

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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August 17, 2011

Start: 2:31 pm

Recess: 3:31 pm

HELD AT: Emigrant Savings Bank  
49-51 Chambers St.

B E F O R E:  
LEROY G. COMRIE, JR.  
Deputy Majority Leader

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Maria del Carmen Arroyo  
Charles Barron  
Gale A. Brewer  
Margaret S. Chin  
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.  
Elizabeth S. Crowley  
Inez E. Dickens  
Erik Martin Dilan  
Daniel Dromm  
Matthieu Eugene  
Julissa Ferreras  
Lewis A. Fidler  
Helen D. Foster

## A P P E A R A N C E S

## COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

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

Michael Presser  
Executive Director  
Inside Broadway

Reverend Susan Karlson  
Unitarian Church of Staten Island

1  
2                   SPEAKER QUINN: --everybody's  
3 attention? You all right there, Jimmy? We are  
4 doing a slightly different twist on ceremonials  
5 today. I'm joined here by lots of folks. I think  
6 lots of Council Members know, but the Inside  
7 Broadway crew, so to speak, that--let's give them  
8 a big of applause, and Michael Presser, their  
9 Director, will take us through some of the other  
10 groups who are here. But Inside Broadway very  
11 generously was going to give me an award this past  
12 June. And as most people in this room know, there  
13 was something else going on a little bit longer  
14 than we thought it would this past June, actually,  
15 a couple of different things. But the relevant  
16 one that kept me from showing up at this was the  
17 Budget. So, they came down instead to make the  
18 award presentation here. And we also then wanted  
19 to present you with what may be your second or  
20 third Council Proclamation just thanking all of  
21 you, and Inside Broadway for everything you're  
22 doing, bringing arts and culture to New York City  
23 Schools, deepening people's appreciation and love  
24 of theater in all its different forms, creating  
25 the next class of audiences, if you will, and

1  
2 reminding people that particularly in these tough,  
3 difficult times, the arts can be a place where we  
4 are brought back to our potential, reminded of  
5 other people and other times where people have  
6 been able to overcome difficulties. So, I just  
7 want to thank you guys so very much for doing that  
8 and bringing that particularly to schoolchildren  
9 in New York City. So, thank you very much. They  
10 do deserve a big round of applause. And let me  
11 turn the mic over to Michael Presser.

12 MICHAEL PRESSER: Thank you,  
13 Speaker. It's a great honor to be able to be here  
14 today. And as she said, we were supposed to do  
15 this back in June, but that's okay. Better late  
16 than never. I have a few members of the Inside  
17 Broadway Family here that I'm going to be  
18 introducing you to. We're very, very honored to  
19 have them with us because they're an integral part  
20 of what we do with the children here in the City,  
21 and also they're an integral part of what happens  
22 on Broadway. And Broadway, Inside Broadway, an  
23 important part of not only the arts community, but  
24 also the economic and the business community here  
25 in New York as well. Broadway is an important

1  
2 industry in New York as the Council knows. So, as  
3 I mentioned, and I hope you will welcome them to  
4 this beautiful chamber this afternoon.

5 First of all, I'd like to thank our  
6 friends from Local 1, IATSE. These are the stage  
7 workers of New York. And we have with us today  
8 the president of the Local 1 union, Jim Claffey is  
9 here. Robert Score [phonetic], who is--Robert?  
10 And Bob, Bob McDonough [phonetic] over here as  
11 well. We also have 802, Local 802, AFM, the  
12 musicians. And representing them is Casey, Casey  
13 Boyd [phonetic], from--he's representing the  
14 president of the union, Tino Gagliardi. And also  
15 today from Actor's Equity, Rick Berg. Rick, you  
16 are right over here as well. So, we have the  
17 stage workers, the musicians, the actors, all the  
18 elements that go into making Broadway such a great  
19 place.

20 I have a few other private folks  
21 from the business community that are supporters of  
22 Inside Broadway. First of all, a recipient of our  
23 Broadway Beacon Award from 2010, he's the  
24 President of Clearchannel, the outdoor division.  
25 I'd like you to welcome, please, Harry Coghlan.

1  
2 Harry? Here we are. There we go. And a very  
3 close friend and a great supporter of Inside  
4 Broadway, Jack Buccarelli [phonetic]. Jack?  
5 There we go, right over there. Great.

6 I also want to take this  
7 opportunity to thank the Council for their support  
8 of arts in education, and support of the CASA  
9 program. And Domenic Recchia, the Chair of the  
10 Finance Committee, and Council Member Van Bramer  
11 from the Cultural Affairs. The CASA program is  
12 perhaps the most successful and popular program in  
13 this City, not just us, all around town. So, we  
14 who do these programs really appreciate your  
15 supporting these type of activities.

16 So, that brings us up to our award.  
17 Every year we give what we call Broadway Beacon  
18 Awards at our annual benefit in June. Oh, there's  
19 Domenic, and Jimmy Vacca and so forth. At our  
20 annual benefit in June we do Broadway Beacon  
21 Awards, and we give them to individuals who have  
22 been supportive of our mission, which is to  
23 introduce New York City public school students to  
24 live theater. And this year our awardee is going  
25 not only--we have--excuse me. We have one other

1  
2       awardee who I didn't mention here. And Michael,  
3       let me bring you forward. This is Michael Stern,  
4       who is here to represent Ofer Yardeni, who is with  
5       the Stonehenge Partners Realty. Ofer was also a  
6       recipient of the Broadway Beacon award this year  
7       as well. So Michael, welcome. Thank you.

8                       So, this year we had selected  
9       Speaker Quinn as our honoree. Guess what?  
10       Somebody who has been a big champion of education  
11       in this city, a champion of Broadway as well as a  
12       champion of arts and education in the schools,  
13       someone who I've known for maybe 25--a long time.  
14       We go way back. But it's a pleasure to present  
15       this to you. Thank you for hosting us today at  
16       the Council, and please keep up the good work for  
17       the kids and for Broadway on New York. And we  
18       have the award. Nick has the award. There she  
19       is.

20                       [Applause]

21                       MICHAEL PRESSER: Great. Okay.

22                       SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you guys very  
23       much. I really appreciate this award overall and  
24       particularly appreciate your stick-to-itiveness in  
25       making sure that I got it in person. So thank you



1  
2 guys very, very much. And good luck on an even  
3 better Broadway Year in 2012 than you had in 2011,  
4 which is going to be hard, because you guys did  
5 amazing in 2011. So, thank you all, and that  
6 concludes today's ceremonials.

7 [pause]

8 THE CLERK: Ladies and gentlemen,  
9 can I have your attention please? Can I have your  
10 attention, please? At this time, please place all  
11 cell phones and pagers to vibrate, thank you.

12 [pause]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Quiet  
14 please. Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

15 [pause]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Roll call.

17 FEMALE VOICE: Arroyo.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

19 FEMALE VOICE: Barron.

20 [pause]

21 FEMALE VOICE: Brewer.

22 [pause]

23 FEMALE VOICE: Cabrera.

24 [pause]

25 FEMALE VOICE: Chin.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.  
3 FEMALE VOICE: Comrie.  
4 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Present.  
5 FEMALE VOICE: Crowley.  
6 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.  
7 FEMALE VOICE: Dickens.  
8 [pause]  
9 FEMALE VOICE: Dilan.  
10 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Here.  
11 FEMALE VOICE: Dromm.  
12 [pause]  
13 FEMALE VOICE: Eugene.  
14 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.  
15 FEMALE VOICE: Ferreras.  
16 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.  
17 FEMALE VOICE: Fidler.  
18 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.  
19 FEMALE VOICE: Foster.  
20 [pause]  
21 FEMALE VOICE: Garodnick.  
22 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.  
23 FEMALE VOICE: Gennaro.  
24 [pause]  
25 FEMALE VOICE: Gentile.

1

2 [pause]

3 FEMALE VOICE: Gonzalez.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Here.

5 FEMALE VOICE: Greenfield.

6 [pause]

7 FEMALE VOICE: Halloran.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Here.

9 FEMALE VOICE: Ignizio.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.

11 FEMALE VOICE: Jackson.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Here.

13 FEMALE VOICE: James.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here.

15 FEMALE VOICE: Koo.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Here.

17 FEMALE VOICE: Koppell.

18 [pause]

19 FEMALE VOICE: Koslowitz.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

21 FEMALE VOICE: Lander.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

23 FEMALE VOICE: Lappin.

24 [pause]

25 FEMALE VOICE: Levin.

2

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

3

FEMALE VOICE: Mark-Viverito.

4

[pause]

5

FEMALE VOICE: Mealy.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.

7

FEMALE VOICE: Mendez.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Present.

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FEMALE VOICE: Nelson.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Here.

11

FEMALE VOICE: Palma.

12

[pause]

13

FEMALE VOICE: Recchia.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Present.

15

FEMALE VOICE: Reyna.

16

[pause]

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FEMALE VOICE: Rodriguez.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

19

FEMALE VOICE: Rose.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Present.

21

FEMALE VOICE: Sanders.

22

[pause]

23

FEMALE VOICE: Seabrook.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Here.

25

FEMALE VOICE: Ulrich.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Present.  
3 FEMALE VOICE: Vacca.  
4 [pause]  
5 FEMALE VOICE: Vallone.  
6 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.  
7 FEMALE VOICE: Van Bramer.  
8 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.  
9 FEMALE VOICE: Vann.  
10 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Here.  
11 FEMALE VOICE: Weprin.  
12 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.  
13 FEMALE VOICE: Williams.  
14 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.  
15 FEMALE VOICE: Wills.  
16 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Here.  
17 FEMALE VOICE: Oddo.  
18 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Here.  
19 FEMALE VOICE: Rivera.  
20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Here.  
21 FEMALE VOICE: Speaker Quinn.  
22 SPEAKER QUINN: Here.  
23 HEARING OFFICER MORA:  
24 FEMALE VOICE: We have a quorum.  
25 [pause]

1

FEMALE VOICE: Dickens.

2

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.

3

FEMALE VOICE: Dromm.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

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FEMALE VOICE: Foster.

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[pause]

7

FEMALE VOICE: I did call Vacca.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Did you say

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Foster?

10

FEMALE VOICE: Foster.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Yes, here.

12

FEMALE VOICE: I have Brewer.

13

Brewer. Brewer. I shouldn't have counted her in.

14

Vacca.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

16

FEMALE VOICE: Reyna.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.

18

FEMALE VOICE: We have a quorum.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Invocation

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to be delivered by Reverend Susan Karlson, the

21

Minister of the Unitarian Church of Staten Island.

22

Please rise.

23

SUSAN KARLSON: Oh Gracious God,

24

known by many names and in many ways, we ask your

25

1  
2 blessings on all gathered here in these chambers  
3 today. Soften the hearts of each person, that we  
4 might listen with open minds to the needs and the  
5 wellbeing of all citizens. Strengthen the City  
6 Councilors' resolve to do what is just,  
7 compassionate, wise and fair. Sustain this  
8 Council as they decide on the great controversies  
9 set before them. May all gathered here work to  
10 dismantle the walls that divide and separate us.  
11 Bless every person assembled here with your peace,  
12 mercy and love so that we are inspired to leave  
13 these chambers, striving together for the greater  
14 good of all of New York City and its place in this  
15 world that we've been given. Amen, may it be so.

16 THE CLERK: Council Member Rose?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Motion to  
18 spread the invocation in full upon the record.  
19 And I would just like to thank Minister Karlson  
20 for being such an adamant social justice advocate  
21 and human rights fighter. Thank you so much.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: And  
23 adoption of minutes?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Yes, I'd  
25 like to make a motion that the minutes of the

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stated meeting of June 14th of 2011 be adopted as printed.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Messages and papers from the Mayor?

THE CLERK: M 0622 submitting Pamela Brier, reappointment, Board of Health.

SPEAKER QUINN: Rules, Privileges and Elections.

THE CLERK: M 623 submitting Dr. Deepthiman Gowda, appointment, Board of Health.

SPEAKER QUINN: Rules, Privileges and Elections.

THE CLERK: Submitted in the name of Dr. Susan Klitzman, reappointment, Board of Health.

SPEAKER QUINN: Rules, Privileges and Elections.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Communications from City, County and Borough Offices.

THE CLERK: None.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Petitions and Communications?

THE CLERK: None.



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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Land Use

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call-ups?

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THE CLERK: M 625 through M 628.

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SPEAKER QUINN: If we could couple

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all of those please and have a roll call on the

7

coupled Land Use call-ups.

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MALE VOICE: Arroyo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

10

MALE VOICE: Barron.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

12

MALE VOICE: Rivera.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you

14

Very much, Mr. Deputy Majority Leader. If I can

15

ask permission to vote on all Land Use items on

16

the calendar and the general order calendar as

17

well?

18

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: So ordered.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you

20

very much. I vote aye on all on today's calendar.

21

MALE VOICE: Brewer.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

23

MALE VOICE: Chin.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

25

MALE VOICE: Comrie.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.  
3 MALE VOICE: Crowley.  
4 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.  
5 MALE VOICE: Dickens.  
6 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Yes.  
7 MALE VOICE: Dilan.  
8 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.  
9 MALE VOICE: Dromm.  
10 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.  
11 MALE VOICE: Eugene.  
12 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.  
13 MALE VOICE: Ferreras.  
14 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.  
15 MALE VOICE: Fidler.  
16 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Yes.  
17 MALE VOICE: Foster.  
18 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.  
19 MALE VOICE: Garodnick.  
20 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.  
21 MALE VOICE: Gentile.  
22 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.  
23 MALE VOICE: Gonzalez.  
24 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.  
25 MALE VOICE: Halloran.

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COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Mr.

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Majority Leader, I ask unanimous consent to vote

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on all. Mr. Deputy Majority Leader. My

5

apologies, Leroy.

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: So ordered.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: I vote

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aye on all.

9

MALE VOICE: Ignizio.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.

11

MALE VOICE: Jackson.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on

13

all.

14

MALE VOICE: James.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Yes.

16

MALE VOICE: Koo.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

18

MALE VOICE: Koppell.

19

[pause]

20

MALE VOICE: Koslowitz.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

22

MALE VOICE: Lander.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

24

MALE VOICE: Lappin.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

1

MALE VOICE: Levin.

2

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

3

MALE VOICE: Mark-Viverito.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

5

MALE VOICE: Mealy.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

7

MALE VOICE: Mendez.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

9

MALE VOICE: Nelson.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.

11

MALE VOICE: Recchia.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.

13

MALE VOICE: Reyna.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.

15

MALE VOICE: Rodriguez.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

17

MALE VOICE: Rose.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

19

MALE VOICE: Sanders.

20

[pause]

21

MALE VOICE: Seabrook.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Yes, with

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unanimous consent and with special permission I'd

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like to vote Aye on all Land Use call-ups and

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general and coupled orders. I vote Aye.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: So ordered.

So ordered.

MALE VOICE: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Vallone.

[pause]

MALE VOICE: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Vann.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I request  
majority consent to vote Aye on all general order  
items.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: So ordered.

1

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.

2

3

MALE VOICE: Oddo.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

5

MALE VOICE: Speaker Quinn.

6

SPEAKER QUINN: Yes.

7

[pause]

8

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Today's

9 Land Use call-ups were adopted by a vote of 45 in  
10 the affirmative, 0 in the negative.

11 Communications from the Speaker?

12

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. If I

13

could ask my colleagues before I speak on the

14

legislation to rise for a moment of silence,

15

please. On August 7th, 2011, Hugh Leo Carey, the

16

51st Governor of our great state passed away at

17

the age of 92. He was born in Brooklyn in 1919;

18

Hugh Carey graduated from St. John's University

19

and St. John's Law School and was a highly

20

decorated World War II veteran. He served seven

21

terms in congress and was a member of the infamous

22

Four Horsemen, where he joined Ted Kennedy, Pat

23

Moynihan and Tip O'Neill advocating for a peaceful

24

solution to the conflicts in the North of Ireland.

25

Elected Governor in November 1974, he served two

1  
2 terms and was the architect of the financial plan  
3 that averted the bankruptcy of our own New York  
4 City. He instituted the I love New York program,  
5 founded the Empire State games, and early in his  
6 term signed the Willowbrook Consent Decree, which  
7 committed the state to sweeping reforms in the  
8 care of developmentally disabled. Known as much  
9 for his wit as for his powerful intellect,  
10 Governor Carey was gifted with Irish charm and a  
11 love of song. This past week, prior to his  
12 funeral mass at the main altar, Governor Carey  
13 laid in state in the Lady Chapel at St. Patrick's  
14 Cathedral. This was the same chapel where he  
15 married his late wife, Helen, in 1947. Together  
16 they had 14 children. Governor Carey found great  
17 joy in his children, his 25 grandchildren, and his  
18 six great grandchildren. A grateful city and  
19 state will always be indebted to the work and  
20 legacy of governor Hugh Carey. Our thoughts and  
21 prayers go out to the entire Carey family and  
22 extended Carey family. Thank you.

23 We are voting on two important  
24 pieces of legislation today. The first, intro  
25 632-A, a piece of legislation sponsored by Council

1  
2 Member Mark Weprin, and shepherded through the  
3 Civil Rights Committee by Chair Debbie Rose. I  
4 want to thank both of them. I want to thank  
5 Jillian Beckford, Damien Butvick, Alix Pustilnik  
6 and Rob Newman for their work on this legislation.  
7 631-A makes changes to the City's Human Rights  
8 Law, and it makes changes as it relate to  
9 religious observance. For too long workers in New  
10 York City in both the public and the private  
11 sector have been forced to choose between a job  
12 they love and need to support themselves and their  
13 family and fully observing their religion. The  
14 changes that 632-A will make will raise the  
15 standard as it relates to protecting people's  
16 right to full religious observance as it relates  
17 to the workplace. This is an important piece of  
18 legislation making it very clear that we don't  
19 want to ever put somebody in the position where  
20 they have to choose between a job and their  
21 religion. That is simply not what New York City  
22 is about, simply not what America is about and I  
23 want to thank everyone who has worked on this  
24 piece of legislation. In particular I want to  
25 thank the Sikh Coalition. They were critical to



1  
2 working with us on this bill, and they have been  
3 terrific, particularly Amar Singh [phonetic],  
4 partners in our ongoing effort to fight bullying  
5 and discrimination in all its forms in New York  
6 City, particularly our work on the respect for all  
7 curriculum and our work in the New York City  
8 public schools. Let me first call on the sponsor  
9 of this bill, Mark Weprin, and thank him for this  
10 piece of legislation, as well as his ongoing work  
11 with the Sikh coalition and others against  
12 religious discrimination in the workplace and in  
13 other places, of course; and then call on the  
14 chair of the Civil Rights Committee, Council  
15 Member Rose. Council Member Weprin?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Thank you,  
17 Madam Speaker. My colleagues, it's a happy day  
18 for me and I'm really proud to be involved with  
19 this legislation. I want to thank the speaker for  
20 being so forceful in getting this through. This  
21 really does raise the standard that an employer  
22 will have to follow when they accommodate a  
23 religious accommodation. Currently there is  
24 confusion over what standard should apply. And  
25 the federal standard, which the City has often

1  
2 followed, is a much weaker standard than the one  
3 that we are putting in place here today. And, you  
4 know, as someone who represents Queens County,  
5 Queens County, as many of you know, is the most  
6 diverse county probably in the world. And in  
7 Queens, you know, diversity isn't just a bumper  
8 sticker, it's a way of life. And we're very proud  
9 of a lot of our new immigrants, immigrants who  
10 took a chance to come to this country for economic  
11 freedom, for religious freedom, as so many  
12 millions and millions of people have done before  
13 them. I think it's an important message for us to  
14 send as a Council that we will not tolerate  
15 employers who do not try to accommodate people's  
16 religious freedoms, and to accommodate their  
17 beliefs. And as the Speaker mentioned, someone  
18 should not have to choose between their religious  
19 practices and whether to take a job. And this law  
20 will make it much stricter when someone has a  
21 certain practice in their religion for that to be  
22 accommodated. And that's why I'm proud to sponsor  
23 this bill here today. It is a very good step  
24 forward. I to want to thank the Sikh Coalition  
25 for the work they have done. The Sikh population

1  
2 in my district has been very adamant on this  
3 issue. They have often felt that there is  
4 discrimination based on those who might wear a  
5 turban or have a beard, or who have other articles  
6 of faith that they may have to carry through and  
7 to live their life. And we want to let them know  
8 that this is America, and in America we think  
9 everyone should enjoy the full embrace of the  
10 America's constitutional freedoms, and that is the  
11 statement we are making here today, that we feel  
12 very strongly in people's freedom of religion and  
13 people's ability to serve this City. And if  
14 someone who is a citizen, who is raising their  
15 family and paying taxes here in this city wants to  
16 put themselves out on the line and serve this city  
17 and protect maybe my family, I think we should do  
18 everything we can to accommodate them. So thank  
19 you, Madam Speaker. Thank you Chair Rose for your  
20 help with this legislation. And I thank my  
21 colleagues and hope they'll vote in the  
22 affirmative. Thank you.

23 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Council  
24 Member Weprin. Chair Rose?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you,

1  
2 Madam Chair, and thank you for your leadership on  
3 this bill. Today we're voting on a piece of  
4 legislation that will send a clear and poignant  
5 message to all employers in the City of New York,  
6 that religious discrimination in the workplace  
7 will become a thing of the past. No longer will  
8 an employer be able to deny an employee the right  
9 to openly practice the tenets of their respective  
10 religions, which unfortunately has become more of  
11 a common occurrence over the years.

12 Under the current City Human Rights  
13 Law, an employer is required to provide a  
14 reasonable accommodation for an employee's  
15 religious observance, so long as it does not cause  
16 an undue hardship for the employer. Since the  
17 current law doesn't provide a definition of undue  
18 hardship, Intro 631-A would amend the City's Human  
19 Rights Law by defining undue hardship as a  
20 significant expense or difficulty, which is more  
21 comprehensive and stringent than the federal  
22 definition of undue hardship, thereby ensuring  
23 that workers are further protected from religious  
24 discrimination in the workplace, and clarifies our  
25 intentions to provide greater protection to

1  
2 workers under the City Human Rights Law than the  
3 federal human rights provisions now provide. I am  
4 proud to have played a part in seeing this bill to  
5 fruition, and I want to thank Council Member  
6 Weprin for sponsoring this piece of landmark  
7 legislation. I would also like to thank my  
8 Committee staff Julene Beckford and Damien  
9 Butvick. I'd like to thank my staff, Legislative  
10 Director Antonio Whitaker, the Sikh Coalition, and  
11 other advocates, for the outstanding work that  
12 they have all done on this bill. I thank you  
13 again, Speaker, and Mark Weprin for bringing this  
14 forward. Thank you.

15 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
16 much, Chair Rose. The second piece of legislation  
17 we're voting on is Intro 541-A. I want to thank  
18 the sponsor of the bill, Council Member Wills, the  
19 Chair of the Consumer Affairs Committee, Dan  
20 Garodnick, who shepherded this bill through his  
21 Committee. I want to thank Rachel Cordero, Damien  
22 Butvick, Alix Pustilnik, and Lacey Clarke, who  
23 worked on this legislation. Intro 541-A does two  
24 important things. One, under the law now it is  
25 illegal for retail establishments to sell expired

1  
2 over the counter medication, but there is no  
3 prohibition on individuals selling expired over  
4 the counter medication. And in fact, in Council  
5 Member Wills's district, he came across flea  
6 markets and garage sales where people were doing  
7 just that. Obviously those expiration dates are  
8 there for a reason; they're there for a reason  
9 because prior to that expiration date is the  
10 safest and most effective time to take that  
11 medication. 541-A will now make it illegal for  
12 any individual to sell expired over the counter  
13 medication, just as it is illegal for a retail  
14 establishment to do that.

15                   Second, right now in New York City,  
16 the only entity that can enforce the prohibition  
17 of sale of expired over the counter medication is  
18 the New York State Attorney General. We will  
19 amend the City law and give enforcement powers in  
20 addition, both as it relates to retail  
21 establishments and individuals, to the New York  
22 Police Department, and to the Department of  
23 Consumer Affairs. So, again let me thank the  
24 Chair for his work on this, Dan Garodnick, and  
25 call on the bill's sponsor, Council Member Ruben

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Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Thank you Madam Speaker. I first want to thank the Speaker for her leadership on this bill and the Chair of Consumer Affairs, Council Member Garodnick. This legislation protects the health and safety of consumers by keeping expired medications off the shelves and away from those consumers. The potency of the over the counter medications is not guaranteed beyond its expiration date. This becomes problematic for those who procure and use expired over the counter medications, who may unknowingly take inaccurate doses or take medication that has become ineffective. Decreased potency can have an adverse effect on those who depend on these medications, such as a person with heart disease who takes aspirin as a blood thinner. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of legislation that will protect New Yorkers. It is the responsibility of anyone who is selling over the counter medications to put the health and safety of consumers ahead of profits and sales. Thank you.

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very

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much. And that concludes Communications from the Speaker.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Discussion of general orders. Seeing none, Reports of special committees?

THE CLERK: None.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Report of standing committees.

THE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Civil Rights, Intro 632-A, unlawful discriminatory practices.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on general orders.

THE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Consumer Affairs, intro 541-A prohibiting the sale of expired over the counter medication?

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on general orders.

THE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Finance, preconsidered Resolution 97, certain organizations to receive funding in the expense budget.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.



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2 THE CLERK: Report of the Committee  
3 on Land Use, LU 441 and Reso 991, and LU 443 and  
4 Reso 992, unenclosed sidewalk cafes.

5 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general  
6 orders.

7 THE CLERK: Preconsidered LU 445  
8 and Reso 993, amendment to the zoning map.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general  
10 orders.

11 THE CLERK: Preconsidered LU 446  
12 and Reso 994, UDAAP Brooklyn.

13 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general  
14 orders.

15 THE CLERK: Report of the Committee  
16 on Rules, Privileges and Elections, M 566 and Reso  
17 995, appointment of Orlando Marin as Commissioner  
18 of the New York City Planning Commission.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general  
20 orders.

21 THE CLERK: Preconsidered M 629 and  
22 Reso 996, approving Vincent Calamia, MD, as a  
23 member of the New York City Health and Hospitals  
24 Corporation Board of Directors.

25 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General

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Orders.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: General  
order calendar.

THE CLERK: LU 429 and Reso 997  
ULURP Brooklyn.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general  
orders.

THE CLERK: Resolution appointing  
various persons Commissioner of Deeds.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general  
orders. And at this time I'd like to ask for a  
roll call on all the items that have been coupled  
on the General Order calendar, please.

THE CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye on all.

THE CLERK: Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Yes.

THE CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye on all.

THE CLERK: Comrie.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Yes to all.

THE CLERK: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

THE CLERK: Dickens.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

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THE CLERK: Dilan.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.

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THE CLERK: Dromm.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye on all.

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THE CLERK: Eugene.

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COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

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THE CLERK: Ferreras.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye on

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all.

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THE CLERK: Fidler.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Yes on all.

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THE CLERK: Foster.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.

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THE CLERK: Garodnick.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

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THE CLERK: Gentile.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Yes on

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all.

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THE CLERK: Gonzalez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.

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THE CLERK: Ignizio.

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

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THE CLERK: Jackson.

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all.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on

THE CLERK: James.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye on all.

THE CLERK: Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye on all.

THE CLERK: Koslowitz.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

THE CLERK: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

THE CLERK: Lappin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

THE CLERK: Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

THE CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

THE CLERK: Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

THE CLERK: Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

THE CLERK: Nelson.

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.

THE CLERK: Recchia.

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.

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2 THE CLERK: Reyna.  
3 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.  
4 THE CLERK: Rodriguez.  
5 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.  
6 THE CLERK: Rose.  
7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.  
8 THE CLERK: Ulrich.  
9 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye on all.  
10 THE CLERK: Vacca.  
11 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.  
12 THE CLERK: Vallone.  
13 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.  
14 THE CLERK: Van Bramer.  
15 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye on  
16 all.  
17 THE CLERK: Vann.  
18 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.  
19 THE CLERK: Weprin.  
20 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.  
21 THE CLERK: Williams.  
22 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.  
23 THE CLERK: Wills.  
24 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye.  
25 THE CLERK: Oddo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

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THE CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

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[pause]

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MALE VOICE: Do you want me to do

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that?

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: All items

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on today's general order calendar were adopted by

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a vote of 45 affirmative, 0 negative and 0

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abstentions. Introduction and reading of bills?

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SPEAKER QUINN: All bills are

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referred to committees as indicated on the agenda.

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Discussion

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of resolutions, none? No resolutions. General

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discussion. Council Member Jackson?

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you,

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Deputy Majority Leader. My colleagues I rise this

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afternoon to discuss with you the hearings that

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were held yesterday by the Port Authority of New

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York and New Jersey. And I had testified at 6:00

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p.m. at the George Washington Bridge Terminal, and

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I couldn't even get in the room because the room

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was too damned small. And in fact, as you know,

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there's approximately 300,000 people that live in

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Northern Manhattan, and the room only held no more

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2 than 50 people, and in fact I squeezed in and I  
3 sat on the floor. And I indicated that to the  
4 representative from the Port Authority of New York  
5 and New Jersey, to my understanding was not a  
6 Board Member but an employee. I also testified  
7 that based on everything that I know, my personal  
8 experience as someone that drives across the  
9 George Washington Bridge and uses the tunnels in  
10 order to go visit my children and my relatives in  
11 Virginia and Maryland, and also someone that goes  
12 to New Jersey, that the toll hike, the proposed  
13 toll hike, is outrageous. Because that is what  
14 I've heard from everyone that I talk to. And in  
15 fact, the people in my neighborhood, no one has  
16 said that the toll hike is appropriate. Even  
17 though some people may believe that, everyone that  
18 I know is saying that it is outrageous, it is too  
19 high. And in fact, for your information, the  
20 people that I represent in Northern Manhattan, the  
21 average family of four earns under \$35,000 a year.  
22 And as my colleague Ydanis Rodriguez said, many of  
23 our constituents go and work in New Jersey, and  
24 they have to take vans and buses. And obviously  
25 in my opinion, the prices are going to go up

1  
2 there. People are trying just to eke a living and  
3 to stay alive. And doing these toll hikes on the  
4 back of the people is not acceptable to me as an  
5 elected public official representing Northern  
6 Manhattan. So I say to all of you, that please  
7 communicate with our Governor Cuomo on this  
8 particular matter. Thank you.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council  
10 Member Vacca.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Thank you,  
12 Mr. Majority Leader. And I rise to speak about  
13 what's happening on August 26th. And I  
14 distributed a letter today because last year we in  
15 this Council were quite involved in making sure  
16 that we recognized the 100th anniversary of the  
17 death of Mother Theresa, and we stood up at that  
18 time when the Empire State Building refused to  
19 light up for Mother Theresa, because she was such  
20 a transformational figure. Well, this year we  
21 celebrate on August 26th her 101st birthday, and  
22 in my district I know what we're doing is that  
23 we're going to make sure the food pantries are  
24 full of food. We have in this city millions of  
25 people who do not know where their next meal is



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2 coming from, who cannot afford three meals a day.  
3 With the economy the way it is, we can easily  
4 anticipate that our food banks will run dry. If  
5 Mother Theresa stood for nothing else, she stood  
6 against poverty, and she stood for children and  
7 seniors having food and making provision for the  
8 poorest of the poor. There's been a 60% increase  
9 in the number of New Yorkers who have food anxiety  
10 since 2003. This food anxiety is rampant in our  
11 city, the same city where you can find a cocktail  
12 party going on almost every night among those who  
13 have the money and those who have the resources.  
14 There is a disconnect. I'm hoping that as we  
15 approach April 26th, as many members as possible  
16 will take this opportunity to inventory their food  
17 pantries, assess what those needs are. People are  
18 out there who want to provide food to the needy,  
19 and I think that we can really commemorate the  
20 101st birthday of Mother Theresa by making the  
21 sacrifice, by putting our food pantries in good  
22 shape for the year ahead, knowing what we have  
23 facing us during these terrible times.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council  
25 Member Koo.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Mr. Majority  
3 Leader, I'd like to use this opportunity to thank  
4 my summer interns in our office. They are Bi Yang  
5 Mat [phonetic], Edward Chung [phonetic], Hi Ah  
6 Washid [phonetic], and Vili Singh [phonetic],  
7 Edward Chan [phonetic], Jerry Wen [phonetic].  
8 They are wonderful people working in our office,  
9 helping our community, and they are children of  
10 immigrants. Now they have an understanding of how  
11 the City Council works, and how democracy works.  
12 So, I want to thank them for doing hard work in  
13 the summer. They are sitting in the back. Thank  
14 you very much. Thank you.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council  
16 Member Dromm.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you.  
18 I rise to urge my colleagues to sign on to and to  
19 support Intro 656, which is being co-sponsored by  
20 the Speaker and Council Member Melissa Mark-  
21 Viverito, in addition to 33 other colleagues.  
22 This is a bill that would bring a more fair and  
23 just treatment to our immigrant population here in  
24 New York City, a City that was built by  
25 immigrants. This bill is a local law to amend the

1  
2 administrative code of the City of New York in  
3 relation to persons not to be detained at Rikers  
4 Island. I was first made aware of the issue of  
5 who was held at Rikers Island when a young man who  
6 was brought to this country at the age of four and  
7 was arrested for a serious crime, and after he had  
8 spent two years in a detention camp in Texas came  
9 to my office to tell how he was swept up in a  
10 situation regarding ICE. And his life was  
11 basically ruined because he did not have the money  
12 to provide legal resources and had not seen his  
13 family for two years, because of the treatment  
14 that he received and because he was picked up by  
15 ICE at Rikers Island. So this is an attempt to  
16 allow those who have been exonerated of any  
17 criminal wrongdoing, people who have been found  
18 innocent, not to be held on Rikers Island for the  
19 48-hour period when ICE can come and take them and  
20 do similar things that happened to this young man.  
21 So, it will provide a more just and fair treatment  
22 for this immigrant community. And I urge my  
23 colleagues to support it and to sign on with the  
24 other 35 members. Thank you.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council

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2 Member Rodriguez.

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4 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I'd just  
5 like to congratulate Speaker Quinn and Melissa and  
6 the rest of my colleagues for supporting this bill  
7 that is to look into kick ICE out of Rikers  
8 Island. There's no doubt that we have a Mayor,  
9 that he goes to different states talking about how  
10 the immigration reform is needed. However, at a  
11 City level, the only reason why we have ICE is  
12 because Mayor Bloomberg signed Executive Order 41.  
13 So, it was not the federal government that asked  
14 us to bring ICE to inside Rikers Island, it was a  
15 decision of a Mayor who preaches every day for  
16 immigration reform. So, now that this bill has  
17 been introduced for more than 35 colleagues, I  
18 have no doubt that we have the number necessary to  
19 pass a bill. And this would benefit thousands and  
20 thousands, hundreds of thousands of families that  
21 has been divided because ICE has been present at  
22 Rikers Island. Thank you.

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Okay. I'm  
taking a liberty and going next. I want to honor  
and acknowledge seven young people that interned  
at my office over the past two weeks from the

1  
2 Power Up Program and the Young Women's Leadership  
3 Academy. We have Kiana [phonetic] Comrie, Tori  
4 Cohen, and Jamie Verdon [phonetic]. We also have  
5 Julia Moody, Diamond Moody, Beryl Corbin Gray  
6 [phonetic], and Alonso Goff [phonetic], that have  
7 been working with me, and I'm honored that they  
8 have learned a little bit about the City Council.  
9 I must say so long, for a moment, to Reggie  
10 Thomas, who has been serving with distinction and  
11 dedication as my legislative and budget director  
12 and coordinator for the Queens Delegation. He has  
13 performed outstanding work with our budget and  
14 legislative initiatives. He's helped to keep our  
15 delegation together and strong. He's made a  
16 tremendous impression on staff, council members,  
17 commissioners and advocates alike. He's worked  
18 under great stress and he's done it with grade.  
19 Reggie was stolen from us, and he's going to be  
20 working across the street at the Legislative  
21 Office of the Mayor, so he will still be around  
22 and interfacing with us. And it's a great  
23 opportunity for our City to still benefit from his  
24 skill and commitment and dedication to us. So, he  
25 will be missed, but he won't be gone.

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[applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council  
Member Reyna.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Thank you so  
much. I just wanted to echo the words of Reggie's  
boss, Council Member Comrie. I wanted to just  
give a special shout out to Reggie, because he has  
been an excellent staff member for Comrie and for  
the Queens delegation, which I am a part of as  
well as the Brooklyn. But in Queens we had an  
extraordinary leader in Reggie and it made things  
so much smoother to be able to stay informed of  
everything that was happening in Queens. I want  
to just take a moment to say thank you to Dean  
Wang, who's been interning in my office. He's a  
Hunter College student. I want to thank CUNY for  
recommending him. And all of his great work,  
which has contributed enormously to our  
legislative office. He will be missed and I wish  
him well and I look forward to seeing him during  
his winter break as well as next summer. Thank  
you.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council  
Member Chin?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. I  
3 want to take this opportunity to thank my Chief of  
4 Staff, Jake Itzkowitz. He will be moving on to  
5 law school in Georgetown. And I wanted to invite  
6 all my colleagues and all the staff of the City  
7 Council to join me later at 5:00, to give him a  
8 good sendoff, and thank him for all his commitment  
9 and dedication in serving District 1 and in the  
10 City Council. He made so many friends in the City  
11 Council. I think everybody liked him. So, we  
12 want to wish him well in law school. And drop by  
13 later to give him a good send off. Thank you.

14 [applause]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council  
16 Member Recchia.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Yes.  
18 Today, it's with sadness I say that my  
19 Communications Director is leaving, Rob Hart, who  
20 has done a great job, and he's going to be sorely  
21 missed. He's going to work for a publishing  
22 company; he's going to be a publisher. And I just  
23 want to thank him for his years of dedication to  
24 me, for putting together my website, drecchia.com,  
25 and for also doing my twitter and just being a

1  
2 great writer. So, Rob, you're going to be missed.  
3 Thank you for the years of dedication to me.  
4 We're going to miss you during the budget, and  
5 thank you.

6 [applause]

7 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council  
8 Member Levin.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you.  
10 I just want to echo the sentiments of my  
11 colleagues and recognize three mensches, Rob Hart,  
12 Jake Itzkowitz, and Reggie, who have just been  
13 wonderful to work with and really have reflected  
14 well on this institution and the council members  
15 that they worked with. And I also wanted to  
16 congratulate my friend and colleague, Mark Weprin,  
17 on his first piece of legislation.  
18 Congratulations, Mark.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: That was  
20 the first? Melissa--Council Member Melissa Mark-  
21 Viverito. Sorry.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:  
23 Thank you. I hope everybody is having a great  
24 summer. Want to thank Council Member Danny Dromm  
25 for talking about Intro 656 and really want to



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2 thank all of those who came out in strong show of  
3 support at the press conference earlier today.  
4 But I also want to encourage my colleagues to sing  
5 on to Reso 986, which myself and Oliver Koppell  
6 are introducing today, which is in support of  
7 state--it's a bipartisan bill in the state  
8 legislature. Grisanti, a Republican in the  
9 senate, and Hakeem Jeffries, a democrat in the  
10 assembly, which basically would amend the penal  
11 law in relation to criminal possession of  
12 marijuana in the fifth degree. Right now we have  
13 over 50,000 young people, primarily Black and  
14 Latino, who are being arrested for minor amounts  
15 of possession of Marijuana. Marijuana has been  
16 decriminalized since the 1970s, and basically what  
17 this legislation will do is that small amounts of  
18 marijuana, even in public view, would be a  
19 violation, not a misdemeanor. Too many times our  
20 young people are stopped and frisked, being asked  
21 to empty out their pockets. In emptying out their  
22 pockets, marijuana is shown and then they are  
23 arrested. That is not the intent of the law; it's  
24 a corruption of the original intent of the law and  
25 thousands of our young people are being

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2 criminalized every year. Taking into account what  
3 Mayor Bloomberg has said in rolling out his Young  
4 Black Latino Male Initiative a couple of weeks  
5 ago, obviously this is an issue of concern that  
6 needs to be addressed. We can do a minor policy  
7 change, which has been refused. So now we're  
8 looking at legal measures through law, state law,  
9 to make that practice stop. So, I really would  
10 urge my colleagues to sign on to Reso 986 and to  
11 stop the unjust incarceration and criminalization  
12 of our youth.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council--  
14 we've been joined by Council Member James Sanders.  
15 And Council Member Sanders needs to vote on  
16 today's calendar.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Thank you,  
18 sir. I'd like to vote Aye on all call-ups and all  
19 other issues.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: So ordered.  
21 So now today's--today's revised Land Use call ups  
22 are adopted by a vote of 46 in the affirmative,  
23 zero in the negative. And today's General Order  
24 calendar was also amended to 46 in the affirmative  
25 and 0 in the negative. Council Member Jumaane

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2 Williams.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you. I also want to congratulate my colleagues Weprin and Wills on their bills. I wanted to speak on two bills. The first one, Intro 656 by Melissa Mark-Viverito, Danny Dromm, and especially the Speaker for her leadership on this. I come from an immigrant family. I represent probably 80% or more immigrant communities. I have family that are undocumented. They aren't aliens; they are human beings who are undocumented and they have provided wonderful things to this city and this country, and the policies should be changed so that family isn't torn apart. I was happy that our government did the right thing, and I'm very upset that our President has done the opposite on this particular issue, and hope that we can show the way when it comes to this.

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Second, on Resolution 986, Melissa Mark-Viverito and Oliver Koppell, this is very close to me as well. I've got a lot of young people in my district that have been dealing with this issue. And for me, I reserved my worst and harshest words until now. This is basically just

1  
2 a racist policy. Because I was hoping that after  
3 getting all the information the Mayor might do  
4 something about it, but clearly he is not. And  
5 the silence to me now has been worse than the  
6 policy. There are over 80% of the people who are  
7 stopped, young men of more color, when statistics  
8 show that it is young white people who use  
9 marijuana on a more--on a larger basis. And if  
10 there was 80% of white anything being abused in  
11 this fashion, there would be some changes. So  
12 it's very disheartening to me that this has not  
13 even been addressed. And as I said before, I  
14 would like the Major to let us know if our young  
15 people are second-class citizens, so that we can  
16 move accordingly. If they are not, things like  
17 this need to be addressed in a much quicker  
18 fashion. Thank you.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council  
20 Member James.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: First, I  
22 want to congratulate all the staff members and  
23 interns who are moving on to bigger and better  
24 things. I specifically want to point out Jesse  
25 White from my office, who has been a fabulous

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2 intern, who is now attending, will be attending  
3 college in Washington DC at GW. Congratulations,  
4 Jesse, for all that you are doing.

5           The economic news and not only in  
6 the City but in the state and in this country is  
7 daunting, and I would hope that all of us in the  
8 City Council provide leadership and show  
9 leadership as we focus on jobs for our  
10 constituents. Unfortunately I just received a  
11 very disturbing email of another act of senseless  
12 violence in my district. Two stores were--and a  
13 bank was just robbed in my neighborhood, CVS was  
14 just robbed and Chase Manhattan Bank was just  
15 robbed in Fort Greene. This is in addition to all  
16 of the shootings that have happened in Clinton  
17 Hill and in Fort Greene and in East Flatbush and  
18 in Canarsie and in Brownsville and in East New  
19 York and Bedford-Stuyvesant--all throughout the  
20 last six or seven months, and that's just in  
21 Brooklyn. If you look at the amount of violence  
22 that has happened over the City of New York, it's  
23 really tied, unfortunately, to our economy. We  
24 really need to provide the City with a jobs bill,  
25 a bill that would provide investments to

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2 industrial parts, a bill that would provide  
3 funding to biotech, nanotech, high-tech,  
4 technology, healthcare, and to small businesses  
5 here in the City of New York. I would urge all of  
6 my colleagues to focus again on trying to improve  
7 the economy in the City of New York and to provide  
8 job opportunities, unfortunately, for those who  
9 are having a difficult time finding employment.  
10 These are some very difficult times and I would  
11 urge the administration to work with members of  
12 the City Council to do just that.

13 One recommendation is obviously to  
14 provide, to take the \$75 million that he's using  
15 to arrest individuals for minor crimes towards a  
16 jobs bill. In addition to that, the funds that he  
17 is using towards this African American and Latino  
18 Male initiative, those funds as well can be used  
19 to provide jobs to individuals and well as all of  
20 the technology that he is using in the City of New  
21 York. Now is the time that we focus our energies,  
22 again, on providing employment opportunities--

23 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE:

24 [Interposing] Time.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: --and I look

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forward to working with everyone to do just that.

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council  
Member Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you.  
I'd like to thank the Rules Committee for voting  
unanimously on the appointment of Dr. Vincent  
Calamia to the HHC Board. Vincent Calamia is not  
only a friend of mine, but an individual of  
integrity. He has a reputation of being an adept  
administrator. He's a stalwart advocate for  
people on Staten Island who are in need and are  
not getting adequate services. As you know, HHC  
does not have a facility on Staten Island, and we  
have a large need. And so Dr. Calamia has often  
been in the middle of that fight to ensure that we  
get the resources that we so deserve on Staten  
Island from HHC. And I just want to congratulate  
Dr. Calamia on his appointment to the HHC Board.  
Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council  
Member Vann.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Yeah. Thank  
you, Deputy Majority Leader. I'd like to bring

1  
2 attention to my colleagues to a bill and  
3 resolutions that's being introduced. I'm sure  
4 you'd be interested in joining. The bill is a  
5 Local Law that really would require the Department  
6 of Homeless Services to report on a monthly basis  
7 the location of all their facilities. It's a  
8 transparency bill. I think we all can see the  
9 value of that. The resolution calling for the  
10 state legislature and governor to enact  
11 legislation to require the foreclosing party in  
12 mortgage foreclosure action to produce the pooling  
13 in service agreement. In other words, prohibiting  
14 people who don't own property to sell somebody  
15 else's property, essentially. And Reso 989,  
16 calling upon the state legislature and Governor to  
17 prohibit lenders from concealing mortgage  
18 assignments through the use of MERS--Mortgage  
19 Electronic Registration System. And finally, Reso  
20 990, calling upon the Federal Reserve Bank to  
21 rescind its proposed rule requiring borrowers to  
22 pay off the remaining principal on a mortgage  
23 before the lender is forced to cancel the security  
24 interest in the home. Obviously it's onerous to  
25 have to try and pay that off before that



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2 transaction takes place. And hopefully they will  
3 listen to reason and reverse that decision. Thank  
4 you. I know you all want to rush to join on these  
5 resolutions, and we will accommodate you. Thank  
6 you.

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Seeing no  
8 others, the general discussion is over, and  
9 meeting for August 17th, 2011 is hereby adjourned.  
10 Thank you.

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[applause]

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

Signature 

Date August 31, 2011