

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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September 16, 2010

Start: 02:19pm

Recess: 03:30pm

HELD AT: Emigrant Savings Bank
49 - 51 Chambers Street

B E F O R E:
CHRISTINE C. QUINN
Speaker
LEROY G. COMRIE, JR.
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Maria Del Carmen Arroyo
Fernando Cabrera
Margaret S. Chin
Elizabeth S. Crowley
Inez E. Dickens
Erik Martin Dilan
Daniel Dromm
Mathieu Eugene
Julissa Ferreras
Lewis A. Fidler
Helen D. Foster
Daniel R. Garodnick

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

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

Rakim H.D. Brooks
Rhodes Scholar

Pastor Bill Devlin
Pastor
Manhattan Bible Church

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: All right, we're
3 going to start the ceremonial. Okay, sshh.
4 Quiet, quiet. So we have two ceremonials today,
5 both from Council Members in northern Manhattan,
6 and both in a way intersect around the importance
7 of grandparents in our lives. So if I could ask
8 first our Assistant Majority Leader, Inez Dickens,
9 to come up ... I'm sorry, Deputy Majority Leader,
10 Inez Dickens, to come up, and then after that
11 we'll have one led by Council Member Melissa Mark-
12 Viverito. If you're a lobbyist and you're talking
13 during Inez's ceremonial, your bills are dead.
14 I'd like a little quiet in the back. John Doyle,
15 we see you talking, be quiet. Julie Greenberg is
16 talking. All right, here you go, Inez.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Will my
18 grandparents come on, please? We're not talking
19 about you, Robert.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: So there you are,
21 Robert.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Come on
23 down. Which one? Okay. Yeah, they're all
24 grandparents. Come on, grandparents. All right,
25 now this group of young women that you see here

1
2 are women that took the lead to empower for
3 legislation and for financing for grandparents.
4 Because in many of our communities, grandparents
5 are raising a second, and sometimes a third,
6 generation. And we ... come on, give them a hand.
7 It was founded in '94 by Doris Dennard and Ruth
8 Rudder and these women have carried on the
9 tradition of fighting for the rights of
10 grandparents, because in a court of law many of
11 our grandparents had no rights, even though they
12 were raising the children. Finances were not
13 available to the grandparents who are raising
14 their grandchildren. And so the City Council,
15 Speaker Christine Quinn, Council Member Robert
16 Jackson, and myself, felt the need to recognize
17 you, you're fighting now for national recognition
18 of grandparents' empowerment, and you're starting
19 at home in New York City. So this is just a token
20 to say thank you. I'm going to ask my colleague
21 Robert to come up, come one. You want to ...

22 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: And let me
23 just say that Inez, under her leadership, and the
24 Speaker, as she said, you're pushing for a
25 national, but you're in the greatest city in the

1
2 world. And if we can do it here, it can be done
3 everywhere. So stay united, and as a grandparent
4 myself, nine months, even though I'm not raising
5 my grandson, I know what a grandparent is about.
6 But anyway, let me just read the last 'whereas',
7 it says, "Whereas operating under the sponsorship
8 of Steinway Child and Family Services, Inc., the
9 Grandparents Empowerment Movement teaches its
10 members the art of family healing through worship,
11 workshops, counseling, seminars, expiration of
12 resources in collaboration with social and
13 political organizations. The organization also
14 offers programs for the educational advancement of
15 children, family economic independence, well
16 being, crisis prevention and for teaching the
17 parents of these grandchildren how to manage their
18 lives more effectively. Now therefore be it known
19 that the Council of the City of New York most
20 gratefully honors the Grandparents Empowerment
21 Movement for its outstanding service and
22 contributions to our community." Signed, the 16th
23 day, Christine Quinn, Speaker, Inez Dickens,
24 Council Member, the Deputy Majority Leader, and
25 myself, Council Member. Congratulations,

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grandparents.

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FEMALE VOICE: On behalf of GEM, Grandparents Empowerment Movement, better known as GEM to everyone, we would like to accept this proclamation and thank Ms. Dickens, Council Member Jackson, Ms. Quinn for this beautiful proclamation. We have been scuffling for almost 20 years, trying to get recognition for grandparents, and finally this year we are nationwide trying to get all grandparents to be recognized as Grandparents Day, and my friend, Ms. Williams, Doris Williams, she led the fight for GEM, and helped us, and Ms. Dickens has been there for us, and so has Mr. Jackson. Any time we call them to do anything for our grandparents group, they are always there, I don't care what time of night or day. We had our cookout last year, they both showed up for our cookout. So we are always on the map, doing something for GEM and our grandparents. And last Sunday was Grandparents Day. Thank you.

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much, and thank you all for being such great parents and for your great advocacy. Thank you.

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2 All right, we are going to move on to our next
3 ceremonial in just a minute. Mike, help people
4 with their banners. Why don't we ... since the next
5 ceremonial has a bit to do with grandparents, if
6 you ladies could just move over a little bit to
7 your right. Okay, a little bit more. A little
8 bit more, a little more. A little more, a little
9 more. All right, great, great. Ma'am, if you
10 would just move over a little bit, and let me give
11 the mic to Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito.
12 And if we could ask Rakim Brooks and the Brooks
13 family to come up, please.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

15 Well, first of all, I want to recognize the
16 grandparents and Ms. Mamie Williams, who is from
17 my district and from East River Houses.
18 Congratulations on your proclamation. We're here
19 with a wonderful story.

20

SPEAKER QUINN: Can we get a little

21 quiet? Because this is a story I think everybody
22 is going to really want to hear, and you'll be
23 disappointed if you miss. So if we could get a
24 little quiet.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: I'm

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2 going to ask my colleagues to join us, and
3 particularly Rosie Mendez and Tish James, who I
4 asked to help sign the proclamation. I just met
5 this young man a couple of weeks ago, this is
6 Rakim Brooks, everyone can meet him and his
7 family. He is a constituent in my district, he
8 lives in Wagner Houses, born and raised and
9 growing up in East Harlem. Joe Toronto from my
10 office is a DMI scholar, Drum Major Institute
11 scholar, and told me about Rakim, who is also a
12 graduate of the Drum Major Institute. And Rakim
13 has a wonderful life story, and that obviously the
14 influence of grandparents and his parents, but
15 he's currently a Rhodes scholar, and studying in
16 Oxford, England, going back next week into his
17 second year to get his PhD. So he is the pride
18 and joy, not only for East Harlem, not only for
19 New York City, but for the country, since there's
20 only 32 scholars that are selected every year as
21 Rhodes scholars, and that go off, it's for a full-
22 paid scholarship. So I know that in speaking to
23 the New York City Housing Authority Chairman, who
24 also had the opportunity to meet Rakim, there's
25 really a great, wonderful, wonderful life ahead of

1
2 him. He is committed to coming back to the
3 community and really giving back, and so for all
4 of his accomplishments which you will hear in the
5 proclamation, we're here to recognize his efforts.
6 So Rakim, congratulations. If you, the clerk,
7 could please read the proclamation.

8 CLERK: Council, City of New York,
9 proclamation. Whereas the City of New York is
10 proud to honor Rakim H.D. Brooks for his
11 outstanding and inspiring academic achievements,
12 and whereby Rakim, a proud native of East Harlem
13 who grew up in the Robert F. Wager Houses and
14 attended New York City public schools, beginning
15 with PF 112 and the Talented and Gifted Institute
16 for Young Scholars, which is housed in the Tito
17 Fuentes Educational Complex. With the help from
18 his grandmother, support from his neighborhood and
19 educators who reaffirmed his love of learning, he
20 continued his studies at the Bronx High School of
21 Science and paved the way for his admission to
22 Brown University in Providence. And whereas, in
23 2008 Rakim was named a John Kenneth Galbreath
24 Scholar at Harvard, and whereas Rakim's dedication
25 to his education was once again rewarded when he

1
2 was named a 2009 Rhodes Scholar, an extremely
3 prestigious honor for young people who demonstrate
4 academic achievement, excellence, strong character
5 and exemplary leadership abilities. Rhodes
6 scholarships are bestowed upon only 32 U.S.
7 citizens each year, who join more than 80 Rhodes
8 scholars worldwide, and provide full funding for
9 up to three years of study at Oxford University.
10 And whereas Rakim began his studies last year at
11 Oxford last fall pursuing a master's degree in
12 Politics, and he intends to earn a PhD in Politics
13 during his tenure at Oxford, his research will
14 focus on poverty's implication for democratic
15 life. Rakim intends to research the 15th
16 Congressional district, where he grew up and plans
17 to live after completing his studies, as a focal
18 point of his research. His long-term goals are to
19 develop a plan for fighting poverty and
20 unemployment in Harlem and the South Bronx, so
21 that these areas can serve as models for poverty
22 alleviation throughout the United States. And
23 now, therefore, be it known that the Council of
24 the City of New York is very proud to honor Rakim
25 H.D. Brooks for his outstanding and inspiring

1
2 academic achievements as a Rhodes scholar. Signed
3 on the 16th day of September in the year 2010,
4 Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the entire
5 Council, Melissa Mark-Viverito, Council Member 8th
6 District Manhattan, Rosie Mendez, Council Member
7 2nd District Manhattan, Letitia James, Council
8 Member 35th District Brooklyn.

9 MR. BROOKS: Thank you Melissa and
10 Speaker Quinn, I really appreciate the honor, it
11 is quite extraordinary and in some ways I feel as
12 though I don't deserve it. Don't mishear me, I
13 plan on taking the awards, but to quote a fellow
14 Rhodie, like every good progressive, I know that I
15 did not invent myself, that any great success I
16 have achieved is a result of good parents who are
17 standing by me right now, a nurturing community,
18 and a great many prayers. I should be flanked on
19 both sides with more than a dozen people and a few
20 of them may be here in the audience today, I'm not
21 sure whether or not they made it. You so rarely ...
22 but I wanted to thank all of you in particular,
23 because you so rarely get praised for the hard
24 work that you do, and so I wanted to give you the
25 opportunity to bask in my moment. You're not half

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2 as bad or crazy as I tell people you are. I'm so
3 appreciative of your love and encouragement, each
4 of you has been crucial to my development, and by
5 your example I learned patience, perseverance and
6 humility, the last one was the hardest. And your
7 strength inspires me still today, and will for a
8 lifetime. So thank you for being here, and thank
9 you again to the City Council.

10 SPEAKER QUINN: And just
11 collectively, thank you and thank all of you
12 ladies, and thank all of you for raising so many
13 great New Yorkers, for you being one of those
14 great New Yorkers raised by grandparents. And
15 thank you all therefore, for making our city a
16 better and stronger place. And we'll look forward
17 to all of your ideas for how we can do a better
18 job when you're back in town. And that concludes
19 our ceremonial. Thank you. (pause)

20 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Ladies and
21 gentlemen, can I have your attention please?
22 Could I please have your attention? Quiet,
23 please. At this time please place all cell
24 phones, electronic devices, to vibrate. Thank
25 you.

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2 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR: Pledge of
3 allegiance. Quiet, please. I pledge allegiance
4 to the flag of the United States of America, and
5 to the republic for which it stands, one nation,
6 under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice
7 for all. Roll call.

8 CLERK: Arroyo.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

10 CLERK: Barron.

11 (No response)

12 CLERK: Brewer.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

14 CLERK: Cabrera.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

16 CLERK: Chin.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

18 CLERK: Comrie.

19 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR: Here.

20 CLERK: Crowley.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

22 CLERK: Dickens.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.

24 CLERK: Dilan.

25 (no response)

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CLERK: Dromm.
COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.
CLERK: Eugene.
COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.
CLERK: Ferreras.
COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.
CLERK: Fidler.
COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.
CLERK: Foster.
COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Here.
CLERK: Garodnick.
COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.
CLERK: Gennaro.
COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.
CLERK: Gentile.
(no response)
CLERK: Gonzalez
COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Here.
CLERK: Greenfield.
COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Here.
CLERK: Halloran.
COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN III:
Present.
CLERK: Ignizio.

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.

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CLERK: Jackson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Here.

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CLERK: James.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here.

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CLERK: Koo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Here.

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CLERK: Koppel.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.

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CLERK: Koslowitz.

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(no response)

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CLERK: Lander.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

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CLERK: Lappin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Here.

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CLERK: Levin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

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CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

21

Here.

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CLERK: Mealy.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Here.

24

CLERK: Mendez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

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2 CLERK: Nelson.
3 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Here.
4 CLERK: Palma.
5 (no response)
6 CLERK: Recchia.
7 (no response)
8 CLERK: Reyna.
9 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.
10 CLERK: Rodriguez.
11 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.
12 CLERK: Rose.
13 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.
14 CLERK: Sanders.
15 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS, JR:
16 Present.
17 CLERK: Seabrook.
18 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Here.
19 CLERK: Ulrich.
20 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.
21 CLERK: Vacca.
22 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.
23 CLERK: Vallone.
24 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE, JR: Here.
25 CLERK: Van Bramer

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

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CLERK: Vann.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Here.

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CLERK: Weprin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

7

CLERK: Williams.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

9

CLERK: Oddo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Here.

11

CLERK: Rivera.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Here.

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CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

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CLERK: We have a quorum.

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CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR: Okay,

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quiet please, the invocation will be delivered by

18

Pastor Bill Devlin from the Manhattan Bible

19

Church.

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PASTOR DEVLIN: Good afternoon,

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thank you for the honor to pray to God. Can we

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all bow in prayer? And I've already been given

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the fact that brevity is next to godliness, and we

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will do that. The three B's: be brief, be blunt

25

and begone. The city that prays together stays

1
2 together, so let's pray. Almighty God, everything
3 we see and everything we can't see is just because
4 of You and You alone. It all comes from You, it
5 all belongs to You, it all exists for Your glory.
6 Now together, today, we gather together to pray
7 for City Council, for Maria, Charles, Gale,
8 Fernando, Margaret, Leroy, Elizabeth, Inez, Erik,
9 Daniel, Mathieu, Julissa, Lewis, Helen, Daniel,
10 James, Vincent, David, Sara, Daniel, Vincent,
11 Robert, Letitia, Peter, Oliver, Karen, Brad,
12 Jessica, Stephen, Melissa, Darlene, Rosie,
13 Michael, James, Annabel, Christine, Domenic,
14 Diana, Joel, Ydanis, Deborah, Jim, Larry, Eric,
15 James, Peter, Jimmie, Albert, Mark, and Jumaane.
16 We are so grateful to live in this city, a city of
17 unequalled possibility, and we pray, as Speaker
18 Quinn stated in her address earlier this year,
19 that we will seize the potential of tomorrow by
20 using the opportunities of today. Give to our
21 Council, Lord, the wisdom to lead us with
22 humility, the courage to lead us with integrity,
23 the compassion to lead us with generosity. Be
24 near to them, their families, and our Mayor. Help
25 us, O God, to remember that we are Your holy

1
2 creation. And we become children of Yours by
3 asking You to come into our hearts to transform us
4 by Your awesome power. When we focus on
5 ourselves, when we fight each other, when we
6 forget You, forgive us. When we presume that our
7 greatness and our prosperity is ours alone,
8 forgive us. When we fail to treat our fellow
9 human beings with the respect that they deserve,
10 forgive us. And finally, as we face these
11 difficult days ahead, may we have a new birth of
12 clarity in our aims, responsibility in our
13 actions, humility in our approaches, and civility
14 in our attitudes, even when we differ. Lord God,
15 would You help us to see You more clearly? Reveal
16 Yourself to us, help us to share, to serve, and to
17 seek the common good of all for God's sake, and
18 may we never forget that one day all nations and
19 all people and each member and their staff here
20 today will stand accountable before You, O Lord
21 God. And now we commit our new Council and this
22 legislative session into Your loving care, O God,
23 and I humbly ask this in the name of the One Who
24 changed my life and all God's people shouted,
25 amen. Thank you.

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2 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR: Council
3 Member Rodriguez to spread the motions.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: First I
5 would like to recognize the great work that
6 Manhattan Bible Church- -

7 SPEAKER QUINN: (Interposing) If we
8 could get- -

9 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR:
10 (Interposing) Quiet please.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: First I
12 would like to recognize the great work that
13 Manhattan Bible Church is doing in our district,
14 especially in the schooling and two of the
15 students, Brianna Kasrow (phonetic) and Chris
16 Lopez, are here with Pastor Bill. I would like to
17 make a motion to spread the invocation by Pastor
18 Bill in full upon the record.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: So moved. If I
20 could ask my colleagues to please rise again. On
21 august 27th, 2010, our colleague and friend,
22 Council Member Thomas White, Jr., who was 71,
23 passed away after a long illness. Tom was first
24 elected to the City Council in November of 1991,
25 and served through 1992 ... from 1992 through 2001,

1
2 when he was barred by term limits from running for
3 re-election. In 2006, Tom became the first term-
4 limited Council Member to be re-elected to the
5 Council. For almost 15 years Tom served his
6 Rochdale Village, Jamaica, Richmond Hill district
7 as a tireless fighter for programs to benefit
8 southeast Queens neighborhoods and the city. As
9 Chair of our Economic Development Committee, he
10 fought for job training, placement programs and
11 investments in long-term economic growth. He
12 continuously pushed for additional resources to
13 help women and minority-owned businesses stay
14 afloat and create jobs for their neighbors. As
15 executive director of one of the largest substance
16 abuse programs in the state, he cared for New
17 Yorkers who had often been marginalized, forgotten
18 and incarcerated from an early age. He gave them
19 hope, a shot at redemption, and a chance to build
20 a better life. Though Tom has left us, he remains
21 present in the lives he touched and the impact he
22 made on the face of our city. The thousands of
23 New Yorkers he helped shepherd away from the jaws
24 of addiction, the small business owners given a
25 chance to build her own American dream here in the

1
2 five boroughs, the working family that can now
3 afford to stay in the home they built, the child
4 who will grow up with cleaner air and safer
5 streets. There are many New Yorkers whose lives
6 have been made better in ways large and small,
7 thanks to the laws Tom sponsored and the causes he
8 championed. It is through them that Tom White
9 will truly be memorialized. Tom's funeral was
10 held on September 2nd at the Allen A.M.E. Church in
11 Jamaica. Tom is survived by his mother, Marie
12 White, his children, Bryan White and Lucile
13 Precious Middleton, his daughter-in-law Seleste
14 White, and his grandchildren, Lamar and Jacob.
15 We've been in contact with his family, and if they
16 are up to a memorial service for Tom, we will hold
17 it at our next meeting, or at the appropriate time
18 that they want. As is our custom, today's stated
19 meeting will be adjourned in memory of our good
20 friend, Council Member Tom White, Jr.

21 At our last meeting we stood for a
22 moment of silence, and I noted the passing on
23 August 20th of Bernie Catcher, a long-time mentor
24 of many elected officials, including a number of
25 our Council colleagues. I mentioned that Bernie

1
2 had a true love of people and politics, always
3 focused on how to get things accomplished, and at
4 the request of our Assistant Majority Leader, Lew
5 Fidler, and former Council Member Herb Berman, we
6 would set aside some time at today's meeting so
7 he, Council Member Fidler, and others, could say a
8 few words about Bernie. Before I turn the mic
9 over to Assistant Majority Leader Lew Fidler, and
10 then Council Member Jumaane Williams, I'd like to
11 stand for a moment of silence in memory of Council
12 Member Tom White, and then we will hear from our
13 colleagues about Bernie Catcher. (pause) Thank
14 you, and I think I speak for everyone when I say
15 this year somos will not be the same. Everyone
16 can take their seats and we will hear from
17 Assistant Majority Leader Lew Fidler and Council
18 Member Jumaane Williams, and I think a family
19 member might be saying a few words? Or no?
20 Pardon me? Okay, did you recognize them?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Thank you,
22 Madam Speaker, and first I want to thank you for
23 the opportunity and acknowledge that our friend
24 Herb Berman, a former colleague, is under the
25 weather and is home today, and couldn't be with

1
2 us. But I do want to acknowledge the presence of
3 one of my best friends, and certainly one of
4 Bernie's best friends, Assemblyman Alan Maisel,
5 and his partner, Bernie's partner, and my female
6 leader and Bernie's co-leader, Roberta Sherman,
7 who are here in the back with us today. I often
8 used to refer to Bernie as the most important
9 person in politics that the average citizen never
10 knew. Yet I know that I for one wouldn't be
11 standing here today but for Bernie Catcher. I
12 know that some of my other colleagues could
13 probably say the same. Bernie made Council
14 members, he made Assembly members, he made State
15 Senators, he made Congressmen, he made at least
16 one county leader. Kind of a must-stop place for
17 anyone seeking office coming through Brooklyn was
18 to come to get the advice and wisdom and support
19 of Bernie Catcher, kind of like in the old days
20 with the Lubovitcher Rebbe, (inaudible) shalom,
21 that it was a must-see. And there were a lot of
22 reasons for that for sure. And the fact of the
23 matter is, you know, in his death if Bernie's
24 legend grows, it still will never meet the reality
25 of who he was and what he was, and how important

1
2 he was to so many of us. Bernie Catcher was what
3 you can only call as a 'foxhole friend'. He was
4 with you in good times, he was with you in bad
5 times. Even after you'd given up whatever fight
6 you were fighting, Bernie was still in there
7 trying to see if there was any way he could get
8 you over the top. That's who Bernie was. His
9 word was his bond, unfortunately not common
10 enough. But when Bernie Catcher told you he was
11 going to do something, he did it. And he made
12 every human effort possible to get it done. Now I
13 know a lot of people think of Bernie in terms of
14 being a political junkie, he was an obsessive-
15 compulsive in the best possible way. But he was
16 also a junkie in a lot of other things. He was a
17 junkie about everything Jewish and Jewish culture.
18 Bernie Catcher could tell you the Jewish
19 population of any city in this world, and I'm not
20 just talking about New York and Chicago or Paris,
21 but if you mentioned Vidunksville, Wisconsin, he
22 could tell you just how many Jews lived there. He
23 was a junkie for good food, and there are
24 certainly a number of casinos that are going to
25 miss him at the craps table at Atlantic City and

1
2 Las Vegas, he was a junkie for that too. But most
3 important he was a junkie for people, for friends,
4 it didn't matter if you were a waitress at the
5 diner, if you were a colleague in government, if
6 you were just somebody that he met in the
7 supermarket, Bernie Catcher loved talking to
8 people, loved being with people, and that was an
9 important part of who he was. Now, he's well
10 known of course for his great political acumen,
11 and it didn't just come from his wisdom. It
12 certainly came from his persistence, that
13 obsessive-compulsive thing again. But for those
14 of you who thought he was old school, what Bernie
15 Catcher was was a true grassroots politician. He
16 believed in people ringing doorbells, he believed
17 in stuffing and sealing envelopes and having
18 friends talk to friends. And that's the kind of
19 politics that Bernie Catcher engaged in throughout
20 his career. And as I said, the other thing that
21 really made him so good at what he did was his
22 understanding of what average people thought. He
23 always had his finger on the pulse, and I think
24 that is because Bernie Catcher was always more
25 comfortable with the stuffers and the sealers and

1
2 the door bell ringers and the schleppers than with
3 the big contributors and the rich people and the
4 powerful people, because that's who Bernie was.
5 And I know a lot of people have this notion of
6 Bernie Catcher as being some old-line pol, but the
7 Bernie Catcher I knew, in his youth his hero was
8 Adlai Stevenson, and I can picture Bernie right
9 now with a certain wry grin, talking about the
10 time he cut out on a final exam for college to go
11 hear Adlai Stevenson speak when he was running for
12 president. And I will never forget that two years
13 ago, every day Bernie would call with an
14 enthusiasm as Barak Obama worked his way towards
15 the Democratic nomination, as he fought and won
16 the presidency of the United States, how excited
17 he was to witness that, because of what he felt it
18 said about where we had come in America. That's
19 who Bernie Catcher was. And in the neighborhoods
20 he was known for bringing people together from all
21 backgrounds. He started an interfaith service
22 between his synagogue and the local church,
23 ironically named St. Bernard's. He's also, his
24 legacy, perhaps if anything, will be the manner in
25 which he brought young people of all backgrounds

1
2 into his club, into his Democratic club. He
3 didn't just open the door for young men and women
4 of African-American and Caribbean descent, he
5 walked outside, invited them in, cajoled them in,
6 made them feel at home. And you are going to hear
7 from one of them very, very shortly, and it may
8 surprise you when he stands up and says so. In
9 conclusion, at Bernie's funeral I tried something
10 that ... well, while I didn't know how it was going
11 to work, I was confident in the result. Bernie
12 passed away at four o'clock on a Friday afternoon
13 and the funeral was Sunday morning. Over 500
14 people managed to get there. And I looked out at
15 the crowd and I said, if your life has been
16 touched by Bernie, if he helped you get to where
17 you are, if he helped a family member of yours get
18 to where they wanted to be, if he did you a favor
19 when you were in need, if he just did nothing more
20 for you than lifted you up at a moment when you
21 were down and needed it, please stand up. 500
22 people stood up, that is Bernie Catcher's legacy,
23 that is who he was to all of us, that is why he
24 will be so sorely missed. Thank you.

25 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very

1
2 much, Council Member Fidler, and I just wanted to
3 recognize that we've also been joined today to
4 show her respect and fondness for Bernie Catcher
5 by Assembly member Linda Rosenthal, and I want to
6 thank Assembly member Rosenthal for being here
7 today, and I just want to say two things before I
8 call on Council Member Williams. When I was
9 running for Speaker, on the list of people
10 somebody gave me, at the very top, was Bernie
11 Catcher, and I went out to one of the Brooklyn
12 diners and met with him, and I was unable to be at
13 his funeral, I was out of town, but when you asked
14 that question, particularly in the part where did
15 he just reach out once when you needed to be
16 lifted up, and help lift you up, I would have had
17 to stand up, but I would have had many more than
18 one time that I could have said that about Bernie.
19 And I say that, because Bernie and I, although we
20 became friends, we were not very, very close, but
21 he was the kind of a guy, if you were in a
22 position and saw, he saw in the papers or
23 somewhere else where maybe things were a little
24 tough for you that day, he would just reach out
25 and tell you that, you know, keep your chin up.

1
2 So I think that was ... if there had been 2,000
3 people there, they all would have had to stand up
4 too. Council Member Williams?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank
6 you. I'm going to be pretty brief, but I couldn't
7 let this moment go by without making a few
8 statements. About I guess ten or twelve years ago
9 I actually first met my then Council member, Herb
10 Berman, who was the first person to actually bring
11 me to City Hall, and then I met then Council
12 Member, who was running at that point, Lew Fidler.
13 And people are generally shocked when they find
14 out I came out from the Thomas Jefferson Club.
15 Back then, particularly, there weren't too many
16 who looked like me, and I do have to say, and I
17 always say this, I did go to people who actually
18 resembled me a little more in complexion first,
19 and the person who gave the most warm reception
20 was Bernie Catcher, when Lew Fidler brought me to
21 the Thomas Jefferson Club. And I'll never forget
22 the experiences I had there, I'm proud to consider
23 them my political family. Everything that Lew
24 said about Bernie is true, and the one thing that
25 always stands out was, disagree or not disagree,

1

2 if Bernie Catcher said something, you could take
3 it to the bank. And it's very rare, I'm learning
4 more and more, in this game for that to be true.
5 And that's something very, very special that, and
6 he was just a pure political genius and I had the
7 honor of knowing him for the past decade. Thank
8 you.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
10 much, Council Member Williams, and that concludes
11 our in memoriam section for today.

12 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR: Adoption
13 of minutes. Council Member Fidler?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I move that
15 the minutes of the meeting of June 29th, 2010 be
16 adopted as printed.

17 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR: Messages
18 and papers from the Mayor?

19 CLERK: None.

20 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR:
21 Communications from City, County and Borough
22 offices.

23 CLERK: M 0214, Campaign Finance
24 Board report.

25 SPEAKER QUINN: Received ordered

1

2 printed and filed.

3 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR: Petitions
4 and communications?

5 CLERK: None.

6 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR: Land use
7 call-ups.

8 CLERK: M 0215 through M 0218.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: If all of those
10 could please be coupled, and if we could have a
11 roll call vote on the coupled land use up call
12 ups.

13 CLERK: Arroyo.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

15 CLERK: Brewer.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

17 CLERK: Cabrera.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

19 CLERK: Chin.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

21 CLERK: Comrie.

22 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR: Aye.

23 CLERK: Crowley.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

25 CLERK: Dickens.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

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CLERK: Dilan.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: I'd like to vote aye on all land use call-ups, and I'd like to request unanimous consent to vote on all items on today's general order calendar.

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CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR: So

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ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: I vote aye.

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CLERK: Dromm.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

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CLERK: Eugene.

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COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I also want to ask unanimous consent to vote on all land use call-ups and all items on the general calendar of today.

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CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR: So

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ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.

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CLERK: Ferreras.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: I vote aye.

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CLERK: Fidler.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

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CLERK: Foster.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.

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CLERK: Garodnick.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

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CLERK: Gennaro.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

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CLERK: Gentile.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Yes.

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CLERK: Gonzalez

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COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.

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CLERK: Greenfield.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

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CLERK: Halloran.

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COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN III: Aye

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16 on all.

CLERK: Ignizio.

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes, I

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19 vote aye, and I'd like to request unanimous

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20 consent as well to vote on all land use, on all

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21 general order calendar.

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CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR: So

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23 ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.

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CLERK: Jackson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye.

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CLERK: James.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: May I have consent to vote on all land use call-ups and all general order calendar?

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CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR: So

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ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: I vote yes and may Council Member White and District Leader Bernie Catcher rest in peace. I vote aye, thank you.

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CLERK: Koo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote aye on all.

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CLERK: Koppel.

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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: Lander.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I vote aye on all land use call-ups and humbly also request permission to vote aye on all items coupled on today's general order calendar.

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CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR: So

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2

ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you.

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CLERK: Lappin.

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CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR: Lappin?

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CLERK: Lappin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: 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: Aye on all.

14

CLERK: Mendez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

16

CLERK: Nelson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye on all.

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CLERK: Recchia.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA, JR: Aye on

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all.

21

CLERK: Reyna.

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: I vote aye

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on land use call-ups and I'd like unanimous

24

consent to vote on all general orders calendared.

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CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR: So

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2 ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Thank you.

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I vote aye on all.

5

CLERK: Rodriguez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

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CLERK: Rose.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye on all.

9

CLERK: Sanders.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS, JR: Aye on

11

all.

12

CLERK: Seabrook.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Yes, with

14

unanimous consent, I'd like to vote aye on all

15

land use call-ups and the general calendar.

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CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR: So

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ordered.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Thank

19

you. I vote aye.

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CLERK: Ulrich.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Yes.

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CLERK: Vacca.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

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CLERK: Vallone.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE, JR: Aye.

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CLERK: Van Bramer

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COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

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CLERK: Vann.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

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CLERK: Weprin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

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CLERK: Williams.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

9

CLERK: Oddo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

11

CLERK: Rivera.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote on

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all land use call-ups and I ask for consent to
vote aye on all general calendar items on today's
agenda.

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CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR: So

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ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you

19

very much.

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CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Aye on all, and

22

just before she leaves, I want to thank Council

23

Member Reyna for the rose she put on Council

24

Member White's desk in the back, it was very

25

1
2 sweet. Thank you. And Council Member Weprin too
3 as well, thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR: Today's
5 land use call-ups were adopted by a vote of 48 in
6 the affirmative and zero in the negative.
7 Communications from the Speaker?

8 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. We are
9 voting on a number of different important pieces
10 of legislation today, and a couple of different
11 land use items, just on the land use items I want
12 to thank Chair Comrie for his work on both the
13 rezoning in Council Member Van Bramer's district,
14 which, thank goodness, was able to go through.
15 Jimmy, also thank the Land Use Subcommittee
16 Chairs, Levin, Weprin and Lander for their work,
17 and I just want to also note, the second in four
18 years extension of the Greenwich Village Historic
19 District. We will be adding 2,320 buildings today
20 to the Greenwich Village Historic District, which
21 is very, very exciting and I want to thank
22 Landmarks Preservation Commission Chair Bob
23 Tierney and Subcommittee Chair Lander for their
24 work on this important extension. We're going to
25 be voting on Intro 270A, which is a piece of

1
2 legislation sponsored by Aging Committee Chair
3 Jessica Lappin and passed out of the Aging
4 Committee, and I want to thank Kris Sartori,
5 Shauneequa Owusu, Terzah Nasser and the other
6 staff who worked on this bill, and Intro 270A
7 creates a Silver Alert program. There are over a
8 quarter of a million New Yorkers who suffer from
9 Alzheimers in the City of New York, and a
10 significant portion of them at some point will
11 wander off. And those who take care of them will
12 have no idea where they are. And if those
13 individuals are not found in the first crucial 24
14 hours, a significant portion of them will only be
15 found after they've suffered serious injury or
16 after they have tragically died. Silver Alert is
17 modeled on the very effective Amber Alert program
18 for children, and is a way we can engage all New
19 Yorkers' eyes and ears and cell phone calls to
20 help us find a New Yorker who is suffering from
21 Alzheimers if they have wandered off. I want to
22 thank Council Member Lappin for her work on this.
23 I also want to thank United Neighborhood Houses,
24 JASA and the New York Academy of Medicine for
25 their work on Silver Alert as well, and I want to

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2 call on the Chair and sponsor, Chairperson Lappin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Thank you, Madam Speaker, I just wanted to add that if you are taking care of somebody who has Alzheimers or dementia, there is really nothing more frightening than the thought of them wandering off, and at some point nearly 60% of those folks do wander off, and as you mentioned, it's critical to find them quickly. And there are 26 other cities or states that have done something like this, we know it will work, we know it's effective, and I'm very happy that New York is taking this big step towards making ourselves a more age-friendly city.

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much, Chairperson Lappin. We're also voting today on Intro 91A, it's NYC business-friendly legislation, it was ... I want to thank the staff who worked on it, Matt Gewolb, Alix Pustilnik, Jim Caras, I want to thank the Council members who were part of the regulatory review panel, Council Member Oddo, Council Member Comrie, former Council Member Yassky, whose work in part led to this bill, but certainly to this focus. I want to thank the Chair of our Small Business Committee,

1
2 Diana Reyna, and also the Chair of our Consumer
3 Affairs Committee, Karen Koslowitz, who helped
4 with this bill. I want to thank Council Member
5 Gale Brewer, the Chair of our Government
6 Operations Committee that, the Committee through
7 which this bill came out of. But most
8 significantly I want to thank the Minority Leader,
9 Jimmy Oddo, who is the sponsor of this bill, and
10 has been very, very focused on keeping the
11 Council's goal of supporting small businesses at
12 the top of our agenda, and demonstrating our
13 commitment to that goal by passing important
14 pieces of legislation that help small businesses
15 and 91A is certainly one of them. And very
16 simply, every time we pass a bill we do a fiscal
17 impact statement. We look and tell the public how
18 much this bill will cost. And inevitably we ask
19 ourselves the question, is this bill as good as
20 how much it will cost? There is no process, when
21 agencies promulgate small business regulations,
22 where they are ever required to stop and ask, is
23 this regulation, the burden it's going to put on
24 small businesses, as good as the benefit to the
25 public? There is no requirement that they check

1
2 to see if the regulation is written in plain
3 English. There is no requirement that anywhere in
4 the City of New York we check, if one agency has
5 put out a regulation, if another agency already
6 has a regulation that contradicts that. And there
7 is no requirement that we ever consider giving
8 small businesses the opportunity to cure their
9 violation before they get levied a fine. This
10 bill will make sure that all of that is now
11 occurring, that the Mayor's Office of Operations
12 is overseeing it, and the result of that thought
13 and review is public information whenever rules
14 are promulgated, just the same way a fiscal impact
15 statement is. Also, Minority Leader Oddo's bill
16 will remarkably require, and I say remarkably
17 because it's kind of breathtaking, it hasn't been
18 the case, that when agencies promulgate
19 regulations, they are now required to proactively
20 reach out to the trade and business associations
21 that represent the entities who they are going to
22 regulate. Today the only thing they are required
23 to do is to put a notice in the city record,
24 therefore requiring that only Dave Seifman of the
25 New York Post will know that that information has

1
2 been in the city record, since I believe that he
3 is the only person that reads it. Now, if they're
4 going to promulgate regulations around newsstands,
5 they'll have to call the newsstand association.
6 If they're promulgate restaurant regulations,
7 they'll have to speak to the restaurant
8 associations. It doesn't mean those associations
9 will get what they want, but it means they will be
10 part of the process, and they will be heard. Some
11 of this stuff is so commonsensical, you scratch
12 your head that it hasn't been done to date, but
13 I'm very proud of Minority Leader Oddo for making
14 sure it is happening, and I want to thank him very
15 much for being so persistent. We are conducting a
16 pool to see what is the new piece of legislation
17 he emails me about every other day, now that this
18 one is done. Eric will be keeping the forms on
19 that, if anyone would like to see, Council Member
20 Ulrich, but let me first call on Minority Leader
21 Oddo, and then the Chair of the Committee, Council
22 Member Brewer.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Thank you,
24 Madam Speaker. Around eight or nine months ago,
25 Speaker Quinn took to the floor of the chambers

1

2 and gave her State of the City address.

3 SPEAKER QUINN: Remember the
4 chambers?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Remember the
6 chambers? Anyone want to sing "Memories" with me
7 now? Don't worry, in four or five years we'll be
8 back there. And the Speaker dedicated the
9 entirety of her speech to small businesses and
10 what we can do as a municipal government to help
11 them. I have a headline with me from a recent
12 *Crain's* that says "War on Small Business: the City
13 says it's declaring a truce, entrepreneurs can be
14 forgiven for their skepticism", and the reality
15 is, small businesses on all of our districts are
16 having a really tough time. And on top of all of
17 the inherent challenges they face, sometimes they
18 have well-intentioned but onerous rules and
19 regulations placed on them by city agencies, and
20 what this bill simply tries to do is to have
21 another set of eyes, other than the particular
22 agency, in this case corp Council and the Mayor's
23 Office and operations, to vet the rules before
24 they are put in place, to see if there are
25 unintended consequences. We want to do everything

1
2 we can to unleash the power of the private sector.
3 And this idea is born from a concept called
4 regulatory flexibility, and that is something that
5 frankly is sweeping the country on a state level,
6 and Chris Decicco, my counsel, deserves all the
7 credit. He's the one who found this and said, "We
8 need to figure out a way to do this on a city
9 level", and he worked with Matt Gewolb and our
10 staff and the administration and Chair Reyna and
11 her staff to craft a bill that is commonsense.
12 Let's not, as a city government, impose,
13 intentionally or unintentionally, more hurdles and
14 more burdens on small business. Let's do
15 everything to unleash their power and it's a
16 pretty simple concept, but I think it's an
17 important one, and it's consistent with the agenda
18 that the Speaker has set out. We have to change
19 the culture in this city, and that's difficult,
20 that's changing like a battleship on a dime, and
21 it doesn't happen overnight. We're nine months
22 into this mission and we have a lot of work to do,
23 but I'm grateful that we're passing this bill
24 today. So thank you.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you

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very much, and much congratulations to the Speaker, and particularly to Council Member Oddo. We had a really good hearing with several committees coming together, and the fact that we're going to be working for small business to proactively reach out is a wonderful thing for this community. It is extremely customer-friendly, which is what the City Council has a history of being part of, that type of philosophy. And I'm honored that the Committee did pass this bill, and I look forward not only to enforcement of this legislation, but also other pro-small business legislation. Thank you very much and congratulations.

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much, Chairperson Brewer, and just in closing, I want to thank my colleagues. There was a very, very significant turnout of Council members at the viewings for Tom White and at his funeral, and it was a bad week, the last week in August, people were busy with elections, a lot of people were away on vacations, but it was noticed and commented on by many about how much effort Tom's colleagues put, or demonstrated, to make sure that

1
2 we had a very good showing at both the viewing and
3 the funeral, and I just want to, on behalf of the
4 institution, thank everyone for that very, very
5 much. And that concludes communications from the
6 Speaker.

7 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR: Discussion
8 of general orders, Council Member Sanders.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS, JR.: Thank
10 you very much, sir. This is a great day for my
11 community. I'm speaking of a downzoning that is
12 being proposed in the Rosedale section. For too
13 long stately mansions in my community have been
14 demolished and sleazy developers have built cheap
15 boxes which masqueraded as homes. With this
16 downzoning, the good people of my district can see
17 at least a small measure of justice. I want to
18 thank the Chair and all the members of the Land
19 Use Committee, I want to thank the community that
20 participated in and did the studies for this, and
21 all of the other people who did work. I encourage
22 all of my colleagues to vote for this, but I
23 encourage you further. I encourage all of my
24 colleagues to use this time wisely. Anyone who
25 needs to downzone their community, do so now while

1
2 the market is in the doldrums. When the market
3 changes, you will be fooled, and I don't encourage
4 you to be that. To the last part of my community
5 that needs to be downzoned, Springfield Gardens, I
6 guarantee that you're next. I encourage you again
7 to vote for this, thank you very much for all who
8 have made it possible.

9 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR: No other
10 speakers? Reports on special committees?

11 CLERK: None.

12 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR: Reports on
13 standing committees?

14 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
15 Aging, Intro 270A, Silver Alert program.

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

18 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
19 Finance, Intro 312, 34th Street Business
20 Improvement District.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
22 orders.

23 CLERK: Preconsidered LU 203 and
24 Reso 451 through LU 205 and Reso 453.

25 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general

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2 orders.

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CLERK: Report of the Committee on
Governmental Operations, Intro 91A.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
... I'm sorry, amended and coupled on general orders
with a message of necessity.

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CLERK: Preconsidered Reso 44,
Board of Elections.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Adopted and
referred to the Committee on Government
Operations. I'm making up committees.

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CLERK: Report of the Committee on
Land Use, LU 198 and Reso 454, unenclosed sidewalk
café.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
orders, what the heck.

18

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CLERK: LU 200 and Reso 455 through
LU 202 and Res 457, landmark designations.

20

21

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
orders.

22

23

24

CLERK: Preconsidered LU 206 and
Reso 458 and LU 207 and Reso 459, zoning map
changes, Queens.

25

SPEAKER QUINN: Is that Jimmy's?

1

2 Coupled on general orders. General orders
3 calendar?

4

CLERK: Resolution- -

5

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR:

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(Interposing) You've got me now, general orders
7 calendar.

8

CLERK: Resolution appointing

9

various persons Commissioner of Deeds.

10

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general

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orders and at this time, thank God, I ask for a

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roll call on all the items that have been coupled

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on the general order calendar, please.

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CLERK: Arroyo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

16

CLERK: Brewer.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

18

CLERK: Cabrera.

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COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

20

CLERK: Chin.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

22

CLERK: Comrie.

23

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR: Aye.

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CLERK: Crowley.

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COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

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CLERK: Dickens.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Yes, yes,

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yes and yes.

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CLERK: Dromm.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

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CLERK: Ferreras.

8

(no response)

9

CLERK: Fidler.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

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CLERK: Foster.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.

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CLERK: Garodnick.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

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CLERK: Gennaro.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

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CLERK: Gentile.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Yes.

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CLERK: Gonzalez

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COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.

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CLERK: Greenfield.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

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CLERK: Halloran.

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COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN III: Aye

25

on all.

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2 CLERK: Ferreras
3 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.
4 CLERK: Jackson.
5 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on
6 all.
7 CLERK: Koo.
8 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye on all.
9 CLERK: Koppel.
10 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.
11 CLERK: Koslowitz.
12 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.
13 CLERK: Lappin.
14 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.
15 CLERK: Levin.
16 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.
17 CLERK: Mark-Viverito.
18 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.
19 CLERK: Mealy.
20 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.
21 CLERK: Mendez.
22 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.
23 CLERK: Nelson.
24 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye on all.
25 CLERK: Recchia.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA, JR: Aye on

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all.

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CLERK: Rodriguez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: 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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CLERK: Ulrich.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

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CLERK: Vacca.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

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CLERK: Vallone.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE, JR: Aye.

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CLERK: Van Bramer

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COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: With

18

great appreciation for Speaker Quinn's mischievous

19

sense of humor, I vote aye on all.

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CLERK: Vann.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

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CLERK: Weprin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

24

CLERK: Williams.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: May I be

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2 excused to explain my vote?

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CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR: So

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ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank

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you, I vote aye on all. I just wanted to mention

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I was very happy to approve the Greenwich Village

8

landmark, and very happy that they included the

9

contributions of slaves and Africans in that area,

10

thank you.

11

CLERK: Oddo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

13

CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

14

SPEAKER QUINN: Yes.

15

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR: All items

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on today's general order calendar were adopted by

17

a vote of 48 in the affirmative, zero in the

18

negative and zero abstentions. Introduction and

19

reading of bills.

20

SPEAKER QUINN: All bills have been

21

referred to committees as indicated on the agenda.

22

Thank you.

23

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR: Discussion

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of resolutions. None? General discussion.

25

Council Member Garodnick.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank
3 you very much. In July 2009, this Council passed
4 legislation requiring licensing of pedicab
5 businesses. While adoption of these rules about
6 operation has improved safety on the streets, we
7 still have further to go. In the area that I
8 represent, in midtown Manhattan, pedicabs line up
9 in no-standing zones, they park in no-parking
10 zones, they block traffic and access for
11 pedestrians as well as two-wheeled bicycles, to
12 the frustration of all. This is a new and
13 emerging industry, and one that the Council has
14 taken constructive steps to regulate. We need to
15 go further. Intro 334 is very simple. It would
16 require that pedicab drivers, if they are parking
17 or standing, to obey parking regulations. I
18 believe that it will help clarify the rules for
19 the police to keep the pedicabs out of illegal
20 spaces and to improve visibility for pedestrians,
21 drivers and bicyclists. I ask you to join me in
22 signing on to that legislation, as well as to the
23 two resolutions I've introduced today, the first
24 of which, Reso 447, which encourages the
25 legislature to pass a bill that would authorize

1
2 the electronic submission of real property
3 documents, such as mortgages and deeds, to county
4 clerks through online transactions. Mandatory e-
5 filing of certain commercial cases was introduced
6 in New York County Supreme Court this spring,
7 there is no reason not to extend available
8 technology- -

9 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR:

10 (Interposing) Quiet please.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: ... to
12 modernize- -

13 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR:

14 (Interposing) Quiet please.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: ... to
16 modernize the real estate transaction process.
17 The second resolution, 448, would lighten the
18 administrative burden of employers, particularly
19 self-employed individuals, in regard to payment of
20 the Metropolitan Commuter Transportation Mobility
21 Tax. The law that introduced this tax last year
22 established tax payment due dates that differ by
23 either two or six weeks from Federal and State
24 quarterly tax due dates. There is no reason for
25 such a complication, and the legislature should

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2 put those tax dates in line. Thank you, and I ask
3 my colleagues to join on to the bill and the two
4 resos, thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR: Thank you.
6 Council Member Halloran, followed by Council
7 Member Fidler.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN III: Thank
9 you Mr. Chair. I speak today about Introduction
10 332. Once again the Mayor of the City of New York
11 is seeking to reach inside to our citizens and
12 compel them to his own personal agenda of what it
13 is to behave, to eat, to sleep, to act, in a
14 manner that's conformist. Intro 332 is another
15 opportunity to tell the citizens what to do in
16 their daily lives in a manner that is both
17 intrusive and offensive to the notion that this is
18 a nation conceived in liberty. This intro will
19 have a chilling effect, and while I certainly
20 applaud the underlying reason and rationale behind
21 it, that cutting out smoking is indeed something
22 for public health's sake that is necessary, it is
23 not the business of government to coerce its
24 citizens into particular behaviors that it finds
25 acceptable. I am tired of being told by a Mayor

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who said that government has no business regulating Wall Street, regulating Main Street. It is absolutely an anathema to the notion of liberty, and to the ideal that we as individuals are free to make choices about our persons. If we are going to prohibit smoking in public, we might as well start prohibiting bad drivers and on and on and on, until anything that is remotely interesting, fun, exciting or pleasurable will be outlawed in the City of New York. So 332 should die a horrible death, and I don't appreciate anyone telling me what to do with my body, and I don't even smoke. So I guess those people who keep crying about we shouldn't tell people what to do with their bodies should take a look in the mirror and be willing to apply it to every aspect, and not just the selective ones they like.

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR: Council

Member Fidler.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Well that's a tough ...

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR: All right, okay. Okay, Council Member Fidler. Quiet please.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Well,

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2 that's certainly a tough act to follow. I believe
3 Assemblyman Maisel has left, but I just want to
4 say that he's one of the few members of the
5 Assembly who had the courage to vote against the
6 current Mayoral Control bill, and he has also had
7 the courage to introduce a piece of legislation
8 that says that in the future the Mayor of the City
9 of New York, whoever that mayor is, will have to
10 seek the advice and consent of the City Council to
11 appoint a chancellor for the Department of
12 Education. I hope those of you who are applauding
13 will sign on to Resolution 446 that's introduced
14 today by myself, by Education Committee Chair
15 Robert Jackson, by Council Member Danny Dromm, in
16 support of that legislation. If you believe in
17 checks and balances in government, if you believe
18 in true legislative oversight, this small but
19 significant change in State law would have a
20 dramatic effect on how the Department of Education
21 functions and responds to all of you and to your
22 future colleagues. And on a much lighter note, if
23 you would indulge me, I had thought Council Member
24 Williams might tell this story about Bernie
25 Catcher that involved him, and it's really kind of

1
2 funny. In the first ... Bernie was obsessed with
3 petitions. If you got a hundred, he sent you out
4 for another ten, because, you know, he had you
5 written down in the book for 110, and then he'd
6 tell you that someone else got 115, and send you
7 out for 120. So Bernie asked Jumaane in his first
8 year at the TJ Club to carry the club's petition.
9 And Jumaane graciously agreed, and at the end of
10 the petition period, Bernie called everyone and
11 everyone presented their petitions. But Bernie
12 called Jumaane up to his desk, and Jumaane took
13 out of his pocket, when Bernie asked for his
14 petitions, ten blank sheets. Bernie's jaw almost
15 hit the floor. Jumaane looked at him and said,
16 "You asked me to carry the petitions, I did."
17 Bernie probably would have died five years ago, if
18 Jumaane hadn't whipped out his actual signatures a
19 few moments later, but I just thought that was an
20 interesting little story, it tells you a little
21 bit about who Bernie was and how his relationship
22 with Jumaane developed.

23 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR: Council

24 Member Brewer.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Yes, thank

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you. First of all I want to thank Jessica Lappin for giving me a pillow that says "Don't let the bedbugs bite". I am, with the Speaker and others, supporting Intro 332, which is no smoking in parks and beaches. It is quite controversial, but it is something that I care deeply about in terms of what I would consider a more livable and healthier city. In this particular instance for me this is about health. And I look forward to the debate and to the hearing and for everyone's input.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR: Council

Member Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Yes. I'd

like to thank Council Member Lappin and the Aging Committee and the Council for passing Intro 270A, making the Silver Alert legislation something that we will, you know, enact, because as a person who has a parent, my mom, with Alzheimers, I've known many a frightening moment, where I wish that we had had the Silver Alert. And I just want to thank the Council for all of the work that they did on this to make this a law. Thank you so much.

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2 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR: Council
3 Member Jackson.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you,
5 Mr. Chair. I just rise to let my colleagues, if
6 you're not aware, there was a big press conference
7 at Tweed by the Save Our Schools Coalition about
8 the reading scores that just came out basically
9 saying our children are not achieving at the level
10 they're supposed to be. And there will be a
11 hearing that's held on September 27th at 1:00 p.m.
12 by the Education Committee regarding the 2010
13 reading scores. So I urge you to let your
14 education advocates and parents know that on
15 September 27th at 1:00 p.m. there will be a hearing
16 on the 2010 reading scores. And finally, I'm not
17 a smoker either, and quite frankly, while I'm
18 concerned about the health of people, but I think
19 that banning smoking on beaches and in parks,
20 especially when there's no one there and you can
21 walk in the park, or no one there and you can lie
22 on the beach and smoke, this is too much, you
23 know. I think we're just going a little bit too
24 far. I'm not a smoker, and I do believe that
25 smokers have rights also, and to be able to walk

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2 in the park and smoke a cigarette if they so
3 desire, I think it's their right to do. Thank
4 you.

5 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR: Council
6 Member Rodriguez.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I would
8 like to take this opportunity to invite everyone
9 to two particular events. One is the one that's
10 starting tomorrow, an exhibition about Latinos in
11 New York. Sotomayor is coming tonight to New York
12 City to open this exhibition that will take place
13 at the El Museo Del Barrio, it is very important,
14 it is about the life of the Latinos in New York
15 City. And the second one, yesterday I was in
16 Queens where the Secretary General of the UN was
17 recognizing Marcos Diaz, a young Dominican who was
18 swimming around the Hudson River twice a couple of
19 years ago, and now he's been swimming throughout
20 the continent against poverty. So those are two
21 particular big events taking place, one in the El
22 Museo Del Barrio, and the second one in my
23 district.

24 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE, JR: All right,
25 seeing that there is no more general discussion,

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the meeting is adjourned in the memory of Council

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Member Thomas White. With that the stated meeting

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of September 17th is now adjourned. September 16th?

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September 16th is now adjourned. Thank you very

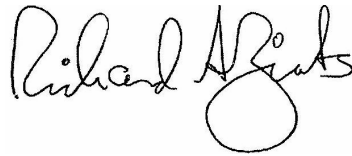
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much.

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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 _____ September 29, 2010 _____