

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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August 9, 2017  
Start: 1:39 p.m.  
Recess: 3:23 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: LETITIA JAMES  
Public Advocate

MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO  
Speaker for the Council

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Inez D. Barron  
Joe Borelli  
Fernando Cabrera  
Margaret S. Chin  
Andrew Cohn  
Costa G. Constantinides  
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.  
Elizabeth S. Crowley  
Laurie A. Cumbo  
Chaim M. Deutsch  
Daniel Dromm  
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.  
Mathieu Eugene  
Julissa Ferreras-Copeland  
Daniel R. Garodnick  
Vincent J. Gentile  
Vanessa L. Gibson

David G. Greenfield  
Barry Grodenchik  
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  
Bill Perkins  
Antonio Reynoso  
Donovan J. Richards  
Ydanis A. Rodriguez  
Deborah L. Rose  
Helen K. Rosenthal  
Ritchie J. Torres  
Rafael Salamanca  
Mark Treyger  
Eric A. Ulrich  
James Vacca  
Paul A. Vallone  
James G. Van Bramer  
Jumaane D. Williams

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

Invocation Delivered by:  
Bishop Joseph Northover, Pastor  
House of God Miracle Center,  
509 E. 78th St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11236

2 [sound check, pause]

3 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Alright, we have  
4 only a—I think we're going to wait a couple of  
5 minutes. I'm hoping we're bringing our colleagues  
6 up. We have one ceremonial today by Council Member  
7 Crowley, but we're going to wait a couple of minutes  
8 as members are coming up in the Chamber. [pause]  
9 We're going to get started. Is Council Member  
10 Crowley here? Oh, she's in the back.

11 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Keep it  
12 down, please.

13 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Council Member  
14 Crowley has a ceremonial today with those that are  
15 being honored to come up. So, she's honoring the  
16 112<sup>th</sup> Precinct, the Special Victims Unit for solving  
17 cold cases and outstanding service to the community.  
18 If those members of the 112<sup>th</sup> Precinct come on up.  
19 [applause] And I will hand it off to the Council  
20 Member.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I'd like to  
22 welcome all the officers and thank them for being  
23 here today as we recognize their service to the city,  
24 and I'll wait until the officers and the whole team—  
25 the whole Spec—Special Victims Team comes up.

2 [[background comments, pause] So, for years—for  
3 years park-goers and people visiting Forest Park in  
4 Queens and the surrounding community knew that there  
5 was a sexual predator on the loose, somebody who  
6 would attack and then go away and come back a month  
7 later and attack again. This was something that  
8 remained on all parkgoers' minds, and the whole  
9 community especially people who would go to the park  
10 to run. Actually, I am a runner myself and I—this is  
11 where I run at Forest Park. One of the days that I  
12 was running in the park is the exact same day that a  
13 woman was attacked. So, this never left our minds,  
14 and now we're here today because the Spec—Special  
15 Victims Team have found the perpetrator and they've  
16 caught him, and [applause] so all the parkgoers can  
17 rest assured feeling much safer today because of this  
18 Special Victims squad and it's lead under the command  
19 of Deputy Chief Michael Osgood [applause], Sergeant  
20 George Fountoulakis and Detective James Menton.  
21 [applause] They were able to get evidence from one of  
22 the attacks and link the pattern together to the six  
23 different attacks that happened over a couple of  
24 years. This Special Victims whole division of over  
25 32 members and some worked on this particular case

2 for over five years, they processed so much—so much  
3 evidence. They spoke to hundreds of people, and put  
4 the data together to get to where we are today. So,  
5 they're a shining example of our NYPD's dedication to  
6 our city to keeping us safe, and we thank them so  
7 much for their service. This—this was a big one for  
8 us in Queens. So, we're very, very grateful. Thank  
9 you. Thank you. [applause] [background comments]  
10 Okay, and would--?

11 CLERK: Council City of New York

12 Proclamation.

13 The New York City Council is proud to  
14 honor the members of NYPD Special Victims Division  
15 for their excellence service to the community; and

16 Whereas, the NYPD Special Victims  
17 Division created in 2003, as part of the Detective  
18 Bureau oversees 16 Special Victims Squads across the  
19 five boroughs. Currently, under the command of  
20 Deputy Chief Michael J. Osgood, Sergeant George  
21 Fountoulakis, and Detective James Mention, the  
22 Special Victims Division focuses primarily on  
23 investigating cases of alleged sexual assault  
24 (coughs) child abuse and hate crimes, and often

2 complements the work of police officers assigned to  
3 precincts; and

4           Whereas, the investigations of the  
5 Special Victims Divisions are highly specialized  
6 requiring maintaining, investigative process  
7 discipline to both identify offenders and build fully  
8 prosecutable cases against those defenders to bring  
9 justice to their victims. While the detectives of  
10 the Special Victims Division are as diverse as the  
11 city at large they all share a professionalism  
12 discipline and attention to painstaking detail that  
13 have helped the solve many of the toughest cases; and

14           Whereas, one challenging case centered on  
15 Forest Park Queens South. Between March 2011 and  
16 August 2013, six women were sexually assaulted in and  
17 around the bridle path. The women ranged from age 13  
18 to 29. Two of the women were incapacitated with a  
19 sun gun. The Special Victims Division established a  
20 Pattern Investigation Team, which has worked  
21 tirelessly to break the case for the past five years;  
22 and

23           Whereas, since 2012, a Pattern  
24 Investigation Team comprised of 32 members of the  
25 Special Victims Division and assisted by other NYPD

2 Units and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner  
3 performed a tenacious investigation that included  
4 following up on more than 120 tips and leads,  
5 interviewing hundreds of persons, examining video  
6 from dozen of locations, performing analytical data  
7 mining and obtaining and processing forensic evidence  
8 for each of the six sexual assault crime scenes; and

9           Whereas, during assault number five, the  
10 victim courageously managed to pull a beer bottle  
11 from a pocket in the offender's jacket. In May 2013,  
12 the bottle's forensic information was uploaded to  
13 CODIS, the Forensic Criminal Database and a DNA  
14 profile was obtained. In February 2017, someone on  
15 Long Island was arrested for the grand larceny of a-  
16 grand larceny of aluminum park bleachers. When that  
17 offender's DNA was submitted to CODIS, it matched the  
18 DNA profile obtained from the beer bottle. The  
19 detectives in the Special Victims Division examined  
20 all of the evidence to confirm the match and after  
21 years of terrorizing women in Forest Park a suspect  
22 was arrested; and

23           Whereas, thanks to the NYPD's Special  
24 Victims Division everyone who visits Forest Park can  
25 now rest assured that their community is safer and



2 that one criminal will be prosecuted to the fullest  
3 extent of the law. This distinguished group of  
4 detectives are truly New York's finest and have  
5 earned the gratitude of all their fellow New Yorkers.

6 Now, therefore, be it known that the New  
7 York City Council gratefully honors the members of  
8 the NYPD Special Victims Division for their  
9 outstanding service to the city of New York and to  
10 the community at large. Melissa Mark-Viverito,  
11 Speaker for the Entire Council, Elizabeth Crowley,  
12 Council Member 30<sup>th</sup> District Queens, Karen Koslowitz,  
13 Council Member 29<sup>th</sup> District Queens, Eric A. Ulrich,  
14 Council Member 32<sup>nd</sup> District Queens, and Vanessa L.  
15 Gibson, Council Member 16<sup>th</sup> District the Bronx, and  
16 many other Council Members. [applause]

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: On behalf of this  
18 Council and all the members our Public Advocate and  
19 everyone here, thank you so much for the work that  
20 you do. Really to think about it, as you were  
21 hearing, I mean the incredible difficult work that  
22 this is and how attention to detail, but that with  
23 the courage to somehow be able to get the evidence  
24 that was able to help so many other women and he was  
25 being caught. But all of you in the terms of the

2 work that you do to keep us safe, and I think is  
3 stuff that particularly for women, you know, it  
4 really touches a nerve, but thank you for that, and  
5 for your dedication and for the work that you do each  
6 and every day, on our behalf and it really is great  
7 to hear. So, thank you for your—your work and  
8 leading this, Deputy Chief and would love to hear a  
9 few words from you as well. Thank you. [applause]

10 DEPUTY CHIEF OSGOOD: Hi. Once again,  
11 I'm Deputy Chief Michael Osgood. I have the  
12 privilege to command the NYPD Special Victims  
13 Division. The citizens of the city of New York have  
14 an elite group of detectives call the Special Victims  
15 Division. I thank the members of the City Council  
16 for honoring them today. For each day and every day  
17 and each not and every night, the detectives of the  
18 NYPD Special Victims Division enter into the deep of  
19 the night and cross the voids of danger to chase  
20 monsters. For the past five years the dedicated  
21 Special Victims Division Pattern Investigation Team  
22 worked contiguously to bring closure to six women who  
23 were sexually assaulted inside Forest Park. Those  
24 assaults occurred between March 2011 and August 2013.  
25 The investigative team conducted hundreds of

2 investigative steps, worked 12, 14, 16 hours a day.  
3 The key break in the case came when the victim of the  
4 March 2013 attack told detectives James Lopedis (sic)  
5 the lead detective on the case, Jamie is with us  
6 today, and Sergeant Kevin Hall, who is with us today,  
7 that she had grabbed a beer bottle out of the jacket  
8 pocket of the attacker. They—they, both Jimmy and  
9 Kevin had the presence of mind to have the victim, a  
10 very courageous person, return to the park and show  
11 us the location of the crime scene. Then members of  
12 the NYPD crime scene, who is here today, too, working  
13 in the cold of the park, and supported by  
14 criminalists of the NYPD Police Lab, they're here  
15 today, too, and supported by criminalists of the OCME  
16 working with scientific focus were able to develop a  
17 DNA profile from that beer bottle. So, we are able  
18 to stand here today and say the city of New York is  
19 safer from those who worked—from the work from those  
20 who stand before you. I thank them all. Thank you.  
21 [applause] [pause, applause, background comments]

22 CLERK: Ladies and gentlemen, can I have  
23 your attention please. Quiet on the floor please,  
24 quiet on the floor please. [gavel]

25 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet down.

2 CLERK: At this time please place all  
3 electronic devices, all electronic devices to  
4 vibrate. Will all non-Council employees, non-Council  
5 employees please leave the main floor of the  
6 Chambers. There is additional seating upstairs in  
7 the balcony. Thank you. Madam Public Advocate.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: May everyone  
9 please find a seat. If everyone, all the visitors  
10 could please find a seat that would be greatly  
11 appreciated. Quiet in the Chambers. May we all be  
12 quiet. All rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

13 CLERK: All right.

14 [Pledge of Allegiance]

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please be seated.

16 Roll call.

17 CLERK: Barron. Borelli.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Present.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I'm here.

20 CLERK: Cabrera. Chin.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

22 CLERK: Cohen.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.

24 CLERK: Constantinides. Cornegy.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Present.

2 CLERK: Crowley.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER COWLEY: Here.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Here.

5 CLERK: Deutsch.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.

7 CLERK: Dromm.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]

10 [shushing for quiet] Quiet down, please.

11 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet down.

12 CLERK: Espinal.

13 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Keep it

14 down, please. Keep it down.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Here.

16 CLERK: Eugene. Ferreras-Copeland.

17 Garodnick.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

19 CLERK: Gentile.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

21 CLERK: Thank you. Constantinides.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Here.

23 CLERK: Thank you. Gibson.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Here.

25 CLERK: Greenfield. Here.

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2 CLERK: Grodenchik.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Here.

4 CLERK: Johnson.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Here.

6 CLERK: Kallos.

7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Keep it  
8 down. Thank you.

9 CLERK: King. Koo.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

11 CLERK: Koslowitz.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

13 CLERK: Lancman.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Here.

15 CLERK: Lander.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

17 CLERK: Levin.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

19 CLERK: Levine.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]

22 [shushing for quiet]

23 CLERK: Maisel.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Here.

25

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Keep it  
3 down.

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

6 CLERK: Thank you. Mealy. Menchaca.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.

8 CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland Thank you.  
9 Mendez.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Present.

11 CLERK: Miller

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Present.

13 CLERK: Eugene.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

15 CLERK: Thank you. Palma. Perkins.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Presente.

17 CLERK: Reynoso.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Present.

19 CLERK: Kallos.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.

21 CLERK: Richards.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

23 CLERK: Koslowitz.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

25 CLERK: Rodriguez.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

3 CLERK: Rose.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

5 CLERK: Rosenthal.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

7 CLERK: Salamanca.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.

9 CLERK: Torres.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Present.

11 CLERK: Treyger.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

13 CLERK: Ulrich.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here. [laughter]

15 CLERK: Vacca.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Vacca.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

19 CLERK: Thank you. Vallone.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

21 CLERK: Williams.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

23 CLERK: Matteo.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.

25



2 CLERK: Van Bramer. Speaker Mark  
3 Viverito.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Here.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All quiet in the  
6 Chambers. All rise for the Invocation.

7 CLERK: All rise.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: The Invocation  
9 will be delivered by Bishop Joseph Northover, the  
10 Pastor of House of—House of God Miracle Center at 509  
11 East 78<sup>th</sup> Street in the great borough of Brooklyn.  
12 Quiet in the Chambers.

13 BISHOP JOSEPH NORTHOVER: Oh, God and  
14 dear Father, you are the God of man and there is none  
15 other. The covenant with us is cemented in your  
16 love, your care and your protective measures are most  
17 pronounced throughout your holy book. Words are not  
18 enough in expressing our gratitude and offering  
19 praise and thankful—just thankful to you for life,  
20 for health and for hope. You amaze us as you wrap  
21 our arms of love around us, and by our faith and  
22 prayers you have equipped us with everything for  
23 success and for your glory. You are the counselor of  
24 all ages, and have laid the foundation for rich  
25 inventions. You have impacted our lives in many ways

2 and different levels. We are know for our  
3 specialized areas, our expertise and to be versatile.  
4 For this we are thankful. We have done on behalf or  
5 ourselves and those we call to serve. Thus, we have  
6 been identified with something great than the agenda  
7 of one. As we collectively and will actively connect  
8 people to purpose. It is identified and confirmed  
9 that much has been accomplished relative to the  
10 purpose for which we exist. We have been so logistic  
11 focused and innovative. However, we have  
12 acknowledged our limitations and our grave  
13 inadequacies. In that we are finite, but thou, oh,  
14 God are infinite, but our abilities to succeed are  
15 hinged on the word of truth, your word that we can do  
16 all things to you, oh, God who strengthens us and  
17 that without faith it is impossible to please you,  
18 and that with you, God, all things are possible. We  
19 have become aware of the vision needed, the wisdom  
20 and the understanding to applied as we progress, as  
21 we invent, as we make possible in the quest of  
22 strengthening relationships, correcting errors,  
23 maintaining integrity, embracing ambitions and  
24 building bridges in the midst of threats, challenges  
25 and sometimes tragedies. But today, we are to be

2 reminded with you all that God of all things of all  
3 people and over every jurisdiction that you are the  
4 ancient of days and the ancients of ancients, but  
5 your ways are passed finding out and power is  
6 absolute. But there is no power above you, beside  
7 your or beyond you. Your kingdom remains from  
8 everlasting to everlasting. You have given us the  
9 wisdom, the knowledge, the understanding. You have  
10 allowed perceptions—perceptions and intrusion so we  
11 may serve well the cause with clarity, precision and  
12 deep commitment. May your wisdom and blessing be  
13 multiplied upon this Council now and forever. Amen.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Amen. Please be  
15 seated. A motion to spread the Invocation in full  
16 upon the record. Quiet in the Chambers, please.  
17 Quiet in the chambers.

18 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Keep it  
19 down.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]  
21 [shushing for quiet]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Madam Public  
23 Advocate.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member  
25 Maisel.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes I would like  
3 to move to spread the Invocation upon the full  
4 record.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: I also would like  
7 to welcome Bishop Northover to the Council and offer  
8 some remarks about his great record. Bishop Joseph  
9 Northover a 40-year gospel veteran, regional pastor  
10 and 12-year national evangelist of the Assemblies of  
11 God--

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]  
13 Excuse me, Council Member. May we have quiet in the  
14 Chambers out of respect for the Council Member?  
15 Please quiet down.

16 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down please.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: I apologize  
18 Council Member.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: --in Jamaica an  
20 international speaker, founder and presiding bishop  
21 of the Gods Delivers-Deliverance Force Crusaders,  
22 Incorporated in the USA and Jamaica and the East. He  
23 is also the Senior Pastor of the House of God Miracle  
24 Center, an arm of the God-God's Deliverance Force,  
25 Crusaders, Incorporation. He remains very effective

2 as an outstanding speaker for conventions, crusades,  
3 seminars including other significant area of  
4 ministry. He is noticeably gifted in delivering  
5 ministries, prayer for the sick and outreach  
6 ministries. His approach to the ministry is with  
7 wholesomeness, reverence and a deep commitment.  
8 Bishop Northover holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theology  
9 from Cannon (sp?) Theology University in the USA. He  
10 is married to Reverend Colleen Northover and is the  
11 father of their five children and welcome to the  
12 Council and thank you for your invocation.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Thank  
14 you Pastor. Adoption of Minutes.

15 CLERK: None.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Messages and  
17 Papers from the Mayor.

18 CLERK: None.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Communication  
20 from City, County and Borough Offices.

21 CLERK: Preconsidered M-535 submitting  
22 Michael Michael Rivadeneyra to the Civilian-Civilian  
23 Complaint Review Board.

24 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Rules, Privileges  
25 and Elections.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Petitions and  
3 Communications.

4 CLERK: None.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Land Use Call-  
6 ups.

7 CLERK: M-536 and M-537.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on Call-  
9 Up vote. Roll call.

10 CLERK: Barron.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. I'd  
12 just like to introduce my interns that are with me  
13 today.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I want to  
16 acknowledge that I'm joined today by-

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]  
18 [shushing for quiet]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: --by Bashon  
20 Harris who is now a high school senior at Edward R.  
21 Murrow High School. He's 17 and he hopes to become a  
22 video game designer [background comments] and I also  
23 have my intern Tequilla Colton who's 19 years old.  
24 She attends SUNY the College of Rockport and is  
25 interested in studying political science. Thank you.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And how do you  
3 vote?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

6 CLERK: Borelli.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: [background  
8 comments] Oh, aye.

9 CLERK: Chin.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

11 CLERK: Cohen.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

13 CLERK: Constantinides.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

15 CLERK: Cornegy.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

17 CLERK: Crowley.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER COWLEY: Aye.

19 CLERK: Deutsch.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

21 CLERK: Dromm.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye, and may I  
23 have permission to vote on all items on the General  
24 Order Calendar?

25

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member,  
3 at this point in time, I cannot honor that request.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Okay, thank you.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

6 CLERK: Eugene. Ferreras-Copeland.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: Aye.

8 CLERK: Garodnick.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]

11 [shushing for quiet]

12 CLERK: Gentile.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

14 CLERK: Gibson.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Aye. .

16 CLERK: Greenfield.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

18 CLERK: Grodenchik.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye.

20 CLERK: Johnson.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye.

22 CLERK: Kallos. King. Koo.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Madam Public

24 Advocate and may I use this opportunity to welcome my

25 interns?



2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Yeah. So, I'd like  
4 to welcome my interns from the Korean American  
5 Pacific Empowerment, also known as KAPE who are here  
6 to learn about the City Council and the experience  
7 local government in action. I would also like to  
8 thank their two mentors Julissa and Luzon (sp?) for  
9 their leadership, and I vote aye.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you.

12 CLERK: Eugene.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye

14 CLERK: Kallos.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

16 CLERK: Koslowitz.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I vote aye and  
18 also ask for permission to vote on all coupled  
19 general orders even though you're going to deny me.  
20 [laughter]

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, Council  
22 Member. Unfortunately I cannot honor that request.  
23 How-how do you vote?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I vote aye.

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

2 CLERK: Lancman.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

4 CLERK: Lander.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

6 CLERK: Levin.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Levin.

8 CLERK: Levine.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

10 CLERK: Maisel.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

12 CLERK: Menchaca.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: I vote aye.

14 CLERK: Mendez.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

16 CLERK: Miller

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Affirmative.

18 CLERK: Perkins.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Aye.

20 CLERK: Reynoso.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Welcoming my

22 wife Alana (sp?) Reynoso is here with us today. I

23 want vote aye.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

25 CLERK: Richards.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.

3 CLERK: Koslowitz.

4 CLERK: Rodriguez.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye..

6 CLERK: Rose.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

8 CLERK: Rosenthal.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.

10 CLERK: Salamanca.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye.

12 CLERK: Torres. Treyger.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.

14 CLERK: Ulrich.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

16 INTERN: Aye.

17 CLERK: Vacca.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

19 CLERK: Vallone.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here and aye.

21 CLERK: Williams.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Williams.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

24 CLERK: Speaker Mark Viverito.

25 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Today's Land Use  
3 Call-Ups are adopted by a vote of 39 in the  
4 affirmative and 0 in the negative, and I thank  
5 everyone for their cooperation. Quiet in the  
6 chambers as we now hear from the Speaker Melissa  
7 Mark-Viverito.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Madam  
9 Public Advocate good afternoon. Buenos Tardes to  
10 everyone. I want to begin by sharing with you all  
11 that today I came from a morning press conference  
12 with Acting Brooklyn District Eric Gonzales and I our  
13 Public Advocate was there as well. We were happy to  
14 announce the vacating over half a million old low-  
15 level and non-violent summons warrants, over 640,000  
16 summon warrants, [applause] which were dismissed  
17 today for individuals who have had no contact with  
18 the Criminal Justice System for over a decade.  
19 Hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers throughout  
20 Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan and the Bronx will now be  
21 empowered to live their lives freely and without fear  
22 of incarceration over a minor and distance offense.  
23 We're a city that believes in justice not in  
24 supporting a broken summons system, and by  
25 implementing criminal justice reform throughout the

2 city we'll take bigger steps everyday in doing just  
3 that. So, I want to thank all four of the involved  
4 district attorney officers as well as the Mayor's  
5 Office of Criminal Justice, the Office of Court  
6 Administration and, of course, our incredible  
7 legislative team here at the Council who have put so  
8 much work into this, and I thank each and every one  
9 of them. We've been working on this for years and  
10 we're now able to see the exceptional results of a  
11 truly tireless labor. So, for me and a good portion  
12 of our city's population thank you all so much. I  
13 also want to continue today by acknowledging some  
14 recent losses experienced by the City Council and  
15 those who serve it or have in the past. First, our  
16 condolences to Minority Leader Steve Matteo on the  
17 loss of his father, former NYPD Officer Phillip  
18 Matteo who passed away yesterday at the age of 72.  
19 Our thoughts are with you and your family, Steve, and  
20 those who served alongside Officer Matteo during this  
21 incredibly somber time. Andrew Sandler, the former  
22 Director of Community Affairs for Council Member Andy  
23 Cohen and former Council Member Oliver Koppell and  
24 recently District Manager or Community Board 7 in the  
25 Bronx passed away on Saturday after a months long

2 battle with cancer. He was only 31 and leaves behind  
3 a legacy of dedicated civil service. In our legacies  
4 of civil service Julia Harrison, former Council  
5 Member for the Borough of Queens died last Thursday  
6 at the age of 91. She served the Council and her  
7 neighborhood of Flushing diligently for 16 years and  
8 many terms, and holds the distinction of being the  
9 first woman to be elected to the District 19 seat in  
10 the Council and District 26 seat in the State  
11 Assembly. So, please join me in a moment of silence  
12 for these—for all these losses.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]  
14 Quiet in the Chambers. All rise. [moment of silence  
15 observed]

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, my  
17 colleagues. So, there where there is death there  
18 must also be life. So, with that in mind, I  
19 definitely hope everyone joins me and most of you  
20 already know, and congratulating Council Member  
21 Laurie Cumbo on the birth of her son Prince Noah.  
22 [cheers/applause] Maybe she's watching at home so we  
23 can all clap and, you know, and say congratulations  
24 Laurie. Who came into the world yesterday after what  
25 was reportedly 24 hours of labor. So,

2 congratulations to her. We're happy for you, Laurie,  
3 and can't wait to meet him, meet your son Prince when  
4 you return. So, we definitely will welcome her. And  
5 I'm sure you would rather we move onto to the  
6 legislative docket, and has left us only to return  
7 once before. I have to take the—I really want to  
8 thank Matt Gewolb for—the Legislative Director  
9 [cheers/applause/singing] So, Matt had left us once  
10 before and came back. Really want to—want to  
11 acknowledge him for all his work. It really has been  
12 personally a pleasure to have him on the team and to  
13 be here in the Council. He'll be joining the faculty  
14 of New York Law School. So, he won't be too far  
15 away. So from starting off at the Council to one  
16 committee to coming to oversee them all, Matt has  
17 been a consummate professional and the ultimate guide  
18 to the legal complexities of legislation for so many  
19 of us in this Chamber. I know he's walked me through  
20 many, many pieces of—of legislation that we've gone  
21 through—through our last request and everything.  
22 This Council has been a better body for your  
23 involvement Matt, and if you bring even half what  
24 you've given us over the year to the students at New  
25 York Law, we're definitely going to have great, fine

2 lawyers who probably will be hired here in the City  
3 Council at some point. So thank you. We wish you  
4 the best. I know that there's some parties happening  
5 and hopefully everybody will stop by and celebrate  
6 and share some stories about Matt, and what he's done  
7 on our behalf. So, thank you. Thank you, Matta.  
8 [applause]

9 Now, moving onto the agenda for today,  
10 the Council will begin by voting on two appointment  
11 to City Boards. I think we've already voted on them,  
12 and also vote on multiple land use items including  
13 the rezoning of Greater East Midtown, which comes  
14 after five years of negotiations between  
15 stakeholders, advocates and city officials. This  
16 sub-district represents a large portion of Council  
17 Member Garodnick's--

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]  
19 [shushing for quiet]

20 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: --district and  
21 comes as a result of his tireless work on the issue.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]  
23 [shushing for quiet]

24 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I want to ask him  
25 to say a few words. I know we will be limiting the



2 comments from members, but obviously this is an  
3 incredibly important rezoning for the city of New  
4 York working on it for so long. So, we'll ask  
5 Council Member Garodnick to say a few words.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank you very  
7 much, Madam Speaker for the opportunity on a busy  
8 day, and I'm very pleased that we are bringing the  
9 Greater East Midtown Rezoning Plan to the City  
10 Council for a vote. This is an important day for  
11 Midtown Manhattan, the city's most important business  
12 district, which delivers 10% of the city's property  
13 tax revenue today is going to get a jolt, an  
14 opportunity for renewal. As you know, we stopped a  
15 prior version of this plan in the City Council back  
16 in 2013 because it delivered a lot of certainty to  
17 the real estate world but far too little for the  
18 public. For a plan to work, we needed certainty all  
19 around, an opportunity for as-of-right development  
20 and a solid commitment for public improvements. In  
21 2014, Mayor de Blasio asked me and the Borough  
22 President Gale Brewer to bring together local  
23 stakeholders to develop a new plan. The East Midtown  
24 Steering Committee met 19 times over the course of a  
25 year, engaged in many hours of intense discussion and

2 produced a report that laid out a plan for this  
3 rezoning. The Department of City Planning then took  
4 that blueprint and turned it into this rezoning  
5 proposal. The formal proposal presented by the  
6 department largely tracked the steering committee's  
7 recommendations. In short, the plan allows bigger  
8 development near subway stations all around East  
9 Midtown, and allows for density to be earned by doing  
10 transit improvements. This is certainly the right  
11 place to put lots of new density, near Grand Central  
12 Terminal one of our most important regional hubs. It  
13 permits landmarks in the area to transfer their air  
14 rights throughout the district rather than only next  
15 door or across the street, and it permits overbuilt  
16 buildings to rebuild for the current floor area  
17 without having to retain 25% of their building as the  
18 current zoning requires. And for the public, well,  
19 we are going to see significant and certain benefits  
20 to the public realm. First, developments that are  
21 located in transit zones will be required to do  
22 certain improvements to the subway stations. The  
23 list of transit improvements is baked right into the  
24 zoning resolution. So, they will be done as  
25 buildings go up. This list includes things like new

2 entrances, stair widenings, new elevators, and so on.  
3 The bigger the item the more floor area it can  
4 generate for a developer, and the building cannot be  
5 occupied until the associated transit improvement is  
6 complete and ready for use. I think that's worth  
7 repeating, which is you can't occupy the building  
8 until the transit improvements are done. Second,  
9 every air rights transfer from a landmark will be  
10 required to make a contribution into a public realm  
11 fund, which will support the creation of new open  
12 spaces in East Midtown. The contribution will be  
13 the greater of 20% of the sale price or a minimum  
14 contribution per square foot. Not only that, but  
15 many of the development sites will be required  
16 themselves to provide public open spaces on their  
17 sites. In addition, the city has agreed to commit  
18 \$50 million today to activate a number of open space  
19 improvements like shared streets and public plazas.  
20 That means that we will be prepared even before  
21 workers from new buildings hit these East Midtown  
22 streets. We're going to see some exciting new spaces  
23 and we're going to see them soon, and we made sure  
24 that the height and setback rules for these new  
25 buildings would stand allow an appropriate amount of

2 light and air to get down to the streets. After all,  
3 our goal is to improve East Midtown not simply keep  
4 it as is. I want to thank the many people that have  
5 contributed to bringing this undertaking to fruition.  
6 Borough President Gale Brewer is a great friend and  
7 partners and it was a pleasure co-chairing the  
8 Steering Committee with her as well as to coordinate  
9 closely throughout ULURP. Each and every member of  
10 the Steering Committee took significant time away  
11 from their day jobs to engage in the discussions that  
12 laid the groundwork for this plan. The able team of  
13 city agencies led by City Planning Chair Marisa Lago  
14 and her team as well as her predecessor Carl Weisbrod  
15 with important assists from the Department of  
16 Transportation and the MTA putting countless hours of  
17 hard work to convert the steering committee's  
18 blueprints into a formal proposal. Deputy Mayor  
19 Alicia Glen came through with critical commitments  
20 that took the plan over the finish line, and, of  
21 course the City Council's Land Use Team and my own  
22 staff worked tireless to-worked tirelessly to advise  
23 and amend the proposal. I am grateful to all of them.  
24 I am thrilled that this project is successfully  
25 coming to a close, and look forward to seeing the

2 revitalized East Midtown that it will bring. Thank  
3 you again Madam Speaker, Chair Greenfield, Chair  
4 Richards and to my colleagues. I encourage you to  
5 vote yes. Thank you very much.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you Council  
7 Member. Congratulations a lot of—lot of work that  
8 went into that. On the legislative side the Council  
9 will be voting on two preconsidered finances. I  
10 know—I see the staff running around, and I hope you  
11 do find that screeching little noise that's bothering  
12 us. I think that's what you're looking for, right?

13 MALE SPEAKE: Yes, we are.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [laughs] There's  
15 a buzzing. I know people here it. I hear it. It's  
16 annoying. So, thank you for that. So, Introduction  
17 1677 introduced by Finance Julissa Ferreras-Copeland  
18 would extend 30 cent surcharge on wireless  
19 communications service and impose a new 30 cent  
20 surcharge on prepaid wireless communication service  
21 both of which would go toward supporting public  
22 safety communications networks serving the city.

23 Introduction 1676 sponsored by Council  
24 Member Chaim Deutsch would increase the income  
25 eligibility threshold for the Senior Citizen

2 Homeowner's Exemption and the Disabled Homeowner's  
3 Exemption from \$37,400 to \$58,000. For staff I want  
4 to thank Latonia McKinney, Ray Majewski, Emre Edev,  
5 Paul Stern, David Winslow, Eric Bernstein and Rebecca  
6 Chasen. Moving on, the Council will be voting on  
7 three major legislative packages today. In the  
8 interest of time, I'm going to be summarizing these  
9 packages, and then obviously when they vote the  
10 members will be speaking on their items, as well, so  
11 if they choose to do so. The first package steered  
12 by our Committee on Health and sponsored by Council  
13 Members Johnson, Lander, Cabrera, Vacca and Torres  
14 would regulate the sale and consumption of cigarettes  
15 and other tobacco products throughout New York City.  
16 We achieve this by establishing a 10% tax on tobacco  
17 products other than cigarettes, increasing the  
18 minimum prices for a pack of cigarettes from \$10.50  
19 to \$13.00, increasing the licensing fee for the sale  
20 of cigarettes and decreasing the number of licenses  
21 available and prohibiting the sale of tobacco  
22 products in pharmacies among several other elements  
23 of the package. Smoking is still a major public  
24 health crisis to overcome in our city and around the  
25 world, and I applaud the members of this Council for

2 their initiative in making New York City a leader in  
3 creating a smoke free future. I want to thank Matt  
4 Gewolb, David Seitzer and Crystal Pond for their work  
5 on these bills.

6           The next two packages along with the  
7 related item are comprised of a total of 18 bills  
8 related to regulating construction practices in  
9 occupied multiple dwellings preventing tenant  
10 harassment and offering additional remedies to  
11 victims of tenant harassment. Sponsored by Council  
12 Members Chin, Garodnick, Kallos, Levine, Reynoso,  
13 Mendez, Rosenthal. The Stand for Tenant Safety Act  
14 addresses the issues of unscrupulous landlords  
15 creating hazardous construction conditions to push  
16 tenants out of their homes. Alongside Introduction  
17 1523-A, which creates an Office of the Tenant  
18 Advocate within the Department of Buildings this  
19 package of 11 bills will be sure that tenants are  
20 safe in their dwellings while construction is going  
21 on in their buildings and that they have resources  
22 available to them during such construction.  
23 Additionally, this package will ensure that  
24 contractors will engage in construction work without  
25 required permits or who violate stop work orders are

2 held accountable for their actions. On staff I want  
3 to thank Guillermo Patino, Megan Chin, Jose Conde,  
4 Sarah Gastelum, Emre Edez, Jim Wilcox and Ed Adkin.  
5 Separate from the larger Department of Buildings  
6 package is Introduction 1133-A sponsored by Council  
7 Member Jimmy Vacca, which would require the DOB to  
8 withhold building permits for certain properties,  
9 which owe \$25,000 or more in unpaid charges to the  
10 city. I want to thank Guillermo Patino, Megan Chin,  
11 Jose Conde, Sarah Gastelum and Jim Wilcox for their  
12 work on that bill. And our final legislative package  
13 was first announced in my February State of the City  
14 Address and further contributes to ending the  
15 practice of unscrupulous landlords harassing tenants  
16 out of their homes by empowering the legal remedies  
17 available to residents. This legislation would  
18 significantly expand harassments protections for  
19 tenants by easing the burden of proof in certain  
20 harassment cases, preventing landlords from visiting  
21 or contacting tenants at odd hours without prior  
22 consent and allowing victims harassment to recover  
23 damages and reasonable attorney fees. I want to  
24 thank Megan Chink, Guillermo Patino, Jose Conde,  
25 Sarah Gastelum, Ed Adkin and Jim Wilcox. We cannot



2 reverse many of the actions taken against tenants in  
3 the past, but with these legislative packages the  
4 Council takes a major step forward in protecting  
5 these individuals in the future. So, I look forward  
6 to your votes on all of these items detailed today,  
7 and I want to thank you all so much, and with that, I  
8 end communication form the Speaker.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Discussion of  
10 General Orders. Seeing non, Report of Special  
11 Committees.

12 CLERK: None.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reports of  
14 Standing Committees?

15 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
16 Consumer Affairs Intro 1648-A, Office of Nightlife.

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
18 coupled on General Orders.

19 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
20 Finance Preconsidered Intro 1676 Senior Citizen and  
21 Disable Homeowner's exemptions.

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

24 CLERK: Preconsidered Intro 1677,  
25 Wireless Communication Surcharge.

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on General  
3 Orders.

4 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Fire  
5 and Criminal Justice Services, Intro 135-A response  
6 times for firefighter units on page 3.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]  
8 [shushing for quiet]

9 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and laid  
10 over.

11 CLERK: Report of the Committee of the  
12 Committee on Health Intro Nos. 484-A, 1131-B, 1471-A,  
13 1532-A, 1544-B, 1547-A and 1584-A regarding  
14 cigarettes and tobacco products.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
16 coupled on General Orders.

17 CLERK: Report of the committee on  
18 Housing and Buildings, Intro 347-B, Harassment of  
19 Tenants.

20 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
21 coupled on General Orders.

22 CLERK: Intro 918-A, Intro 924-A, 926-A  
23 regarding construction work and vacate orders.

24 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
25 coupled on General Orders.

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2 CLERK: Intro 930-A distressed building  
3 subject to foreclosure.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
5 coupled on General Orders.

6 CLERK: Intro 931-B, Building Violations.

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
8 coupled on General Orders.

9 CLERK: Intro 936-A, Tenant Protection  
10 Plans.

11 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
12 coupled on General Orders.

13 CLERK: Intros 938-A, 939-A and 940-A and  
14 944-A construction work permits.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
16 coupled on General Orders.

17 CLERK: Intro 960-A Construction Bill of  
18 Rights.

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
20 coupled on General Orders.

21 CLERK: Intro Nos. 1133-A and 1523-A  
22 Department of Buildings and Permits.

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
24 coupled on General Orders.

25

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2 CLERK: Intro Nos. 1530-A, 1548-A, 1549-  
3 A, and 1556-A on page 6, Tenant Harassment.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
5 coupled on General Orders.

6 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land  
7 Use, LU Nos. 691 and 692 Special Midtown District.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Approved with  
9 modifications and referred to the City Planning  
10 Commission pursuant to Rule 11.70 of the Rules of the  
11 Council, and Section 9-197-d of the New York City  
12 Charter.

13 CLERK: Excuse me.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Wait.

15 CLERK: LU 694—excuse me. LU 694 and Reso  
16 1606, Disposition of City-Owned Property.

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled to be  
18 filed pursuant to a letter of withdrawal.

19 CLERK: LU 695 and Reso 1607 and 696 and  
20 Reso 1608 Zoning Amendments.

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled to be  
22 filed pursuant to letter of withdrawal.

23 CLERK: LU 697 and Reso 1609 through LU  
24 699 and Reso 1611 East Gunhill Road.

25

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Couple to be  
3 filed pursuant to a letter of withdrawal.

4 CLERK: LU Nos. 700 through LU 703 on  
5 page 9, Zoning Amendments.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: 703. Approved  
7 with modifications and referred to the City Planning  
8 Commission pursuant to Rule 1170-B of the Rules of  
9 the Council and Section 197-D of the New York City  
10 Charter.

11 CLERK: LU (coughs) excuse—LU 712 and  
12 Reso 1612, unenclosed sidewalk café.

13 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Motion to  
14 disprove.

15 CLERK: LU 713 and Reso 1613 and LU 714  
16 and Reso 1614 sidewalk cafes.

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

19 CLERK: LU 714 and Reso 1615 Special  
20 Hudson Yards District.

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

23 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Rules,  
24 Privileges and Elections M 524 and Reso 1616

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2 approving the appointment by the Mayor of Nasr O.  
3 Sheta the Board of Standards and Appeals.

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

6 CLERK: Preconsidered M 545 and Reso 1617  
7 approving the resignation of Michael Rivadeneyra,  
8 Civilian Complaint Review Board.

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

11 CLERK: On the General Order Calendar LU  
12 6912 and Reso 1618 and 692 and Reso 1619 Zoning  
13 Amendments.

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

16 CLERK: Resolution appointing various  
17 persons commissioner of deeds.

18 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
19 General Orders, and I ask for a roll call vote on all  
20 General Orders.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Before we begin  
22 the General, can we have Council Member Costa  
23 Constantinides how do you vote?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

25

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you and  
3 Council Member Koslowitz, how do you vote?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I vote way.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Back  
6 to the calendar. Oh, and Council Member Dromm I  
7 believe asked to vote earlier as well.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: I vote aye.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

10 CLERK: Barron.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Permission to  
12 make a quick announcement.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Madam  
15 Public Advocate.

16 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Keep it  
17 down, please. Keep it down.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Just before I  
19 cast my vote, I do want to announce to everybody here  
20 that this weekend my mother will be celebrating her  
21 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. [cheers/applause] So, I wanted to let  
22 everybody know, 95, yes. So, I've got information  
23 about the celebration and you're all invited to come.  
24 I vote aye on all.

25 CLERK: Borelli.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye on all  
3 except 347, 484, 918, 1471, 1523, 1530, 1532, 1544,  
4 1547, 1548, 1648 and 1677. Did you get all that? It  
5 was a lot. Thank you. [background comments]

6 CLERK: Chin.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Permission to  
8 explain my vote.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes. Quiet in the  
10 Chambers, please.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN:

12 CLERK: Quiet, please.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Today, we are going  
14 to vote on Intro 918-A, legislation that ensures  
15 greater accountability over the Department of  
16 Buildings Self-Certification process. This bill  
17 along with its companion bills and the Stand for  
18 Tenant Safety package will stop bad landlords from  
19 using construction as harassment to displace and  
20 evict our tenants. Intro 918-A is the first line of  
21 defense for tenants by requiring in the DOB to  
22 institute limits on self-certification to landlords  
23 with a history of harassment. Tenants have a new  
24 weapon in our arsenal to fight harassment and stop  
25 the noise, the cloud dust, the damage to people's



2 homes before it even starts. I wanted to thank first  
3 my partners on this legislation Council Member  
4 Menchaca. I want to thank our Speaker and the Chair  
5 of our Housing and Buildings, Council Member Jumaane  
6 Williams and Ramon Latinas (sp?) for their leadership  
7 on this bill, but I also want to give a big thank you  
8 to all the tenants and all the advocates from the  
9 Stand for Tenant Safety Coalition [applause]. In  
10 particular-

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing] No  
12 applauses.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: --Brandon Kielbasa  
14 from Cooper Square Committee who was always there by  
15 our side giving us counsel throughout the process,  
16 and lastly, I wanted thank all of the Council staff  
17 who worked on this bill: Megan Chin, Jim Wilcox,  
18 Guillermo Patino, Sarah Massey from the Progressive  
19 Caucus and my former Housing Director Stephanie Tang  
20 who started this process, and my current Deputy Chief  
21 of Staff and Legislative Director Vincent Phang (sp?)  
22 for seeing it through, and I urge my colleagues to  
23 vote for the whole package. Thank you and I vote aye  
24 on all.

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

2 CLERK: Cohen.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

4 CLERK: Cornegy.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I vote aye on  
6 all except 1131 and 1547 on which I abstain.

7 CLERK: Crowley.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [off mic]

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

10 CLERK: Deutsch.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: May I say a few  
12 words?

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Thank you.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]  
16 [shushing for quiet]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Today, we are  
18 voting on Intro 1676, which will take an important  
19 step towards easing some of the financial burdens  
20 that our—many of our seniors and disabled homeowners  
21 face. By raising the maximum income of the Senior  
22 Citizen Homeowner Exemption and the Disabled  
23 Homeowner Exemption to \$58,400, tens of thousands of  
24 additional New Yorkers will be able to qualify for a  
25 property tax breakoff up to 50% and few—fewer seniors

2 will be forced to choose between paying those or  
3 paying for basic essentials. I want to thank Mayor  
4 de Blasio for his collaboration on this bill as well  
5 as my state colleagues Assembly Brian Kavanaugh and  
6 Senator Diane Savino for their part in passing this  
7 legislation on the state level. I encourage my  
8 colleagues to continue to vote in favor of Intro  
9 1676. Thank you.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: And I vote aye.

12 CLERK: Eugene.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.

14 CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: I vote  
16 aye.

17 CLERK: Garodnick.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

19 CLERK: Gentile.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

21 CLERK: Gibson.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I vote aye.

23 CLERK: Greenfield.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: May I briefly  
25 explain my vote?

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I just want  
4 to congratulate the entire team, and it really was an  
5 amazing team effort on the Midtown East Rezoning led  
6 by Council Member Dan Garodnick along with the assist  
7 from the Borough President Gale Brewer, the  
8 outstanding Land Use Committee staff and I really  
9 believe when folks ask how is the land use process  
10 supposed to work, this is how it works. It's  
11 transparent and it's collaborative. There were 20  
12 meetings, and the results are really outstanding  
13 including the concession that the Council Member  
14 managed to secure from the Deputy Mayor with is a \$50  
15 million initial investment to start improving the  
16 public spaces. So, I want to thank all of them. I  
17 want to congratulate the Speaker for her work here as  
18 well, for the project in her district, and I am  
19 please to vote aye on and we'll certain miss Matt  
20 Gewolb who is literally both a gentleman and a  
21 scholar.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

23 CLERK: Grodenchik.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: With my  
25 condolences to Steve Matteo on the loss of his

2 father, congratulations to Laurie Cumbo on the birth  
3 of Prince Noah. I'm happy to vote aye on all. I  
4 want to thank all my colleagues for voting yes on  
5 1676, which will greatly ease the burden on many of  
6 my constituents in Eastern Queens. Thank you.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

8 CLERK: Kallos.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Permission to  
10 explain my vote.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: The Stand for  
13 Tenant Safety Coalition is a citywide alliance of  
14 grassroots tenant organizations, the legal services  
15 groups who collaborate with the City Council. The  
16 members of the Progressive Caucus worked hard to  
17 write a thoughtful package of legislation that takes  
18 on tenant harassment to neglect or never ending  
19 construction. Under current status quo, landlords  
20 with three or fewer units who have unpaid violations  
21 for explicitly hazardous conditions in their building  
22 can currently end up with a tax lien and have their  
23 properties transferred to a responsible landlord.  
24 Unfortunately, this leaves landlords of larger  
25 buildings able to neglect rent regulated affordable

2 housing in an effort to force tenants out by accruing  
3 thousands of violations that are deemed not hazardous  
4 like holes in your walls or ceilings to make life a  
5 living hell without much recompense from the city.  
6 As Chair of the Committee on Governmental Operations,  
7 I'm focused on ensuring that when the city issues  
8 violations that landlords actually improve quality of  
9 life. If a landlord won't fix problems, then the  
10 city should step in and find a landlord who will.  
11 Introduction 931 expands the definition of distressed  
12 property from small buildings to apply to buildings  
13 of any size and sets a thresholds so the city can use  
14 its foreclosure power to force landlords to make  
15 necessary repairs and pay or place the building into  
16 a third-party transfer program and hand them off to a  
17 responsible owner. Introduction 930 expands which  
18 violations can be counted towards a distressed  
19 property and subject to tax liens from just hazardous  
20 conditions to all quality of life violations like  
21 broken elevators, stairwells, boilers and radiators  
22 as well as plumbing and electrical issues. This will  
23 finally mean that affordable housing can no longer go  
24 neglected without landlords being forced to pay and  
25 make repairs or turn the building over to the city

2 and a responsible landlord. As Vice Chair for Policy  
3 of the Progressive Caucus, I'm proud to have made  
4 tenant subsidy a priority, and with nearly three  
5 years of advocacy we're at the finish line. Thank  
6 you to Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Housing and  
7 Buildings Chair Jumaane Williams for leading this  
8 Council in support of our city's tenants and, of  
9 course, to our tenants upstairs. So, thank you for  
10 making this happen. I vote aye.

11 CLERK: Council Member Johnson.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Madam Public  
13 Advocate, I'd like to explain my vote. (coughs)

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Despite all the  
16 progress our city has made in curbing smoking,  
17 tobacco use kills an estimated 12,000 New Yorkers a  
18 year. In the United States smoking is responsible  
19 for about one in five deaths annually, or 443,000  
20 deaths per year. This is unacceptable. The package  
21 of legislation that the Council is voting on today  
22 will result in thousands of fewer New Yorkers getting  
23 hooked tobacco and I understand the difficulty of  
24 that, and will incentivize thousand more to quit. My  
25 bills would establish a 10% tax and tobacco products

2 and new cigarettes, the proceeds of which we directed  
3 to public housing as well increasing the minimum  
4 price for a pack of cigarettes from \$10.50 to \$13.00  
5 and increasing the fee for a license to sell  
6 cigarettes from \$110 for a 2-year license to \$200.  
7 From taking tobacco products out of pharmacies to  
8 limiting the number of licenses issued, this package  
9 of bills will undoubtedly save tens of thousands of  
10 lives. As someone who struggles personally with  
11 Nicotine addiction, I know first hand the grip that  
12 this substance can have on our lives. We also know  
13 that together we can loosen its grip and win this  
14 battle against big tobacco. I'd like thank the  
15 Speaker and my colleagues in the Council for their  
16 creative and encumbering-encompassing solutions within  
17 this package of legislation. Commissioner Dr. Mary  
18 Bassett and the Department of Health and Mental  
19 Hygiene for being an exceptional partner in our work  
20 to improve the lives of our citizens and to Mayor de  
21 Blasio for leading our city and our country in  
22 progressive policies that favor people over products.  
23 I want to thank Council Members Landers, Torres,  
24 Richards, Vacca, Cabrera and am I leaving anyone out?  
25 Gentile anyone who had a bill in this package and in



2 my last 15 seconds I want to thank everyone for  
3 working on this package of legislation for tenant  
4 safety. It's a huge issue—issue in my district. We  
5 need to pass these bills. It's a very big win and I  
6 proudly vote aye on all items on the agenda today.  
7 Thank you.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

9 CLERK: Koo.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: My I speak and  
11 explain my vote, Madam Public—Public Advocate?

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Yeah, because I'm a  
14 pharmacy owner I will be abstaining from Intro 1131-B  
15 and the rest I will vote yes.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

17 CLERK: Lancman.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye on all  
19 except 1471-A and 1544-B.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

21 CLERK: Lander.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Request  
23 permission to explain my vote.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you Madam  
3 Public Advocate. I want to follow Chair Johnson and  
4 thank him in celebrating this package of bills, which  
5 will really save thousands of lives. We're doing a  
6 lot of important things in this Council this summer--

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]  
8 [shushing for quiet]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: --but this  
10 package of bills I believe will save tens of  
11 thousands of people's lives in the year to come by  
12 helping people quit smoking and making sure more  
13 young people don't start. My two bills in the  
14 packing aim to reduce the number of places that  
15 tobacco products are sold because substantial data  
16 shows that young people are far more likely to start  
17 smoking when there's ready access in places that they  
18 frequent. 1131 will prohibit the sale of tobacco  
19 products in pharmacies. The overwhelming number of  
20 independently owned pharmacies do not sell tobacco  
21 products and none of them came here asking us to  
22 change this bill. CVS has stopped selling it. So,  
23 we're really talking about big chain drug stores  
24 helping people get hooked on something that will kill  
25 them. 1547 will over time reduce by half the number

2 or retail outlets that sell tobacco products, and I  
3 want to be clear we worked very closely with bodega  
4 and retail and small business owners and franchisees  
5 to make sure that they would not be harmed that if  
6 they're in good standing they can transfer their  
7 licenses when they sell their businesses. They  
8 actually had a wonderful meeting with the Yememi  
9 Bodega Owners Association who came together after  
10 the--the--the Yemeni bodega strike, and as a result  
11 there are changes we made to this bill, and the help  
12 of Dr. Debbie Almontaser. They're supporting the  
13 package. So, we're doing really very powerful here.  
14 Big thank yous to Dave Seitzer for tremendous work on  
15 this legislation, to Commissioner Bassett and  
16 Assistant Commissioner Sam Miller who is here with  
17 us, to my Policy Director Annie Levers for a lot of  
18 good work on this package and also to tremendous  
19 advocates from the American Heart and Lung  
20 Association and other organizations. Big congrats to  
21 Council Member Garodnick on East Midtown to all the  
22 Stand for Tenant Safety Council Members and advocates  
23 and Matt Gewolb it is a big loss. You have made this  
24 body a more thoughtful, more deliberative body and

2 the city a better place. Thank you. I vote aye on  
3 all.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

5 CLERK: Levin.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Permission to  
7 explain my vote.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you very  
10 much Madam Public Advocate. First, I'd like to offer  
11 my condolences to my colleague Steve Matteo on the  
12 loss of his father, and offer my congratulations to  
13 my colleague Laurie Cumbo on the birth of her son  
14 Prince Noah. I'm very excited for Laurie, and with  
15 regard—oh, and—and Matt Gewolb. Thank you Matt for  
16 working with—with my office so diligently these last  
17 several years. So, you will be missed here at the  
18 Council. Thank you, Matt and with regards to  
19 legislation, I'm going to vote aye on all with the  
20 exception of 1544 where I would like to vote no.  
21 With regard to that bill, as somebody who smoked for  
22 a long time, you know, I—I'm familiar with how  
23 difficult it is to quit, and for those people that  
24 continue to smoke, the economic burden to—to increase  
25 that economic burden on—on those people that continue

2 to smoke that may not have that type of disposable  
3 income I think makes it disproportionately affecting  
4 people of low income, and—and hitting them in their  
5 pocket books, and while nobody should smoke and  
6 everybody should quit, that might not be the case for  
7 a lot of people and—and so obviously we want to make  
8 sure that young people don't start smoking limiting  
9 the number of licenses, the availability of tobacco  
10 products are all good things, but with this  
11 particular bill I think that it would  
12 disproportionately affect people with low income.

13 CLERK: With regard to the STS  
14 legislation, I want to congratulate all of my  
15 colleagues on their legislation that they're passing  
16 today. I want to thank the entire STS Coalition and  
17 there is one bill that's part of the STS package that  
18 is not passing today. It's 934 Real Time  
19 enforcement, of which I'm the main sponsor. We're  
20 still negotiating that legislation. I promise you  
21 that we will continue to work on it and hope to have  
22 that bill ready for passage in the very, very near  
23 future. So, but congratulations on today. Keep the  
24 faith. We will—we will I believe get 944 passed in  
25 the very near future. So, thank you very much, and

2 than you very much Madam Public Advocate and our  
3 Speaker.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Permission to  
6 very briefly explain my vote, Madam Public Advocate.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you. I  
9 want to express my gratitude to all those who have  
10 helped us bring to fruition today two bills that  
11 protect tenants. Intro 936, which protects tenants  
12 through construction protection plans where there are  
13 potentially harmful renovations done in my building  
14 and Intro 1548, which protects tenants against  
15 harassment from off hours door knocks by aggressive  
16 landlords. These bill would not have been possible  
17 without the incredible work of the STS Coalition and  
18 great work by our Legislative Team including Faiza  
19 Malik, Guillermo Patino, Megan Chin, Jim Wilcox, and  
20 of course, my own Amy Slattery. Thanks to all for  
21 the work on this and I will be voting aye on all.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

23 CLERK: Maisel.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Aye on all. (sic)

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

2 CLERK: Menchaca.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Permission to  
4 explain my vote.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you,  
7 Madam Public Advocate. I want to thank the Speaker  
8 and Chair Jumaane Williams for really helping  
9 shepherd the entire vanguard of bills for this Stand  
10 for Tenant Safety package and all the coalition  
11 members here with us today. I also just want to lift  
12 the voices of all the people that have been working  
13 on this on the ground, residents in our neighborhoods  
14 speaking all languages, English, Arabic, Chinese  
15 languages or dialects like Mandarin and—and Cantonese  
16 and Spanish. There are the members in our community  
17 that have built these pieces of legislation that are  
18 now—

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]  
20 [shushing for quiet]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: --celebrating  
22 this victory giving so much more power to tenants to  
23 fight back against gentrification, and specifically  
24 the harassment and the bullying that's happening in  
25 our neighborhoods. I represent Sunset Park and I'm

2 so proud to be standing here today with them behind  
3 us making sure that we continue with this. The fight  
4 is not over. We're going to continue to evolve and  
5 as these landlords continue to harass our people but  
6 we will be there, and as a Sanctuary City that we are  
7 and the promise that everyday we're going to get  
8 better at doing that work around sanctuary, these  
9 bill make that happen not what or where you live or  
10 what immigration status you—you have, you are  
11 protected by the city of New York thanks to this City  
12 Council and all the advocates here today. Thank you  
13 so much and I vote aye on all.

14 CLERK: Mendez.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Permission to  
16 explain my vote.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I vote aye on all  
19 and I will abstain on 1648-A. While we made some  
20 changes to the bill, I do believe we should have  
21 really designated more community board member  
22 representation to—to the Nightlife Board. I also  
23 abstain on Intro 1547-A. I'm having some concerns  
24 about small businesses, and I want to welcome my  
25 sister-in-law Delores to the floor of the City



2 Council on this very important day where we are  
3 passing a lot of legislation particularly the Stand  
4 for Tenant Safety Act, and all the different bills  
5 that we're passing today including 960, my bill, the  
6 Construction Bill of Rights, which will keep tenants  
7 informed when construction is happening in their  
8 buildings and go a long way to keep tenants informed  
9 and to make buildings safer. Thank you very much.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you and  
11 welcome.

12 CLERK: Miller.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: My condolences to  
14 Council Member Matteo on the passing of his father  
15 and certainly my congratulations to my colleague  
16 Laurie Cumbo on the birth of her son Prince and to  
17 Matt Congratulations. We will miss you. I will  
18 vote-be voting aye on all except for 1544. I'll be  
19 voting no.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

21 CLERK: Perkins.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Aye on all.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

24 CLERK: Reynoso.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Permission to  
3 explain my vote.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Thank you. In  
6 the package of bills that we have come to call the  
7 STS, or Stand for Tenant Safety represent a truly  
8 bottom-up way of legislating. I've been proud to be  
9 one of their champions. At the beginning of this  
10 term a coalition of housing advocates from across the  
11 city came to me to let me know about a disturbing  
12 trend that they were seeing in their neighborhoods.  
13 Unscrupulous landlords using constructions as a means  
14 to harass regulated tenants and remove them from  
15 their homes. I knew that this was—that this was  
16 rampant in my district where we had one high profile  
17 case at 98 Linden that actually resulted in criminal  
18 charges and arrest against the landlords. What the  
19 advocates saw was the same patterns repeated all over  
20 the city in neighborhoods where the real estate  
21 market is hot from Bushwick all the way to the Lower  
22 East Side. They brought together a coalition of  
23 members whose districts were affected and created a  
24 robust platform of reforms through the Department of  
25 Buildings to help address this issues. I'm s proud to

2 stand here today as a member of this coalition to  
3 pass these three transformative bills. It is our—it  
4 is our hope that they will improve the quality of  
5 life for tenants in all neighborhoods. The three  
6 boroughs that I am sponsoring, require increased  
7 oversight of construction contractors who have  
8 engaged in work without required permit increasing  
9 the penalties for work without a permit and  
10 increasing the penalties for violation of a stop work  
11 order. I want to thank a number of people with whom  
12 this would have not been possible: The STS  
13 Coalition. [Speaking Spanish] Saint Nicholas, La  
14 Sudas, Brooklyn Legal Services, Uno. I want to  
15 thank—thank several members: Justine, Brandon  
16 Kielbasa of the Cooper Park Square Committee—Cooper  
17 Square Committee and Hernando Guzman of Saint Nick's  
18 Alliance and Barbara Schlitt, who is also here from  
19 La Sudas and I saw Marty Needelman from Brooklyn  
20 Legal Services Corporation A, who in addition to be  
21 great advocates and organizers spent lots of time  
22 with us crafting and revising the language. And most  
23 importantly, I want to thank my Legislative Director  
24 Lacey Talbot for all her hard work, the Legislative  
25 Drafting team who let us do a package of bills way

2 before we knew how to make that work and they include  
3 Laura Popa, Megan Chin, Guillermo Patino, and finally  
4 to the Progressive Caucus Director is here, and our  
5 intern Michael Crowe who did a tremendous amount of  
6 work at the end to help us get this over the finish  
7 line, and with that I vote aye on all. Gracias.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank.

9 CLERK: Council Member Greenfield.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you. I  
11 did actually just want to revise my vote on 1544.  
12 Now, I share the same concerns as Council Member  
13 Levin that folks who unfortunately are addicted and  
14 don't have a way out, and any folks who are low-  
15 income smoke, and I think it will hurt them and,  
16 therefore, unbalanced. It's a great package, but I'm  
17 going to vote on 1544. Thanks.

18 CLERK: Richards.

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

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: First I'd like  
23 to congratulate Council Member Dan Garodnick and also  
24 Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer and the  
25 Steering committee on all their work that went into

2 the East Midtown Rezoning. They showed true  
3 leadership in negotiating this bill that will result  
4 in the resurgence of the iconic East Midtown Business  
5 District. This rezoning will finally tap into true  
6 potential of this neighborhood and deliver transit  
7 improvements, office space, high quality public  
8 spaces and preserve historic landmarks. This has  
9 been a long time coming, but the wait was worth it as  
10 this district will feel the benefits of this plan for  
11 decades to come especially with the transportation  
12 crisis that this city is facing in this day and age.  
13 I'd like to thank also Deputy Mayor Alicia Glen, City  
14 Planning, the East Midtown Steering Committee, our  
15 Land Use Staff, more importantly Raju Mann, Dylan  
16 Casey, Julie Lubin, and Amy Levitan. I would also  
17 like to congratulate Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito on  
18 three new schools coming into East Harlem and—and  
19 also much needed affordable—affordable housing that  
20 will be coming in with no city subsidy attached to it  
21 as well. I'd like to also congratulate the Stand for  
22 Tenant Safety bill. My colleagues who sponsored  
23 bills in this package, the STS Coalition. I'd like  
24 to also congratulate Matt Gewolb on—on his new  
25 endeavors and Ms. Reynoso on her incoming bundle of

2 joy, Laurie Cumbo and send my condolences to Steve  
3 Matteo on the loss of his father. With that, I vote  
4 aye on all.

5 CLERK: Rodriguez.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye on all.

7 CLERK: Rose.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Permission to  
9 explain my vote. I vote--

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing] Yes.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: --thank you. I  
12 vote no on Intro 1471-A and 1544-B and I'd like to  
13 extend my sincerest condolences to my colleague Steve  
14 Matteo. I knew his father. He was a wonderful man,  
15 and the loss will be felt greatly in our Staten  
16 Island communities, and I'd like to congratulate my  
17 colleague Laurie Cumbo on the birth of her beautiful  
18 baby boy. Thank you.

19 CLERK: Rosenthal.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Permission to  
21 explain my vote.

22 LILLY ULRICH: Yes. [laughter]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you,  
24 Madam Public Advocate. This is a historic day for  
25 tenants. These 18 bills represent a see change in

2 the focus of the Department of Buildings. I'm proud  
3 that Intro 944, and 347 is in the package to address  
4 landlords working without a permit. I want to focus  
5 on Intro 1523, which would create an Office of the  
6 Tenant Advocate within the Department of Buildings.  
7 We tasked the Department of Buildings with an  
8 extremely difficult job. It has to keep this city  
9 building and keep our buildings structurally sound.  
10 On top of that, it has to look out for the wellbeing  
11 of tenants. It's a tough job, and there are a lot of  
12 people at DOB doing incredible work to manage it all.  
13 The bureaucracy, however, is easy for a bad actor  
14 to manipulate but difficult for a tenant to navigate.  
15 We all know of too many constituents whose cases have  
16 slipped through the cracks. The Office of Tenant  
17 Advocate will change that. It will give tenants a  
18 dedicated voice within the department someone who can  
19 sit through the bureaucracy on their behalf and  
20 monitor the Tenant Protection Plans. So, what—so  
21 much of what my district office does is advocate for  
22 tenants, and the new partner in that effort will make  
23 all the difference. I'm also hopeful it can play a  
24 leading role in implementing many of the other  
25 critical reforms that we're voting on today. I want

2 to thank again Guillermo Patino, Megan Chin, Jim  
3 Wilcox, Ed Adkin, Jeff Baker, Matt Gewolb and, of  
4 course, Laura Popa and, of course, Sanjet—who? Sean  
5 Fitzpatrick who has shepherded through all of these  
6 bills. I also want to welcome my interns and thank  
7 them. Alex, Andrew, Gabriel and Asser whose help  
8 every day makes all the difference for our office. I  
9 vote aye on all. Thank you.

10 CLERK: Salamanca.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on All.

12 CLERK: Torres.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye on all.

14 CLERK: Treyger.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Permission to  
16 explain my vote?

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I'd like to also  
19 extend my condolences to Minority Leader Steven  
20 Matteo on—the loss of his father. I want to send  
21 my best wishes to my great colleague Council Member  
22 Laurie Cumbo on the birth of her son. I send my best  
23 wishes to Matt Gewolb. I found him to be very  
24 helpful and responsive. I thank him for his work.  
25 Also, to Committee Policy Analyst for the Recovery



2 and Resiliency Committee Bill Murray who is also  
3 moving on. I send my very best. I will be voting  
4 aye on all with the exception of 1544. Thank you.

5 CLERK: Ulrich.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I will be voting  
7 aye on all with the exception of preconsidered Intro  
8 1677, Intro 1131-B, 1471-A, 1532-A, 1544-B, and 1547-  
9 A, Intro 931-A, Intro 1530-A and Intro 1133-A, and  
10 aye on all others. Thank you.

11 CLERK: Vacca.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I want to explain  
13 my vote.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes,

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Thank you. I  
16 first want to say that the process by which members  
17 are speaking today has been altered and I want to  
18 commend the Speaker. It's very concise and cohesive  
19 and it's really moving our agenda as expeditiously as  
20 possible. So, thank you very much. I'm sorry it  
21 pertains to me because I have the long speech that I  
22 have to make right now. [laughter] But I first want  
23 to congratulate Michael Denaro (sp?) my former Chief  
24 of Staff on his appointment to the Civilian Complaint  
25 Review Board. I secondly want to comment on my Intro

2 1133, which is passing today, which finally says that  
3 if you owe money to the city of New York you cannot  
4 go ahead and get new permit from the Buildings  
5 Department. It sets a flaw. Any developer that owes  
6 \$25,000 or more to the City of New York just cannot  
7 go ahead and get permits to build again. It affects  
8 alteration permits, demolition permits. It affects  
9 major alterations or one and new building permit  
10 demos and—and public assembly permits. So, this bill  
11 has been in the making for nine years, and I want to  
12 thank all the staff who have worked so hard to make  
13 sure that this bill does something to collect the  
14 \$900 million our city is now owed in buildings and  
15 ECB violations. We've been unable to collect this  
16 money. This gives us an important tool to use in  
17 collecting this money. So, I want to say thank you  
18 to everyone. Matt Gewolb all the best. My  
19 condolences, of course, to Steve Matteo. I vote aye  
20 on all except no on 1677.

21 CLERK: Vallone.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Madam Advocate  
23 may I have permission to explain my vote. Please?

24 LILLY ULRICH (FOR TISH JAMES): Yes.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you very  
3 much and I'd like to join you with your Toy Story up  
4 on there in that alleged Madam Advocate. I'd like to  
5 extend my condolences especially to Council Member  
6 Matteo and his family. Prayers and blessings.  
7 There's nothing harder than losing a parent. We're  
8 all with you with that. To Mama Cumbo welcome to the  
9 parental world. There is no greater joy than holding  
10 your baby and to Matt, as a previous law student  
11 many, many years ago, I would have been honored to  
12 have you as a professor. Good luck and God bless  
13 your new endeavors. With that, I vote aye on all  
14 except for 1530. Thank you very much Madam Advocate.

15 CLERK: Williams.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Madam Public  
17 Advocate may I be excused to explain my vote?

18 LILLY ULRICH (FOR TISH JAMES): Yes.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: thank you very  
20 much. I also give my condolences to Council Member  
21 Matteo. Having lost my father, I know what it's like  
22 and pray for peace and comfort. Congratulations  
23 obviously to Council Member Cumbo. I'm voting aye on  
24 all with the exception of 1544-B, which I am voting  
25 no. I want to congratulate everybody on the

2 legislation that they're passing today, in particular  
3 the two packages that came out of the Housing and  
4 Buildings both dealing with harassment, which is a  
5 critical issue in this day and time, and just to know  
6 that we may have to be here again. So, the media  
7 should pay attention in this body. As we go to catch  
8 unscrupulous landlords who are doing these things,  
9 they change their tactics and so we have to change  
10 ours and move with the times. Harassment is seen  
11 across this city. Of course, it's multiplied in the  
12 areas of gentrification where the market forces are  
13 forcing some landlords who are unscrupulous to do  
14 unscrupulous things. These bills are not for those  
15 who are doing the right thing, but for those who are  
16 dedicated to pushing tenants out. Besides the rent  
17 law, I think the two things that are most pressing in  
18 these areas are the issues of preferential rent, and  
19 harassment, and particular now that we are figuring  
20 out that they're using construction as a way of  
21 harassing. So, I'm proud of the bill I have in the  
22 package dealing with fines, but it is part of a  
23 broader package dealing with harassment in general,  
24 and construction—construction as harassment in  
25 particular. And I want to thank everyone who was

2 involved, the Speaker for her leadership on this and  
3 all the staff and my staff Mike Toomey, Laura Popa,  
4 Jim Wilcox, Megan Chin, Guillermo Patino, Jose Conde.  
5 Even on the Mayor's side Yumay (sp?) and Nick who was  
6 working this when he was in my-on my staff, and most  
7 importantly the advocates and the tenants. This was  
8 advocate led and very much tenant driven. Got on  
9 your texts, got on your social media, and those  
10 knowing it does work and this should be a lesson that  
11 folks do have access to their government and should  
12 push us in the direction they need us to go, and I'm  
13 very proud to vote aye on all except for 1544-B, and  
14 lastly we're going to miss you, Matt. You were great.  
15 Thank you for all of the times you've helped me, and  
16 all the bills we worked on. I wish you all the best  
17 in all of your endeavors.

18 CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I vote aye.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Our thoughts and  
21 prayers with Council Member Matteo. Congratulations  
22 to Council Member Cumbo. She now has little Prince  
23 and to Matt we are going to miss you, and I have an  
24 acting Public Advocate. What's your name?

25 [background comments] [laughs]

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: She takes after  
3 her mother clearly.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Is that your  
5 daddy Council Member Eric Ulrich?

6 LILLY ULRICH (FOR TISH JAMES): Yes.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes? And what's  
8 your doll's name? [background comments] We're  
9 waiting for the results to be tabulated. Hope  
10 everyone is enjoying their summer. [laughter]  
11 [background comments, pause] Lilly, we want to  
12 apologize for mispronouncing your name. We referred  
13 to you as Asher and your name is?

14 LILLY ULRICH: Lilly.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Lilly, and we  
16 want to thank all of--all of those who have attended  
17 today's City Council Stated Meeting. Thank you for  
18 your activism, thank you for your participation and  
19 thank you for being quiet. I appreciate that. Thank  
20 you for recognizing the universal sign of reply. Any  
21 other announcements? If any members have any  
22 announcements please approach.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Madam Public  
24 Advocate--

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]  
3 Council Member Koo, could you—could you come up to  
4 the rostrum. We're going to call you shortly because  
5 you're on the General Order Calendar to speak.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Oh, okay. Yeah.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Can you hold on  
8 one moment.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Sure I'll hold onto  
10 until then.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Okay, thank you.  
12 Do you want to speak now, Council Member Dromm?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Yes, just to say  
14 that although I had permission to leave early  
15 initially, I'm still here.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you

17 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: I'm glad you're  
19 still here. [laughter] I appreciate that.

20 [background comments, pause] We apologize for the  
21 delay. We're just tabulating and—and now the  
22 results. Okay. All items on today's General Order  
23 Calendar were adopted by a vote of 42 in the  
24 affirmative, 0 negative, and 0 abstentions with the  
25 exception of Intro 347-B which was adopted by a vote

2 of 41 in the affirmative, 1 negative and 0  
3 abstentions, and Intro 484-A, which was adopted by a  
4 vote of 41 in the affirmative, 1 negative and 1—and 0  
5 abstentions, and Intro 918-A, which was adopted by a  
6 vote of 41 in the affirmative, 1 negative and 0  
7 abstentions, and Intro 1471-A, which was adopted by a  
8 vote of 38 in the affirmative, 4 negative and 0  
9 abstentions. Intro 1523-A, which was adopted by a  
10 vote of 41 in the affirmative, 1 negative and 0  
11 abstentions; and Intro 1530-A, which was adopted by a  
12 vote of 39 in the affirmative, 3 negative and 0  
13 abstentions, and Intro 1532, which was adopted by a  
14 vote of 40 in the affirmative, 2 negative, and 0  
15 abstentions, and Intro 1544-B, which was adopted by a  
16 vote of 33 in the affirmative, 9 negative and 0  
17 abstentions, and Intro 1547-A, which was adopted by a  
18 vote of 38 the affirmative, 2 negative and 2  
19 abstentions, and Intro 1548-A, which was adopted by a  
20 vote of 41 in the affirmative, 1 negative and 0  
21 abstentions, and Intro 1648-A, which was adopted by a  
22 vote of 40 in the affirmative, 1 negative and 1  
23 abstention, and Intro 1677-A—excuse me 1677, which  
24 was adopted by a vote of 39 in the affirmative, 3  
25 negative and 0 abstentions, and Intro 1131-A, which



2 was adopted by a vote of 39 in the affirmative, 1  
3 negative, and 2 abstentions. The Revised Land Use  
4 Call-Up vote is 42 in the affirmative and 0  
5 abstentions. Introduction and reading of bills.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All items have  
7 been referred to committees as indicated on the  
8 agenda.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And we have no  
10 resolutions today. We will begin with general  
11 discussion. Council Member Barron. [applause/cheers]

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Excuse me,  
13 excuse, we're still in session. We are still in  
14 session. Council Member Barron.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Madam  
16 Public Advocate. I rise today to remind us that this  
17 is the anniversary of the dropping of the plutonium  
18 atomic bomb on Nagasaki.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]  
20 [shushing for quiet]

21 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Keep it  
22 down please. Keep it down.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: If you are  
24 exiting the chambers, please exit quietly. Thank

2 you. Thank you so much. Please respect the Council  
3 Member. Council Member Barron and we apologize.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, and  
5 that we need to be mindful that in this era of  
6 technology and threats of war of the devastation that  
7 was caused on Nagasaki as well as Hiroshima by the  
8 dropping of those atomic bombs. The bomb that was  
9 dropped over Nagasaki was dropped over a mostly  
10 civilian district, and it was innocent women,  
11 children and men who were killed. The number dropped  
12 on 60 to 70,000 who were killed instantly, and then  
13 there are other tens of thousands who died because of  
14 subsequent injuries that they sustained, thermal  
15 burns that they sustained, the injury to their blood  
16 cells, white blood cells, nausea, vomiting, hair  
17 loss, sterility and other long-term effects. So, we  
18 just want to be mindful that this is the country that  
19 dropped the atomic bomb on Japan some 72 years ago,  
20 and I didn't want that to go without some  
21 recognition. Thank you. [background comments]  
22 Council Member--

23 LILLY ULRICH: Kool.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Koo. [laughs]

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you, thank,  
3 Madam Public Advocate and acting partner.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [off mic]  
5 Training.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Training, yeah,  
7 yeah. I would like to join my colleagues today in  
8 the Council's efforts to cut down on tenant  
9 harassment. Today, I'm introducing Intro 1678. This  
10 legislation will amend the definition harassment  
11 under the Housing Maintenance Code to include  
12 discriminate—discriminatory threats, and request for  
13 proof of citizenship status. Quite simply, any  
14 request to prove citizenship is against the law and  
15 is considered discriminatory. This would include  
16 threats in the tenant base. This would include  
17 threats to a tenant based on age, race, creed, color,  
18 and national origin, gender, disability, marital  
19 status, Promisure (sic) status, caregiver status,  
20 sexual orientation or allegiance or citizenship  
21 status. It also includes that person's government  
22 ID. As we know, New York City is a city of  
23 immigrants. By expanding the definition of  
24 harassment we are allow tenants to bring harassment  
25 claims already against landlords in Housing Court in

2 addition to the Human Rights Commission where such  
3 claims were also heard, and we are making statement  
4 that all are welcome here. Than you.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member--

6 LILLY ULRICH: Gibson.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Okay, well thank  
8 you honey. Good afternoon to all of my colleagues.  
9 I want to join with everyone in extending my deepest  
10 and heartfelt condolences to our Minority Leader  
11 Steve Matteo on the loss of his father. Certainly, I  
12 share his pain as someone who's lost my own father  
13 as well also to cancer. I also want to congratulate  
14 and extend my warmest regards to Council Member  
15 Laurie Cumbo on the birth of her beautiful son.  
16 Looking forward to having her back, and seeing her  
17 son in person. I want to thank as well as everyone  
18 else who's joined in celebrating Matt Gewolb. Thank  
19 you, thank you, thank you for your consistency, for  
20 your commitment to everything you've done. I  
21 particularly want to thank you on Intro 214, Right to  
22 Counsel for all the work you did with us and the  
23 team. Thank you so much. I want to take an  
24 opportunity this afternoon to introduce my colleagues  
25 to two incredible interns. Truly the work we do here

2 as council members is about elevating the next  
3 generation of young people and I'm just so excited to  
4 have an incredible wealth of young people in our  
5 office this summer. I want to introduce you to my  
6 first intern who is Brittany McCoy. She is entering  
7 her senior year at Virginia State University to study  
8 Political Science and she is Bronx girl. She lives  
9 in our district, and I had an opportunity to meet her  
10 at the DNC in Philadelphia. She was assigned to the  
11 New York section and introduced herself to me and I  
12 said I want you to come work for us, and here she is  
13 now as an intern. And I look forward to working with  
14 her upon graduation, and seeing whatever  
15 opportunities we can offer her. And my second intern  
16 is another young dashing talented man Tavon Thomas  
17 who is a recent high school graduate in our borough.  
18 He is attending SUNY Purchase this fall to study  
19 acting and he is energetic, and I look forward to the  
20 tremendous asset that he is bringing to our office.  
21 So, I want to introduce all of you to Brittany and  
22 Tavon, and ask you to please welcome them. With  
23 that, thank you very much Madam Public Advocate and  
24 Madam Speaker. Thank you.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [off mic] Ready.

3 [background comments]

4 LILLY ULRICH: Daddy, it's your turn to  
5 talk. [laughter]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Wow, thank you so  
7 much Lilly. Thank you. Good job. You're doing a  
8 great job today. Madam Public Advocate, I rise today  
9 TO bring attention to a bill I'm introducing Intro  
10 1682. This bill would require commercial hotel  
11 owners to disclose to the clients and potential  
12 clients when they are, in fact, in contract with  
13 Department of Homeless Services. We know that we  
14 have an affordable housing crisis in the city. We  
15 know that we have a homelessness crisis in the city,  
16 but what we also know is that right now tonight and  
17 as we speak thousands of men, women and children are  
18 being warehoused in commercial hotels across the  
19 city, many of whom do not have access to services  
20 that they need to rehabilitate themselves if they  
21 require those rehabilitation services or counseling  
22 or job training. And in some places they don't even  
23 have their own bathroom or kitchen. They have to  
24 share that. This is in violation of numerous codes  
25 that the city has in the past enforced, but now

2 because of the number of homeless people in the  
3 system, this city has pretty much looked the other  
4 way. Unfortunately many of the advocates have not  
5 really held this administration accountable on this  
6 issue, and I have been very vocal on this particular  
7 issue because I feel very passionately about it. My  
8 bill is not an attempt to shame homeless people. I  
9 would never attack or protest homeless individuals or  
10 families, but I will protest what I believe are  
11 failed homeless policies, hopeless homeless policies  
12 that leave thousands of New Yorkers who were at one  
13 time living one check away from poverty and who now  
14 find themselves in poverty falling on hard times,  
15 living in a motel or a hotel many of whom do not even  
16 want to be there. But we as a city have failed those  
17 people, and we—I accept some of that responsibility  
18 as well because I'm an elected official just like the  
19 rest of you, but the buck stops with the Mayor, and  
20 the Mayor has decided that he's going to use Holiday  
21 Inns and a bunch of motels to house these people, and  
22 it's jut not right. And the people that pay hundreds  
23 of dollars a night to stay in these hotels are  
24 unaware that they are also being used as quote,  
25 unquote "temporary shelter facilities." I want to

2 thank-in wrapping up I want to thank Mario Diaz and  
3 Jay Dow from Channel 11 for exposing this problem.  
4 About two years ago on 611 News that was the impetus  
5 for the introduction of this bill. We know of a lot  
6 of sad cases around this city in hotels and motels,  
7 but this has got to be addressed, and I think that  
8 this bill will address that issue. Thank you.

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

11 LILLY ULRICH: Winn.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Williams.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you very  
14 much. First I just want to acknowledge my interns  
15 most of whom have left. I think we had 13 this  
16 summer. One is still her, Mr. Jay John, right?  
17 Where is he? Where are you? On the top. Oh, he's  
18 on top. Thank you very much for your work and all  
19 the work of the interns that they have done in my  
20 office. I do want to raise up the name of Mr. Dwayne  
21 Jeune. Mr. Jeune was shot and killed last week by  
22 NYPD an emotionally disturbed person who lived in  
23 Flatbush Gardens, also know called Vanderveer.  
24 There's a lot of questions that were raised during  
25 the shooting, which I would like to get some answers



2 for. We still have to figure out whether protocol  
3 was followed during that time, and even if it was, is  
4 the protocol sufficient now that we've seen so many  
5 people who are ADP being shot and killed. As a  
6 matter of fact, across the country there's a study  
7 that say 50% of the people who are shot and killed  
8 are emotionally disturbed persons. The Officer Mr.  
9 Gonzalez who shot and killed Mr. Jeune was involved  
10 with another shooting a year before of another  
11 emotionally disturbed person. There was a four-  
12 person team that responded. Mr. Gonzalez was the  
13 only one who was not trained in crisis intervention,  
14 and I'll need to know why and why was he the one that  
15 shoots? On a more global level I'm asking for a task  
16 force to put in place immediately with 60 days saying  
17 what exactly is the protocol? What are we doing to  
18 address the problems in particularly responding to an  
19 IG report that was put out this past year largely  
20 many of the things that were recommended were and not  
21 put through. Are 911 operators being trained  
22 properly? Where is the call going to make sure that  
23 that the people who respond understand the situation?  
24 Are there additional people besides the NYPD who have  
25 more expertise in responding? I remember at a press

2 conference with the Borough President about three or  
3 four years ago a young lady interrupted the press  
4 conference on her knees begging for assistance for  
5 her mentally challenged son. On her knees she  
6 screamed I'm afraid to call the police [bell] because  
7 they're going to kill him. This is a problem, and so  
8 all I want us to do is figure out what the protocol  
9 is, what changes need to be made and let's change  
10 them. We cannot have people who need assistance and  
11 calling for help like Mr. Jeune's mom did just being  
12 killed. Thank you.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

14 Council Member--

15 LILLY ULRICH: Dromm.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Dromm.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you very  
18 much. I'd also like to recognize my interns who have  
19 been working with me here in the Council and in my  
20 legislative office and they are Deborah Cellar (sic)  
21 and Michael DeMatico (sp?). They are law students.  
22 Deborah at Brooklyn Law and Michael at NYU Law.  
23 Thank you very much, Madam Public Advocate.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

25 Council Member Levin.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you very  
3 much Madam Public Advocate. I'd also like to  
4 acknowledge my interns this summer, Adelle Clemmons  
5 who is going to be a freshman at Barnard College;  
6 Ashante Lee who is a student at John Jay and Michael  
7 Brittenham who is going to be starting at NYU in the  
8 fall. They have been phenomenal interns this summer  
9 and I want to acknowledge all three of them did a  
10 great job. Thank you.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Now to close, the  
12 Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito.

13 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Again, I want to  
14 thank my colleagues and this meeting went rather  
15 smoothly. One thing I was going to raise just—people  
16 obviously in this room know I am Puerto Rican born  
17 and raised on the island, an island which is a  
18 territory otherwise known as a colony of the United  
19 States of America, and as such I'm very sensitive and  
20 sensitive about the lack of information, the lack of  
21 awareness about the reality and the political reality  
22 of Puerto Rico and its relationship to the United  
23 States. So, I'm pretty alarmed to be reading the  
24 papers today and how dismissive reporters are about  
25 Guam and the current situation between this fight and

2 this rhetoric, which is a very, very, obviously very  
3 alarming the rhetoric of our President versus North  
4 Korea, and so the reporting talks about Guam as just  
5 being a military base and nothing else. Guam is a  
6 territory again a colony of the United States and the  
7 residents of Guam are U.S. Citizen. They are not to  
8 be dismissed. They are not to be ignored. They're  
9 not to just be talked about as a military base and  
10 nothing else. They are people, they are residents  
11 and they are U.S. Citizens and we should be very  
12 mindful right now they are highly at risk with the  
13 current situation that is happening. So, I really  
14 just wanted to raise that level of awareness, and I  
15 thank all my colleagues. I hope to see you all at  
16 Matt Gewolb's farewell party. I think it says 4:30.  
17 So, hopefully if anybody is interested let us know.  
18 We can give you the address. So with that we are  
19 adjourned. Thank you.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: We have a revised  
21 vote. Intro 931-B was adopted by a vote of 41 in the  
22 affirmative, 1 negative and 0 abstentions, and Intro  
23 1133-A was adopted by a vote of 41 in the  
24 affirmative, 1 negative and 0 abstentions, and we now  
25 stand adjourned. Hit it. [gavel]

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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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 August 17, 2017