planning
7 Commission at the recommendation of our terrific
8 Brooklyn Borough President. I want to thank Chair
9 Leroy Comrie and Gail Benjamin and the Land Use
10 staff on the various land use actions that we are
11 taking today. And finally, we are voting on pre-
12 considered interim 918 out of the Health
13 Committee. I want to thank Chair Arroyo for her
14 work on this, and the sponsor of the bill, Council
15 Member Jessica Lappin. I want to thank Lacey
16 Clarke and Joe Mancino and Margaret Nelson, and
17 this is a piece of legislation that will make
18 important changes and codify them as it relates to
19 the trap, neuter and return program for feral
20 cats, and that concludes communications from the
21 Speaker.

22 PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: Thank
23 you very much, Madam Speaker, we now move on to
24 discussion of general orders. We have Council
25 Member Barron.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you
3 very much. I rise to explain my vote against
4 LU648 and accompanying Reso 1477. The Mayor is
5 trying to rush a project so that Cornell
6 University can build its facilities on Roosevelt
7 Island, so the Mayor wants to empty out the Coler-
8 Goldwater nursing facilities and bring them into
9 East Harlem. I am all for struggling nursing
10 facility residents to have affordable housing and
11 come back to their communities, most of them are
12 from our communities. But for the Mayor to empty
13 those two facilities out in his rush to get
14 Cornell University, like they tried to help
15 Columbia and NYU, giving the benefits to the big
16 developers, he is calling for 100% of the housing
17 to be for the nursing residents that are released.
18 Special needs housing should be accompanied with
19 affordable housing for the residents. And then
20 they're using the support of housing program for
21 the homeless to channel the money through, \$49
22 million of the \$51 million is coming from the
23 Federal, state and public sources to this
24 developer, the developer only has to put \$1.8
25 million in, and then nobody in the community can

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2 get in the housing, and the homeless money that's
3 using a small portion of it for special services,
4 none of the homeless can get in there. I'm all
5 for our people, people are going to get up and
6 say, those are our people, and they're in need of
7 it, I'm for that. Why not 70%, and let 30% come
8 from the community? And the reason the Mayor
9 wants to go to the program, the support of housing
10 program, is so he doesn't have to give up the 50%
11 to the community. Community Board #11 is against
12 it, the Metropolitan Hospital Community Advisory
13 Board is against it, they're building it next to a
14 sanitation facility. This is not a good project
15 for the community, and I urge you to vote no.

16 PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: Thank
17 you very much, Council Member, we now move on to
18 Council Member Halloran.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN, III: My
20 colleagues, today we vote on some necessary
21 expense budget item changes, however I will remind
22 this body, as I indicated during our discussions
23 of the budget, that the Mayor's plan on taxi
24 medallions would be struck down by the courts.
25 That is exactly what has now happened. So that

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2 creates a \$1 billion shortfall we will have to
3 deal with over the course of the next year,
4 something that I pointed out during negotiations,
5 something I pointed out numerous times in our
6 delegation negotiations, that this money would not
7 be there. We are going to have to take serious
8 looks over the next year at the budget of the City
9 of New York and where we continue to increase
10 spending despite a decrease in the tax base
11 itself, that these programs, often done by fiat,
12 and this is of course not the only example of a
13 by-fiat program that the Mayor's office has
14 implemented, our soda ban is another example.
15 This is the fourth time that I have expressed my
16 legal opinion on the Mayor's lawsuits and
17 indicated that they will fail, this is the fourth
18 time I have been correct in my assessment, and I
19 would urge us all to start looking at this \$1
20 billion shortfall today, and not wait until the
21 budget crunch happens at the end of November, when
22 we have to make serious and drastic decisions,
23 starting now is when we should be doing, not
24 later. Thank you.

25 PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: Thank

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2 you very much, Council Member. We now move on to
3 Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

5 Thank you, I stand up to address Land Use Item
6 648, Reso 1477, which is located in my district,
7 and I appreciate my colleague's concerns. There
8 has been a lot of ... I think there's a lot of
9 confusion and a lot of misinformation that's being
10 shared. I've been engaging in extensive
11 conversations with the administration and HHC and
12 this is an extremely complicated project, because
13 it entails three distinct pieces and three
14 distinct developments. In the case of the East
15 99th Street project, again these are Coler-
16 Goldwater residents, these are individuals that
17 are housed in a public hospital system and
18 setting, so obviously it is low-income individuals
19 that are being transferred into a home-based
20 setting, and we have been having conversations.
21 Now let me be clear, Community Board #11 and the
22 Community Advisory Board are not against the
23 housing portion of this project, but there are
24 some concerns which we have been addressing, have
25 to do with the sanitation depot, have to do with

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2 some of the containment and abatement issues, and
3 have to do with some of the give-backs that
4 Cornell has expressed providing to the City of New
5 York, and which our community wants to benefit
6 from. Those are conversations that will continue,
7 I believe we will get to a good place, I want to
8 thank the administration and the HHC individuals
9 that have helped along this way, and I urge my
10 colleagues to vote in favor of this project.
11 Thank you.

12 PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: Thank
13 you very much, Council Member. Seeing no others,
14 we now move on to the next section, which is
15 reports of special committees.

16 CLERK: None.

17 PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: Reports
18 of standing committees?

19 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
20 Environmental Protection, Intro 834, New York City
21 Panel on Climate Change.

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

24 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
25 Finance, Pre-considered Reso 1473, certain

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organizations to receive funding.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Health, Pre-considered Intro 918, trap, neuter, return information.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land Use, LU 648 and Reso 1477, Metro Health homes housing, Manhattan.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

CLERK: Reso 654 and Reso 1478 through Reso 656 and Reso 1480, unenclosed sidewalk cafes.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

CLERK: Reso 657 ... LU 657 and Reso 1481 through LU 658 and Reso 1482, Landmark designations.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

CLERK: LU 659 and Reso 1483 and LU

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660 and Reso 1484, various designations.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

CLERK: LU 661 and Reso 1485, and LU 662 and Reso 1486, unenclosed sidewalk cafes.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

CLERK: Pre-considered LU 663 and Reso 1487, through Pre-considered LU 665 and Reso 1489, school facilities.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections, M853 and Reso 1490, approval of the appointment of Joseph Douek, member of the New York City Planning Commission.

SPEAKER QUINN: Sorry, coupled on general orders.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: General order calendar?

CLERK: Resolution appointing various persons Commissioner of Deeds.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders. At this time I would like to ask for a

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2 roll call for all items that have been coupled on
3 the general order calendar. Please, and I just
4 want to remind folks, we have two resolutions
5 relating to in-classroom school breakfasts that
6 we're voting on after.

7 CLERK: Arroyo.

8 Cx01 Aye.

9 CLERK: Barron.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote no
11 on LU 648 and the accompanying Reso 1477, and aye
12 on all the rest of the general order items.

13 CLERK: Brewer.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye, and I
15 want to thank Melissa Mark-Viverito for the
16 explanation and her extensive input into the
17 policy changes.

18 CLERK: Cabrera.

19 CLERK: Chin.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

21 CLERK: Comrie.

22 CLERK: Crowley.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

24 CLERK: Dilan.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.

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CLERK: Eugene.

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PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: Yes.

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COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you

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very much. One of my staff, Jonah Ugoff

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(phonetic) is going to leave, this is his last

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day. He's going back to school to study city

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planning. I just wanted to express my--

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PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA:

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(Interposing) Council Member ... go ahead.

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COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Sorry, I

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just wanted to express my gratitude and my

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appreciation to him, he has been a very brilliant,

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hard-working young person, he has been an asset

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for my office and also for the people I'm

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privileged to serve. Jonah, thank you very much,

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good luck, and I wish you a very bright future.

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Thank you very much. And I vote aye. Thank you.

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CLERK: Fidler.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Majority

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Leader Rivera, may I be excused to explain my

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vote?

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PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: Yes.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I feel

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compelled to comment on what Council Member

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2 Halloran said. You know, we should inspect every
3 penny we spend all the time, not just after an
4 event like the taxi medallion decision, and as the
5 plaintiff in the taxi medallion case, I am
6 intimately familiar with what that decision said
7 which was that this body was improperly bypassed
8 in crafting a decision that affects the lives
9 solely of New Yorkers. And I am confident, I am
10 very confident, that under the leadership of
11 Speaker Quinn and Transportation Committee Chair
12 Vacca, this Council can play a proper role in
13 crafting a resolution that is effective in those
14 neighborhoods where it needs to be effective, and
15 reserves the revenue stream that is so important
16 to this budget, and we should not allow ourselves
17 to be put in the position of having to choose
18 between daycare and after-school and shelter beds
19 and all those things, or taxi medallions, because
20 it's not a real necessary choice. I know we can
21 get that done. And having said that, we have an
22 action today that involves financing for something
23 that's extraordinarily important, and that's the
24 task force recommendations to reduce gun violence.
25 I have a problem with some of how that money is

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2 spent, a small portion of it, but I'm going to
3 vote in favor of this, because in the last week
4 I've had at least eight people in my district shot
5 with a handgun, eight. And I would rather take
6 the chance that this solution will work, than to
7 vote no, which is to do nothing. And so I urge my
8 colleagues, and I have spoken on this issue at
9 BNT, that we ought to take the lead, and we ought
10 to vote yes, and I vote aye on all.

11 CLERK: Foster.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: I'd like to
13 vote aye on all the land use call-ups and aye on
14 all the general order calendar items.

15 PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: So
16 ordered.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Thank you.

18 CLERK: Garodnick. Gennaro.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

20 CLERK: Gentile.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Yes.

22 CLERK: Gonzalez.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Yes.

24 CLERK: Greenfield.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Yes.

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CLERK: Halloran.

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN, III: May
I speak?

PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN, III: My
esteemed colleague has I hope not misinterpreted
my comments on the overall state of the budget for
a specific vote in this particular issue. Clearly
this budget requires us to make some adjustments,
and Chair Recchia has done what he has always
done, which is looked through the list with the
Speaker and made sure that the appropriate
adjustments are being made, and that funding is
available for programs which they deem necessary.
It does not change, however, the overall need of
this body to start exercising a little bit more of
the scalpel in the future and in particular when
it comes to issues related to a \$1 billion
shortfall. So while I appreciate my colleague's
commentary, and I trust he did not misinterpret my
initial statement, it nonetheless begs us to
discuss the issue now rather than in the 15
minutes before a budget has to be passed next
June, or in the dialogue that we have in December

1
2 after a series of hurry-up-and-wait hearings where
3 half the time the administration fails to even
4 bother to send the appropriate representatives to
5 stand before us and make their cases. So again,
6 openness, transparency, and the ability of this
7 body to actually combat the problems in advance,
8 rather than under the gun, so that we can make
9 meaningful discussions, have meaningful issues,
10 and actually address the underlying problem of a
11 budget that has doubled in the last ten years,
12 despite the fact that we've had a flight of the
13 upper middle class, the job producers, and those
14 who are actually in small business around the City
15 of New York. Thank you.

16 PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: Did you
17 vote, Council Member?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN, III: Aye.

19 PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: Okay,
20 thank you.

21 CLERK: Comrie.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE, JR.: Aye.

23 CLERK: Ignizio.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

25 CLERK: Jackson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on

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all.

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CLERK: James.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye on all.

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CLERK: Koo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

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CLERK: Koppell.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

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CLERK: Koslowitz.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

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CLERK: Levin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

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CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

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CLERK: Mealy.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Majority

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Leader, may I have permission? I'd like to vote

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on all bills and calendar items?

20

PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: Yes.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye

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on all. Thank you.

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CLERK: Mendez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

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CLERK: Nelson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.

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CLERK: Palma.

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

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CLERK: Recchia.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA, JR.: First

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of all I want to congratulate my colleague Melissa

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Mark-Viverito on the great job she did, there were

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some tough decisions, and I also would like to

10

wish Jeff Rodus a happy birthday. Aye on all.

11

CLERK: Reyna.

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.

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CLERK: Rose.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

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CLERK: Sanders.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS, JR.: Aye,

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excuse me.

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PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: If you

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could just one second for the microphone please.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS, JR.: I

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vote aye, and with permission I would like to vote

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aye on all bills and calendar items.

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PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: So

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ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS, JR.: I

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vote aye.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: Can we get some silence in the chambers.

CLERK: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

CLERK: Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

CLERK: Vann.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

CLERK: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

CLERK: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: It's still aye. I just wanted to congratulate Ms. Mark-Viverito, happy birthday to Jeff Rodus, Debbie Rose and everyone else celebrating their birthdays, and I also wanted to make sure that I pointed out again, thank you to Speaker Quinn and the City Council in general as we're moving forward with another one of the recommendations of the gun violence task force. I do believe doing something is better than nothing, and I'm hoping

1
2 that these recommendations pan out and actually
3 indeed decrease gun violence, and I'm very happy
4 that the Speaker from the beginning said she would
5 put some money into this, has kept her word, and I
6 thank everyone on the Council for helping this
7 move forward. Thank you.

8 CLERK: Oddo.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

10 CLERK: Rivera.

11 PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: I vote
12 aye on all.

13 CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Aye. We ordered
15 that cake for you, but I heard you had left, Chuck
16 Mayer giving me misinformation, but happy
17 birthday, Jeff Rodus, and I vote aye.

18 PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: Thank
19 you very much, Madam Speaker. All items on
20 today's general order calendar were adopted by a
21 vote of 44 in the affirmative, with zero in the
22 negative and zero abstentions, with the exception
23 of Land Use item 648 and Reso 1477, which was
24 adopted by a vote of 43 in the affirmative, one in
25 the negative and zero abstentions, and the revised

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Land Use call-ups--

SPEAKER QUINN: (Interposing) Can we get a little quiet?

PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: Thank you.

SPEAKER QUINN: Jeff is back and it suddenly became noisy, I'm not saying, I'm just saying.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: And the revised Land Use call-ups were adopted by a vote of 44 in the affirmative with zero in the negative. And now we move on to introduction and reading of the bills.

SPEAKER QUINN: All bills are referred to committees as indicated on the agenda.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: Okay. Discussion of resolutions, we have two resolutions, one of them is Reso 910-A, an amended resolution calling upon the New York State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign legislation supporting breakfast in the classroom in every school in New York City. It was amended, adopted by the Committee on Education. Does anyone want to speak on this resolution? Okay, we

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have Council Member Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you very much. I would like to thank Madam Speaker for all of her amazing support for the breakfast in the classroom initiative and these two resolutions, and for the food security of the 1.1 million school children in New York City. The fact of the matter is that according to the not-for-profit Food Research and Action Center, New York City currently ranks last among major U.S. cities in terms of reaching low-income students with school breakfast. Even though free breakfast is universal in New York City and entirely paid for by the Federal government, currently only 34% of New York City's school children who qualify for free reduced-price lunch eat breakfast at school, and when compared to other big cities across the country, Newark for example at 87% and Houston at 79%, our performance is abysmal and as a result hundreds of thousands of New York City schoolchildren are not getting the food that they need and are entitled to, and we are sending over \$50 million per year back to Washington. These two resolutions today show that the New York City

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2 Council under the leadership of Speaker Quinn is
3 serious about turning our performance around by
4 calling on the Bloomberg administration to adopt
5 the best practices employed from around the
6 country and implement breakfast in the classrooms
7 citywide. Again I thank Council Speaker Quinn.
8 Thank you, Chair Jackson, the entire staff, all
9 the advocates for making this happen, thank you.

10 PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: Thank
11 you very much. Any other Council members that
12 want to speak on this Reso? Seeing none, I will
13 now call the vote on this Reso, Reso 910-A. All
14 in favor say aye.

15 ALL: Aye.

16 PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: All
17 opposed say nay. Any abstentions? The ayes have
18 it. We will now move on to the second Reso, Reso
19 911-A, an amended resolution calling upon the New
20 York City Department of Education to support
21 breakfast -- can we get silence in the chambers?
22 Thank you. The New York City Department of
23 Education to support breakfast in the classroom in
24 every school in New York City, amended and adopted
25 by the Committee on Education. Anyone want to

1
2 speak on this Reso? Seeing nobody, I will call
3 the question on this Resolution, all in favor say
4 aye.

5 ALL: Aye.

6 PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: All
7 opposed say nay. Any abstentions? The ayes have
8 it. We will now move on to general discussion,
9 Council Member Williams.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you
11 very much. I wanted to draw my colleagues'
12 attention to two resolutions, one, Resolution
13 1476, will be amended to include public campaign
14 finances for all state-elected officials, not just
15 the comptroller. I do want to explain and ask
16 people to sign up to Resolution 1475, which if
17 read looks like I might be crazy, but I'm actually
18 not. What it is, to explain, if say I had a
19 felony and perhaps my colleague Debbie Rose did
20 not, and we were both sleeping on the train, and ...
21 or did a minor infraction like sleeping on the
22 train or throwing garbage, the police officers
23 would arrest me and only issue Debbie Rose a
24 summons. Some transit officers that we have
25 spoken to have said, due to the quotas that they

1
2 are told to do, they are aiming to look for people
3 that they believe may have felonies so they can
4 get them on these minor infractions. We would
5 like to correct this and make everything
6 equitable, so I would ask my colleagues to sign
7 on, if people have any questions feel free to ask
8 me. Thank you.

9 PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: Thank
10 you very much, Council Member. We will now move
11 on to Council Member Jackson.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you,
13 my colleagues, I just wanted to say that I had a
14 bunch of fine interns working with me this summer,
15 one by the name of Octavia Johnson, she's a
16 graduate of SUNY Binghamton, Dario Quinsack
17 (phonetic) from Hunter College and Alfa Seesay
18 (phonetic), he's working on his master's degree at
19 City College, and a senior at Hunter College ... I
20 mean, Baruch College, Catherine Ortiz. These are
21 fine interns that helped my constituents working
22 down here in the legislative and budget office,
23 but we have two high school interns by the name of
24 Kin Yung Sung (phonetic) and Kevin Jun (phonetic),
25 they are rising juniors in high school, and

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2 they're learning about city government, and
3 hopefully in the near future they may be the mayor
4 or the governor or the President of the United
5 States. And also we have an intern that was here,
6 she's a senior in college, Tiffany Goritz
7 (phonetic), she interned at the Black, Latino and
8 Asian Caucus. And I just want to take this
9 opportunity, since today is August 22nd, and I
10 believe this is our last Stated Meeting before we
11 come back in the fall, to thank them for all of
12 the time and energy that they put forward on
13 behalf of the people of New York City, and more
14 specifically the constituents in my district.
15 Thank you.

16 PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: Thank
17 you very much, Council Member. We'll now move on
18 to Council Member Brewer.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you
20 very much, I'm calling about Intro 912, Proposed
21 Intro 912, it's called Ban the Box, and along with
22 some of my colleagues we're sponsoring a bill that
23 would make it unlawful, an unlawful discriminatory
24 act to inquire about a potential employee's
25 criminal history until -- and I emphasize -- until

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2 after a conditional offer of employment has been
3 made. And I want, if anybody is interested, to
4 feel free to call us so we can go through this
5 bill line-by-line. It is already against the law,
6 I'm not saying that this is practice, but it is
7 against the law for an employer to discriminate
8 against an employee based solely on criminal
9 history, and this legislation will help eliminate
10 a loophole that exposes one's criminal history at
11 the outset of any job application, and it has to
12 do with a box that one has to check off. Some may
13 consider this controversial, but as somebody who
14 knows many of these people who cannot work because
15 of this situation, and who are very eligible to
16 work, I think it's an important bill to consider.
17 And I look forward to discussing it with any of my
18 colleagues, thank you very much.

19 PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: Thank
20 you very much, next we'll move on to Council
21 Member James.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Thank you.
23 In June 2012, the Brooklyn Bridge was defaced for
24 the first time since 1998. That same month
25 synagogues in Brooklyn neighborhoods such as

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2 Borough Park, Kensington and Williamsburg were
3 plastered with swastikas, and recently a holocaust
4 memorial in Sheepshead Bay was defaced with
5 profanity over victims' names. And obviously in
6 communities of color, gang graffiti aimed at
7 intimidating others and marking territory remains
8 prevalent. I've introduced today a bill which
9 would create an anti-graffiti task force which
10 will help create safer neighborhoods by
11 recommending long-term solutions through
12 collaborative work and assessments of anti-
13 graffiti programs citywide, and I urge all of you
14 to sign on to Intro 916. And unfortunately
15 tomorrow is the last day of Simone Hawkins, who
16 has worked for my office for a very long time.
17 Simone Hawkins, who is the mother of a beautiful
18 young child, recently has decided to depart from
19 our office, and I am going to miss her greatly,
20 she was the inspiration for a lot of bills in my
21 office, and a lot of initiatives. She has been ...
22 she's accepted a position with campaign finance,
23 and hopefully she won't be working on any of the
24 cases I'll be involved in. So again, Simone
25 Hawkins, I'll miss you, congratulations, God bless

1
2 you. And Lynette, may you rest in peace, I know I
3 met you when you worked for former Assembly member
4 Daniels, Geraldine Daniels, who also made the
5 transition, and I guess Geraldine Daniels wanted
6 you to join her, she needed an assistant in
7 heaven. May you rest in peace and God bless you.
8 Thank you.

9 PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: Thank
10 you very much, Council Member, we'll now move on
11 to Council Member Greenfield.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank
13 you. I'd like to encourage my colleagues to sign
14 on as co-sponsors to Intro 1914 ... 914, actually.
15 This Intro is a commonsense piece of legislation,
16 those of you who have ever tried to find parking
17 around a bus stop will find that it's nearly
18 impossible to figure out where the bus stop ends.
19 In fact, under New York law if there is no
20 designation, the bus stop just goes on forever.
21 And so in some cases, you'll actually have a bus
22 stop that goes on the length of an entire block.
23 Many a constituent of mine has parked at one of
24 these stops, and thinking that they're allowed to
25 park because they are 50, 100, 200 or even 500

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2 feet away, and unfortunately have returned to find
3 a parking ticket. So this legislation would
4 require the City of New York to designate where
5 the bus stops actually end, which would prevent
6 parking tickets, which would make it safe for
7 those people who are using buses on a daily basis,
8 and would also be good for the environment,
9 because it wouldn't force people to keep in
10 circling around and around for what otherwise
11 would be open bus stops. So I encourage all of my
12 colleagues, and especially Council Member Dan
13 Garodnick, to sign on to Intro 914. Thank you
14 very much.

15 PRESIDENT PRO TEM RIVERA: Council
16 Member Garodnick, do you want to sign on? Seeing
17 no others, thank you very much, this meeting is
18 adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Signature _____

Date August 30, 2012