

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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Thursday, January 15, 2026

Start: 1:36 P.M.

Recess: 2:54 P.M.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: *The Majority Leader (Council
Member Shaun Abreu) presiding as
the Acting President Pro Tempore*

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Julie Menin, Speaker
Shaun Abreu
Shirley Aldebol
Joann Ariola
Alexa Avilés
Chris Banks
Erik D. Bottcher
Gale A. Brewer
Selvena N. Brooks-Powers
Tiffany L. Cabán
David M. Carr
Carmen N. De La Rosa
Eric Dinowitz
Elsie Encarnación
Harvey D. Epstein
Amanda C. Farías
Simcha Felder
Oswald J. Feliz

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

James F. Gennaro
Jennifer Gutiérrez
Shahana K. Hanif
Ty Hankerson
Kamillah M. Hanks
Crystal Hudson
Rita C. Joseph
Shekar Krishnan
Linda Lee
Farah N. Louis
Virginia Maloney
Christopher Marte
Darlene Mealy
Frank Morano
Mercedes Narcisse
Sandy Nurse
Chi A. Ossé
Vickie Paladino
Lincoln Restler
Kevin C. Riley
Yusef Salaam
Pierina A. Sanchez
Justin E. Sanchez
Kayla Santosuosso
Lynn C. Schulman
Althea V. Stevens
Shanel Thomas-Henry
Sandra Ung
Inna Vernikov
Nantasha M. Williams
Julie Won
Phil Wong
Susan Zhuang

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

A P P E A R A N C E S

INVOCATION - Delivered by: Dr. Debbie Almontaser,
Islamic Mission of America,
located at 143 State Street,
Brooklyn, NY 11201

2 SERGEANT POLITE: Testing one, two, one
3 two. Today's date is January 15, 2026. Today's Stated
4 Meeting is being recorded in the Chambers by Keith
5 Polite.

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Ladies and gentlemen,
7 at this time, can I have your attention, please?
8 Ladies and gentlemen, can I have your attention,
9 please? Quiet on the floor, please. At this time,
10 please place all electronic devices, all electronic
11 devices to vibrate.

12 Mr. Majority Leader, it's all yours.

13 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: [GAVEL] Good
14 afternoon and welcome to the Stated Meeting of
15 January 15, 2026. I am Majority Leader Shaun Abreu,
16 and I would like to thank you for joining us. If you
17 would like to follow along, the agenda for today's
18 meeting is posted on our website.

19 CITY CLERK: Please join us for the Pledge
20 of Allegiance.

21 SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise!

22 ALL: [PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE]

23 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Roll call?

24 CLERK: Council Member Abreu?

25 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Present

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NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

CLERK: Council Member Aldebol?

COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: Present

CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Present

CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: (NO RESPONSE)

CLERK: Council Member Banks?

COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Present

CLERK: Council Member Bottcher?

COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHER: Present

CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I've been here
forever; I'm here.

(LAUGHTER)

CLERK: Council Member Brooks-Powers?

COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: (NO
RESPONSE)

CLERK: Council Member Cabán?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Present

CLERK: Council Member De La Rosa?

COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Here

CLERK: Council Member Dinowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Present

CLERK: Council Member Encarnacion?

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NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER ENCARNACION: Presenté

CLERK: Council Member Epstein?

COUNCIL MEMBER EPSTEIN: Presenté

CLERK: Council Member Farias?

COUNCIL MEMBER FARIÁS: Present

CLERK: Council Member Felder?

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: I'm here.

CLERK: Thank you

Council Member Avilés?

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Presenté

CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Gale, not as long
as me. Present.

(LAUGHTER)

CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez?

COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Presenté

CLERK: Council Member Feliz?

COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Presenté

CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member Hanif?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Here.

CLERK: Council Member Hankerson?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: Here

CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

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NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Present

CLERK: Council Member Hudson?

COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Present

CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Present

CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?

COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Here

CLERK: Council Member Lee?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Here

CLERK: Council Member Louis?

COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Present

CLERK: Council Member Maloney?

COUNCIL MEMBER MALONEY: Present

CLERK: Council Member Marte?

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Present

CLERK: Council Member Mealy?

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: (NO RESPONSE)

CLERK: Council Member Morano?

COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: Here!

CLERK: Council Member Narcisse?

COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Prezan

CLERK: Council Member Nurse?

COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Here

CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

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NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I'm here.

CLERK: Council Member Paladino?

COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Ever-present.

CLERK: Council Member Restler?

COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Here

CLERK: Council Member Riley?

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Present

CLERK: Council Member Salaam?

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: (NO RESPONSE)

CLERK: Council Member Justin Sanchez?

COUNCIL MEMBER JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Present

CLERK: Council Member Pierina Sanchez?

COUNCIL MEMBER PIERINA SANCHEZ: Present

CLERK: Council Member Santosuosso?

COUNCIL MEMBER SANTOSUOSSO: Here

CLERK: Council Member Schulman?

COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Here

CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Here... here.

CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member Thomas-Henry?

COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: Present

CLERK: Council Member Ung?

COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Present

2 CLERK: Council Member Vernikov

3 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: (NO RESPONSE)

4 CLERK: Council Member Williams?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: (NO RESPONSE)

6 CLERK: Council Member Won?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Present

8 CLERK: Council Member Wong?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER WONG: Present... Present

10 CLERK: Council Member Zhuang?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Here

12 CLERK: Council Member Carr?

13 MINORITY LEADER CARR: Present

14 CLERK: Speaker Menin?

15 SPEAKER MENIN: Here

16 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you. We will
17 now have today's Invocation, which will be delivered
18 by Debbie Almontaser of the Islamic Mission of
19 America, which is located at 143 State Street in
20 Brooklyn.

21 SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise!

22 DR. DEBBIE ALMONTASER: Assalamualaikum,
23 Ahmad Salahi Aberakata. Greetings of peace. In the
24 name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the most Merciful,
25 we gather here today as a diverse mosaic of humanity,

1 seeking love, compassion, justice, and freedom for
2 all.
3

4 It is a privilege to stand here as a
5 Muslim American woman and faith leader.

6 Throughout the history of the Abrahamic
7 faiths, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, strong
8 women have played pivotal roles in shaping spiritual
9 and cultural landscapes. In Judaism, figures like the
10 mother and the sister of Moses exemplified the
11 leadership and wisdom necessary to change the course
12 of history for their people. In Christianity, Mary,
13 the mother of Jesus, embodied faith and resilience by
14 honoring God's decree. In Islam, Khadija is
15 celebrated for her entrepreneurial spirit and
16 unwavering love and support for the Prophet Muhammad
17 as his wife. Yet, there is a common misconception
18 that Muslim women do not hold spiritual roles in
19 Islam. On the contrary, Islam flourished through the
20 leadership of women like Khadija. Furthermore, the
21 world's first university, Al-Qarawiyyin, in Fez,
22 Morocco, was founded over 1,000 years ago by a Muslim
23 woman named Fatima Al-Fihri.

24 These women demonstrate the courage,
25 intelligence, and faith that have inspired

1
2 generations and challenged social and societal norms.
3 Their stories serve as a reminder of the powerful
4 legacy of women in the Abrahamic faith traditions
5 whose influence continues to be felt today.

6 It is with great honor that I give this
7 invocation, coming from a long line of sheroes before
8 a council body led by a majority of women.

9 As I reflected on this 15th day of
10 January, at the start of a new year and a new era, it
11 is a message of love, compassion, unity, and
12 solidarity. I have chosen a few of my favorite verses
13 from the Koran that illustrate these sentiments.

14 In chapter 49, verse 13, God said, O
15 mankind, indeed, we have created you from male and
16 female, Adam and Eve, and made you into nations and
17 tribes that you may know one another. As members of
18 the human family, let us remember that our
19 differences are not a reason for division, but an
20 opportunity for understanding and appreciation.

21 In Chapter 11, verse 118, God said, "And
22 if your Lord had willed, he could have made mankind
23 one nation. But they will not cease to differ." My
24 sisters and brothers, in this diversity, we find
25

1 strength. Let us embrace each other regardless of our
2 backgrounds, our faiths, and our cultures.

3
4 In chapter 3, verse 103, God said, "And
5 hold fast, all of you together to the rope of Allah
6 and be not divided." This, my sisters and brothers,
7 means we must call upon each other to unite under the
8 shared values of love, compassion, and respect—
9 weaving a stronger bond that transcends our
10 differences.

11 In chapter 5 verse 8, God said, "O you
12 who believed, be persistently standing firm for
13 Allah, witnesses in justice, and do not let the
14 hatred of a people prevent you from being just. Be
15 just, that is nearer to righteousness, and fear
16 Allah. Indeed, Allah is acquainted with what you do."
17 As believers of a higher power, my sisters and
18 brothers, we must remain steadfast in our faith and
19 actively pursue justice regardless of personal
20 feelings or biases. True righteousness comes from our
21 commitment to fairness and integrity while being
22 accountable to God, who is aware of all of our
23 actions. Let us strive to embody these principles in
24 our lives, promoting justice in our communities and
25 honoring our beliefs through our actions.

1 In chapter 49, verse 10, God said, "The
2 believers are but brothers. So, make settlement
3 between your brothers." Sisters and brothers, let us
4 act as true siblings, extending our hands and
5 kindness, seeking harmony, and resolving conflicts
6 with patients and understanding.
7

8 And the last verse from the Koran,
9 chapter 2, verse 83, God said, "And speak to people
10 with good words." Sisters and brothers, may our words
11 ignite our hearts with kindness, and our actions
12 reflect the beauty of unity.

13 As I conclude, may we be guided by peace
14 in our hearts, justice in our decisions, and
15 compassion in our actions. May our differences be a
16 source of strength, and may our shared humanity
17 always lead us forward.

18 I pray to God Almighty that He grant our
19 esteemed council members the strength and wisdom
20 necessary to embrace their responsibilities with
21 unwavering commitment. May you serve the diverse
22 communities of New York City by approaching every
23 challenge with integrity and a profound sense of
24 purpose, ensuring that your decisions truly reflect
25 the needs and aspirations of all you represent. May

2 you be bestowed with the courage to advocate for
3 justice and equity and stand firm in your convictions
4 even in the face of adversity.

5 As you interact with every New Yorker,
6 may you treat them with the dignity and respect they
7 deserve, fostering an inclusive environment where
8 every voice is heard and valued, and every individual
9 is uplifted. Ameen.

10 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you. I will
11 now ask Council Member Shahana Hanif to spread the
12 Invocation on the record.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you, Majority
14 Leader.

15 I'm grateful to welcome my sister and
16 mentor, Dr. Debbie Almontaser, to our chambers as she
17 delivered today's invocation at our first Stated
18 Meeting of the year during Muslim American Heritage
19 Month. Thank you, Speaker Menin, for working with me
20 to make this possible.

21 Growing up, role models and mentors for
22 Muslim women like me were hard to find. Quiet,
23 please.

24 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Quiet in the
25 Chambers.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: It was during my
3 run for office in my late 20s that I came to know
4 Sister Debbie more personally. She helped pave the
5 path not only for me, but for countless Muslim women
6 to step into leadership with courage, clarity, and
7 conviction. Many New Yorkers know Sister Debbie for
8 her leadership during the 2017 Yemeni bodega strike
9 when Yemeni-owned bodegas across our city closed in
10 protest of the Trump administration's Muslim ban,
11 making visible the power and dignity of our immigrant
12 communities.

13 She has also been a long-standing leader
14 in education, including within the Department of
15 Education, advancing curricula that foster
16 understanding across faiths and supporting Muslim
17 educators navigating public schools.

18 Sister Debbie has long served as a
19 trusted advisor on cultural and religious diversity
20 issues for Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, the
21 Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, the New York
22 City Commission on Human Rights, and Members of the
23 City Council.

24

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2 Thank you, Sister Debbie, for your
3 powerful words and for blessing this Council with
4 your wisdom and service.

5 I move for unanimous consent to spread
6 the Invocation in full upon the record.

7 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you, Council
8 Member.

9 We will now ask Council Member Chris
10 Marte for the adoption of Minutes.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Motion that the
12 Minutes of the Stated Meeting of December 18th, 2025,
13 be adopted as printed.

14 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Messages and
15 Papers from the Mayor?

16 CLERK: M 27, mayoral appointment.

17 SPEAKER MENIN: Rules, Privileges, and
18 Elections.

19 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Communications
20 from City, County & Borough Offices?

21 CLERK: None.

22 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Petitions and
23 Communications?

24 CLERK: M 28, Designation of Deputy
25 Speaker.

2 SPEAKER MENIN: So, I now ask the Clerk to
3 take a roll call vote on the designation and
4 appointment of Nantasha Williams as our Deputy
5 Speaker of the City Council!

6 (APPLAUSE)

7 SPEAKER MENIN: A very exciting moment!

8 (APPLAUSE)

9 SPEAKER MENIN: Congratulations!

10 (APPLAUSE)

11 SPEAKER MENIN: Okay, we are going to do a
12 roll call vote.

13 CLERK: Council Member Abreu?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye

15 CLERK: Council Member Aldebol?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: Aye

17 CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I vote aye.

19 Congratulations.

20 CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye

22 CLERK: Council Member Banks?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye.

24 Congratulations.

25

2 CLERK: Council Member Bottcher?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye.

4 Congratulations!

5 CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: (NO RESPONSE)

7 CLERK: Council Member Brooks-Powers?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: I vote aye.

9 And congratulations!

10 CLERK: Thank you.

11 Council Member Cabán?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: I vote aye.

13 CLERK: Council Member De La Rosa?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye. Congrats

15 CLERK: Council Member Dinowitz?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: I vote aye.

17 Congratulations, Doctor.

18 CLERK: Council Member Encarnacion?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ENCARNACION: I vote aye.

20 Congratulations. Make Diana proud.

21 CLERK: Council Member Epstein?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER EPSTEIN: I vote aye, and

23 congratulations.

24 CLERK: Council Member Farías?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: I vote aye.

3 Congrats.

4 CLERK: Council Member Felder?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Aye, and
6 congratulations, and whatever else.

7 (LAUGHTER)

8 CLERK: Council Member Feliz?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: A proud aye.
10 Congratulations, Dr. Williams!

11 CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I vote aye. Go
13 Nan.

14 CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye, congrats,
16 Nan.

17 CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.

19 CLERK: Council Member Hankerson?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: Of course, I
21 vote aye. Congratulations, Doctor.

22 CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Aye.

24 Congratulations.

25 CLERK: Council Member Hudson?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Congratulations,
3 Deputy Speaker, Dr. Williams. I'm an aye.

4 CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye

6 CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye,
8 congratulations, Dr. Williams!

9 CLERK: Council Member Lee?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: I proudly vote aye.
11 Congrats, Nan.

12 CLERK: Council Member Louis?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Congratulations, I
14 vote aye.

15 CLERK: Council Member Maloney?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MALONEY: Congratulations.
17 Aye.

18 CLERK: Council Member Marte?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Congratulations, I
20 vote aye.

21 CLERK: Council Member Mealy?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye

23 CLERK: Thank you.

24 Council Member Morano?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: Enthusiastic, aye,
3 and congratulations to this body on gaining a great
4 deputy speaker.

5 CLERK: Council Member Narcisse?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: I vote aye.
7 Congratulations, Nan.

8 CLERK: Council Member Nurse?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I vote aye.

10 CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye.

12 CLERK: Council Member Paladino?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Congratulations,
14 I vote aye.

15 CLERK: Council Member Restler?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Congrats to one
17 of my favorites. I am very, very happy to vote aye
18 for Dr. Williams.

19 CLERK: Council Member Riley?

20 (PAUSE)

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: I proudly vote aye
22 for my sister, Dr. Nantasha Williams, to be our new
23 deputy speaker of the city council.

24 CLERK: Council Member Salaam?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: I proudly vote aye
3 as well. Congratulations, Dr. Williams.

4 CLERK: Council Member Justin Sanchez?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Aye

6 CLERK: Council Member Pierina Sanchez?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER PIERINA SANCHEZ: Aye

8 CLERK: Council Member Santosuosso?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER SANTOSUOSSO: Aye, and
10 congrats, Nan.

11 CLERK: Council Member Schulman?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: I proudly vote
13 aye. Congrats.

14 CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: As a proud big
16 sister, I proudly vote aye for Dr. Nantasha Williams.
17 Congratulations, Boo-boo.

18 CLERK: Thank you.

19 Council Member Thomas-Henry?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: I proudly
21 vote aye to a queen of Queens, Dr. Williams.
22 Congratulations!

23 CLERK: Council Member Ung?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye, and
25 congratulations.

2 CLERK: Council Member Vernikov?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye

4 CLERK: Council Member Williams?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I guess I vote

6 aye.

7 (LAUGHTER)

8 CLERK: Council Member Won?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Aye, congratulations,

10 Nan!

11 CLERK: Council Member Wong?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER WONG: I vote aye.

13 CLERK: Council Member Zhuang?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: I vote aye.

15 Congratulations!

16 CLERK: One moment, thank you.

17 Council Member Carr?

18 MINORITY LEADER CARR: With

19 congratulations to our great colleague, I vote aye.

20 CLERK: Speaker Menin?

21 SPEAKER MENIN: I proudly vote aye,

22 congratulations.

23 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: M 28, Election of

24 Deputy Speaker, with 50 in the affirmative, 0 in the

25

2 negative, and 0 abstentions, is hereby approved.

3 Congratulations, Deputy Speaker Williams!

4 (APPLAUSE)

5 CLERK: M 29 through M 33, various
6 appointments.

7 SPEAKER MENIN: Received, Ordered,
8 Printed, and Filed.

9 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Land Use Call-ups?

10 CLERK: M 34 through M 37?

11 SPEAKER MENIN: Thank you. I would now ask
12 that the Clerk take a roll call vote on today's Land
13 Use Call-ups.

14 CLERK: Council Member Aldebol?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: Aye

16 CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I vote aye.

18 CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye

20 CLERK: Council Member Banks?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye

22 CLERK: Council Member Bottcher?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye

24 CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: (NO RESPONSE)

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NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

CLERK: Council Member Brooks-Powers?
COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Aye
CLERK: Council Member Cabán?
COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Aye
CLERK: Council Member De La Rosa?
COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye
CLERK: Council Member Dinowitz?
COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye
CLERK: Council Member Encarnacion?
COUNCIL MEMBER ENCARNACION: Aye
CLERK: Council Member Epstein?
COUNCIL MEMBER EPSTEIN: Aye
CLERK: Council Member Farias?
COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: I vote aye.
CLERK: Council Member Felder?
COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Aye
CLERK: Council Member Feliz?
COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye on all.
CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?
COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye
CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez?
COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye
CLERK: Council Member Hanif?
COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: (NO RESPONSE)

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NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

CLERK: Council Member Hankerson?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: Aye

CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: I vote aye.

CLERK: Council Member Hudson?

COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye

CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye

CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?

COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye

CLERK: Council Member Lee?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye

CLERK: Council Member Louis?

COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye

CLERK: Council Member Maloney?

COUNCIL MEMBER MALONEY: Aye

CLERK: Council Member Marte?

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye

CLERK: Council Member Mealy?

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: (NO RESPONSE)

CLERK: Council Member Morano?

COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: Aye

CLERK: Council Member Hanif, Land Use

Call-ups?

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COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.

CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member Narcisse?

COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye

CLERK: Council Member Nurse?

COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Aye

CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye.

CLERK: Council Member Paladino?

COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Aye

CLERK: Council Member Restler?

COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye

CLERK: Council Member Riley?

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye

CLERK: Council Member Salaam?

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: I vote aye.

CLERK: Council Member Justin Sanchez?

COUNCIL MEMBER JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Aye

CLERK: Council Member Pierina Sanchez?

COUNCIL MEMBER PIERINA SANCHEZ: Aye

CLERK: Council Member Santosuosso?

COUNCIL MEMBER SANTOSUOSSO: Aye

CLERK: Council Member Schulman?

COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye

2 CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye

4 CLERK: Council Member Thomas-Henry?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: Aye

6 CLERK: Council Member Ung?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye

8 CLERK: Council Member Vernikov?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye

10 CLERK: Council Member Williams?

11 DEPUTY SPEAKER WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

12 CLERK: Council Member Brewer, Land Use

13 Call-Ups?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Yes.

15 CLERK: Thank you.

16 Council Member Won?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Aye

18 CLERK: Council Member Wong?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER WONG: I vote aye.

20 CLERK: Council Member Zhuang?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Aye.

22 CLERK: Thank you.

23 Council Member Mealy?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: (NO RESPONSE)

25 CLERK: Council Member Carr?

MINORITY LEADER CARR: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Abreu?

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Aye.

CLERK: Speaker Menin?

SPEAKER MENIN: Aye.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Today's Land Use

Call-ups are adopted by a vote of 50 in the

affirmative and 0 in the negative.

Thank you. We will now have

Communications from Speaker Julie Menin.

SPEAKER MENIN: Well, thank you and

welcome to today's Stated. And I'm thrilled you've

been joined today by a former City Council Member,

our Bronx Borough President, Vanessa Gibson. Thank

you for joining us.

(APPLAUSE)

SPEAKER MENIN: So I know today it's

obviously an exciting day in that we have new

committees, some of us have new seating—chairs and

all of that. And we will start to begin the important

work that we're all going to do. But I really want to

start on a more somber note and really update

everyone on what happened to one of our own employees

on Monday.

1 So let me start by just saying, Rafael is
2
3 a data analyst in the Central staff, who has been
4 with the Council for approximately a year. On Monday,
5 he went to a routine appointment and was detained by
6 ICE at the Bethpage facility. He was given one call.
7 He called the HR Department, who notified me late
8 Monday afternoon. And at that point, I reached out to
9 NYLAG and the New York Immigration Coalition in order
10 to ensure that Raphael had proper legal
11 representation. I really want to thank the council
12 members who joined me on Monday night. We were joined
13 by the New York Immigration Coalition, Congressman
14 Dan Goldman, and many of you who joined us.

15 This situation, I want to say thanks to
16 the quick action that we took by getting NYLAG
17 involved; we were able to make sure that habeas was
18 filed immediately. That is absolutely critical. And
19 thanks to the quick action that we took, I want to
20 underscore that Rafael is in New York. He is in New
21 York right now. And that is absolutely imperative.

22 To protect his safety, we are unable to
23 disclose any additional information at this time. He
24 now has outside counsel whom he has retained. We will
25 remain in very close contact with him, but our

1
2 ultimate goal is to have him return to us here at the
3 City Council. So we are not going to be able to, at
4 this time, provide any additional details. But I want
5 to say what devastating situation this has been for
6 the Council to have one of our own treated in this
7 fashion.

8 So let me talk first of all about the
9 lack of accountability in this whole process. We were
10 urgently trying to reach Rafael on Monday. If you
11 reach out to the Bethpage facility, there's actually
12 no phone number listed. So when you go online and
13 look at the Bethpage ICE facility, the phone number
14 doesn't work. You can call the number there, but you
15 call it, and it's disconnected. So here we are as a
16 city council trying to find a government employee,
17 and we actually have no way of contacting a
18 government agency. That is simply unaccountable and
19 unacceptable. And the fact that we couldn't get any
20 information on that Monday, we had to call the
21 Department of Homeland Security. We will keep
22 fighting back against any tactics that seek to
23 perpetuate a lack of transparency and a lack of due
24 process. And we will keep fighting back against the
25 system where someone is following the

1 Administration's own directives by appearing at a
2 routine check-in. He followed the rules. He went to
3 the routine check-in. And let me just reiterate,
4 Rafael had all of his legal authorization to work in
5 the City Council. And any suggestion to the contrary
6 is patently and demonstrably false.

8 So it is not acceptable. And I just want
9 to reiterate, as New Yorkers, we are going to stand
10 up for the rights of all our neighbors and for the
11 dignity that they deserve because we are, frankly, a
12 city where we all belong.

13 On a lighter note, I want to proudly
14 welcome the incredible sisters of Alpha Kappa Alpha
15 Sorority who are up here. Hello, welcome.

16 (APPLAUSE)

17 SPEAKER MENIN: I know you're celebrating
18 AKA Day and 118 years of service, sisterhood, and
19 leadership. Thank you for your enduring commitment to
20 uplifting communities and for advancing equity right
21 here in our great city and beyond. And this body is
22 especially proud that, first of all, Council Member
23 Amanda Fariás is a member. And I think you know that
24 by what she's wearing. She's duly dressed today.

25 (LAUGHTER)

1
2 SPEAKER MENIN: No surprise— and our
3 former Speaker, Adrienne Adams—they are both members
4 of Alpha Kappa Alpha, whose lifelong commitment to
5 service and to justice helped inspire and advance the
6 legislation that we are here to celebrate today.

7 On this upcoming Monday, we're going to
8 celebrate the great Reverend Doctor Martin Luther
9 King, Junior, whose enduring legacy reminds us all of
10 our continued work to create a more just world and
11 society that absolutely rejects discrimination,
12 inequality, and poverty.

13 January 1st was Haitian Independence Day,
14 which commemorates Haiti's liberation from colonial
15 rule in 1804, as the world's first black-led
16 Republic. To our members of Haitian descent and to
17 all Haitian New Yorkers, I hope you had a wonderful
18 Haitian Independence Day. It's very quiet in the
19 Chambers.

20 (CHEERING)

21 SPEAKER MENIN: I thought there would be a
22 little more (INAUDIBLE) Independence Day.

23 (APPLAUSE)

24 SPEAKER MENIN: Come on! Where's the
25 spirit? Let's go.

2 Okay, January 6th was Three Kings Day.
3 Cheers for that.

4 (APPLAUSE)

5 SPEAKER MENIN: Okay? A significant
6 holiday that's also known as the Feast of Epiphany.
7 For many New Yorkers, the holiday season does not end
8 on Christmas, but it continues until Three Kings Day,
9 when family members gather to exchange gifts and
10 share meals. I hope everyone had a happy Three Kings
11 Day.

12 And January 13th was Korean American Day.
13 Can we hear it?

14 (APPLAUSE AND CHEERING)

15 SPEAKER MENIN: Yeah, great! This
16 commemorates the day in 1903 when the first Koreans
17 arrived in the United States. Our council includes
18 the first two Korean American Council members, Linda
19 Lee and Julie Won.

20 (APPLAUSE AND CHEERING)

21 SPEAKER MENIN: So we celebrate your
22 historic representation, and we wish all New Yorkers
23 a happy Korean American Day.

24 On January 22nd, we will observe Roe V.
25 Wade Day, which marks the anniversary, of course, of

1 the landmark Supreme Court decision that granted us a
2 federally protected right to safe and legal
3 abortions. This year would have been the 53rd
4 anniversary of Roe V. Wade, but the Supreme Court's
5 actions to overturn five decades of legal precedent,
6 reproductive health care for millions of people is
7 obviously under attack across this country. While New
8 York City, of course, and the City Council have taken
9 a lot of action in this regard, it remains a safe
10 haven. We know more must be done across the country
11 to ensure that everyone can safely and legally access
12 abortions and reproductive healthcare.
13

14 January 27th is Holocaust Remembrance
15 Day, when we honor the memory of millions of Jewish
16 people, including my grandfather included, who were
17 murdered during the Holocaust. We uplift their
18 memories and make a solemn pledge—NEVER AGAIN.

19 Now, on a lighter note, I want to wish a
20 happy birthday to a number of council members who
21 were born in January: Council Member Althea
22 Stevens...

23 (APPLAUSE AND CHEERING)

24 SPEAKER MENIN: January 2nd. Our Majority
25 Leader, Shaun Abreu...

(APPLAUSE AND CHEERING)

SPEAKER MENIN: And today is Council Member Alexa Avilés' birthday. Happy Birthday!

(APPLAUSE AND CHEERING)

SPEAKER MENIN: And on January 20th, Council Member Shirley Aldebol and Susan Zhuang on January 30th.

(APPLAUSE AND CHEERING)

SPEAKER MENIN: So, a lot of January birthdays.

(APPLAUSE)

SPEAKER MENIN: So now, for what we were all really here about, which I know is about the committees and leadership—So today, this is my first Stated Council Meeting, I'm so proud to introduce our outstanding leadership team that I am thrilled to work with our Deputy Speaker, Nantasha Williams.

(APPLAUSE AND CHEERING)

SPEAKER MENIN: Our Majority Leader, Shaun Abreu.

(APPLAUSE AND CHEERING)

SPEAKER MENIN: Our Majority Whip, Kamillah Hanks, the first from Staten Island. I'm just saying—our Deputy Whip, Elsie Encarnacion.

(APPLAUSE AND CHEERING)

SPEAKER MENIN: Our Deputy Leader, Sandra
Ung.

(APPLAUSE AND CHEERING)

SPEAKER MENIN: And other Deputy Leader,
Chris Banks.

(APPLAUSE AND CHEERING)

SPEAKER MENIN: And our leadership team:
Land Use Chair, Kevin Riley.

(APPLAUSE AND CHEERING)

SPEAKER MENIN: Finance Chair, Linda Lee.

(APPLAUSE AND CHEERING)

SPEAKER MENIN: Education Chair, Eric
Dinowitz.

(APPLAUSE AND CHEERING)

SPEAKER MENIN: Chair of Oversight and
Investigations, Shekar Krishnan.

(APPLAUSE AND CHEERING)

SPEAKER MENIN: And our Minority Leader,
David Carr.

(APPLAUSE AND CHEERING)

SPEAKER MENIN: So, today the Temporary
Rules Committee voted on chairmanships and committee
assignments. Every decision was made with thoughtful

2 consideration of the needs of our city and the body's
3 ability to confront them. I am confident that members
4 of the committees, all the chairs, and, quite
5 frankly, all of the members of the committees, will
6 play very important roles in carrying out the
7 Council's charted, mandated oversight and legislative
8 responsibilities at such a critical moment for our
9 city.

10 And it's now-- I sent an e-mail about it.
11 I don't know that everyone read it, but hopefully
12 they did. But I sent an e-mail about this. But I
13 really wanted to personally introduce our senior
14 leadership team, first of all, our great Chief of
15 Staff, Miguelina Camilo.

16 (APPLAUSE AND CHEERING)

17 SPEAKER MENIN: I want to say Miguelina is
18 the first woman to ever serve as chief of staff of
19 the City Council, the first Latina. And so we're very
20 excited about that historic first.

21 (APPLAUSE AND CHEERING)

22 SPEAKER MENIN: Jonathan Szott will be our
23 Senior Deputy Chief of Staff!

24 (APPLAUSE AND CHEERING)

1
2 And Jonathan has been with the Council
3 for many, many years and was my former chief of
4 staff. And Simone Jones is going to be our Deputy
5 Chief of Staff.

6 (APPLAUSE AND CHEERING)

7 SPEAKER MENIN: And our first-ever Chief
8 Equity Officer.

9 Bhav Tibrewal is going to be our Chief
10 Advisor—so many of you know. So that is our senior
11 leadership team.

12 We are doing a staff directory because I
13 know that for many people, myself included, sometimes
14 we're interacting with central staff, and we're not
15 clear what their role is and how to contact them. So
16 we are working on a staff directory. We will get that
17 to all the members very soon.

18 (APPLAUSE AND CHEERING)

19 SPEAKER MENIN: Okay, thank you. I am now
20 going to turn it back over to our Majority Leader.

21 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you, Speaker
22 Menin. We will now move into of Discussion of General
23 Orders.

24

25

2 Seeing no one signed up for General
3 Orders, we will now move to Report of Special
4 Committees.

5 CLERK: None.

6 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Reports of
7 Standing Committees?

8 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Rules,
9 Privileges and Elections, Preconsidered Resolutions 1
10 and 2?

11 SPEAKER MENIN: Coupled on General Orders.
12 I would now ask that the Clerk take a roll call vote
13 on the items coupled on today's General Orders
14 Calendar.

15 CLERK: Council Member Aldebol?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: I vote aye.

17 CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Permission to
19 explain my vote?

20 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission
21 granted.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I'd like to thank
23 Speaker Menin for your trust in my continued
24 dedication and ability to chair the Council's
25 Committee on Fire and Emergency Management. My fellow

1
2 colleagues in the Council, and all those who gather
3 here with us today, congratulations to everyone who
4 received their committee assignments and their
5 chairmanships.

6 It is a great honor that I stand with you
7 and before you, reappointed as the Chair of New York
8 City Council's Committee on Fire and Emergency
9 Management. Over the last four years, our committee
10 has fought tirelessly for New York City's first
11 responders. We have advocated for greater funding for
12 our heroes, safer-- carcinogen-free gear, and EMS pay
13 parity, and for so much more. As Chair, I've made it
14 clear that when it comes to the members of New York
15 City's bravest, my door is always open and my ear is
16 always willing to listen. The Committee has become so
17 much more than just a role in my city government
18 title. It has become deeply personal. As its chair,
19 I've come to know so many of the incredible members
20 of The New York City Fire Department, from
21 firefighters and EMS personnel to fire inspectors,
22 dispatchers, and so many others on an individual
23 level. These are brave people who put their lives on
24 the line every single day. My door will always be
25 open to you and my office, or you can come up to the

1
2 steps of City Hall at any time. It's especially
3 important to me since we approach the 25th
4 anniversary of the September 11th attacks. I promise
5 to continue fighting for these real-life heroes, and
6 for the next four years, I intend to do what I can to
7 serve as their voice in this chamber and ensure that
8 they get the things they need and the respect they
9 deserve.

10 I would like to thank my Chief of Staff,
11 Phyllis Inzerillo, for her dedication and partnership
12 in advocating for those members of the FDNY, and to
13 my staff as well, as the FEM committee members who
14 served along with me in the last two sessions.

15 To the new members of the committee, I
16 say, welcome, and we have a lot of work to do.

17 Last, but not least, I would like to
18 thank Lillian Bonsignore, who shares my passion for
19 the department, and who will no doubt be a valuable
20 partner in years to come. I look forward to helping
21 her in her new role as she settles in at the helm of
22 the greatest fire department (TIMER) of the city of
23 New York. Together we can work miracles.

24 And on that...

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MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you, Council Member.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I vote aye.

CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member Avilés?

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye.

CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member Banks?

COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye

CLERK: Council Member Bottcher?

COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye, and welcome to the new members. You're pretty good, thank you.

CLERK: Council Member Brooks-Powers?

COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: I vote aye.

CLERK: Council Member De La Rosa?

COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye

CLERK: Council Member Dinowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye

CLERK: Council Member Encarnacion?

COUNCIL MEMBER ENCARNACION: Permission to explain my vote?

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2 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission
3 granted.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ENCARNACION: Thank you.
5 First and foremost, I am deeply honored to be here
6 today, to be stepping into this role, even though I'm
7 not quite sure exactly what I'm gonna make of it. But
8 I know I'm going to make it great, because Speaker
9 Menin really, truly believes in me, and I'm not going
10 let you down—I'm not going to let you down. For many
11 people who know, I have been working and dedicated to
12 my district since 2006 in the City Council. And this
13 whole time I've been learning, both public-facing,
14 and gaining a strong command of legislation and
15 budget. And I bring those experiences that have
16 shaped me and have prepared me for this moment.

17 And so I come to this role as someone who
18 was born and raised in this district, fighting every
19 day for the people of East Harlem and the South
20 Bronx. I bring their priorities to the forefront of
21 this work. And I am committed to equity, to fairness,
22 and to standing up for the New Yorkers who are too
23 often left out of the conversation. Being at the
24 table and serving as a voice for those communities is
25 not optional for me. It is essential. And advancing

1
2 the City's priorities and the work of this body is a
3 responsibility that I take seriously. I understand
4 the weight of what has been entrusted in me, and I
5 step into the role fiercely humbled and deeply proud.
6 I'm ready to bring my experience, my perspective, and
7 my urgency to this team. Thank you, Speaker Menin,
8 for believing in me and for being bold in your
9 decisions. Once again, District 8 has a seat at
10 leadership, so that is a moment of real consequence.
11 I will honor that responsibility by showing up and
12 speaking up for the communities that have raised me
13 and for the city that we all serve.

14 And with that, I vote aye.

15 CLERK: Council Member Epstein?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER EPSTEIN: Aye

17 CLERK: Council Member Cabán?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Permission to
19 explain my vote?

20 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission
21 granted.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: (INAUDIBLE) I just
23 want to start by saying I am honored and a grateful
24 to be appointed by Speaker Menin as chair of the
25 Committee on Mental Health and Addiction. I will be

1 petitioning for it to be called the Committee on
2 Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder. And as a
3 public defender, I watched our city fail our
4 neighbors by addressing mental illness and substance
5 use disorders as crimes instead of what they are,
6 public health challenges that must be addressed with
7 care and support, not violence and punishment.
8

9 Our commitment to mental health care and
10 harm reduction must be unwavering, and I look forward
11 to working alongside advocates, peers, and
12 professionals to scale effective programs and
13 guarantee every New Yorker has care and dignity.

14 So, as chair, I will dedicate myself to
15 one principle— If it saves lives, it's worth doing.
16 Thank you.

17 CLERK: Council Member?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: (NO RESPONSE)

19 CLERK: Council Member Cabán?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: And I vote aye.

21 (LAUGHTER)

22 CLERK: Thank you.

23 Council Member Farías?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER FARIÁS: I vote aye-- I
25 vote aye.

CLERK: Council Member Felder?

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Aye

CLERK: Council Member Feliz?

COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Permission to explain my vote?

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission granted.

COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Thank you. I'm incredibly honored and grateful to be appointed as chair of the Committee on Public Safety, and I want to thank Speaker Menin for the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

Public safety is fundamental to the well-being of communities, and it is one of the most important responsibilities of city government. I'm excited about a lot of things. New York City has made progress on the issue of safety, with shooting incidents at the lowest levels in recorded history. I'm excited about working to make this city even safer by addressing the root causes of crime so that we can prevent it before it happens, but also strengthening public trust and providing police officers with the resources needed to effectively carry out their appointed duties.

2 We've made progress on the issue of
3 safety, and as chair, my priority is very simple:
4 making sure that the progress continues. I look
5 forward to working with colleagues, the NYPD,
6 stakeholders, advocates, and everyone else so that we
7 can continue making the progress that we've seen and
8 continue seeing safety in the city. Thank you so
9 much. I vote aye on all.

10 CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Mr. Majority
12 Leader, I ask permission to explain my vote.

13 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission
14 granted.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you.

16 All I ever wanted to do in my
17 professional life was to make environmental public
18 policy. My background in geology--I've been doing
19 this for 50 years now. I started doing it at the
20 Council as a policy analyst for the Environmental
21 Committee in 1990. I did that for 12 years, and I've
22 been so blessed to be able to chair the committee for
23 17 years. It means everything to me. I thank the
24 Speaker so much for having trust in me to finish out
25 my career doing this. It means so much to me, and I

2 promise to do my utmost in making sure that when it
3 comes to environmental sustainability, and the whole
4 shooting match, that we close it out right. And I
5 just thank my colleagues, everyone, who have ever
6 served on the committee while I have chaired it. I am
7 just kind of gushing today. I think I should shut up
8 now. But thank you to the Speaker and to all of my
9 colleagues.

10 And I should probably vote, right? How
11 about that? I vote aye.

12 CLERK: Thank you.

13 Council Member Gutiérrez?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Permission to
15 explain my vote?

16 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission
17 granted.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: I vote aye
19 first.

20 Here at the Council, we learned so much
21 about persistence. We learn it because we have to,
22 because we are here to uncover the truth, to do hard
23 things, and we just have a lot going on. So we have
24 to be persistent to break through the noise.

1
2 I want to begin by thanking Speaker Julie
3 Menin for creating this dedicated Committee on
4 Childcare and for her persistence. It's not symbolic,
5 but a serious act of commitment. It recognizes that
6 childcare is complex and urgent, and she's entrusting
7 me to lead it.

8 I poured much of my energy over the last
9 four years into drafting the Universal Childcare
10 Bill, hosting over 10 roundtables with advocates,
11 experts, and business leaders, building a coalition
12 that helped make childcare become the number one
13 issue in this mayoral campaign. But I didn't do that
14 alone. And while the last mayor tried to dismantle
15 this system every step of the way, the City Council
16 fought back. We were on late-night calls with
17 advocates combing through budgets, demanding answers
18 at hearings, and hundreds of millions of dollars were
19 on the chopping block. And we fought for every single
20 dollar.

21 But we didn't invent that persistence. We
22 learned it. We learned it from advocates who were
23 doing this work long before any of us held these
24 seats. We learned it from parents who took time out
25 of their days to come to City Hall. We learned it

2 from providers, mostly women, mostly immigrants, who
3 raise our children every single day in a system that
4 has never treated their labor with the dignity it
5 deserves—people like my own mom. And this council
6 spent enormous political capital on holding the line
7 and ensuring not a single family lost care. It's a
8 popular issue. Even Republicans are down with it and
9 support it. And it is what we build this next chapter
10 on. I'm proud of this council. I'm grateful for
11 Speaker Menin's trust in me to hold a seat. I promise
12 to use the subcommittee to work with this
13 administration to create a public forum for public
14 voices. And I'm committed to delivering universal
15 child care, not with promises, but with the
16 persistence New York City families deserve. Thank
17 you.

18 CLERK: Thank you.

19 Council Member Hanif?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Permission to
21 explain my vote?

22 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission
23 granted.

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COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you. I'm honored to vote aye today to approve these committee appointments.

Thank you, Speaker Menin, for creating the Committee on Disabilities and entrusting me with its chairship. I've lived with lupus for 18 years now and have experienced visible and invisible disabilities, the nebulous healthcare system, and been under the knife way too many times; I have immigrant family members who spoke a different language, also a grit to make our city much better, and one worth living in.

For all I know firsthand, disability justice is a civil rights issue and an affordability issue, and accessibility must be built into every aspect of city policy, infrastructure, and services, not treated as an afterthought.

I'm eager to get to work for New Yorkers of all abilities. Thank you.

CLERK: Thank you. Council Member Hankerson?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: Permission to explain my vote?

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2 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission
3 granted.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: I want to thank
5 (INAUDIBLE) one-two. All right.

6 I want to thank Speaker Menin and my
7 colleagues in the council for their partnership. I
8 appreciate this recognition. I do not take this
9 responsibility lightly. This moment feels full circle
10 for me because my public service started at the
11 Southern Queens Park Association, the only black-led
12 organization with a license agreement with the Parks
13 Department. At SQPA, I supported programs that
14 brought young people, families, and seniors into our
15 parks for recreation, learning, and community events.
16 That experience taught me that our parks work best
17 when the community is present, involved, and
18 connected. When parks are maintained and active, the
19 quality of life of our residents improves
20 significantly.

21 Residents expect safety, our kids to have
22 a place to play after school, and families to have a
23 place to gather comfortably. As Parks Chair, I will
24 be focused on making sure every neighborhood has
25 parks that are safe, clean, and cared for with

1
2 upgrades that reflect how residents actually use the
3 spaces, regardless of the community's socioeconomic
4 status. When we strengthen those relationships, we
5 create more opportunities for youth, cultural events,
6 sports, health and wellness, and environmental
7 education that bring neighbors together and keep our
8 parks active.

9 As Parks Chair, I will work with our
10 Speaker and the administration to ensure we get to
11 that 1% that Parks so desperately needs and that our
12 communities ultimately deserve.

13 Thank you for the opportunity. Let's have
14 some fun. I vote aye.

15 CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Permission to
17 explain my vote?

18 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission
19 granted.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Thank you, Mr.
21 Majority Leader.

22 First, I am honored to serve as the
23 Majority Whip, the first from Staten Island, an
24 important recognition for our borough. I thank the
25 Speaker. (APPLAUSE) Thank you so much. I thank the

1 Speaker and my colleagues for this confidence. And
2 this is an acknowledgement that Staten Island is no
3 longer forgotten. Speaker Menin is truly committed to
4 a five-borough democratic leadership.
5

6 And with that, I vote aye.

7 CLERK: Council Member Hudson?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Permission to
9 explain my vote?

10 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission
11 granted.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Thank you.

13 I'm honored to serve as Chair of the
14 Committee on General Welfare, overseeing the New York
15 City Department of Social Services, which includes
16 the Human Rights Administration and the Department of
17 Homeless Services.

18 When I first ran for office in 2021, I
19 released a Black Agenda for New York City, a
20 comprehensive policy agenda that offers solutions to
21 deep inequities in our city that are the product of
22 years of systemic neglect of and disinvestment in
23 Black communities across the five boroughs. It's an
24 inclusive approach, not an exclusive one, only for
25 Black New Yorkers, to address real problems facing

1
2 real New Yorkers who are in dire need of government
3 to give them the boost that so many others are lucky
4 to have simply handed to them. It is with that same
5 equity-minded lens that I step into this role,
6 grounded in the understanding that addressing
7 systemic inequities requires us to confront their
8 root causes. At a moment when one in seven New York
9 City public school children is experiencing
10 homelessness, and when older adults are the fastest
11 growing homeless population, I'm committed to
12 stewarding this committee's work by building on the
13 strong leadership of my predecessor, former Council
14 Member and Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala. Her work to
15 expand CityFHEPS and keep New Yorkers stably housed
16 in their communities has ensured that people living
17 in shelters can actually see a way out.

18 I look forward to working closely with
19 Speaker Menin to grow the commitment we seeded last
20 term to expand and implement baby bonds and ensure
21 that every child born in our city has a real,
22 tangible foundation to thrive, no matter their zip
23 code or family income.

24

25

1 This committee's work is about dignity,
2 equity, and opportunity, and I'm committed to
3 centering those values as we move forward together.
4

5 Thank you and congratulations to all of
6 my colleagues. I look forward to working together
7 over the next four years.

8 I vote aye.

9 CLERK: Thank you.

10 Council Member Joseph?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Permission to
12 explain my vote?

13 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission
14 granted.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Thank you. Thank
16 you, Speaker Menin.

17 I'm excited to take on the role of the
18 Higher Education Chair. My experiences as Education
19 Chair have prepared me well for this position, and I
20 want to emphasize how this new role will directly
21 support and expand upon my work in advanced higher
22 education. As chair, I'll ensure that our committee's
23 efforts align with strengthening our higher education
24 initiatives. I'm committed to creating policies and
25 programs that will benefit students.

2 I vote aye. Thank you.

3 CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Permission to
5 explain my vote?

6 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission
7 granted.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: I'm honored that
9 Speaker Menin has trusted me with leading the
10 Oversight and Investigations Committee of our
11 Council. We are hearing too often that New York City
12 is becoming unaffordable for our families. Childcare
13 is exorbitant, groceries are far too expensive, and
14 the rent is too high. We are watching greedy
15 corporations get richer, while the families that work
16 for them struggle to make ends meet. We are seeing
17 disgraced politicians speak to and treat citizens
18 without respect. And our government agencies are not
19 doing enough to meet the moment that we are in.

20 Everything that we do as elected
21 officials should be to make the lives of everyday New
22 Yorkers better. Speaker Menin has made it clear that
23 this is a priority and that the City Council will do
24 more to fight corruption and mega corporations.

25

1
2 While chairing the Oversight Committee,
3 we'll launch investigations against bad landlords,
4 predatory corporations, and government agencies that
5 aren't doing enough to protect families. And we will
6 ask the hard questions to hold them accountable so
7 they can't cheat or screw over New Yorkers.

8 Together, we'll make New York City a
9 better place for our families. We've already taken on
10 the big fights and won, such as decriminalizing
11 street vending and passing the largest workforce
12 protections for Uber and Lyft drivers in the nation.
13 And I'm proud to have had Speaker Menin's support
14 throughout those fights.

15 Now, as the Chair of the City Council's
16 Oversight Investigations Committee, we can do more,
17 dream bigger, and fight harder. I'm excited to take
18 on this role to protect our tenants, workers, and
19 families.

20 The New York City Council can do more
21 than it has. We can fight for accountability and
22 justice for people who are trying to make it by in
23 this city. With the tools of the Oversight and
24 Investigations Committee, we will bring the fight to
25 the Council's affordability agenda.

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Thank you, and I vote aye.

CLERK: Council Member Lee?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Permission to explain my vote?

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission granted.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Thank you. It is an immense honor to serve as Chair of the New York City Council's Committee on Finance. And this is something that I do not take lightly. I take the responsibility of this gavel very seriously— especially at a time when families across our city are really struggling and feeling the financial pressures. It is even more crucial now than ever for us to be very responsible fiscally, as well as figure out how we are going to support our most vulnerable New Yorkers.

We have an obligation to develop innovative budget solutions that make meaningful differences in the lives of New Yorkers today. And meeting this challenge is going to require close collaboration with the administration to streamline the budget processes, generate necessary revenues, achieve cost savings, and streamline procurement

2 processes that have been slowed by bureaucratic red
3 tape.

4 And I really hope to bring all of my
5 former nonprofit experience to the table when it
6 comes to thinking out of the box and figuring out
7 creative solutions to how we are going to meet this
8 moment that we're in right now.

9 The budget must reflect the
10 responsibility and the needs of the New Yorkers that
11 we're trying to deliver to right now.

12 And just really quickly, I wanted to
13 share a personal story that many of you may have
14 heard. Before I decided to run for Council in 2021, I
15 spoke to my pastor and said, you know, I don't know
16 what this crazy thing is that I'm getting into right
17 now. And so there are really three things I need you
18 to pray about me:

19 Number one, protection. Because I need to
20 be protected so that I can stay focused and keep the
21 site ahead of us in mind and in line.

22 The second thing is wisdom. Not manly
23 wisdom, but godly wisdom. Because Lord knows I'm
24 going to need discernment in this new role.

25

2 And the third thing that I prayed for was
3 humility. Because we should always remember why we
4 are called to this role, why we are called to serve
5 and to lead with compassion. (TIMER) So I ask all my
6 colleagues...

7 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you, Council
8 Member.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: to do the same. And
10 with that, I vote aye... (CROSS-TALK)

11 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you, Council
12 Member. Your time is up, thank you.

13 CLERK: My apologies, Council Member Lee,
14 your vote, I'm sorry.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Oh, I vote aye.

16 CLERK: Thank you, thank you.

17 Council Member Louis?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Permission to
19 explain my vote?

20 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission
21 granted.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Thank you, Mr.
23 Majority Leader.

24 I want to express my deep gratitude to
25 Speaker Menin for appointing me Chair of the

1
2 Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises. Along with the
3 Committee on Land Use, this is one of the most active
4 and consequential bodies within the Council, a
5 critical driver of how our city plans, builds, and
6 grows. The decisions we make through this
7 subcommittee will shape the future of housing
8 affordability, neighborhood stability, public
9 infrastructure, and economic opportunity for millions
10 of New Yorkers. At a time when communities across our
11 city are confronting a housing crisis and pressing
12 infrastructure challenges, this role carries both
13 tremendous responsibility and unwavering resolve. I
14 am deeply grateful to Speaker Menin for her
15 confidence and trust in me. I look forward to working
16 alongside my colleagues, the Land Use Division, and
17 advocates citywide to advance equitable, transparent,
18 and community-centered development that strengthens
19 every neighborhood in our city.

20 And I vote aye on all.

21 CLERK: Council Member Maloney?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MALONEY: Permission to
23 explain my vote?

24 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission
25 granted.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER MALONEY: I'm honored to be
3 here serving the constituents of District 4 and to
4 serve as the Chair of the Economic Development
5 Committee. Speaker Menin, thank you for your
6 confidence in my leadership.

7 Historically, New York City's economy has
8 been the driving engine of the nation. Ensuring jobs
9 and opportunities for New Yorkers is more important
10 than ever, especially in the face of fiscal
11 uncertainty and shifting federal priorities.

12 Economic development has been a central
13 focus of my career, spanning both public and private
14 sectors, including my work at the New York City
15 Economic Development Corporation under two mayoral
16 administrations.

17 Under Mayor Bloomberg, I worked to expand
18 free public Wi-Fi access and high-speed Internet
19 across all five boroughs, build programs to support
20 small businesses, and lay the groundwork for the
21 growth of New York's tech economy.

22 As Chair, I'm committed to building on
23 that work to advance strategies that support job
24 creation and leverage city-owned property for
25 affordable housing to prepare our workforce in a

2 rapidly shifting economy and apply public and private
3 partnerships to preserve the programs and services
4 that New Yorkers rely on.

5 My focus is on building policies that are
6 disciplined, forward-looking, and resilient. And I
7 look forward to working with Speaker Menin and my
8 colleagues here today to ensure we meet the needs of
9 workers, small businesses, and communities across the
10 city.

11 And I vote aye.

12 CLERK: Council Member Marte?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Permission to
14 explain my vote?

15 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission
16 granted.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: I'll vote aye
18 first, but I want to thank Speaker Menin for giving
19 me the responsibility to Chair Landmarks, Public
20 Sighting, Site Deposition, and Resiliency
21 Subcommittee, representing the oldest part of our
22 city and one that's almost entirely coastal.

23 I look forward to using this committee to
24 shape our city's future while celebrating its past.
25 We'll also work to ensure that our public sites are

2 used for the public good so that, as our city
3 continues to change, the Council is constantly
4 required to address who these changes benefit.

5 I want to thank Speaker Menin one more
6 time and thank everyone else on this committee. Thank
7 you all.

8 CLERK: Council Member Mealy?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye

10 CLERK: Council Member Morano?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: Permission to
12 explain my vote?

13 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission
14 granted.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: Thank you, Speaker
16 Menin, and to the Members of this body. I'm really
17 looking forward to the prospect of chairing the
18 Veterans Committee.

19 You know, there was a time when there
20 were quite a few veterans who served in this body,
21 the City Council. Now there happen to be none. But I
22 can tell you that under my stewardship of this
23 committee, this is going to be a meaningful
24 committee. We're going to stand up for the people who
25 have stood up repeatedly for our nation. We're going

1 to stand up for a bunch of people who have so much
2 left to offer the city and our country—and too often
3 seem like they have to wait at the back of the line
4 when it comes to giving out services. So whether it's
5 housing, whether it's medical, whether it's
6 affordability, whether it's property taxes, I'm going
7 to be an advocate for every veteran in the city. And
8 I'm particularly proud because of the robust veteran
9 population, not only in my district, but all of
10 Staten Island. And to chair a committee like this as
11 a Staten Islander is incredibly meaningful. And one
12 of the people who was a veteran who served this body
13 was one of Council Member Hank's predecessors, Jay
14 O'Donovan. It's so apropos that she's also here,
15 taking the mantle of Majority Whip. And as she
16 alluded to, this is really a great day for Staten
17 Island. There is not a Staten Island elected official
18 in any part of the island of any party that doesn't
19 hear their constituents say something about
20 secession. And when you look at what we've seen in
21 this body previously over the last couple of years,
22 with not a single Staten Islander chairing a major
23 committee, and not a single Staten Islander in major
24 leadership, it's easy to understand why they feel
25

2 totally forgotten. And I think the vote that we're
3 about to take. Under Speaker Menin's leadership
4 already, we're sending the message that this body
5 absolutely speaks for Staten Island and that Staten
6 Island is very much a part of this city. Thank you.

7 CLERK: Thank you.

8 Council Member Narcisse?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: I vote aye.

10 CLERK: Council Member Nurse?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I vote aye.

12 CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Permission to

14 explain my vote?

15 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission

16 granted.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Well, first and

18 foremost, I vote aye.

19 And I also want to thank Speaker Menin

20 for starting the Stated Meeting on time. Thank you

21 for being respectful of our time.

22 And two, I'm truly grateful for being

23 assigned to the Committee of Land Use as well as

24 Landmarks. This will be a council that will champion

25 building new housing and, more specifically,

1 affordable housing. No more saying no. These are two
2 new committees that I'm excited to be on and to
3 continue being a champion for building here in New
4 York City.
5

6 CLERK: Thank you.

7 Council Member Paladino?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Permission to
9 explain my vote?

10 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission
11 granted.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: I would like to
13 say thank you to Speaker Menin for my two committees.
14 I'm glad that you listened to the fact that I only
15 wanted two committees. And I am very grateful to be
16 able to serve the first responders of the City of New
17 York by serving with Joann Ariola, our former
18 Minority Leader, and being a voice for the veterans,
19 which I have started in my very first year in office.
20 And my office was the very first office ever in this
21 body to host a veterans center where they can come
22 to. Queens and my district in New York happen to have
23 the largest population of veterans in it. When we
24 first started the committee in my office, it took off
25 like wildfire. People came from all five boroughs to

2 do that. So once again, I couldn't be prouder to
3 serve first responders of the city of New York. I
4 couldn't be prouder to serve our veterans who serve
5 our country and put their lives on the line each and
6 every day. So thank you very much, Julie Menin, for
7 my two committees. Thank you. And I vote aye.

8 CLERK: Thank you.

9 Council Member Restler?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: I vote aye, and I
11 would like to thank Speaker Menin for the
12 opportunity.

13 CLERK: Council Member Riley?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye

15 CLERK: Council Member Salaam?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: Permission to
17 explain my vote?

18 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission
19 granted.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: I'd like to thank
21 Speaker Menin for the trust that you have placed in
22 me to serve as the Chair of the Committee to Combat
23 Hate. I accept this responsibility with humility and
24 with resolve. New York City's strength lies in its
25 diversity, but hate seeks to exploit our differences

2 and divide us. My vote today reflects a commitment to
3 confronting hate at its root and ensuring our city
4 moves beyond words and interaction.

5 As chair, I'm committed to working with
6 my colleagues, our communities, and our city agencies
7 to advance accountability, education, safety, and to
8 protect the mosaic that makes New York City who we
9 are. And with that, I vote aye.

10 CLERK: Council Member Justin Sanchez?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Permission
12 to explain my vote?

13 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission
14 granted.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER JUSTIN SANCHEZ: First and
16 foremost, I want to say thank you to Speaker Menin. I
17 came to this body running on four simple words,
18 "Clean the damn streets." And this morning, I was
19 able to unveil over 60 new trash cans for the
20 residents of District 17. And this afternoon, I get
21 to go home to them as the new Chair of the Sanitation
22 and Solid Waste Management Committee. I look forward
23 to working with all of my colleagues to help clean
24 your streets, and I look forward to bringing this
25 committee back to the Bronx. Thank you.

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And I vote aye.

CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member Pierina Sanchez?

COUNCIL MEMBER PIERINA SANCHEZ:

Permission to explain my vote?

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission

granted.

COUNCIL MEMBER PIERINA SANCHEZ: It is an honor to be reappointed as Chair of the Committee on Housing and Buildings. Thank you, Speaker Menin, for your trust.

Over the last term, our committee delivered real results. We secured record investments for housing preservation and new construction in deeply affordable housing and homeownership opportunities. We strengthened enforcement against the worst landlords, and we modernized our building and energy codes to keep residents safe—possibly the wonkiest, but also one of the coolest parts of this chairship—and we renewed critical financing tools like J51 to preserve affordability and advance the energy resilience of our aging housing stock.

I look forward to continuing this work alongside our colleagues, protecting tenants that

2 live in the worst conditions, holding those bad
3 landlords and actors accountable, supporting small
4 homeowners facing rising costs, and securing even
5 greater investments to expand fair, stable pathways
6 to homes that New Yorkers can afford and keep.

7 This committee will continue to lead with
8 rigorous oversight and decisive action to confront
9 our housing crisis head-on.

10 I vote aye.

11 CLERK: Council Member Santosuosso?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER SANTOSUOSSO: Permission to
13 explain my vote?

14 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission
15 granted.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER SANTOSUOSSO: I want to
17 thank Speaker Menin for all of my committee
18 assignments, but in particular, I'm excited to be on
19 the Subcommittee on Childcare under Council Member
20 Gutiérrez's leadership, which I think is going to be
21 a transformative subcommittee. Very excited there.
22 And of course, on behalf of Southern Brooklyn's
23 beautiful green spaces and on behalf of a lot of
24 people who care about the cleanliness of our streets
25 and sidewalks, I am very excited to be contributing

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2 to Parks and Sanitation. So thank you. I'm excited to
3 work with my colleagues, and I vote aye.

4 CLERK: Council Member Schulman?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Permission to
6 explain my vote?

7 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission
8 granted.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: I am honored to
10 be reappointed as Chair of the City Council Health
11 Committee and grateful to Speaker Menin for her long-
12 term leadership and commitment to public health and
13 equity. A shared focus on prevention and
14 accessibility has driven landmark legislation from
15 the City's first diabetes prevention program to a
16 long-term population health agenda, helping increase
17 life expectancy five years ahead of schedule through
18 HealthyNYC. I look forward to continuing this work
19 with my colleagues to ensure New York City remains
20 the healthiest city in the country. With that, I vote
21 aye.

22 CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye

24 CLERK: Council Member Thomas-Henry?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: Aye

2 CLERK: Council Member Ung?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Permission to explain
4 my vote?

5 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission
6 granted.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: I'm proud and honored
8 to accept the role of Deputy Leader of the New York
9 City Council. I want to thank Speaker Menin for her
10 trust and faith in me. I look forward to working with
11 our new Speaker Menin and all my colleagues to
12 advance an agenda that focuses on making our city
13 livable for all New Yorkers, and with that, I vote
14 aye.

15 CLERK: Council Member Vernikov?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye

17 CLERK: Council Member Williams?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Permission to
19 explain my vote?

20 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission
21 granted.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you.

23 Good afternoon, and first, as a proud
24 member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated,
25 let me wish my sister Greeks of Alpha Kappa Alpha

1
2 Sorority Incorporated a happy Founders Day and also a
3 happy belated Founders Day to my sorors as we just
4 celebrated January 13th.

5 I am grateful for the trust placed in me
6 and thank Speaker Menin for her partnership and her
7 leadership. Today, I step into a new chapter at the
8 New York City Council as Deputy Speaker and Chair of
9 the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and
10 International Intergroup Organizations. I step into
11 this moment grounded in focus and intention. In these
12 roles, I will work closely with Speaker Menin to
13 advance the Council's legislative and budget
14 priorities while ensuring our work is transparent,
15 accountable, and responsive to the needs of New
16 Yorkers. I'm also super excited, as a former dance
17 kid growing up in dance school, to uplift the
18 artists, cultural institutions, and creative voices
19 that preserve our histories, tell underrepresented
20 stories, and bring opportunity to neighborhoods
21 across this great city. By strengthening both
22 governance and culture, we can make City Hall work
23 for communities in meaningful ways. The people and
24 communities of Southeast Queens guide my work. Their
25 experiences shape my decisions, keep the Council

1
2 accountable, and ensure our actions reflect what
3 neighborhoods truly, truly need. My office will
4 remain open, attentive, and responsive to everyday
5 concerns. I'm so very thankful to my colleagues for
6 your vote today, for your support again, to Speaker
7 Menin for seeing this leadership in me and for her
8 partnership, and most importantly, to the residents
9 who brought me here, who inspired this work every
10 day. I will keep listening, learning, and making sure
11 that this Council delivers for the people we serve.

12 And with that, I vote aye.

13 CLERK: Council Member Won?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Permission to explain
15 my vote?

16 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission
17 granted.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Thank you, Speaker
19 Menin, for giving me the honor to chair the Workforce
20 Development Committee at a moment where our economy
21 and the nature of our work are rapidly changing,
22 especially in the age of automation and artificial
23 intelligence.

24 As Chair, my focus will be on partnering
25 with all industries to have a clear pathway for

1
2 secure and stable job opportunities for all New
3 Yorkers. I look forward to partnering with all of our
4 labor unions to expand their apprenticeship programs
5 as well as high-quality training for and benefits,
6 real protections, and so forth, especially for our
7 NYCHA residents who deserve to have access to great
8 jobs through city-funded programs and investments.

9 Programs that we've already enacted, like
10 CUNY Reconnect and other scholarship programs, have
11 been essential, especially for women who are
12 returning to school and completing their degrees to
13 have better-paying careers.

14 We've also enacted programs like New York
15 City's workers cooperatives for domestic workers,
16 language access co-ops, and so much more. So I look
17 forward to continuing this work, especially in
18 partnership with Deputy Mayor of Economic Justice
19 Julie Su, as well as the Office of Talent and
20 Workforce Management and SBS.

21 So I look forward to doing all the work
22 that comes to making sure that New Yorkers have jobs
23 that can withstand economic shifts and innovation for
24 long-term security.

2 So with that, I vote aye. Thank you so
3 much.

4 CLERK: Council Member Wong?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER WONG: I vote aye.

6 CLERK: Thank you.

7 Council Member Zhuang?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Permission to
9 explain my vote?

10 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission
11 granted.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Thank you. I want
13 to-- first of all, I want to thank the Speaker for
14 your leadership. And I also want to congratulate all
15 New Yorkers. Finally--not finally, this time we got a
16 very good speaker for all of New York City. And also,
17 I want to congratulate our colleagues.

18 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Quiet in the
19 chambers, please. Thank you.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: For whatever
21 position you wanted, I think we will do well for New
22 York City. I was raised by my grandparents and feel
23 that it's our community's responsibility to take care
24 of our seniors. I always have to listen to our
25 seniors, and they always tell me they have issues

2 with SNAP, they have housing issues, and they have
3 issues with Senior Services.

4 I'm here to fight to make sure all the
5 services are delivered to our New York City seniors.
6 And also, I want to say alphabetically, my name is
7 always the last to get called, but my committee is
8 the first one. Thank you.

9 (LAUGHTER)

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: I vote aye.

11 CLERK: Thank you, Council Member.

12 Council Member Carr?

13 MINORITY LEADER CARR: Permission to
14 explain my vote?

15 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission
16 granted.

17 MINORITY LEADER CARR: Thank you so much,
18 Majority Leader.

19 I want to begin by congratulating
20 everyone on their committee assignments and all the
21 leadership positions to which you've all been chosen.
22 I want to start with our Deputy Speaker. Your
23 partnership with so many of us over the years, and
24 your policy chops, make you absolutely worthy for
25

1 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 81
2 this new role. Congratulations to you as you embark
3 upon it.

4 Majority Leader, great to see you up in
5 that chair. We have great confidence in your ability
6 to wield that gavel judiciously, and we in the
7 Republican Delegation will do our best to ensure that
8 you won't have to use it on one of us. So thank you
9 so much, and congratulations to you all.

10 Speaker, I want to thank you for your
11 inclusiveness in this current leadership package. The
12 Minority Leader was not included in leadership in the
13 last four years, but that had been the case in the 16
14 years prior to that, if not longer. So I thank you
15 for being so inclusive and open-handed in your in--
16 including my members and me in the leadership team as
17 well as in positions of high office here in the
18 Council. I think Chair Ariola has really made a
19 passion project of supporting the FDNY and its
20 mission. In fact, that word may not even do justice
21 to her efforts. And I know she will continue to do a
22 phenomenal job in that role. And Chair Morano will
23 bring his characteristic enthusiasm, passion, and
24 thoughtfulness to his new role as Chair of the
25 Veterans Committee, uh, giving his all for those who

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are willing to give their all for our nation and us.
So congratulations to everyone on all of their future
missions.

And I want us to say a couple of words
about Majority Whip, Kamillah Hanks. You know, there
are those of us who are blessed to be given family at
the beginning of our lives, and there are those we
find along the way. And she has become a part of
mine. And she is team Staten Island all the way. And
she is a true New Yorker at heart. And I know she
will do her very best for every member of this body
and be a supportive member of the Speakers' team. So
thank you, Speaker Menin, for everything you have
done today. Thank you.

CLERK: Council Member Abreu?

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: I vote aye.

CLERK: Speaker Menin?

SPEAKER MENIN: I proudly vote aye.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: All items on
today's General Order Calendar are adopted by a vote
of 51 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and 0
abstentions.

Introduction & Reading of Bills?

1 SPEAKER MENIN: All bills have been
2
3 referred to Committee on today's Agenda.

4 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: There are no other
5 Resolutions on the calendar, so we will now move into
6 General Discussion.

7 Council Member Farías?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Thank you,
9 Majority Leader. Good afternoon, today at City Hall,
10 we proudly celebrate the first official Alpha Kappa
11 Alpha Sorority Incorporated Day. January 15th marks
12 the founding of an organization that for more than a
13 century has shaped generations of women and leaders
14 committed to service, scholarship, and community.

15 As a lifelong Bronxite and a proud member
16 of Alpha Kappa Alpha, I'm honored to recognize the
17 legacy of Black women whose leadership continues to
18 move our city and our nation forward.

19 This morning, I gathered on the steps of
20 City Hall with so many of my sorority sisters in
21 commemoration of New York City's first official AKA
22 Day. To gather in this historic space on our Founders
23 Day was a powerful reminder of the generations of
24 Black women whose leadership, service, and excellence
25 have shaped the city and continued to open doors for

1 those who follow. I crossed and followed eight, and
2 what I learned then and continue to learn is that the
3 power of sisterhood is a lived, sustaining force.
4 Sisterhood is what happens when women see one another
5 fully, support one another intentionally, and commit
6 to something much larger than themselves as a
7 collective. Through Alpha Kappa Alpha, I learned what
8 it means to be held by other women, specifically
9 other women of color, and what it means to extend
10 that same support forward. I learned that when women
11 move collectively, they create pathways into
12 leadership, opportunity, and service. That
13 understanding lit the path for me. It shaped my
14 commitment to community work and ultimately led me
15 into public service. It continues to guide me today
16 as I am privileged to serve the people of New York
17 City as part of a majority women's City Council, and
18 the honor I had to serve in top leadership with
19 another sister of Alpha Kappa Alpha, former Speaker
20 Adrienne Adams.
21

22 The work we do in government is deeply
23 rooted in service. Service informed by lived
24 experience, strengthened through collaboration, and
25 sustained by the knowledge that progress is

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collective. Those values are inseparable from my identity as a sister and central to how I show up in this role.

To carry the legacy of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, a legacy grounded in service, leadership, and sisterhood, into the work of government is an honor I hold with great pride.

(TIMER)

Thank you to all of the Sorors who came here today, who continue to demonstrate the power of sisterhood through your leadership and service, and happy AKA Day.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you. Seeing no one else signed up to speak on General Discussion, I will now call on Speaker Julie Menin to close today's Stated Meeting.

SPEAKER MENIN: Thank you. The Stated Meeting of January 15, 2026, is hereby adjourned.

[GAVEL]

(APPLAUSE AND CHEERING)

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 no interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date February 11, 2026