

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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September 17, 2015  
Start: 1:10 p.m.  
Recess: 2:59 p.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E:

LATISHA JAMES  
Public Advocate

MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO  
Speaker for the Council

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Maria Del Carmen Arroyo  
Inez D. Barron  
Fernando Cabrera  
Margaret S. Chin  
Andrew Cohn  
Costa G. Constantinides  
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.  
Elizabeth S. Crowley  
Laurie A. Cumbo  
Chaim M. Deutsch  
Inez E. Dickens  
Daniel Dromm  
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.  
Mathieu Eugene

Julissa Ferreras-Copeland  
Daniel R. Garodnick  
Vincent J. Gentile  
Vanessa L. Gibson  
David G. Greenfield  
Vincent Ignizio  
Corey D. Johnson  
Ben Kallos  
Andy L. King  
Peter A. Koo  
Karen Koslowitz  
Rory I. Lancman  
Brad S. Lander  
Stephen T. Levin  
Mark Levine  
Alan N. Maisel  
Steven Matteo  
Darlene Mealy  
Carlos Menchaca  
Rosie Mendez  
I. Daneek Miller  
Annabel Palma  
Antonio Reynoso  
Donovan J. Richards  
Ydanis A. Rodriguez  
Deborah L. Rose  
Helen K. Rosenthal  
Ritchie J. Torres  
Mark Treyger  
Eric A. Ulrich  
James Vacca  
Paul A. Vallone  
James G. Van Bramer  
Mark S. Weprin  
Jumaane D. Williams  
Ruben Wills

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

1 <INSERT TITLE OF MEETING>

4

2 [sound check, background comments]

3 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: We're going to ask  
4 people to come inside. We're going to wait a couple  
5 of minutes, Commissioner. So we're waiting for other  
6 colleagues to come up from downstairs, but the people  
7 that are outside, in the hallways, please feel free  
8 to come in and sit down. [pause]

9 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Once again, ladies and  
10 gentlemen, we ask everyone to please enter the room,  
11 find a seat. We are beginning very shortly. Once  
12 again, please find a seat at this time. [background  
13 noise and comments] Once again, if you're just  
14 entering the Chambers, please find a seat. We are  
15 about to begin with our ceremonials. So once again,  
16 find a seat. Thank you. [pause]

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: We're going to  
18 get started. The first ceremonial today--

19 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [off mic] Sit down,  
20 please, sit down.

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: The first  
22 ceremonial today is by Council Member Helen Rosenthal  
23 on John Jay College's 50th Anniversary of John Jay  
24 College within our CUNY system, a wonderful

25

2 institution. I'll hand it over to Council Member  
3 Rosenthal.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you so  
5 much and I'm so glad Council Member Crowley in  
6 particular is here standing with me because I know  
7 how closely she works with John Jay, and I'm going to  
8 ask her to make a few remarks as well before the  
9 proclamation is read. So John Jay is represented--as  
10 represented here today by it's President Jeremy  
11 Travis, is an esteemed institution of higher learning  
12 located in my district. They've proven themselves to  
13 be true community partners and education leaders, and  
14 here they all come the alum. I love it. Welcome.  
15 [applause] Let me just give you a few examples.  
16 John Jay has generously hosted a winter basketball  
17 league for our local youth that is serving the  
18 purpose of both keeping kids engaged and active, but  
19 also introducing them to John Jay College and to the  
20 notion and expectation of college for their lives. I  
21 want to personally thank President Travis for his  
22 generosity and foresight providing that space for our  
23 young people. John Jay also hosts so many community  
24 events that enlighten our residents culturally and  
25 educationally. I've participated in their forums,

2 more so Council Member Crowley, on policy issues and  
3 look forward to participating in more, and I was  
4 happy to fund free concerts from the Community on the  
5 Rooftop. It's a great rooftop. We want to make sure  
6 there's no building around that.

7           John Jay has a real vision for a New York  
8 City high school pipeline to CUNY and the city's  
9 young people are lucky to have that vision and  
10 dedication from John Jay. From a leading  
11 participator in the College New Program to working  
12 with high leaders and DOE on curriculum and their  
13 goals. All this on top of their main focus on all of  
14 the facets of criminal justice system and their work  
15 on these issues as a leading voice in our city both  
16 for its depth of study and fact finding, but also for  
17 its social justice perspective. So great that you're  
18 here today. We are lucky at the City Council to have  
19 so many alums in our ranks, and it speaks to Jeremy  
20 and John Jay's dedication to civics among their  
21 students. Under Jeremy Travis' leadership, John Jay  
22 has proudly lived up to being an educational leader  
23 for the last 50 years, and clearly will continue to  
24 do so for the next 50 years to come. Council Member  
25 Crowley.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Good afternoon,  
3 Speaker and Council Member Rosenthal as well as  
4 Council Member Barron and Council Member who chairs  
5 Public Safety. I am Council Member Crowley and I  
6 Chair Fire and Criminal Justice Services. I want to  
7 congratulate John Jay College and its President  
8 Jeremy Travis on their 50-year celebration. Each and  
9 every year, their school becomes a better  
10 institution, and it is one of the best.  
11 Congratulations on recently being awarded in USA  
12 Today College--who has the best colleges for your  
13 bang for you buck, and John Jay is at the top of the  
14 list. For somebody who's had family, who graduated  
15 from John Jay, it is providing cutting edge education  
16 especially for those who are in law enforcement and  
17 even fire services and emergency management. So  
18 thank you for training people to keep our cities  
19 safe, and for being the leading education institution  
20 for that.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I just want to  
22 quickly say at the--prior to this event we had a  
23 really nice reception downstairs where Council Member  
24 Inez Barron a proclamation to an amazing professor  
25 that you so wisely hired.

2 PRESIDENT JEREMY TRAVIS: [off mic]  
3 Jason?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Jason. So  
5 thank you so much for your leadership in higher  
6 education, Chair Barron. So if we could ask to read  
7 the proclamation that would be great.

8 CLERK: Council, City of New York  
9 Proclamation:

10 Whereas, the Council--Whereas John Jay  
11 College of Criminal Justice of the City University of  
12 New York named after our state's and nation's First  
13 Chief Justice and New York City native has been a  
14 national and international leader in criminal  
15 justice, public safety and public service education  
16 since it was founded in 1964; and

17 Whereas, today under the dynamic  
18 leadership of President Jeremy Travis remains  
19 committed to preparing students to be fierce  
20 advocates for justice with a curriculum that  
21 integrates the liberal arts, sciences, professional  
22 education, and access to countless fellowships,  
23 honors programs and internships and community service  
24 learning. It is a vital springboard to professional  
25 success and civic engagement for high school



2 graduates with upwards of 15,000 students including  
3 over 47% first generation students and 130  
4 nationalities represented in its student body; and

5           Whereas, John Jay College of Criminal  
6 Justice is also proud home to nearly 500 student  
7 veterans and reservists more than any other CUNY  
8 campus and most colleges in the northeast. With the  
9 support of the John Jay College Foundation Board of  
10 Trustees and its corporate roundtable, the school is  
11 playing a major role in helping U.S. service members  
12 re-integrate into civilian life and contribute to the  
13 city and state; and

14           Whereas, after the terrorist attacks on  
15 September 11, 2001, John Jay College of Criminal  
16 Justice established programs, research centers,  
17 scholarships, and more to honor the nobility of the  
18 victim sacrifice, and a special memorial dedicated to  
19 the 67 students, faculty and alumni who lost their  
20 lives on that tragic day; and

21           Whereas, John Jay College of Criminal  
22 Justice is often called upon to provide expert  
23 advice, scholarship and testimony to policymaking  
24 bodies, criminal justice entities, media and  
25 executives, and convened critical conferences on a

2 range of topics to promote national, international,  
3 and interdisciplinary exploration of justice and its  
4 many dimensions; and

5           Whereas, after 50 years, John Jay College  
6 of Criminal Justice remains at the forefront of  
7 critical and cutting-edge research carried out by its  
8 highly acclaimed faculty. At the 11 centers and  
9 institutes, students and alumni continue to influence  
10 diverse disciplines including forensics and DNA  
11 analysis, policing cyber crime as well as community  
12 based violence and homeland security with a highly  
13 recognized program for research initiatives in  
14 science and math prism. Students are offered  
15 significant opportunities to work with faculty to  
16 produce stem cell research--stem research. I'm sorry--  
17 --and partake in professional and academic  
18 conferences; and

19           Whereas, at this special occasion, we not  
20 only reflect upon the college's incredible legacy of  
21 contributions to our nation, we affirm our belief in  
22 its even brighter future.

23           Now, therefore, be it know that the  
24 Council of the City of New York proudly honors John  
25 Jay College of Criminal Justice and everyone who has

2 helped create, shape, build and grow its influence  
3 over the last 50 years and extends best wishes for  
4 the next half century and beyond. Melissa Mark-  
5 Viverito, Speaker for the Entire Council, Helen  
6 Rosenthal, Council Member, Sixth District Manhattan,  
7 Rose D. Barron, Chair of Higher Education Committee

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Well,  
9 congratulations and [applause] President Travis, if  
10 you want to, if you can say a few words.

11 PRESIDENT JEREMY TRAVIS: Thank you very  
12 much, dear friends, students, alumni, faculty. This  
13 is a great day for our college. I wish to express my  
14 appreciation to the Speaker, to Speaker Mark-Viverito  
15 for bringing us here today, and in particular to the  
16 Council Members who have directly or indirectly  
17 sponsored this resolution, our local Council Member,  
18 Council Member Rosenthal, Council Member Crowley for  
19 her work with Fire and Public Safety, and the other  
20 who are here. And I just had a good talk with  
21 Council Member Barron and what she plans to do on  
22 Higher Education in Prisons.

23 John Jay is proud to be a part of the  
24 City University of New York. The university we're a  
25 part of is a great engine for upper mobility in our

2 city. This is our tradition. This is our  
3 commitment. These are our values, and within that  
4 university, we have a special commitment to justice.  
5 Our tag line is educating for justice. We call  
6 ourselves fierce advocates for justice, and we do  
7 that on behalf of the city we love. For me  
8 personally to be in this room, having worked for  
9 Mayor Koch, having testified here, having been a part  
10 of this building for many years, it just brings back  
11 that sense of Yorker commitment and pride that all of  
12 us have that we give back to our city. We make it  
13 better everyday, and our alumni, all 50,000 of them  
14 are elected officials including who is currently  
15 holding office, Scott Stringer, Ken Thompson, Eric  
16 Adams, and in the future all of these students will  
17 be sitting in this room, and doing other things for  
18 our city. So we are proud to be part of that  
19 tradition of the City University of New York, and to  
20 make our distinctive contributions to the wellbeing,  
21 safety and aspirations for justice for its citizens.  
22 Thank you very much, Melissa. I appreciate it.

23 [applause]

24 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you for all  
25 you do. Congratulations. [background comments]

2 Council Member Lancman. We have a proclamation.  
3 Where's Council Member Lancman? There he is. He's  
4 coming. He is issuing a proclamation today to Devora  
5 Biederman, Bieterman? I hope I pronounced it right.  
6 Who has raised money for dental equipment in Uganda  
7 and for her philanthropic efforts. We're recognizing  
8 that. So Council Member, off to you.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Thank you, Madam  
10 Speaker, come next to me and let's get your parents  
11 up here. [background comments] Well, good  
12 afternoon, everyone. It's my great privilege and  
13 honor to present this proclamation with the Speaker  
14 and my colleagues in the City Council to Devora  
15 Biederman. She is young woman who is really young in  
16 the 24th Council District. Proud and we think one of  
17 the city proud as a--as a dental student or student  
18 of dentistry getting her bachelor's degree. She got  
19 it into her head that she should go over to Uganda  
20 and help the community in Uganda with their dental  
21 needs, and you did I think two trips if I'm not  
22 mistaken, including one so she went for a full month.  
23 Right now she is applying to dental school officially  
24 to be a dentist, but the work that you've done  
25 representing New York City, whether you realize it or

2 not, you are representing New York City in Uganda on  
3 behalf of our community there is really something  
4 that we're all very proud of. We admire her very,  
5 very much, and as I understand it, you're not done  
6 yet. You're still looking to go back at another  
7 time. So on behalf of the Speaker and the Council  
8 and really the whole city congratulations on this  
9 very, very well deserved honor. Is it the practice  
10 that the clerk reads the proclamation? [background  
11 comments] Oh, they have it. They have it. I--I told  
12 Devora this is my first proclamation and now I'm  
13 proving it. [laughs]

14 Clerk: Council City of New York  
15 proclamation:

16 Whereas, the Council of the City of New  
17 York is proud to honor Devora Biederman for raising  
18 funds for and participating in a dental mission in  
19 Uganda. Devora, a resident of Hollis, Queens  
20 graduated from NYU with a degree in dental hygiene.  
21 Anxious to participate in an overseas mission  
22 consistent with her observance of Shabbat, she  
23 contacted Dr. David Ogramowitz who opened dental  
24 clinic for the Jewish community in Abayudaya, Uganda;  
25 and

2           Whereas, Devora too a 40-hour trip to a  
3 dental mission--to join a dental mission in Abayu--  
4 I'm sorry. Abayudaya, and found a Jewish community  
5 that adhered to religious tradition under  
6 extraordinarily difficult conditions; and

7           Whereas, while in Uganda, Devora  
8 distributed over 80 pounds of dental supplies  
9 including toothbrushes, floss and toothpaste to  
10 patients to had never seen them, and taught them how  
11 to brush their teeth on an individual basis. Devora  
12 brought more than 3,000 bags of supplies that  
13 contained--filled with toothbrushes, toothpaste and  
14 floss; and

15           Whereas, Devora worked 10 to 12 hours a  
16 day providing cleaning and fluoride treatments to  
17 hundreds of patients each day who had never received  
18 proper oral care often working without electricity.  
19 Devora has gone to Uganda twice in the past year, and  
20 plans on returning a third time this year; and

21           Whereas, after returning from Uganda,  
22 Devora has raised more that \$25,000 for the Abayudaya  
23 community and plans to return to continue her service  
24 to the community with which she has developed a  
25 mutual bond of love and respond.

2 Now, therefore, be it know that the  
3 Council of the City of New York proudly honors the  
4 Devora Biederman for upholding the tradition of  
5 service embedded in the character of all New Yorkers.  
6 Melissa Mark-Viverito Speaker for the Entire Council,  
7 Rory Lancman, Council Member 24th District Queens.

8 [pause]

9 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: So  
10 congratulations and thank you because it really is an  
11 incredible example that you're setting for many  
12 others, and that idea of giving to others is really  
13 important. And building bridges across communities  
14 and across nations is important as well. So thank  
15 you for your contributions and serving as model to  
16 other young people. Your parents I'm sure are  
17 extremely proud, and I think you're going to say a  
18 few words, right? Okay.

19 DEVORA BIEDERMAN: I just want to say  
20 it's really an honor to be, and thank you very much  
21 from the bottom of my heart, and I will continue  
22 serving and being a represent of New York City.

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Great.  
24 Excellent. [applause/cheers] Thank you so much.  
25 [background comments] All right, we have one more



2 proclamation. This one is by Council Member Crowley  
3 for a very, very special anniversary, an institution,  
4 an entity, an agency that means so much to the City  
5 of New York and that is celebrating the Fire  
6 Department's 150th Anniversary [applause] and so  
7 thank our firefighters for all they do to keep our  
8 city safe. Commissioner, thank you and I'll hand it  
9 off to Council Member Crowley.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Thank you,  
11 Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito. I'd like to encourage  
12 my colleagues especially the members of the Fire and  
13 Criminal Justice Committee to come up here and to  
14 celebrate with us. You may have been to one of the  
15 open houses in May or a barbecue over the summer, and  
16 today we are celebrating with the proclamation the  
17 150th Anniversary of New York City's Fire Department.  
18 I'd like to thank Commissioner Nigro and Chief  
19 Leonard and Deputy Commissioner Bob Turner and the  
20 cadre of firefighters who are here today. And I also  
21 want to recognize that we've been joined by leaders  
22 from the unions. We have Izzy Miranda, who  
23 represents thousands of EMS workers across the city  
24 along with Vincent Variale who represents the  
25 Uniformed Fire--Uniformed EMT Officers, and from the

2 Uniformed Firefighters and Fire Officers Association

3 we have George Farinacci and we have Derek Hawking.

4 I want to leadership for being here today. You know,

5 just last week we remembered the 14th anniversary of

6 the horrible attack on our city on September 11th.

7 And there was no family that was hurt more that day

8 than the Fire Department. They lost 343 firefighters

9 and over 100 firefighters have since died because of

10 September 11th related diseases. That day was

11 probably one of the darkest days of our city

12 certainly, and it really exemplified the courage, the

13 selflessness and the bravery that makes up the Fire

14 Department. And because of what our firefighters are

15 made of and our EMTs and our Emergency Responders, we

16 are like no other city in the world. So from the

17 time in which the department began 150 years ago with

18 horse drawn carriages putting out fires, to the 100s

19 of apparatuses that they have protecting New Yorkers

20 every single day, we honor you and we thank you.

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] All

22 right. Yes. [applause/cheers]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: And I'd like to

24 ask the clerk to read the proclamation.

25

2 Clerk: Council City of New York

3 Proclamation:

4 Whereas, the Council of the City of New  
5 York is proud to honor the Fire Department of the  
6 City of New York FDNY for 150 years of extraordinary  
7 service to residents and visitors throughout our five  
8 boroughs; and

9 Whereas, the FDNY origins dates back to  
10 1648, but the modern day Fire Department wasn't  
11 established until 1865 when a professional force was  
12 needed to better provide protection to a fast growing  
13 and increasing complex metropolis. On January 1,  
14 1898 when the City of New York was consolidated, its  
15 disparate fire services were brought under the  
16 unified command of the first FDNY Commissioner. From  
17 the start, the FDNY has helped lead efforts to make  
18 New York one of the safest big cities in the nation  
19 through its steadfast and daily commitment to  
20 maintaining the department's core values of service,  
21 bravery, safety, honor, dedication, and preparedness;  
22 and

23 Whereas, over the years the FDNY has  
24 continued to grow, to meet the needs of the  
25 community. It opened its present day Fire Academy in

2 1975, it's Fire Marshall Training Center in 1994 and  
3 established is Pre-Hospital Care Services with the  
4 creation of the Bureau of EMS in 1996, the same year  
5 it assumed command and control of its EMS academy;  
6 and

7           Whereas, the FDNY is now the largest fire  
8 department in the nation, and universally is  
9 recognized as the world's busiest and most highly  
10 skilled emergency response agency providing fire  
11 protection, search and rescue, pre-hospital care, and  
12 other critical public safety services. The FDNY not  
13 only responds to more than a million emergencies  
14 every year, its personnel strive to prevent them by  
15 educating the public on fire, life safety and  
16 disaster preparedness along with enforcing public  
17 safety codes; and

18           Whereas, today the FDNY employs more than  
19 10,000 firefighters and fire officers, more than  
20 3,500 EMTs, Paramedics and EMS officers, over 100  
21 fire marshals, over 300 fire inspectors, more than  
22 400 dispatchers and more than 800 support personnel.  
23 Overseeing such a comprehensive legion of New York  
24 City's bravest requires equally courageous leaders of  
25 vision and integrity. Commission Daniel A. Nigro and

2 First Deputy Commissioner Robert Turner are such  
3 individuals. Commissioner Nigro is only the sixth  
4 individual to hold every rank in the department in  
5 the agency's history. First Deputy Commissioner  
6 Turner has been with the FDNY since 1978 and manages  
7 its day-to-day operations and activities across all  
8 offices and bureaus; and

9           Whereas, while the FDNY continues to  
10 champion diversity among its recruits and welcomes  
11 more minorities and women every year, all of its  
12 members are equally committed to protecting the lives  
13 and property of the New York City residents and  
14 visitors.

15           Now, therefore, be it known that the  
16 Council of the City of New York proudly honors the  
17 FDNY and in celebration of its 150th Anniversary.  
18 Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the Entire  
19 Council, Elizabeth Crowley, Council Member 30th  
20 District, Queens.

21           SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right, yay.  
22 [applause/cheers] So, Commissioner, congratulations.  
23 We are proud of the work that men and women in the  
24 Fire Department do each and every day to keep our  
25 city safe. And I think Council Member Crowley really

2 put it very eloquently in terms of what it means the  
3 sacrifice that is done on our behalf each and every  
4 day. So thank you for your leadership. Thank you to  
5 all that are here joining you, and thank you to all  
6 the firefighters who are out there on the field, and  
7 if you could say a few words.

8 COMMISSIONER NIGRO: Thank you. Well,  
9 thank you, Speaker Viverito, Council Member Crowley,  
10 all of our friends on the Council. It's appropriate  
11 that we're here today to accept this. I think 150  
12 years ago the people that cared about the city,  
13 people like you on the Council decided that this city  
14 wasn't protected adequately, and they created the  
15 Fire Department, and for this last 150 years, the  
16 members of that department and our firefighters, our  
17 EMTs our Paramedics, our Fire Marshals, our  
18 inspectors are out there everyday in every district  
19 ensuring that the people this city get the best  
20 service that we can possibly offer. Now, May 2nd, we  
21 celebrated or officially celebrated our birthday with  
22 open houses across the city. I saw many of you.  
23 Over 40,000 New Yorkers visited our firehouses, and  
24 on the weekends we've been having block parties. We  
25 have two more left. They've been a great success.

2 What--one of the reasons for this besides celebrating  
3 our birthday with everyone in this city is to show  
4 everyone in the city what we're all about. Because  
5 as we move forward in our recruitment, we want this  
6 department to look like the city we serve, to be a  
7 more diverse department of men and women serving in  
8 the great job, what we call the greatest job in the  
9 world. So we will be actively recruiting in your  
10 districts for candidates. There are thousands in  
11 this city that can do this job, and we hope to  
12 interest them in it, and we thank you for this  
13 proclamation on our anniversary. [applause]

14 [pause]

15 CLERK: Could I have your attention,  
16 please. Can I please have your attention. Quiet on  
17 the floor, please. Could I please have your  
18 attention?

19 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [off mic] Keep it  
20 down, please. At this time, can you please place all  
21 electronic devices, all electronic devices to  
22 vibrate. Will all non-Council employees, all non-  
23 Council employees please leave the main floor of the  
24 Chambers. Thank you.

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I'm going to ask  
3 my colleagues if we can--

4 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: If we keep it  
6 down, please. My colleagues, those of you, we have  
7 Cardinal Dolan that has joined us today to provide  
8 the invocation. [applause] We would--if anyone  
9 would like to come to the front, the council members  
10 we could take a quick photo of the Cardinal and then  
11 we will get to the order of business right away. I  
12 would appreciate it. [background conversation]

13 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Folks, find a seat,  
14 please. Ladies and gentlemen, we ask everyone to  
15 find their seats. Once again, please find your  
16 seats. Once again, please find your seats at this  
17 time. Please keep it down. Everyone, please find  
18 their seat. Thank you. [background  
19 conversation/laughter] Once again, ladies and  
20 gentlemen, we ask everyone please find your seat.  
21 Please silence all electronic devices at this time.  
22 We ask for silence in the Chambers, please. Please  
23 keep it down. All non-Council staff please make your  
24 way up to the balcony. Non-Council staff, please  
25 make your way up to the balcony. [pause]



2 [gavel]

3 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All rise for the  
4 Pledge of Allegiance. Please rise.

5 CLERK: All rise.

6 [Pledge of Allegiance]

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Roll call. Please  
8 be seated.

9 CLERK: Arroyo.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

11 CLERK: Barron.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

13 CLERK: Cabrera.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: [off mic] Here.

15 CLERK: Chin.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

17 CLERK: Cohen. Constantinides.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: [off mic]

19 Here.

20 CLERK: Cornegy.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Present.

22 CLERK: Crowley.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [off mic] Here.

24 CLERK: Cumbo. Deutsch.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Yes.

2 CLERK: Dickens. Dromm.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

4 CLERK: Espinal.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Here.

6 CLERK: Eugene.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Present.

8 CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: Here.

10 CLERK: Garodnick. Gentile.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: [off mic] Here.

12 CLERK: Gibson.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Here.

14 CLERK: Greenfield.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Here.

16 CLERK: Johnson. Kallos.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER: [microphone static]

18 Excuse me. [laughs]

19 CLERK: King.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Present.

21 CLERK: Koo.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

23 CLERK: Koslowitz.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off mic]

25 Here.

2 CLERK: Lancman.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: [off mic] Here.

4 CLERK: Lander.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [off mic] Here.

6 CLERK: Levin. Levine.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

8 CLERK: Maisel. Mealy.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.

10 CLERK: Menchaca.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.

12 CLERK: Mendez.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

14 CLERK: Miller.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: [off mic] Present.

16 CLERK: Palma. Reynoso.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Present.

18 CLERK: Richards.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

20 CLERK: Rodriguez. Rose.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

22 CLERK: Rosenthal.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [off mic]

24 Here.

25 CLERK: Torres. Treyger. Ulrich.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Present.

3 CLERK: Rodriguez.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

5 CLERK: Vacca.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

7 CLERK: Vallone.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

9 CLERK: Williams. Wills. Matteo. Van  
10 Bramer.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

12 CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

13 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Here.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All rise for the  
15 Invocation, which--

16 CLERK: All rise.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: --which will be  
18 delivered by His Eminence Timothy Michael Cardinal  
19 Dolan, the Archbishop of New York. Please rise. All  
20 quiet in the Chambers.

21 CARDINAL DOLAN: Our prayers for your  
22 guidance, Dear God and Father of us all, are the more  
23 fervent today as we are united with our Jewish  
24 neighbors during their holy days as we sense the  
25 change in nature, with autumn arriving reminding us

2 of that cycle of life and death over which your  
3 providence is sovereign, and as we prepared to  
4 welcome Pope Francis to this city we love and which  
5 we are grateful to call our earthly home. I would  
6 ask you humbly to inspire this distinguished body of  
7 elected civic leaders as they tend to the sacred  
8 tasks of promoting and protecting the common good.  
9 Might the upcoming visit of the Holy Father remind us  
10 of the eternal values he so prophetically preaches,  
11 values embedded in the very fabric of our country and  
12 our beloved city, a respect for the dignity of the  
13 human person, and the sacredness of human life. With  
14 special compassion for those forgotten, excluded or  
15 marginalized in any way, suffering, unfairly judged  
16 or ill-treated. We make our own the prayer of the  
17 Jewish psalmist, "God is our refuge and strength, a  
18 very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not  
19 fear though the earth should change. There is a  
20 river whose streams make glad the City of God, the  
21 Holy Habitation of the Most High. God is in the  
22 midst of His city. It shall not be moved. May the  
23 better angels of our nature triumph and be reaffirmed  
24 in these revered chambers, you who live and reign  
25 forever and ever. Amen.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Let us all say  
3 amen. Please be seated.

4 CARDINAL DOLAN: Amen.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: A motion to  
6 spread the Invocation full upon the record, Council  
7 Member Paul Vallone. Quiet in the Chambers, please.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you Madam  
9 Advocate. Thank you Madam Speaker. Thank you  
10 Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer for all of your  
11 help. Cardinal--Cardinal Dolan, I rise humbly with  
12 the utmost respect to spread your words amongst us,  
13 and to receive the beautiful blessing that you always  
14 bring with your presence, your smile. You have an  
15 essence of easiness to make us all feel at home every  
16 time we stand next to you. You know, I can imagine  
17 what it must have been like over 2,000 years ago when  
18 those gathered around John the Baptist and heard his  
19 words of those who were to come after him, of the one  
20 that was to come. And here you are one week before  
21 the one who is to come. So I think that's an  
22 admirable suggestion of your meaning for us today as  
23 far as John the Baptist. So thank you. God bless  
24 you and I ask all of our colleagues to rise and to

2 join me in a round of applause for the Cardinal  
3 Eminence here. [applause]

4           CARDINAL DOLAN: I don't--[laughs] I--I  
5 don't want applause. I want a second collection.  
6 [laughter] Do you know, Councilman--Councilman  
7 Vallone and all of you are distinguished leaders. I'm  
8 so grateful you made me feel at home. This is a  
9 chance for me to let me know how much I appreciate  
10 you, how much I admire your leadership and how daily  
11 you are in my prayers. If I needed any further  
12 evidence, which I don't, but if I needed further  
13 evidence of the cooperation and the partnership that  
14 you give us, it's been in the outstanding way that  
15 our city leaders have helped us prepare for the visit  
16 of Pope Francis. So this is the most fun I've had  
17 since I was in the Sistine Chapel to elect the new  
18 Pope. [laughter] Thank you all. All right. Thank  
19 you all. [applause]

20           PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Adoption of the  
21 minutes, Council Member Lancman. Motion that the  
22 Minutes of the Stated Meetings of July 23rd, 2015 and  
23 August 13, 2015 be adopted as printed. Messages and  
24 papers from the Mayor. [pause] Speaker Melissa  
25 Mark-Viverito.

2 CLERK: No.

3 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: No?

4 CLERK: Preconsidered M-333, appointment  
5 of Shampa Chandra.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Oh, give me a  
7 second. Rules, Privileges and Elections.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Communication  
9 from city, county and borough offices.

10 CLERK: None.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Petitions and  
12 Communications.

13 CLERK: Designation and appoint of Helen  
14 Arteaga.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Rules, Privileges  
16 and Elections.

17 CLERK: Preconsidered M-335, re-  
18 appointment or Arva R. Rice.

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Rules, Privileges  
20 and Elections.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Land Use Call-  
22 Ups.

23 CLERK: M-336 through M-338.

24 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on call-  
25 up vote. Roll call.



2 CLERK: Arroyo. Barron.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

4 CLERK: Cabrera.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

6 CLERK: Chin.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

8 CLERK: Cohen. Constantinides.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

10 CLERK: Cornegy.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

12 CLERK: Crowley.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [off mic] Aye.

14 CLERK: Cumbo. Deutsch.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

16 CLERK: Dromm.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: [off mic] Aye.

18 CLERK: Espinal.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.

20 CLERK: Eugene.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

22 CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland

23 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: Aye.

24 CLERK: Garodnick. Gentile.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

2 CLERK: Gibson.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I vote aye.

4 CLERK: Greenfield.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

6 CLERK: Johnson. Kallos.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

8 CLERK: King.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Permission to vote  
10 on all resolution, call-up orders.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: I vote aye.

13 CLERK: Koo.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye. Permission to  
15 vote for all items on today's calendar and Land Use  
16 Call-Ups?

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote aye on all.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the  
20 Chambers, please. Quiet in the Chambers.

21 CLERK: Koslowitz.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off mic] Aye

23 CLERK: Lancman.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: [off mic] Aye.

25 CLERK: Lander

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [off mic]

3 Lander.

4 CLERK: Levin.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: [off mic] Aye

6 CLERK: Levine.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

8 CLERK: Maisel.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: [off mic] Aye.

10 CLERK: Mealy.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: [off mic] Aye.

12 CLERK: Menchaca.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.

14 CLERK: Mendez.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

16 CLERK: Miller.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.

18 CLERK: Reynoso.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.

20 CLERK: Richards.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.

22 CLERK: Rodriguez.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: [off mic] Aye.

24 CLERK: Rose.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: [off mic] Aye.

2 CLERK: Rosenthal.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.

4 CLERK: Torres. Treyger.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.

6 CLERK: Ulrich.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Yes.

8 CLERK: Vacca.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I vote aye and I  
10 ask permission to vote on all calendar items.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I vote aye on all.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

14 CLERK: Vallone.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: I vote aye and I  
16 ask permission to vote on all calendar items.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: I vote aye on

19 all.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

21 CLERK: Vallone.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

23 CLERK: Wills. Matteo. Van Bramer.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

25 CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] Aye.

3 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Today's Land Use  
4 Call-Ups were adopted by a vote of 39 in the  
5 affirmative and 0 in the negative. Quiet in the  
6 Chambers.

7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down, please.  
8 Keep it down.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: As we now hear  
10 from the Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito.

11 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Madam  
12 Public Advocate. I know he has left the Chamber, but  
13 I definitely wanted to--to welcome Speaker Vallone,  
14 Sr. who was here earlier, and also I want to thank  
15 Cardinal Dolan for having joined us here today  
16 wearing a beautiful invocation on the eve of a visit  
17 of Papa Francisco, Pope Francis here to New York  
18 City. I'm very excited about--about that. To begin,  
19 though, I want to ask everyone to stand and join me  
20 in a moment of remembrance. On August 29th former  
21 Queens Council Member Al Stabile passed away at the  
22 age of 68. A Vietnam War veteran, Council Member  
23 Ashtabula served in the Council from 1994 to 2001 and  
24 represented the district now served by Council Member  
25 Eric Ulrich. He's survived by his daughter Connie

2 and two grandchildren. I'd also like to take this  
3 time to recognize Idrissa Camara, a security guard in  
4 a federal building here nearby who was tragically  
5 killed last month in a shooting. New York's  
6 dedicated security officers help keep New Yorkers  
7 safe, and this senseless shooting disclose the risks  
8 security officers take day and day out in service to  
9 our city. Our thoughts and prayers are with the  
10 Camara family, and I want to ask everyone to now join  
11 me in a moment of silence. [Moment of silence  
12 observed] Thank you, my colleagues.

13 Today, we're voting on a resolution  
14 honoring Pope Francis. Who we're all looking forward  
15 to having visit New York City later this month. Pope  
16 Francis is a champion of the poor, a vocal promoter  
17 of social justice, and an advocate for peace. He has  
18 repeatedly demonstrated his commitment to  
19 reconciliation, tolerance and peaceful co-existence  
20 among all regions and religions. So I'm very proud  
21 that we'll be voting on this resolution today, and I  
22 know that we all look forward to welcoming Pope  
23 Francis when he arrives.

24 Additionally, today I'm introducing a  
25 resolution calling upon the federal government to

2 pass and enact legislation allowing an economic  
3 hardship exemption for Puerto from the Jones Act.  
4 This Act relating to maritime commerce between  
5 American ports, costs Puerto Rico hundreds of  
6 millions of dollars each year. In consideration of  
7 the difficult economic crisis--

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [Shushing for  
9 quiet.]

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: --Puerto Rico  
11 currently faces, I'd ask all my colleagues to support  
12 this resolution and send a message to the federal  
13 government that New York stands with Puerto Rico and  
14 the United States must as well.

15 Today, we're voting on legislation that  
16 will save energy by requiring that all businesses  
17 keep their doors and windows shut while running an  
18 air conditioner or central cooling system. Air  
19 conditioned--air conditioning in commercial spaces  
20 accounts for an estimated 10 to 20% of all energy  
21 used in New York City. In order to preserve energy  
22 and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the Council  
23 passed a law in 2008 requiring that businesses larger  
24 than 4,000 square feet keep their doors shut while  
25 using air conditioning. Today, the Council will vote

2 on legislation to expand that requirement to include  
3 all businesses and also require that windows remain  
4 shut unless they are being used for service. Last  
5 year we passed legislation that set an ambitious goal  
6 of an 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050, and  
7 this is just one of the common sense policies that  
8 will contribute to a greener and more efficient New  
9 York City. I want to thank Jeffrey Baker, Ed Adkins,  
10 Samara Swanston, Bill Murray and Jonathan Seltzer and  
11 I'll ask Council Member Constantinides to say a few  
12 words.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Thank  
14 you, Madam Speaker and thank you again for your  
15 strong commitment to making our city greener and more  
16 sustainable. I ask my colleagues to support Intro  
17 850-A, which would strengthen the requirements on  
18 retail business that they keep their doors--they keep  
19 their doors open--they close their doors when running  
20 their air conditioners. In 2008, the Council passed  
21 and signed into law Local Law 38. Under that bill,  
22 store that are 4,000 square feet or over are required  
23 to keep their doors closed. This was an important  
24 first step, and it help us in a precedent that New  
25 York City would seek to respect the legitimate needs



2 of businesses while promoting energy conservation.

3 Since Local Law 38 was enacted, though, New York City

4 has had--has produced more than 250 million tons of

5 carbon emissions with about 75% of that coming from

6 city's buildings. Of that, the Mayor's Office of

7 Sustainability estimated that between 10 to 20% or

8 seven million tons annually come from cooling and

9 commercial spaces. While we can't know for sure how

10 much of that is wasted, Con Edison estimated that if

11 1,000 businesses kept their doors open while the ACs

12 were running, it would mean that 4.2 million kilowatt

13 hours of electricity would be wasted, straining the

14 grid that is already at its peak capacity. A million

15 dollars would be added to summer electric bills

16 straining New Yorkers' already over--wallets and an

17 extra 2,200 tons of CO2 would be pumped into the

18 atmosphere. Along with potentially hazardous amounts

19 of particulate matter, sulfur dioxide and other

20 toxins. Last year the Council took the bold step of

21 writing 80 by 50 into law, and we remain the largest

22 in the world to commit to this ambitious goal.

23 That's why 80 by 30--this Intro 8050-A is so

24 important. It moves the exemptions for stores under

25 4,000 square feet, and requires all businesses large

2 and small to shut their door when using their air  
3 conditioners or central air to cool their space. It  
4 requires large stores to post signs on their doors  
5 telling people they can call 311 in the event of a  
6 violation. At the same time, it strikes an  
7 appropriate balance between environmental policy and  
8 the need to acclimate small business to this rule.  
9 While small businesses are covered under this bill,  
10 they will only be fined half of what a chain store  
11 would be liable for. Secondly, no fines will be  
12 issued prior to July 1st of next year giving small  
13 business time in the early weeks of the summer to  
14 adjust their habits to this new requirement.  
15 Finally, businesses with reasonable legitimate need  
16 to leave a door or window open, a sidewalk cafe or  
17 service, will be allowed to keep those windows or  
18 doors open as needed. The bottom line is we need  
19 everyone to be part of the solution to reduce  
20 emissions. As we've seen in many of our political  
21 discourse, some believe climate change isn't real.  
22 But we have scientists we know understand here what  
23 we're playing for as far as our space. We have to  
24 do--everyone has to do our part. I want to  
25 congratulate, I want to thank Borough President Gale

2 Brewer, the sponsor of the bill in 2008. I want to  
3 thank the Mayor's Office in which bill this is done  
4 in conjunction with, the DCA Commissioner Julie Menin  
5 and her Shut The Door Campaign that raised awareness  
6 initially this summer. The Office--the Office of  
7 Sustainability Director Nilda Mesa and, of course,  
8 our staff as well, Jeff Baker, Samara Swanston, Bill  
9 Murray and my Legislative Director Nick Widzowski for  
10 their tireless efforts. Thank you.

11 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you Council  
12 Member. [applause] Next--

13 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down, please.  
14 Keep it down.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Next we have  
16 three appointments to vote on today, Shampa Chanda a  
17 resident of Queens for appointment as a member of the  
18 New York City Board of Standards and Appeals. She'll  
19 fill a vacancy and serve for a six-year term that  
20 will begin on October 7th and expires on October 6,  
21 2021. Helen Arteaga a resident of Queens, a Council  
22 candidate for designation and subsequent appointment  
23 by the Mayor to the New York City Health and Hospital  
24 Corporation Board of Directors. Arteaga will serve  
25 for the remainder of a five-year term that will

2 expire on March 20, 2020. And Arva R. Rice a  
3 resident of Manhattan, candidate for re-appointment  
4 by the Council for the New York City Equal Employment  
5 Practices Commission. Ms. Rice will be eligible to  
6 serve for the remainder of a four-year term that  
7 expires on June 30th, 2019. [background comments]  
8 Council Member Lander if you want to say a few words.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for  
10 quiet]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you, Madam  
12 Speaker. Today, the City Council will vote on the  
13 nomination of three highly qualified individuals with  
14 relevant expertise and perspectives that reflect New  
15 York City's diversity. Shampa Chanda's strong work  
16 at the Department of Housing Preservation and  
17 Development and the Department of City Planning has  
18 given her a deep understanding of our city's  
19 neighborhoods, which she will bring to the Board of  
20 Standards and Appeals where that perspective is much  
21 needed. Helen Arteaga has founded and led the award  
22 winning Plaza del Sol Health Center in Council Member  
23 Ferrera's district delivering quality care to  
24 thousands of immigrants and low-income families in  
25 Corona, and her experience will bring critical

2 insights into the leadership of the New York City  
3 Health and Hospital Corporation Board. And finally,  
4 we're fortunate to re-appoint civil rights champion  
5 Arva Rice, President and CEO of the New York Urban  
6 League to serve on the New York City Equal Employment  
7 Practices Commission, and help make sure this is a  
8 city where all New Yorkers have a fair shot at good  
9 paying jobs. I'm pleased that we're considering  
10 three really highly qualified, very smart women of  
11 color for these three positions, and I look forward  
12 to affirming them today.

13 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,  
14 Council Member, and finally we'll be voting on a  
15 package of eight bill to significantly increase  
16 oversight of the City's Department of Correction or  
17 DOC, and New York City Jails. These bill will  
18 mandate greater transparency regarding conditions in  
19 our city jails. So the nature and extent of problems  
20 can be more readily assessed and addressed. In U.S.  
21 Attorney Preet Bharara's scathing report on  
22 conditions in Rikers Island the public was made aware  
23 that our city's jails had major problems. And over  
24 the past year the Council along with other officials  
25 have continued to look into the situation. We've

2 learned more and more about the conditions in our  
3 city jails and to put it plainly, what we've seen is  
4 just unacceptable. While the Administration deserves  
5 credit for the changes it has been making, there's  
6 more that needs to be done. The Council has been  
7 hard at work with initiatives such as Bail Fund in  
8 order to minimize the number of people who are  
9 unnecessarily placed in our city jails. But no  
10 matter why someone is incarcerated, no one deserves  
11 inhumane treatment in our city's jails. The majority  
12 of inmates in our jails, in fact, have not been  
13 convicted of any crime and are still awaiting their  
14 day in court. It is our moral obligation to ensure  
15 people in our jails are treated decently and  
16 humanely, and that is why we're passing this  
17 legislative package today. On the staff side I want  
18 to thank Brian Crowe, Mo Hongage (sp?) and we have a  
19 total of eight bills in this package, and I would  
20 like to ask the five council members who are prime  
21 sponsors of those bills to speak about their bills  
22 individually. We'll start off with the Chair of the  
23 committee Council Member Crowley who sponsors two  
24 bills.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Thank you  
3 Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and thank you to my  
4 colleagues for your help today in strengthening the  
5 safety and security of our city jails. It is  
6 important that we as a Council enact this legislation  
7 to help build a safer environment in our jails.  
8 These bills aim to clear the lines of communication  
9 between inmates, staff and city officials. The  
10 proposed policy changes within will improve jail  
11 operations and provide greater transparency and  
12 oversight of the Department of Corrections, a  
13 department that has been plagued by increasing  
14 incidents of violence for far too long. A major  
15 reform in this package of bills, one I co-sponsored  
16 with Council Member Dromm, would created an Inmate  
17 Bill of Rights and Code of Conduct. Adopting this  
18 measure would help improve communications between  
19 inmates and DOC staff by conveying and enforcing the  
20 rights of each individual. It will inform inmates of  
21 behavioral requirements and in turn avoid any  
22 unnecessary infractions. It will also communicate  
23 their right to services such as visitation and  
24 medical care. Carlos Mercado died while in our  
25 city's custody of neglect, of diabetes related

2 complications. This Bill of Rights and Code of  
3 Conduct is intended to assist in avoiding any health  
4 related tragedies like this from happening in the  
5 future. Intro 643-A, another bill I sponsored,  
6 addresses the issue of waiting lists for inmates who  
7 have infringed and are awaiting placement into two  
8 restrictive housing units. I applaud the  
9 Administration for creating these new units for the  
10 mentally ill such as restricted housing units and  
11 clinical alternative to punitive segregation. But  
12 the waiting lists for this unit or these units are  
13 far too long and the process is leaving dangerous  
14 inmates housed with the general population. This  
15 bill would allow the Council and the public to  
16 monitor the situation as it progresses. It is vital  
17 that this city enact policy changes to curb the  
18 culture of violence notoriously associated with  
19 Rikers Island. It is my hope that this legislation  
20 will go a long ways in curbing that violence, and I  
21 look forward to the passing of these bills in the  
22 City Council here today. And I want to thank again  
23 Council Member Dromm for his advocacy, Council Member  
24 Garodnick, Barron and Rosenthal who all have bills we  
25 are voting on here today and, of course, the Speaker



2 for her leadership and I urge you all to vote yes.  
3 Thank you.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,  
5 Council Member. Council Member Inez Barron.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Madam  
7 Speaker. In talking about my Bill 758, and as we all  
8 know, we have a crisis today with our prison  
9 population. The President called attention to it by  
10 visiting the facility to see what the conditions are.  
11 We know additionally that there's an inordinate  
12 number of Black and Latinos who are incarcerated in  
13 our system. But we know also that the hearings that  
14 were held brought to light the fact that we don't  
15 have a composite body of information that is readily  
16 available for us to examine to see what the status is  
17 so that we can make informed decisions as to how we  
18 will proceed. The bill that I'm introducing calls  
19 for a reporting on prison on inmate grievances. So  
20 that as an inmate has a grievance, and as it has been  
21 said many of them are not even convicted of any  
22 crimes. They're just being detained waiting trial.  
23 But as they have filed grievances that the status of  
24 their grievance will be reported and recorded and the  
25 position and the process going forward will be

2 determined and any disposition for that grievance  
3 will be noted as well. And the bill also calls for  
4 disaggregation of the material according to the  
5 category of the grievance as well as the individual  
6 facility where these grievances are located. So I  
7 ask that you support these bills and vote in the  
8 affirmative. Thank you. I want to thank the staff  
9 for all the work that they did. I want to thank the  
10 Speaker and the Chair of the committee for having the  
11 hearing and I want to thank my Legislative Director  
12 Ms. Indigo Washington. Thank you.

13 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,  
14 Council Member. Council Member Rosenthal.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you,  
16 Madam Speaker. Most importantly, I want to thank you  
17 and your office especially Brian Crowe, the General  
18 Counsel who worked so hard to craft this bill. And  
19 frankly Ramon Martinez, who put it over the finish  
20 line. And also, of course, Council Member Crowley  
21 for all your leadership on this package of bills so  
22 importantly address the issue of human and just  
23 treatment of incarcerated individuals.  
24 Fundamentally, 753-A allows all of us, especially  
25 policymakers to get answers to crucial questions that

2 amazingly we cannot answer today. Of the 10,000  
3 inmates we're housing right now, what charges are  
4 they facing? How long have they been locked up and  
5 for what bail amounts? How many are sentenced?  
6 Simple but crucial questions to understanding the  
7 system. In other words, we're spending over \$2.2  
8 billion on this system, and this bill tries to answer  
9 the question why. Transparency is the first step to  
10 securing fair treatment for those individuals. 753-A  
11 is a detail-oriented reporting bill that will collect  
12 in a single report critical facts about who is in the  
13 DOC system and why. On a quarterly basis we'll see  
14 statistics on the number of inmates and the percent  
15 who are pre-trial detainees, what is their length of  
16 stay? From 1 to 2 days, 3 to 5 days and so on. And  
17 similarly, for those who are in jail for three to six  
18 months, six months to a year, and over a year because  
19 these inmates are languishing like Kalief Browder  
20 did. And of the pre-trial detainees, how much is  
21 bail keeping them at DOC? Again, those in because  
22 they can't afford up to \$500 from \$500 to \$1,000 and  
23 so on. We all suspect that New Yorkers, who have not  
24 been found guilty of a crime, languish in jail just  
25 because they're too poor to pay their bail. Now,

2 we'll have the facts. Let's be clear. The stakes  
3 are high. Even relatively short stays in jail can  
4 wreak havoc on the lives of detained men and women  
5 who may lose income from missing work, cannot care  
6 for their children or other family members, miss  
7 school and can lose their place in a homeless  
8 shelter. If someone is in jail and doesn't need to  
9 be, the city must make every effort to get them out.  
10 The information policymakers will get from Intro 753-  
11 A will go a long way to getting people who don't need  
12 to be in jail out. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

13 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you Council  
14 Member. Council Member Dromm.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you very  
16 much. I want to thank you Madam Speaker Melissa  
17 Mark-Viverito, the Chair of the Committee on Fire and  
18 Criminal Justice Services, Council Member Elizabeth  
19 Crowley; Lyle Colondrom (sp?) and Brian Crowe for  
20 their work on this bill. Additionally, I'd also like  
21 to thank Ramon Martinez for his work to see that this  
22 happened. By requiring detailed reporting on  
23 visitation at our jails, we will be able to pinpoint  
24 and address bottlenecks in the procedures that have  
25 for so long frustrated many visitors and the

2 incarcerated individuals they have attempted to see.  
3 This bill is especially critical now as the Board of  
4 Correction is considering rules, which could further  
5 restrict visitation. I want to recognize and thank  
6 the advocates including the clergy members and the  
7 family members whose tireless advocacy have brought  
8 this issue to our attention. Particularly heart  
9 wrenching are the stories have heard about children  
10 who have suffered from prolonged separation from  
11 their parents in dire need of meaningful contact with  
12 their father or mother. Encouraging and facilitating  
13 this visitation is not only the ethical thing to do,  
14 it is good criminal justice policy. Experts agree  
15 that enabling incarcerated individuals to maintain  
16 connections with their family, friends, support  
17 systems and professional resources is critical to  
18 improving their wellbeing during incarceration and  
19 for easing the re-entry from Rikers and other jails.  
20 And finally, I'd also like to say I don't know if  
21 anybody has ever tried to get onto Rikers Island, but  
22 when you go to try to visit your relatives, it  
23 usually winds up being almost a 12-hour day. You can  
24 leave your home, get on the bus or the train. Go to  
25 Queens Borough Plaza and get on another bus. Go over

2 the bridge. Go into the first waiting room, and then  
3 you finally get escorted over to the building where  
4 your loved one is housed. The dogs come on the bus.  
5 They sniff you and smell you. You get out. You go  
6 into the room. You have to wait for the detainee to  
7 be called downstairs. Then you have to--you spend  
8 about an hour with your loved one and then you have  
9 to go through the whole process again on the way out.  
10 So it winds up being almost a 12-hour day for  
11 anybody. We should not be in the business of making  
12 it harder for people to see their loved ones. We  
13 should be, in fact, making it easier. So I hope that  
14 all my colleagues will join me in voting for  
15 Introduction 706-A. Thank you.

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,  
17 Council Member and I know that these are issues that  
18 are very deep, deeply important to you. So thank you  
19 for your advocacy and to all the council members for  
20 this package of bills, something that we should be  
21 proud of. We're also joined today by Kia Gregory's  
22 Journalism--

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for  
24 quiet]

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: --class from  
3 Columbia Journalism School who--I think it's about 15  
4 students. We have students who also came from the  
5 Pre-Stated press conference. They're sitting here  
6 now in the Stated Meeting. So we definitely would  
7 like to give a welcome. I think they're upstairs.  
8 Welcome to--to our Chambers. [applause] So before  
9 we finish, I do want to remind everyone--

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for  
11 quiet]

12 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [off mic] Quiet  
13 please.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: --that the annual  
15 Council versus Mayor's Office softball game is  
16 tonight. The game will be played at Richmond County  
17 Bank Ballpark, the home of the Staten Island Yankees.  
18 Last year we did it at the Cyclones out in Coney  
19 Island. So we are traveling the boroughs and the  
20 city. It's great. The game will be starting at  
21 about 6:30, and the Council will be defending--

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for  
23 quiet]

24 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: --our title  
25 coming off a big win last year. [cheers/applause] So

2 stay tuned. I definitely want to invite everyone to  
3 come on out and cheer us in the Staten Island game  
4 tonight. [cheers] I will remind my colleagues it is  
5 about 2:15.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for  
7 quiet]

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: We do want to get  
9 out of here as soon as possible [laughs] so we can  
10 get to our game. So the sooner we can keep our  
11 comments tight the sooner we can get out there and  
12 practice a little and get ready to go. Also, today  
13 we say goodbye as this the First Deputy Legislative  
14 Affairs Director Reggie Thomas' last day at City  
15 Hall. [cheers] A lot of us here at the Council know  
16 Reggie has helped negotiate and spearhead so many  
17 bills. Reggie served at two mayoral administrations  
18 after working for former Council Member Leroy Connery  
19 (sp?). We want to thank him for his service and we  
20 definitely wish him the best of luck in his next  
21 endeavor. And Reggie, you will be forever  
22 immortalized in that portrait outside the Blue Room.  
23 [applause/cheers] So good luck.

24 And finally, we have some exciting news  
25 for the City Council. Harvard University announced



2 yesterday that our Participatory Budgeting Program  
3 has won the Roy and Lila Ash Innovations Award for  
4 Public Engagement in Government. [cheers] As you  
5 know, we have the largest participatory budgeting  
6 process in North America, and it's incredible how  
7 it's grown over the last few years. My first year  
8 participating in the Participatory Budgeting was  
9 before I was Speaker, and we had just a small handful  
10 of districts participating. Four, to be exact. Now,  
11 27 Council Districts, a majority of this Council are  
12 involved, and last year over 51,000 New Yorkers voted  
13 to allocate \$32 million for locally developed capital  
14 projects across the city that has been recognized,  
15 and that is why we have been given this Innovations  
16 Award by Harvard University. It's very, very citing.  
17 [applause/cheers] So we continue to hope to build on  
18 that this year, and as we continue to grow, we are  
19 being held up as the model that cities across the  
20 country can use in establishing a more inclusive and  
21 democratic process. So, I want to thank all of my  
22 colleagues for participating and I look forward to  
23 it. Also, I think it was handed out earlier the  
24 Weekly Hearing Calendars are out. It is not the  
25 scribble that we saw earlier. It is now a nice

2 formal handout, and we're hoping this will work out.  
3 We definitely want feedback from all of our  
4 colleagues, and that ends--at the moment ends  
5 communication from the Speaker.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Speaker, is  
7 Council Member Matteo playing this evening?

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: He will be.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: I'm just  
10 checking.

11 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: And since Borough  
12 President and Former Minority Leader Otto has decided  
13 to jump ship and play with the Admin.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [laughs] No.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: That will be, you  
16 know, some matchup with player Matteo. He'll be  
17 good.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [laughs]  
19 Discussion of General Orders. Seeing none. Report  
20 of Special Committees.

21 CLERK: None.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reports of  
23 Standing Committees.

24

25

2 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
3 Environmental Protection Intro 850-A, Air  
4 Conditioning Systems.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [background  
6 comments] I'm sorry. I'm working on something here  
7 I shouldn't be working on.

8 CLERK: 850-A, Madam Speaker.

9 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
10 coupled on general orders.

11 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
12 Finance Preconsidered Reso 846 Organization Funding.

13 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
14 general orders.

15 CLERK: Preconsidered LU 279 and Reso 857  
16 Tremont Renaissance.

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
18 General Orders.

19 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Fire  
20 and Criminal Justice Intro 643-A regarding inmates  
21 for placement in alternative housing.

22 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
23 coupled on general orders.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for  
25 quiet]

2 CLERK: Intro 706-A regarding the  
3 visitation of incarcerated individuals.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
5 coupled on general orders.

6 CLERK: Intro 753-A regarding the Office  
7 of Criminal Justice.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
9 coupled on general orders.

10 CLERK: Intro 758-A regarding the  
11 Correction Department's Grievance System.

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
13 coupled on general orders.

14 CLERK: Intro 766-A population  
15 demographics of the city's jails.

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
17 coupled on general orders.

18 CLERK: Intro 767-A Department of  
19 Corrections policies on the use of force.

20 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
21 coupled on general orders.

22 CLERK: Intro 766-A Department of  
23 Corrections Enhance Supervision housing.

24 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
25 coupled on general orders.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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2 CLERK: Intro 767-A Department of  
3 Corrections policies on the use of force.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
5 coupled on general orders.

6 CLERK: Intro 768-A Department of  
7 Corrections' enhanced supervision housing.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
9 coupled on general orders.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for  
11 quiet]

12 CLERK: Intro 784-A Inmate Bill of  
13 Rights.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
15 coupled on general orders.

16 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land  
17 Use LU 275 and Reso 858 and LU 276 and Reso 859 Site  
18 Selection.

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
20 general orders.

21 CLERK: LU 277 and Reso 860 and LU 278  
22 and Reso 861 Landmark Designations.

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
24 General Orders.

25

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2 CLERK: Presconsidered LU 280 and Reso  
3 862 School facility Council District 35.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
5 General Orders.

6 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Rules,  
7 Privileges and Elections, Preconsidered M-333 and  
8 Reso 863 approving the appointment of [shushing for  
9 quiet] Shampa Chanda, Board of Standards and Appeals.

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
11 General Orders.

12 CLERK: Presconsidered M-334 and Reso 864  
13 approving the designation of Helen Arteaga Health and  
14 Hospital Corporation.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
16 General Orders.

17 CLERK: Preconsidered M-335 and Reso 865  
18 approving the re-appointment of Arva Rice, Equal  
19 Employment Practice Commission.

20 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
21 General Orders.

22 CLERK: On the General Order Calendar  
23 Resolution appointing various persons Commissioner of  
24 Deeds.

25

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
3 General Orders, and at this time I ask for roll call  
4 on all items on the Coupled General Order Calendar.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the  
6 Chambers, please.

7 CLERK: Arroyo. Barron.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Permission to  
9 explain my vote.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: All right. Thank  
12 you Madam Public Advocate. I vote aye on all with  
13 the exception of Land Use 280. It was presented to  
14 the Land Use Committee and I expressed--I expressed  
15 [background comments]--

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for  
17 quiet]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: --to--to the  
19 member whose district it is in located my concerns.  
20 It's located in Atlantic Yards, and that developer  
21 has a history, has demonstrated that promises that he  
22 has made have not been kept. And my concern is that  
23 there is no oversight in the construction of this  
24 school that will be given. No oversight by the  
25 School Construction Authority, and that the

2 construction of this school will be left totally to  
3 that developer without any input from the School  
4 Construction Authority. So I'm abstaining on LU 280.  
5 Thank you.

6 CLERK: Cabrera.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye on all.

8 CLERK: Chin.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye on all.

10 CLERK: Constantinides.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye on  
12 all.

13 CLERK: Cornegy.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye on all.

15 CLERK: Crowley.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [off mic] Aye on  
17 all. .

18 CLERK: Cumbo.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission to  
20 explain my vote.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I want to thank  
23 the Land Use Committee and I also want to thank  
24 Council Member Inez Barron for bringing concerns  
25 about the B15 project that's happening in my



2 district. It's an opportunity for us to simply vote  
3 today on actually building a school within the  
4 district. This became part of the Committee--  
5 Community Benefits Agreement Act, and we certainly  
6 wanted to move forward with an opportunity to have a  
7 school within a district where the schools are  
8 busting at the seams at this time. I want to express  
9 that throughout this process, and I will certainly  
10 take Council Member Barron's recommendations into  
11 consideration, and that we are going to work actively  
12 and very hands-on with the development of this school  
13 to ensure that all children and that the diversity of  
14 the district is well represented. So I thank you  
15 all, and proudly vote aye. Thank you.

16 Clerk: Deutsch.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye on all.

18 CLERK: Dromm.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye on all.

20 CLERK: Espinal.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: [off mic] Aye.

22 CLERK: Eugene.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

24 CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: With  
3 permission to explain my vote?

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: I just  
6 wanted to acknowledge the amazing work of Helen  
7 Arteaga, and I'm very excited this Council is voting  
8 to appoint her to the HHC Board, and also acknowledge  
9 that it's three women, three amazing women that we're  
10 appointing to various boards today. So I want to  
11 thank my colleagues for your support and I vote ayes.

12 CLERK: Garodnick.

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

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank you.  
17 Well, first I'd like to permission to vote on the  
18 Land Use Call-Ups.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: And with  
21 permission I would vote aye. I also want to thank  
22 the Speaker and my colleagues in the Criminal

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for  
24 quiet]

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: --Justice bills  
3 to reform the conditions that plague our city's  
4 jails. I apologize when I was not here for the  
5 discussion. I was over across the hall talking Times  
6 Square, but fundamentally and the one point that I  
7 wanted to make is that our city has an--

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for  
9 quiet]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: --obligation  
11 to keep people safe when they are in our custody  
12 regardless of whether or not they have been convicted  
13 of a crime. And I think that what these bills are  
14 aiming at is to try to reform this process to shine  
15 some light on this process so that we all can have  
16 more confidence that what is happening behind those  
17 walls is what should be happening behind those walls.  
18 And with that, I vote aye on the General Order  
19 Calendar as well. Thank you.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

21 CLERK: Gentile

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: With  
23 congratulations to all my colleagues who have bills  
24 on the calendar today, I vote aye on all.

25 CLERK: Gibson.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I vote aye.

3 CLERK: Greenfield.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: May I explain  
5 my vote.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you  
8 very much. I want to congratulate my colleagues on  
9 the very important pieces of legislation especially  
10 the criminal justice reform, which I think is  
11 critically important as well as the environmental  
12 legislation by Council Member Constantinides. I do  
13 also want to acknowledge--

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for  
15 quiet]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: --that I had a  
17 chance to chat with Shampa Chanda who is going to be  
18 the appointee to the New York City Board of Standards  
19 and Appeals. She's very impressive and certainly  
20 very thoroughly qualified for the position. I'm  
21 proud to support her nomination as well, and I want  
22 to wish a happy and healthy Rosh Hashanah [sic] to  
23 those of my colleagues and New Yorkers who are  
24 celebrating, and I vote aye on all. Thank you.

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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2 CLERK: Johnson.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Permission to  
4 vote on Land Use Call-Ups.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: I vote aye on  
7 Land Use Call-Ups. I also want to reiterate what  
8 Council Member Ferreras said. I am glad today that  
9 the Council is voting to confirm Helen Arteaga to the  
10 Board of the Health and Hospital Corporation, and I  
11 vote aye on everything else. Thanks very much.

12 CLERK: Kallos.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

14 CLERK: Koslowitz.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

16 CLERK: Lancman.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: [off mic] Aye.

18 CLERK: Lander.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Request  
20 permission to explain my vote.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I just want to  
23 add my voice of thanks to the Council Members that  
24 have taken the lead on the Rikers bill, Council  
25 Members Crowley, Rosenthal, Barron, Garodnick

2 Gentile, and especially Council Member Dromm who in  
3 so many ways has been our conscience on these issues,  
4 and taken members there and really called our  
5 attention to it. The stories that have come out in  
6 the recent weeks and months and years especially but  
7 not surrounding the suicide of Kalief Browder, and  
8 what we've seen there call just such urgent necessity  
9 to us to achieve reform at Rikers. Today's bills by  
10 themselves will not achieve that. We have to stay  
11 diligent. We have to continue to push them across  
12 the hall and keep working together, but it is truly  
13 appalling, and it is appalling on our watch without  
14 our responsibility. That's a place that we as a city  
15 set up, a place we have oversight of, and our  
16 responsibility to make it a humane place and not one  
17 where people's human rights are consistently  
18 violated. It is urgent and powerful and I thank my  
19 colleagues for advancing these bills, and I vote aye.

20 CLERK: Levin.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I vote aye on all  
22 and I vote aye on all responsibly. [sic]

23 CLERK: Levine.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: I vote aye on  
25 all.

2 CLERK: Maisel.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: [off mic] Aye.

4 CLERK: Mealy.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye on all.

6 CLERK: Menchaca.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye on all.

8 CLERK: Mendez.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

10 CLERK: Miller.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye on all.

12 CLERK: Reynoso.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I vote aye on

14 all. I just want to thank Danny Dromm and everybody

15 that put in these bills for the continued work for

16 the people that need it the most. Thank you.

17 CLERK: Richards.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye on all.

19 CLERK: Rodriguez.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

21 CLERK: Rose.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye on all.

23 CLERK: Rosenthal.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye on all.

25

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for  
3 quiet]

4 CLERK: Torres.

5 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down, please.  
6 Keep it down.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: We're still in  
8 session.

9 CLERK: Council Member Torres.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye on all, but  
11 permission to explain my vote. I just want to say--  
12 convey my gratitude to Reggie Thomas, who's been a  
13 phenomenal public servant, and I believe I'm a better  
14 council member for having worked closely with him,  
15 and I wish him nothing but the best.

16 CLERK: Treyger.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Congratulations  
18 to all my colleagues. I also would like to send a  
19 nice farewell to Reggie Thomas. I'm sure he's  
20 starting off without the Coney Island Boardwalk and  
21 other things as well. Reggie, all the best to you.  
22 I vote aye on all. Thanks.

23 CLERK: Ulrich.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Yes.

25 CLERK: Vallone.



2 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on all.

3 CLERK: Wills.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: I also want to  
5 express thanks to Reggie Thomas, the Ruben Whisperer  
6 (sic) for everything that he has done for us, and I  
7 vote aye on all.

8 CLERK: Matteo.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: No, on 850-A, yes  
10 on the rest and see everybody in Staten Island.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Go, Slugger.

12 [laughs]

13 CLERK: Van Bramer.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Permission to  
15 briefly explain my vote?

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Before I vote  
18 aye on all, I just want to say we're thrilled Shampa  
19 Chanda, a resident of Long Island City, and a member  
20 of Community Board 2, someone who I was proud to  
21 appoint to Community Board 2, is about to succeed and  
22 be appointed to the New York City Board of Standards  
23 and Appeals. She is an amazing bright woman, a  
24 veteran public servant and city planner. And I

25

2 believe that she will respond, listen to and empower  
3 communities as she does he work with--

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for  
5 quiet]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: --the Board  
7 of Standards and Appeals. It is with sadness that  
8 she will leave Community Board 2, as she succeeds  
9 with this appointment. But all of us in our district  
10 in Long Island City are very proud of her, and the  
11 Board of Standards and Appeals is very lucky to have  
12 her. Mary de Blasio made a very wise choice. With  
13 that, I proudly vote aye on all.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

15 CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic]

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All items on  
18 today's General Order Calendar were adopted by a vote  
19 of 45 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and 0  
20 abstentions with the exception of Land Use 280 and  
21 Resolution 862, which was adopted by a vote of 44 in  
22 the affirmative, 0 in the negative and 1 abstention.  
23 And Intro 850-A, which was adopted by a vote of 44 in  
24 the affirmative, 1 negative and 0 abstentions.  
25 Revised Land Use Call-Ups were adopted by a vote for

2 45 in the affirmative and 0 negatives and 0  
3 abstentions. Introduction and reading of bills.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All bills are  
5 referred to committees as indicated on the agenda.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Discussion of  
7 Resolutions. The resolution is the Resolution  
8 Praising People Francis for his lifelong pursuit of  
9 peace among all--amongst all peoples and commend him  
10 on his upcoming historic visit to New York City.  
11 Seeing no speakers, all of those in favor say aye.

12 COUNCIL MEMBERS: [in unison] Aye.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All those  
14 opposed? Any abstention? The ayes have it. And  
15 now, before we go to General Resolution, let me just  
16 say that I know that all of us are heartbroken to  
17 learn that Carey Gabay died last night. Carey was a  
18 dedicated public servant who epitomized the true  
19 spirit of America and New York. Carey was a member  
20 of my church, and he lived in my beloved Clinton Hill  
21 community. He was a member of Council Member Cumbo's  
22 district and the senseless gun violence that took his  
23 life is unforgiveable, and I hope that we all work  
24 together to pass some responsible gun laws in this  
25 country. My thoughts and my prayer--prayers are with

2 Carey Gabay's widow, his loved ones and my church  
3 family during this immensely difficult time. May he  
4 rest in peace. Council Member Mark Levine.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you, Madam  
6 Public Advocate. I want to start by wishing all our-  
7 -and all those who are celebrating the Jewish New  
8 Year Rosh Hashanah (sp?) and I want to invite our  
9 colleagues to a very special visit today at 4:00 from  
10 the French Inter-ministerial Delegate and the fight  
11 against anti-Semitism who will be at 250 Broadway at  
12 4 o'clock--

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for  
14 quiet]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: --on the 15th  
16 Floor in the Finance meeting room, and I want to call  
17 my colleagues' attention to a resolution I'm proud to  
18 be introducing with my colleague Council Member  
19 Miller, which would call on the city to offer summer  
20 meals as both culture and Hallal options. This is an  
21 incredibly successful program feeding hundreds of  
22 thousands of kids every year in schools, libraries,  
23 parks, playgrounds. But for those New Yorkers who  
24 observe either Jewish or Muslim dietary laws, this  
25 food is not available to them, and we want to change

2 that. And our resolution calls on the city to do so.  
3 We want to introduce it now so preparations can be  
4 ready in time for next summer. I also want to call  
5 my colleagues' attention to Introduction--Intro 901  
6 that would call for the city to be monitoring for  
7 methane gas emissions when you plant street trees.  
8 This is a problem a few of you might have been aware  
9 of, but it turns out we're losing many trees every  
10 year because we're planting them without testing for  
11 methane leaks in the surrounding sidewalks. And it  
12 costs thousands of dollars to replace a tree, and it  
13 would only be about \$25 to do the test. So Intro 901  
14 would the city to do such a test before planting all  
15 new street trees. That's it. Thank you very much.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

17 Quiet in the Chambers, please. We're still in  
18 session. Council Member Cornegy.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Thank you, Madam  
20 Public Advocate. I'd like to take this opportunity  
21 congratulate my former Director of Constituent  
22 Services who is now the Borough Director for Brooklyn  
23 for the Mayor's Office. Good afternoon colleagues,  
24 we just had--I just had in my household four first  
25 days of school, and I feel like we're having one here

2 today. It's great to see all of you again. I'd like  
3 to join many of you in expressing my condolences for  
4 the loss of Mr. Carey Gabay. The random  
5 senselessness [sic] that's taken the life of this man  
6 in his professional prime and plans to become a  
7 father is a heartbreaking loss to all the people in  
8 Central Brooklyn, our city and state and I'll  
9 continue to hold his loved ones in my prayers.  
10 Turning to my role of the Small Business Committee  
11 Chair, I'd like to call your attention to two bills  
12 I'm introducing today, Intro 891 would ensure that  
13 small businesses are properly notified that they're  
14 the subject or 311 complaints.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for  
16 quiet]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Both so that  
18 they can address the underlying problem and so  
19 they're not blindsided by the presentation of a list  
20 of complaints that hadn't previously--they hadn't  
21 previously heard of when they go before the Community  
22 Boards for approval of liquor licenses and sidewalk  
23 cafes. And then there's Reso 840, which calls upon  
24 the State Legislator--Legislature to make the costly  
25 LLC registration more modern and more affordable by

2 allowing publication in online news sources, which  
3 increasingly are how New Yorkers actually get their  
4 news. Finally, I'd like to call your attention to  
5 one of the bills being heard at next Friday's  
6 Committee on Small Business hearing. I introduced  
7 Intro 851 along with Council Member Levine this past  
8 July. This bill addresses the serious problem of  
9 landlord harassment affecting mom and pop businesses  
10 across the city. I hope that many of you will sign  
11 on and spread the word about the bill to businesses  
12 in your district.--

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for  
14 quiet]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: --and even  
16 attend the hearing to share the stories of your  
17 constituent businesses working together. I believe  
18 we can help extend the anti-harassment protections  
19 residential tenants so rely on to small businesses  
20 across New York City. Thank you.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
22 Council Member Gibson.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you very  
24 much Madam Public Advocate and I, too, join you and  
25 others in expressing my sincere condolences and

2 prayers to the family of Carey Gabay. Truly his life  
3 and legacy will serve as an inspiration to many  
4 others, and we are sorry for this tremendous loss on  
5 our city. I'd like to call attention this afternoon  
6 to Intro 899 that I've introduced with Council  
7 Members Laurie Cumbo and Elizabeth Crowley. It is a  
8 bill that will require Rikers Island and Department  
9 of Corrections to report on the use of its Nursery  
10 Program. And as you may know, nursery programs allow  
11 many of our women who give birth while they're  
12 incarcerated an opportunity to live--

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for  
14 quiet]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: --and bond with  
16 their children while learning valuable life and  
17 parenting skills. Many recent studies have shown  
18 that mothers who give birth while they're  
19 incarcerated and participate in a prison nursery  
20 program have a reduced rate of recidivism. They have  
21 a reduced rate of testing positive for drug use, and  
22 are involved in fewer incidents of misconduct. Of  
23 equal importance is the benefit this program has for  
24 the infant. These children are less likely to be  
25 involved in foster care, and the early bond they



2 receive with their mothers allows them an opportunity  
3 to develop skills that surpass those of other infants  
4 whose mothers were also incarcerated. New York State  
5 is one of only 11 states in this country to support  
6 such a program. However, the Rikers Island Nursery  
7 lacks the transparency that is needed, and this bill  
8 will serve to shed light on the Nursery Program at  
9 Rikers Island. I'd also like to call my colleagues'  
10 attention and those prime sponsors will speak to each  
11 of these bills. Intro 885, 897 and 917 introduced by  
12 our Speaker, Council Members Cohen, Garodnick and  
13 Wills, which is a very important issue that we're  
14 going to tackle on Monday around the issue of K2 also  
15 known as synthetic marijuana. I look forward serving  
16 as Chair of Public safety working with my colleagues  
17 and our Speaker to really tackle this dangerous drug  
18 in our communities. Thank you.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
20 Council Member Miller.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Good afternoon,  
22 colleagues. I'd first like to wish Reggie Thomas,  
23 give him well wishes and much success in his new  
24 venture, and thank him for his years of dedicated  
25 public service. So I rise this afternoon to call

2 attention to few bills including two Vision Zero  
3 bills, Intro 904, which will make it a mis--make it a  
4 misdemeanor for TLC licensed vehicles to free  
5 enforcement agents. Currently, through a legal  
6 loophole, this crime only applies to green cabs. As  
7 Vision Zero studies group recommended the law should  
8 be expanded to all operators with TLC license. Intro  
9 907, which will require--

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for  
11 quiet]

12 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [off mic] Quiet  
13 please.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: --that all  
15 persons under the age of 18 wear bicycle helmets  
16 while riding bikes. Roughly 8 to 10% of trauma  
17 patients treated as--at local hospitals are  
18 bicyclists, and riders who wear helmets are 72% less  
19 likely to sustain trauma or brain injury. I urge you  
20 to protect our young riders. As well as that we  
21 briefly call your attention 906, which requires that  
22 city agencies report to the Council and communities  
23 any impending contracts for site transitional housing  
24 in their district. This includes providing  
25 information regarding the owners, developers, social

2 service providers. It is vital that all communities  
3 whether they are the West Side, East New York, South  
4 Queens are provided with an opportunity to discuss  
5 delivery of social services in their neighborhood  
6 prior to placed in shelters or transitional housing  
7 in these communities. Intro 906. Finally, there  
8 are two resolutions, first 852 for state lockbox  
9 legislation to prevent the diversion of funds raised  
10 to support the MTA. Over \$260 million over the last  
11 five years have been lost because of this. And  
12 second, 850 calling for kosher and Hallal foods to be  
13 served as part of the summer meals.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member,  
15 please bring your comments to a close.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: And I'd like to  
17 thank Council Member Levine for his leadership in  
18 regards to this issue. Thank you, Madam Public  
19 Advocate.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
21 Council Member Wills.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Yes, first I want  
23 to express my condolences to the family of Carey  
24 Gabay, and I wanted to address--

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member,  
3 is your mic on?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIS: Yes. First I want  
5 to express my condolences to the family of Carey  
6 Gabay, and I wanted to also address my community this  
7 is something that is important. We can't keep saying  
8 Black lives matter, and when it comes to members of  
9 our community inflicting violence on other members of  
10 our community not raise the same protest. Now, I  
11 rise to urge my colleagues to support Intro 917, a  
12 bill to impose penalties for the manufacture and  
13 distribution and sale of synthetic cannabis, and  
14 related substances. In March 2012, I organized a  
15 campaign along with my staff members, Mr. Jahai Rose,  
16 [sic] Ms. Leslie Ann Patterson and my former LD,  
17 who's here today, Indius Lee [sic) asking store  
18 owners to pledge not to sell the synthetic marijuana  
19 and introduced a bill that would make trafficking of  
20 the substance illegal in the City of New York. That  
21 same month, but the State and the Health Departments  
22 banned synthetic marijuana. Since that time these  
23 drugs have spread well beyond the ability of our  
24 state and local agencies to contain them, and as a  
25 result, even greater numbers of our citizens have

2 suffered severe physical and psychological damage  
3 than previously recorded setting us all back on our  
4 heels. I want to thank the Speaker and our Mayor for  
5 recognizing the need to act swiftly and forcefully in  
6 this crisis. This bill targets the major businesses  
7 and sellers that we know to be the  
8 primary sources of the synthetic drugs being sold in  
9 our communities. It recognizes the lucid nature of  
10 the process by which these substances are  
11 manufactured and marketed, and leaves no room--

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for  
13 quiet]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: --for anyone to  
15 cite except for the existing laws and regulations.  
16 What we will not do is target individual users who  
17 possess less than ten units of synthetic drugs. This  
18 will not be a Rockefelleresque--a Rockefelleresque  
19 over reaction to a public health crisis. My co-  
20 sponsors want treatment and rehabilitative services  
21 for those individuals who find themselves gripped by  
22 the menace of synthetic marijuana. But we will act  
23 to choke up the pipeline that has allowed these drugs  
24 to flourish, and make it unbearable for any person or  
25 any group of our people to sell it in our city.

2 Again, I urge you for your support and I think you.

3 [bell]

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

5 Council Member Rodriguez.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

7 Today, I am introducing (sic) Tri-State  
8 Transportation Campaign, Families for Safe Streets  
9 and Transportation Alternatives to acknowledge  
10 legislation and listen today to make our streets  
11 safer for pedestrians and cyclists. I will be  
12 introducing a few bills. One is Intro 911, which I  
13 am proud to introduce with Council Member Lander and  
14 Crawley, which will require the Department of  
15 Transportation to study safety risks along bus routes  
16 such as left turns that we can ensure that  
17 professional drivers and pedestrians alike are  
18 protected. The second bill, Intro 912 will address  
19 our city's worst intersections. According to the New  
20 York City Department of Transportation, 74% of  
21 pedestrian deaths and 89% of cyclist deaths occur at  
22 intersections. This bill will require the Department  
23 of Transportation to implement a lighting (sic) known  
24 as day lighting at the top five most dangerous  
25 intersections in each borough as determined annually

2 by the Vision Zero Report. Reso 5--I'm sorry. Reso  
3 854 today calling upon the MTA to study a mechanism  
4 to reduce blind spots on buses and to install  
5 technology already developed that alert drivers of a  
6 person in their blind spot. I encourage all my  
7 colleagues to sign on this bill after today's Stated  
8 Meeting. Thank you.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
10 Council Member Barron.

11 [background comments]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Madam  
13 Public Advocate. Today, I'm introducing Bill No.  
14 886. After nearly a decade New York City will  
15 finally have a bill that will promote environmental  
16 justice, and this bill was originally introduced by  
17 my predecessor former Council Member Charles Barron  
18 now State Assembly Member. And when we talk about  
19 environmental justice, we're talking about the fair  
20 treatment and meaningful involvement of all persons  
21 regardless of race, color, national origin or income  
22 with respect to the development, implementation and  
23 enforcement of environmental laws, regulations,  
24 policies and activities, and with respect to the  
25 equitable distribution of environmental benefits. So

2 this legislation will require city agencies to  
3 develop plans to ensure environmental analysis in  
4 your programs, projects and policies. Ensure  
5 equitable distribution of environmental benefits,  
6 conduct and improve research and data collection  
7 regarding the health of disenfranchised and low-  
8 income populations. And establish a working group  
9 and advisory board. I want to thank Attorney Samara  
10 Swanston for drafting the bill and for her hard work  
11 and dedication over the years to promote  
12 environmental justice and revising this bill. And  
13 the next stage of getting it a hearing, and getting  
14 the bill passed.

15           And secondly, I want to call attention to  
16 the Resolution for the Second Chance Pell Pilot  
17 Program. Pell Grants provide the greatest form of  
18 assistance to low-income people, and as we know, as  
19 people come out of the criminal justice system they  
20 need many kinds of support. What this bill will do  
21 is to allow Pell Grants to be reinstated as a means  
22 of paying for the cost of college level courses while  
23 person are incarcerated, while they're being  
24 detained. So we're asking people to sign onto the



2 [bell] Resolution. It is a President Barack Obama's  
3 Second Chance Bill.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member,  
5 please conclude your remarks.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yes.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: I want to thank  
9 my Legislative Director Indigo Washington, Terzah  
10 Nasser and Bob Newman for their assistance in  
11 preparing these resolutions. Thank you.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
13 Council Member Richards.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I rise to ask  
15 my colleagues to support Intro No. 910 throughout out  
16 city--which is co-sponsored by Council Members Torres  
17 and Miller. Throughout our city the Department of  
18 Small Business Services has established Workforce 1  
19 Centers in areas in high need of employment and  
20 professional training services. We allocate lots of  
21 funding to ensure that these centers are operating,  
22 and we refer our constituents to these centers in  
23 good faith that they will find the support that they  
24 need. There are, however, a few questions we all  
25 frequently ask our constituents and are asked and

2 would like to know how the answers vary in different  
3 parts of the city. How many new registrants are  
4 walking through the doors of our Workforce 1 Centers  
5 to access services? Two, how many people in total  
6 were served by each Workforce 1 Center last year?  
7 Three, what are the retention rates for those who  
8 have gained employment through the centers after six  
9 months and a year? And four, which industries  
10 actually hired and how many registrants were hired  
11 for each industry? This bill, Intro No. 910, calls  
12 SBS to submit and a--in a report annually to the  
13 Council and Mayor and would help give us performance  
14 data for each Workforce 1 Center, and a better  
15 understanding of industry trends. I ask my  
16 colleagues to join myself, Council Member Torres and  
17 Council Member Miller by signing onto this good  
18 sense--sensible legislation. I also would just like  
19 to in conclusion thank my Legislative Director,  
20 Jerrel Burney for ensuring that this piece of  
21 legislation was drafted as well as our Legislative  
22 Department, and I ask all my colleagues once again to  
23 sign on. Thank you.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
25 Council Member Gentile.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Thank you, Madam  
3 Public Advocate. Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious  
4 is a term that begs for explanation.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [laughs] Yes.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: [laughter]  
7 Well, my--well, my Intro 898 will not give that  
8 explanation from the Mary Poppins' musical. It does  
9 recognize that our open data portal contains terms  
10 and refers to measurements that no--

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for  
12 quiet]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: --professional--  
14 no one who isn't a professional can reasonably be  
15 expected to understand or know about. For example,  
16 the DEP's harbor water quality dataset contains the  
17 terms 'transparency sochi (sp?) feet, a term that  
18 refers to how clear water is measured in feet of  
19 visibility. The terms is given no explanation in the  
20 data portal, and what's worse is even when you  
21 understand the terms there's no spectrum of good to  
22 bad numbers by which to comprehend what the  
23 measurements mean. So obviously, this is  
24 unacceptable if we're to be fair and open with the  
25 people of New York. And that's why I'm introducing

2 this bill because it will provide a dictionary with  
3 descriptions in layman's language for all of the  
4 technical terms on the Open Data Portal. It's Intro  
5 898, and I hope you support it, and if you don't know  
6 what supercalifragilisticexpialidocious is, come see  
7 me later. Thank you.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [laughs] Council  
9 Member Vallone.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you, Madam  
11 Advocate. I would just like to put my words in  
12 support of the Papal Resolution that we unanimously  
13 voted on. You were really quick on that. So I  
14 compliment you on moving the meeting. Thank you.  
15 Thank you, Madam Speaker and Majority Leader Jimmy  
16 Van Bramer for getting this done today. It was  
17 really a beautiful moment to see my dad come in  
18 especially to bless the proceedings. You know, he  
19 still goes to mass every morning, and he was not  
20 going to miss today when he heard that the Cardinal  
21 was coming, and that the Speaker and Jimmy pushed  
22 that through. So from the bottom of my heart thank  
23 you for making that happen today. At Jimmy's hearing  
24 we had a nice story of I remember holding my father's  
25 hand when I was seven when Pope John Paul II came

2 through Shay Stadium. And I always remember that  
3 wonderful vision, and it stayed with me through my  
4 faith. And today to see that step before the Pope's  
5 visit with my dad today. And then I'll have  
6 hopefully my children with me next week. So it's  
7 come full circle. So from the bottom of my heart  
8 thank you everyone. I think it was a wonderful step  
9 as a united Council to be the--one of the first to  
10 really welcome the Pope on this tremendous visit.  
11 And today's resolution I know the Archdiocese was  
12 deeply touched, and I could see--we could all see his  
13 giant smile today, and that the wonderful that is  
14 going on currently. And he's just a wonderful man.  
15 So thank you to everyone for making that happen.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
17 Council Member Garodnick.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank you very  
19 much Madam Public Advocate. I wanted to join my  
20 colleagues in speaking about the--the perils of K2  
21 sales that have been devastating our streets, and we  
22 look forward to our hearing with Chair Gibson on  
23 Monday. And I want to thank Speaker Mark-Viverito  
24 and Council Member Wills. We have all introduced  
25 bills to try to deal with the fact that K2 is wasting

2 people away and sending them to emergency rooms in  
3 all corners of New York City. The producers of K2  
4 are creating variations of this synthetic drug by  
5 combining chemicals and spraying them with plant  
6 material. And due to the ever-changing nature of the  
7 chemical composition, it is difficult for lawmakers  
8 to actually target the drug itself. So the producers  
9 and sellers are continuing to brazenly push these  
10 drugs out onto our streets. The drug, which only  
11 costs a few dollars, is sold in small plastic pouches  
12 with nicknames such as spice, AK47, and Scooby Snacks  
13 in large quantities. It is available at bodegas and  
14 corner stores. As a result of the low cost, we've  
15 seen many homeless people using this drug in  
16 increasingly large numbers. The New York Times  
17 painted a devastating portrait of the effects of this  
18 drug upon this population. Many more New Yorkers,  
19 however, are also lighting up. This drug is  
20 dangerous and we need to get it off of our streets.  
21 Today, I'm introducing Intro 897, which would make  
22 the sale of K2 a nuisance under New York City law.  
23 If a store continues to sell K2, the city could see  
24 an injunction from the court to shut it down until  
25 they clean up their act and the aisles. We may not

2 be able to ban every strand of the drug, although  
3 we're going to try. We can and should go after the  
4 bad actors out there who continue to peddle it across  
5 our city. This will be a powerful tool for us to  
6 combat this elusive and dangerous drug. And I hope  
7 my colleagues will join us on the Bill 897 and come  
8 to the hearing on Monday. Thank you.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you, and  
10 lastly, Council Member Cumbo.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you, Madam  
12 Public Advocate. On behalf of the 35th Council  
13 District, I would like to extend our thoughts and  
14 prayers to the family, friends and colleagues of  
15 Carey Gabay. A resident of Clinton Hill, a servant,  
16 a husband, son and brother Gabay was an innocent  
17 bystander who was fatally shot by senseless gun  
18 violence on Labor Day. Carey Gabay was not alone.  
19 Over the Labor Day weekend, we also lost Josiah  
20 DeMentro, age 24 of the Bronx. And our sentiments  
21 and our condolences also go out to his family as well  
22 because as we have heard and known that all lives  
23 matter, and it's important that we acknowledge the  
24 loss of all life. But I also want to bring attention  
25 to the fact that days after the Labor Day Weekend the

2 reality is that gun violence continues to plague our  
3 communities. Carlotte McClatchy (sp?) who was  
4 peddling on Albany Avenue days after the Labor Day  
5 celebration also lost his life when he was fatally  
6 shot while riding his bike on a Brooklyn street  
7 Wednesday night. We have spent a lot of time  
8 focusing on violence in and around the Labor Day  
9 Weekend, but the truth of the matter is violence has  
10 continued to plague communities of color. When we  
11 look at the City of New York, although shootings are  
12 at a new record low, still remains 969 people have  
13 been shot this year. It is unfortunate at this time  
14 that Mr. Gabay and all that he had accomplished in  
15 his life is what is bringing national attention to  
16 this issue of gun violence. The family of Mr. Gabay  
17 would like us to respect that they are a family in  
18 mourning, but have asked that Mr. Gabay's  
19 accomplishments be what is recognized and what is  
20 celebrated at this time. If you would allow me a  
21 moment, what they submitted is that he attended  
22 Harvard Law School and worked at several firms in New  
23 Yorkers specializing in corporate finance law. He is  
24 the son of Jamaican immigrants growing up the Boston  
25 Secor Houses, a the Bronx Public Housing project. He



2 graduated from Harvard where he studied government  
3 and in his senior year was elected president of the  
4 Undergraduate Council, the main body of student  
5 government. Mr. Gabay and his wife, Tramell (sp?)  
6 were married at the Dyker Beach Golf Course in  
7 Brooklyn. They lived in the borough's Clinton Hill  
8 neighborhood and worshipped at Emanuel Baptist  
9 Church. Mr. Gabay celebrated his Jamaican heritage  
10 by going every year to J'ouvert, a festival where  
11 bands play West Indian music and revelers in the  
12 street. In January, he was appointed First Deputy  
13 Counsel for the Empire State Development Corporation,  
14 the state's main economic development agency. Our  
15 thoughts and prayers go to the Gabay Family. Our  
16 thoughts and prayers go wit the DeMentro Family, and  
17 our thoughts and prayers go with the McClatchy  
18 Family, and tonight at 6:00 p.m. in our district,  
19 we'll be marching and having a peace over violence  
20 march at 6:00 p.m. on Kingston Avenue and Eastern  
21 Parkway to recognize that we as a community do not  
22 condone violence. It is not an indication of who we  
23 are as a community, and that we are sending a message  
24 to our young people that we will continue to rise

2 over the level of violence that has permeated  
3 throughout our communities. Thank you.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: May they all rest  
5 in peace. Chair Rosie Mendez has asked the members  
6 of the Black, Latino and Asian Caucus to know that  
7 there is a hearing--there's meeting in the hearing  
8 room. And now to close, the Speaker Melissa Mark-  
9 Viverito.

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I want to thank  
11 all the colleagues and you, Madam Public Advocate,  
12 for remembering Carey Gabay and all those that have  
13 died at the hands of the senseless gun violence that  
14 unfortunately is all too common. And so with that,  
15 and thoughts and prayers for him and all those  
16 others, we end this session today in--in their--in  
17 their memory.

18 [gavel]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date September 18, 2015