

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

STATED MEETING

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FEBRUARY 16, 2023
Start: 2:05 P.M.
Recess: 3:33 PM

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: ADRIENNE E. ADAMS

COUNCIL MEMBERS: DIANA I. AYALA
SHAWN ABREU
JOANN ARIOLA
ALEXA AVILES
CHARLES BARRON
JOSEPH C. BORELLI
ERIK D. BOTTCHER
JUSTIN L. BRANNAN
GALE A. BREWER
SELVENA N. BROOKS-POWERS
TIFFANY CABAN
DAVID M. CARR
CARMEN N. DE LA ROSA
ERIC DINOWITZ
AMANDA FARIAS
OSWALD FELIZ
JAMES F. GENNARO
JENNIFER GUTIERREZ
SHAHANA K. HANIF
KAMILLAH HANKS
ROBERT F. HOLDEN

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

CRYSTAL HUDSON
KRISTINA RICHARDSON JORDAN
RITA C. JOSEPH
ARI KAGAN
SHEKAR KRISHNAN
LINDA LEE
FARAH N. LOUIS
CHRISTOPHER MARTE
DARLENE MEALY
JULIE MENIN
FRANCISCO P. MOYA
MERCEDES NARCISSE
SANDY NURSE
CHI A. OSSE
VICKIE PALADINO
KEITH POWERS
LINCOLN RESTLER
KEVIN C. RILEY
CARLINA RIVERA
RAFAEL SALAMANCA, JR.
PIERINA ANA SANCHEZ
LYNN C. SHULMAN
ALTHENA V. STEVENS
SANDRA UNG
MARJORIE VELAZQUEZ
INNA VERNIKOV
NANTASHA M. WILLIAMS
JULIE WON
KALMAN YEGER

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2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Check one, two, check
3 one two. This is a pre-recorded sound test for the
4 New York City Council Stated Meeting. Today's date
5 is February 16th, 2023. To be recorded by Michael
6 Leonardo in the City Council Chambers. Mr. Majority
7 Leader.

8 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Good
9 afternoon. And welcome to the Stated Meeting of
10 February 16th, 2023. Happy belated Valentine's Day
11 to everybody. I'm Majority Leader Keith Powers. I'd
12 like to thank you all for joining us here today. If
13 you'd like to follow along the agenda for today's
14 meeting is posted on our website.

15 MALE: Please join us for the Pledge of
16 Allegiance.

17 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Please
18 call the roll call.

19 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Abreu.

20 SHAWN ABREU: Present.

21 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Ariola?
22 Aviles?

23 ALEXA AVILES: Presente.

24 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Ayala?

25 DIANA AYALA: Here.

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2 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron?

3 CHARLES BARRON: Here. They got me
4 seated way in the back. I'm back here. Can you see
5 me?

6 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you
7 Council Member.

8 CHARLES BARRON: I just want to let them
9 know that you put me in the back. That's all.

10 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: We see
11 you.

12 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK:
13 Bottcher?

14 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: We also
15 hear you.

16 ERIK BOTTCHEER: Here.

17 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK:
18 Brannan?

19 JUSTIN BRANNAN: Here.

20 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Brewer?
21 Brooks-Powers? Caban?

22 TIFFANY CABAN: Present.

23 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Carr?
24 De La Rosa?

25 CARMEN DE LA ROSA: Here.

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2 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK:

3 Dinowitz?

4 ERIC DINOWITZ: Present.

5 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Farias?

6 Feliz?

7 OSWALD FELIZ: Presente.

8 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK:

9 Gennaro?

10 JAMES GENNARO: Here.

11 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK:

12 Gutierrez?

13 JENNIFER GUITERREZ: Present.

14 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Hanif?

15 SHAHANA HANIF: Here.

16 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Hanks?

17 KAMILLAH HANKS: Present.

18 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Holden?

19 ROBERT HOLDEN: I'm here.

20 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Carr?

21 DAVID CARR: Here.

22 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Hudson?

23 CRYSTAL HUDSON: Here.

24 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Joseph?

25 RITA JOSEPH: Present.

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2 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Kagan?

3 ARI KAGAN: Here.

4 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK:

5 Krishnan?

6 SHEKAR KRISHNAN: Here.

7 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Lee?

8 LINDA LEE: Here.

9 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Louis?

10 FARAH LOUIS: Present.

11 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Marte?

12 CHRISTOPHER MARTE: Here.

13 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy?

14 Menin?

15 JULIE MENIN: Here.

16 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Moya?

17 FRANCISCO MOYA: Here.

18 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK:

19 Narcisse?

20 MERCEDES NARCISSE: Present.

21 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Nurse?

22 SANDY NURSE: Here.

23 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Osse?

24 CHI OSSE: Present.

25

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2 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK:

3 Paladino?

4 VICKIE PALADINO: Here.

5 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Brewer?

6 GALE BREWER: Here.

7 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK:

8 Restler?

9 LINCOLN RESTLER: Here.

10 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK:

11 Richardson Jordan?

12 KRISTINA RICHARDSON-JORDAN: Present.

13 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Riley?

14 KEVIN RILEY: Present.

15 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Ariola?

16 JOANN ARIOLA: Here.

17 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Rivera?

18 Salamanca?

19 RAFAEL SALAMANCA: Present.

20 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK:

21 Sanchez?

22 PIERINA ANA SANCHEZ: Present.

23 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK:

24 Shulman?

25 LYNN SHULMAN: Here.

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2 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy?

3 DARLENE MEALY: Present.

4 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK:

5 Stevens?

6 ALTHENA STEVENS: Here.

7 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Ung?

8 SANDRA UNG: Present.

9 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK:

10 Velazquez?

11 MARJORIE VELAZQUEZ: Present.

12 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK:

13 Vernikov?

14 INNA VERNIKOV: Here.

15 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK:

16 Williams?

17 NANTASHA WILLIAMS: Present.

18 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Won?

19 JULIE WON: Here.

20 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Yeger?

21 KALMAN YEGER: Here.

22 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK:

23 Borelli?

24 JOSEPH BORELLI: Present.

25 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Powers?

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2 KEITH POWERS: I'm here.

3 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker
4 Adams?

5 SPEAKER ADRIENNE ADAMS: Present.

6 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS:

7 Invocation?

8 MALE: None.

9 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you.
10 We will now have the adoption of the minutes by
11 Council Member Jim Gennaro.

12 JAMES GENNARO: I make motion that the
13 minutes of the Stated Meeting of January 19th, 2023
14 be adopted as printed.

15 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you.

16 We will now go to Messages and Papers from the Mayor?

17 MALE: None.

18 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS:

19 Communication from city, county and borough offices.

20 MALE: None.

21 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Petitions
22 and Communications.

23 MALE: None.

24 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Land use
25 call ups.

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2 MALE: None.

3 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you.

4 And we're going to -- before we head over I just want
5 to welcome, I see we have Assembly Member Rajkumar in
6 the upstairs and I also want to welcome Ara Lewis
7 [phonetic] and his students as well today. If we can
8 welcome them to the City Council Chamber. Thank you
9 for being with us here today. We will now to go to
10 communication with Speaker Adrienne Adams.

11 SPEAKER ADRIENNE ADAMS: Thank you
12 Majority Leader very much. And good afternoon once
13 again everyone. I hope you all had a very good
14 Valentine's Day with your loved ones. I'd like to
15 begin today by encouraging all New Yorkers of the
16 continued importance of being fully vaccinated and
17 getting your latest booster shots to protect
18 yourselves and your loved ones from COVID-19. Before
19 I continue, I want to take a moment to remember the
20 life of NYPD officer Adeed Fayaz who was laid to rest
21 last week. Officer Fayaz was a beloved father, son
22 and dedicated public servant. As a City we're still
23 mourning his loss and we send our thoughts and
24 condolences to his family and loved ones during this
25 very difficult time. I also want to acknowledge the

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2 at least eight New Yorkers who were injured and one
3 person who was killed when a U-Haul truck was driven
4 into pedestrians in southern Brooklyn. We extend our
5 thoughts to the family and loved ones of Yijie Ye, a
6 44-year-old delivery worker and single father of
7 three boys who lost his life senselessly. We are
8 also praying for a full and speedy recovery for those
9 who were injured after this terrible incident. And
10 as we do during every other Stated Meeting. I want
11 to take a second to honor the lives of New Yorkers
12 who died in their workplace. This week we are
13 sending our thoughts to the family of Carlos Garcia-
14 Ramos, a 38-year-old delivery worker from Washington
15 Heights who was tragically killed while on the job.
16 Colleagues please join me in a moment of silence to
17 remember Officer Adeed Fayaz, Yijie Ye, Carlos
18 Garcia-Ramos and every other New Yorker who lost
19 their life since we were last together. Thank you.
20 As we talk about safety and violence whether it's gun
21 violence, traffic violence, or even workplace safety
22 we must acknowledge the lack of safety that many
23 communities still face. Black communities and
24 communities of color have endured violence and trauma
25 even when headlines focused on record levels of

2 safety in our City and too often lacked investments
3 in supporting their health and safety. People with
4 mental health and addiction challenges do not have
5 the adequate access to treatment. Crime victims in
6 communities experiencing the most violence lack
7 access to victim services and trauma recovery. We
8 have not scaled up the community safety investments
9 that can make us safer and it must not just be a
10 focus but it has to be a commitment that we make.
11 The path to improving public safety is by investing
12 in community-based safety solutions that prevent
13 crime before it happens. The Council is committed to
14 advancing safety for all our neighborhoods and I look
15 forward to our continued work to achieve this outcome
16 that all New Yorkers deserve. Yesterday, the
17 Council's Committee on Education heard hours of
18 testimony from advocates, providers and parents on
19 how our City's 3K and early childhood education
20 programs are not being supported by the City to meet
21 the needs of working families and children. There is
22 an immense need for these programs across our City
23 that improve children's educational outcomes and help
24 our working families thrive. It is clear that the
25 DOE has not administered these programs effectively

2 but the answer cannot be to reduce our investments.
3 As a City government we have to fix the bureaucratic
4 management issues to get it right for our children,
5 providers, families and communities. We will be
6 focused on advancing solutions to improve the
7 administration of 3K and protecting investments in
8 it. Caregivers must have safe places that they can
9 entrust with the care and education of their children
10 and the City must support the programs and providers
11 delivering those services. Well, we have a few
12 holidays to highlight this week. February 12th was
13 NAACP Day, observed annually in celebration of the
14 day the NAACP was formed in 1909 as the first and
15 oldest Civil Rights Organization in our country. We
16 would not be here today without the work and advocacy
17 of the NAACP and its chapters across the country.
18 Yesterday February 14th, nope that wasn't yesterday,
19 guys, February 14th was National Black Literacy Day
20 which was established to focus on the importance of
21 raising literacy rates in our communities. It was
22 launched by D.L. Mullen the first black woman to own
23 a bookstore in the City of Chicago. As a lifelong
24 lover of literature I want to uplift the power of
25 literacy as a way to empower our communities and

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2 share their own stories and narrative. February 14th
3 was also National Donor Day, a time decided to
4 spreading awareness and education about organ, eye
5 and tissue donations. We thank all of the donors who
6 make the life-saving choice to help others in need.
7 Your generosity and kindness are truly appreciated.
8 Tomorrow is Kosovo Independence Day in commemoration
9 of the Declaration of Kosovo as an Independent Nation
10 in 2008. Earlier this week this Council hosted a
11 Kosovo Independence Day celebration right here in the
12 Chambers. I want to thank Council Members Borelli,
13 Carr, Feliz, Holden, Paladino, Velazquez for hosting
14 this event. On February 23rd our Guyanese
15 communities will be celebrating their Republic Day.
16 As the representative for Council District 28, the
17 Great 28, I am proud to have passed the Bill that led
18 to the co-naming of Little Guyana Avenue. So to our
19 Guyanese communities here in New York City and across
20 the world Happy Guyana Republic Day. On February
21 18th we will mark the annual Hindu Festival of Maha
22 Shivaratri also known as the Great Night of Shiva.
23 Hindus throughout our City and the world will gather
24 to remember Shiva with prayers, fasting and
25 meditation. And on February 22nd Christians will be

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2 observing Ash Wednesday marking the start of Lent, a
3 period for fasting and pence. Finally, please join
4 me in congratulating our colleague Council Member
5 Carlina Rivera and her family on the birth of their
6 healthy baby boy. I'm excited to be Auntie again and
7 we are so excited to welcome a new member of our
8 extended Council family. This is the Council will
9 the largest number of new babies in history. We
10 celebrate Council Member Rivera, congratulations and
11 many blessings and we are all so proud to be the
12 first Council to have created a beautiful lactation
13 room. Now, we can move on to our Stated Agenda.
14 First we will honor the following finance items. A
15 transparency resolution approving new designations
16 and changes of certain organizations receiving
17 funding in the expense budget. Next we will vote on
18 the following resolutions, Resolution 164 sponsored
19 by Council Member Linda Lee. Calls on the New York
20 City Department of Education to establish Diwali as
21 an official holiday for New York City Public School
22 Students with over 227,000 New Yorkers who identify
23 as Indian-American, this holiday would celebrate the
24 light over darkness. Is an immensely significant and
25 meaningful festival for Hindu, Jain, and Sikhs

2 communities. The inclusion of Diwali as a school
3 holiday would signify that our students will no
4 longer have to choose between their faith and their
5 culture and their education. We continue to support
6 the legislative efforts of our state partners and
7 advocating for the Diwali Holiday and since she is in
8 the room Assembly Member Rajkumar we salute you for
9 your Legislation. We thank you to our staff Jan
10 Atwell for your work on this. Resolution 474 co-
11 sponsored by Council Member Amanda Farias and Shahana
12 Hanif recognizes February 21st as Mother Language Day
13 in the City of New York. Bangladesh, one of the
14 fastest growing immigrant groups in New York City
15 with more than 65,000 Bangladeshi-Americans who call
16 New York City home. More than in any other City in
17 the United States. Mother Language Day honors the
18 importance of the Bengali, Bangla language to
19 Bangladeshis in our City and around the world and
20 promotes the acceptance for this linguistic and
21 cultural diversity in our Community. We want to
22 thank Regina Paul and Brenda McKinney for your work
23 on this legislation. Resolution 486 sponsored by
24 Council Member Althea Stevens recognizes February
25 15th as Black Girl Magic Day in the City of New York.

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2 On this day, we acknowledge the accomplishment of
3 black women and the issues that we face. Black women
4 immensely contribute to the social, economic,
5 cultural and political fabric of our City and to the
6 nation. Thank you to our staff members, Regina Paul
7 and Brenda McKinney for your work on this
8 Legislation. Resolution 488 co-sponsored by Council
9 Members Nantasha Williams and Selvena Brooks-Powers
10 recognizes the contributions of Delta Sigma Theta
11 Sorority Incorporated to public service by
12 designating March 3rd annually as Delta Day in the
13 city of New York. Our city is the home of the first
14 graduate chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Incorporated
15 which also includes legendary Brooklyn Heights
16 Shirley Chisum, the first black woman elected to
17 Congress and now includes some New York City Council
18 Members. We thank them. Oh I said if I heard that I
19 was going to shut it down. We thank you. We truly
20 thank you for your advocacy and positive impact on
21 our communities, especially in black communities.
22 The extraordinary work of this organization cannot be
23 heralded anymore. We thank you for your contribution
24 and thank you Deltas and you're beautiful in a frame
25 up there. Thank you staff Regina Paul and Brenda

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2 McKinney for your work on this legislation. Next we
3 will vote on the following bills. Introduction 897
4 sponsored by Parks Committee Chair Shekar Krishnan
5 would co-name 129 city streets and public places in
6 honor of extraordinary individuals and communities
7 based on the request of Council Members whose
8 districts include the location. While there are many
9 names worth highlighting in his omnibus Bill I do
10 want to note one in particular because of his role in
11 our body as well as across the City and state. That
12 is former Council Member and Assembly Member Al Vann.
13 Dr. Vann was a dedicated public servant, educator,
14 community activist and leader who fought for the
15 empowerment of black communities in Brooklyn and
16 across our entire city and state. He was a champion
17 for central Brooklyn and it's neighborhoods of
18 Bedford-Stuyvesant where he was raised and that he
19 represented in the State Assembly and here on the
20 City Council. He served as a public school teacher
21 and administrator in the neighborhood before
22 representing for nearly four decades in elected
23 office. He was a giant who focused on community
24 institution building and mentorship for so many
25 public servants. Al Vann the Man as he was

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2 affectionately known got an immense respect. I am
3 proud we are honoring his profound life and legacy as
4 a City by co-naming the street of his home and the
5 school he taught in as Honorable Dr. Albert Vann Way
6 in Brooklyn. So many of are here in this body
7 because of his efforts and it is fitting that we
8 advance this street co-naming during Black History
9 Month. His grandchildren are here in City Council
10 Chambers with us today to celebrate this moment and I
11 want to publicly acknowledge them. Thank you to our
12 staff members Kristoffer Sartori and Patrick
13 Mulvihill for your work. Introduction 866 sponsored
14 by Majority Leader Keith Powers would extend the
15 moratorium on violations issued to owners who have
16 noncompliant signs that depict their businesses and
17 extended assistance program to correct signage
18 issues. Thank you to our staff Audrey Son. Next,
19 Introduction 148A sponsored by Council Member Justin
20 Brannan would amend the New York City Human Rights
21 Law to recognize economic abuse as a form of domestic
22 violence. This Bill extends the existing protection
23 against discrimination for survivors of domestic
24 violence to people who have experienced economic
25 abuse. This

2 would include behavior that controls, obstructs or
3 interferes with a person's ability to use or maintain
4 economic resources they are entitled to or to acquire
5 economic resources. We thank our staff Jayasari
6 Ganapathy and Wiam Diori for your work, Brenda
7 McKinney and Rachel Cordero as well. Finally,
8 Introduction 470 A sponsored by Environmental
9 Protection Committee Chair Gennaro would establish
10 an accelerated timeline for prohibiting the burning
11 of fuel oil grade #4 in boilers across the City.
12 Although the City has made progress in our efforts
13 in improve air quality and phase out dirty fuel
14 oils. The environmental benefits have not been
15 equitably distributed. More than half of buildings
16 that use #4 fuel oil and 65% of schools that use #4
17 fuel oil are in environmental justice communities.
18 By further reducing carbon dioxide emissions and
19 lessoning the fine particulate matter in our air we
20 can significantly benefit the health and well-being
21 of New Yorkers. Introduction 470 A would require
22 the phasing out of #4 fuel oil in city owned schools
23 and buildings by July 1st, 2025 and would prohibit
24 its use after July 1st, 2027 for all other buildings
25 in the City and we thank our

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2 staff Andrew Born, Mallock Nacesserine, Brad Reed,
3 Samara Swanston and Ricky Chawla. Thank you all for
4 all your attention and now I turn it back into the
5 hands of our Majority Leader.

6 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you.
7 And we are now going to move into discussion of
8 general orders. I will call on you in order of the
9 sign up. We are going to start first Council Member
10 Gennaro and will be followed by Council Member
11 Barron.

12 JAMES GENNARO: Thank you Mr. Leader. I
13 would like to speak about Intro 470A which would
14 hasten the phase out of the burning off heating oil
15 #4 from public and private buildings. But to fully
16 grasp the Bill one must understand what #4 fuel is
17 and the Council's actions on #4 fuel to date. There
18 used to be three grades of heating oil in the City,
19 #2, #4 and #6. Two is the most common and cleanest
20 of the grades of heating oil. Number 6 is the most
21 polluting oil grade by far. This Council in 2010
22 began a five year phase out of #6. Number 6 is long
23 gone. Number 4 oil is a blend of #2 and #6 and in
24 2010 when we banned #6 the Council by Local Law
25 greatly reduced the sulfur content of #4 fuel by 2/3

2 from 4500 parts per million down to 1500 parts per
3 million. That made #4 much cleaner but it still has
4 a significant amount of sulfur plus some heavy metals
5 and other things we shouldn't be putting in to the
6 air. With that in mind, #4 was set to be phased by
7 2030. The Administration set that phase out day by
8 rule in 2011 and in 2015 the Council codified the
9 2030 date law to make sure that #4 did indeed phase
10 out by 2030. That's the history. And the rationale
11 or this bill today is that we're not in a good place
12 with regard to the ongoing phase out of #4. Despite
13 only 0.3 of all buildings in the City burning #4 oil,
14 25% of New York City Public Schools burn #4 which is
15 obscene and to make matters even worse 66% of the
16 public school that burn #4 are in EJ communities and
17 of the other buildings that burn #4 52% are in EJ
18 communities. Intro 470 would remedy that. #4 oil
19 would be out of every New York City Public School by
20 2025 and regarding the phase out of #4 oil from the
21 other 3,000 buildings that use it as a primary or a
22 secondary fuel, no more #4 oil permit renewals would
23 be allowed after June 30, 2024. So those buildings
24 would phase out #4 between 2024 and 2027. And the
25 Bill has a penalty structure for noncompliance that

2 says we mean business but there is also a hardship
3 provision in the Bill. So the Bill is comprehensive
4 tough yet fair. I urge all my colleagues to support
5 Intro 470A. Thank you Speaker for the extra time.

6 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you
7 Council Member Gennaro and congratulations on that
8 Bill. I know you've been working on this issue for
9 quite a long time. We will go now to Council Member
10 Barron and will be followed by Council Member Ariola.

11 CHARLES BARRON: Thank you very much my
12 colleagues. I rise to honor the street naming of
13 three elderly individuals in my community Jacolia
14 James Way, Juanita Caballero Way and Myrtle McKinney
15 Way. These young ladies who they called elderly
16 served our community well and they were killed
17 unnecessarily and we want to honor them with the
18 street naming, also Dr. Al Vann was a good friend of
19 mine and we want to honor that. Clifford Glover the
20 10-year-old that was shot down by police. We are
21 naming it after him and importantly the Honorable
22 Elijah Muhammad. And I want to rise to say it is the
23 Honorable Elijah Muhammad who brought so much hope to
24 our people in prison and poverty. It is the
25 Honorable Elijah Muhammad that brought high self-

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2 esteem to our people and some were resisting to this.
3 I want to give credit where credit is due to the
4 Speaker for supporting this whole idea of these
5 street namings and for those who are against the
6 Honorable Elijah Muhammad and you are all right with
7 Washington Avenue, Jefferson Street, slave holding
8 pedophiles of our people. We can have Skank Avenue
9 in east New York, a slave holder, Van Sicklen
10 [phonetic] Avenue, a slave holder. I can spend the
11 rest of my 30 some odd seconds naming all the street
12 names after racist, dirty, low-down slave holders and
13 you said nothing. But when it came to the Honorable
14 Elijah Muhammad there was some resistance but I am
15 glad that this body didn't allow for that
16 contradiction of resistance to take place and this
17 busy saw it fit to honor the Honorable Elijah
18 Muhammad and his student minister the Honorable
19 Louis Minister Farrakhan who brought nearly 2
20 million people to Washington D.C. more than any
21 other leader in the history of this country.

22 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you
23 Council Member Barron. We will now hear from Council
24 Member Ariola followed by Council Member Lee.

25

2 JOANN ARIOLA: Thank you. I'm thrilled
3 to have four street co-namings on today's agenda.
4 The first being Little Bangladesh Way. The
5 Bangladeshi Community in the 32nd Council District is
6 a vibrant part of four district. There are small
7 business owners, religious and civic leaders and have
8 made a tremendous contribution to our City and State.
9 The second is Joseph "JoJo" DeToma Way. It is in
10 loving memory of Joseph "JoJo" DeToma that we do this
11 street co-naming. He passed at the young age of 18
12 due to a rare form of cancer. JoJo spent his 18
13 years teaching the children of our community soccer
14 and sharing his love of the sport even though he was
15 so gravely ill. The third is Valentina's Way. This
16 particular street naming is very close to me and my
17 family because Valentina Allen's and Valentina are
18 considered extended family to mine. She passed at
19 two years old from a rare childhood heart disease,
20 hypoplastic left heart syndrome. In her two short
21 years Valentina inspired a force of supporters who
22 have come to be known as Team Valentina. And her
23 spirit continues to shine throughout our Community.
24 As everyone bands together with her family to
25 continue to raise money to fight against children's

2 heart disease. And finally the fourth street co-
3 naming is in loving memory of a hero. A member of
4 the FDNY Firefighter Timothy Klein who made the
5 ultimate sacrifice last April while protecting the
6 resident of New York City. May Valentina and Timothy
7 and Joseph rest in God's eternal peace and their
8 families find solace in knowing that their loved ones
9 are not forgotten. Thank you for the time.

10 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you.
11 We will now hear from Council Member Lee followed by
12 Council Member Krishnan.

13 LINDA LEE: Thank you. Today I am proud
14 to co-name, mention two street co-namings. Co-naming
15 the intersection of 197th Street and 91st Avenue
16 Lieutenant Robert Cruz Way. Lieutenant Robert Cruz
17 was a 16-year member of the FDNY who served for many
18 years at Engine Company 301 fondly known as the
19 Hollis Hogs. After his promotion to Lieutenant
20 Robert Cruz worked with Battalion 7. We lost the
21 Lieutenant during a sudden and tragic medical episode
22 last February. He is survived by his wife Lauren,
23 son Noah, daughter Lydia. By his parents Robert Cruz
24 and Nadean Torres, brother Andrew, sister Rebecca and
25 several extended family and friends. I am also

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2 privileged to co-name the intersection of 67th Avenue
3 and 192nd Street in honor of Sylvia Weprin, a pillar
4 of our Eastern Queens Community. A native of Havana,
5 Cuba, Sylvia would attend Berkley college where she
6 would meet her husband Assembly Speaker Saul Weprin.
7 A natural teacher, Sylvia would go on to mentor
8 multiple elected officials and serve on the Board of
9 the Queens Botanical Garden and the Queen Symphony
10 Orchestra, Community Board 8 and the Bridge to
11 Medicine Program with CUNY Medical School. Two of
12 her sons, Mark and David served in the City Council
13 and New York State Assembly and I am proud to be
14 carrying on that legend in that seat. Sylvia
15 Weprin's influence has greatly contributed to the
16 advancement and well-being of eastern Queens, of the
17 eastern Queens we know today and I am proud to
18 commemorate her life of service and leadership.
19 Thank you.

20 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you.
21 We will now hear from Council Member Krishnan
22 followed by Council Member Osse.

23 SHEKAR KRISHNAN: Thank you much Majority
24 Leader. I want to speak today on three street
25 namings in my district that I am very proud about as

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2 part of our legislation of Intro 897. One piece of
3 legislation is to rename 73rd Street Bangladesh
4 Street in Jackson Heights. Bangladesh Street for
5 73rd Street would honor the Bangladeshi community of
6 Jackson Heights and of our City. And recognize the
7 contributions they have made and continue to make to
8 our neighborhood Jackson Heights, Queens more
9 generally and all of New York City. 73rd Street in
10 Jackson Heights is the heart of our Bangladeshi
11 Community reflecting so powerfully its vibrant
12 culture and the immense power and presence our
13 Bangladeshi community has in my district and across
14 New York. I am so proud to work with so many
15 community leaders and activists and neighbors in our
16 Bangladeshi Community to host this street co-naming.
17 Another co-naming would recognize John Browne Way in
18 Elmhurst which would honor John Browne, an Irish
19 immigrant who served in the U.S. Army and later
20 became a local business and civic leader who engaged
21 in providing needed aid to other immigrants and
22 canvased activities. We are so grateful for all of
23 his service to the community over the years of his
24 life and I am proud to announce this co-naming today.
25 Finally Asif Rahman Way would honor Asif Rahman who

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2 tragically died at the young age of 22 when he was
3 struck by a freight truck on Queens Boulevard. Asif
4 was a Bangladeshi immigrant who excelled in school
5 and was a graduate of Queens College. His tragic
6 death spurred his mother Liz Rahman to create a
7 campaign to make Queens Boulevard safer. As a result
8 over 10,000 people, hundreds of businesses and dozens
9 of organizations have supported the campaign by
10 signing petitions, participating in community design
11 workshops and local rallies all off which have helped
12 to make changes to Queens Boulevard resulting in a
13 safer street for pedestrians. Queens Boulevard was
14 once known as the Boulevard, the #1 boulevard of
15 death in the borough of Queens and it's because of
16 the work of so many leaders like mother Liz Rahman
17 that is has become so much safer. I am proud about
18 this co-naming today and work to make safe streets in
19 New York City continues in the memory and legacy of
20 Asif Rahman and his family. Thank you.

21 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you.
22 We will now hear from Council Member Osse followed by
23 Council Member Kagan.

24 CHI OSSE: Thank you Majority Leader. I
25 have two amazing street co-namings to speak about

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2 today. Bed-Stuy and Crown Height are communities of
3 faith. Many people in the northern part of my
4 district including Marcy and Thompkins Houses grew up
5 and were called to faith under the leadership of
6 Daniel Webster Batts. It is my honor to both
7 introduce and to now sign into a co-naming the name
8 of Daniel Webster Batts. At the time of his passing
9 D.W. Batts was a pastor at the Greater Free Gift
10 Baptist Church. D.W. Batts was more than a religious
11 leader in my community he was the chairman of the
12 Advisory Council of the Eastern Baptist Association
13 of New York, President of the Baptist Pastors and
14 church's union of Brooklyn and Long Island and Vice-
15 President of the Brooklyn Baptist and Angelical
16 Union. He was an all-around outstanding preacher,
17 teacher, advisor and counselor in church policy,
18 practices and doctrine. He was devoted to the church
19 community, state and nation. His legacy and the
20 seeds that he planted live on in the Cathedral of
21 Greater Free Gift lead by Bishop William Raymond
22 Whitaker. I also have the honor of putting in the
23 co-naming for the Honorable Albert Vann a political
24 bedrock, political giant, super special and the
25 original Mr. Cool, Vann the Man, hometown hero, the

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2 original progressive, the man who spurred the black
3 political movement in Brooklyn. These are just some
4 of the words that have been used to describe the late
5 and great Dr. Albert Vann. This is a body that knows
6 all about Dr. Vann's commitments and investments in
7 his home of Bed-Stuy and Crown Heights and in the
8 City. After all he was a true pioneer. Al Vann sat
9 in this very room as the member elected to the 36th
10 City Council District and in Albany as a New York
11 State legislative having served us as a legislator
12 from 1975 to 2012. When we talk about the hope and
13 dream of a people Al Vann is an example. He arrived
14 to New York from North Carolina during the great
15 migration and like many people of his day he took
16 full advantage of what New York City had to offer.
17 Al Vann is a founder of Medgar Evers College, former
18 Chair of African American Teacher Association and the
19 founder of Vanguard Independent Democratic
20 Association which continues to be one of the most
21 influential and important political organizations of
22 our time. May all who walk our streets look up and
23 see the name of our hometown hero Al Vann, pioneer of
24 political black Brooklyn. Thank you.

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2 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you.
3 We will now hear from -- folks if we could just. I
4 know everybody is very excited just hold your
5 applause if you want to do something else it's
6 totally fine. We will go now to Council Member Kagan
7 and then we will go to Council Member Narcisse.

8 ARI KAGAN: Thank you. It is my
9 privilege and honor today to talk about Jimmy Prince.
10 And I am honored to make sure that Jimmy Prince Way
11 will exist on Mermaid Avenue in Coney Island. Jimmy
12 Prince was the kindest man in the world and the
13 brightest light in Coney Island. He personified
14 compassion, love and respect for the community.
15 There was no one like him. He was born in 1932 the
16 same year that Major Market opened on Mermaid Avenue.
17 Jimmy began working at the market in June of 1949 at
18 the age of 18 and worked there for the next six
19 years. Eventually he owned the store and kept it
20 open seven days a week 12 hours a day until his
21 retirement in 2009. Jimmy became known as Mr. Major
22 and his store became the heart of Coney Island at a
23 huge, during hard time where people came to find
24 warmth and solace and nourishment. He gave respect
25 and received love in return. Jimmy Prince kept the

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2 store open long after most local businesses were
3 closing or moving. He installed a bench in front of
4 his store where people could relax. He never turned
5 anyone away whether or not they could pay. He
6 provided affordable healthy food and he personally
7 made deliveries to elderly and disabled customers.
8 Usually aiding customers that he knew that needed to
9 work. Jimmy retired but still attended community
10 events, sponsored them and also became a volunteer at
11 the Coney Island History Project. Former customers
12 would come to visit and chat with him on weekends.
13 He was always working at beach cleanups on Coney
14 Island Creek and amazingly he made some food
15 deliveries to his oldest customers. All at his own
16 expense. When Jimmy Prince passed away there was
17 much sadness in the community. Everyone who knew him
18 knew how special he was and how there would never be
19 again only like Mr. Major and his wonderful store.
20 It is extremely important to honor the memory of
21 Jimmy Price the hard working, selfless, caring,
22 generous, beautiful Prince of Mermaid Avenue. Thank
23 you so much.

24

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2 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you
3 and now we hear from Council Member Narcisse followed
4 by Council Member Shulman.

5 MERCEDES NARCISSE: Hi. Thank you
6 Leader. I am proud today to pass the, to be part of
7 the passing the legislation and to honor the five
8 individuals in my District, 46th District who
9 everlasting impact our own Community. Ethan Holder
10 was a young assistant teacher in Council District and
11 was gunned down daytime outside the school and Ethan
12 is a young man that wanted to do better for the
13 community. Helping those children in needs and while
14 he was just putting the children on the bus to go
15 home he turned around and go into a store and he was
16 gunned down. And we will never forget that. So I
17 thank you for helping me to make sure that he was
18 never forgotten and to show the inequities in our
19 community and the gun violence that we will never
20 forget and we need to make a difference. And Charles
21 Rogers is a man that was spanning Canarsie to make
22 sure that everyone had a newspaper. He was ready to
23 go to everyone's home to know what was going on and
24 to put it in the forefront for the Canarsians. 15-
25 year-old Kaitlyn was a nice sweetheart but cancer

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2 took her away so we will never forgot the effort that
3 she made to make a difference for her little time on
4 this planet feeding the people. Making sure that she
5 volunteer for the seniors in schools. So we were
6 blessed to have her in a short time and New York City
7 bravest the Firefighter Steven Pollard. Which
8 everyone probably remember is our hero who died in
9 the line of duty in 2010 and we can never forget the
10 work that he had done in our community especially in
11 the 46th District. Lastly, Haitian immigrant and
12 Canarsie resident Sergeant Mario Nelson died in Iraq
13 which most people don't want to fight war but he did
14 not go against. He went in and served his country.
15 He died. He was indeed a Haitian warrior and the
16 street sign dedicated will have it name in honor of
17 his work for the country. Thank you.

18 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you.

19 MERCEDES NARCISSE: I want my colleagues
20 to support. That's the last one.

21 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you.
22 Now we will hear from Council Member Shulman. And
23 then we will go remote for Council Member Holden.

24 LYNN SHULMAN: Thank you very much. I'm
25 very proud to sponsor the co-naming of the

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2 intersection of Metropolitan Avenue and 85th Avenue
3 in District 29 Queen as Rabbi Moshe Neuman Way.
4 Rabbi Neuman was a very dedicated spiritual leader,
5 admired academic scholar and school principal who
6 founded the Bais Yaakov Academy of Kew Gardens,
7 Queens. A school for girls of the Jewish faith and
8 was the principal of the school for many years and
9 actually where the intersection is where the school
10 is located. He was an enthusiastic individual who
11 dedicated services to community and people and won
12 the admiration of those around him. He contributed
13 as a dedicated spiritual leader, academic scholar and
14 devoted citizen and he had many, spent many years in
15 the community and with that, you know I am very proud
16 to sponsor this and thank you everyone for voting for
17 it. Thank you.

18 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you.
19 And now last but not least we will hear from Council
20 Member Holden remote.

21 ROBERT HOLDEN: Thank you Majority
22 Leader. And I am happy to introduce two street co-
23 namings in the Wood Haven section of my District.
24 First is American Legion Square are the corner of
25 Rockaway Boulevard and Eldert Lane. In 1930 this

2 area was designated as a Legion Square by the Board
3 of Alderman of the City of New York. And for many
4 years Wood Havens Memorial Day parades started here
5 and many people forgot about it so today we pay
6 honors and respect to our veterans by restoring the
7 name Legion Square by co-naming this intersection
8 Legion Square or American Legion Square. The second
9 street co-name is Max Rosner Way. And I'm
10 particularly proud of this one too. This is co-
11 naming will recognize the historical Dexter Park
12 which was the home to semi-pro baseball starting in
13 1889 and ending around 1956. And for many years
14 that's the park who was the home of the Brooklyn
15 Bushwicks who played host to many teams and traveling
16 teams around the country and made up of all stars
17 from the major leagues. Many of the greatest
18 ballplayers of all time came here to Wood Haven to
19 play baseball like Babe Ruth and Josh Gibson. The
20 Bushwicks in Dexter Park were owned by Max Rosner an
21 immigrant from Hungary who was a beloved figure in
22 Wood Haven and always loaning out the ballpark for
23 travel events and especially during World War II.
24 Dexter Park was one of the first stadiums in the U.S.
25 to play night baseball, years before it was common in

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2 the Major League. So, it's great that we are on our
3 re-naming Dexter Court and 86th Road after him.

4 Thank you. Thank you Majority Leader.

5 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you.
6 Not seeing anyone else signed up right now. We will
7 go on. We will move into the report Special
8 Committees.

9 MALE: None.

10 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Reports of
11 Standing Committees.

12 MALE: Report of the Committee on Civil
13 and Human Rights. Intro 148A expanding the
14 definition of domestic violence victim.

15 SPEAKER ADRIENNE ADAMS: Amended and
16 coupled and General Orders.

17 MALE: Report of the Committee on
18 Environmental Protection. Intro 470A fuel oil grade
19 #4.

20 SPEAKER ADRIENNE ADAMS: Amended and
21 coupled on general orders.

22 MALE: Report of the Committee on Finance
23 Pre-Considered Reso 502 Transparency Resolution.

24 SPEAKER ADRIENNE ADAMS: Coupled on
25 General Orders.

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2 MALE: Report of the Committee on Housing
3 and Buildings. Intro 886 Accessory Signs.

4 SPEAKER ADRIENNE ADAMS: Coupled on
5 General Orders.

6 MALE: Report of the Committee on Parks
7 and Recreation. Intro 897 naming of 129
8 thoroughfares and public places.

9 SPEAKER ADRIENNE ADAMS: Coupled on
10 General Orders.

11 MALE: On the General Orders Calendar
12 Resolution appointing various persons Commissioner of
13 Deeds.

14 SPEAKER ADRIENNE ADAMS: Coupled on
15 General Orders. I would now ask that the Clerk take
16 a roll call vote on all of the items coupled on
17 today's General Orders calendar.

18 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Abreu?

19 SHAUN ABREU: Aye.

20 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Ariola?

21 JOANN ARIOLA: I am a no on Pre-
22 Considered Reso 502 and Intro 470 A. I am an aye on
23 all others. And I have to disclose on the record
24 that my son works for sanitation.

25

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2 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank
3 you. Aviles?

4 ALEXA AVILES: Aye on all.

5 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Ayala?

6 DIANA AYALA: Aye.

7 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron?

8 CHARLES BARRON: Aye on all.

9 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK:
10 Bottcher?

11 ERIK BOTTCHEER: Aye.

12 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK:
13 Brannan?

14 JUSTIN BRANNAN: Aye.

15 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Brewer?

16 GALE BREWER: Aye.

17 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank
18 you. Brooks-Powers?

19 SELVENA BROOKS-POWERS: Permission to
20 explain my vote.

21 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Go ahead.

22 SELVENA BROOKS-POWERS: I would like to
23 take a moment to recognize a few of street co-namings
24 that I have sponsored including that of Don E. Small
25 Senior Way, Rayquon M. Elliot also known as

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2 Stackbundles Way who has contributed to the musical
3 culture in this state and country. Alvin Benjamin
4 Way as well as St. John Episcopal Way. St. John's
5 especially I want to highlight with the work and
6 service of the staff at St. John's Hospital, our only
7 hospital in the Far Rockaway Community that was the
8 epicenter of COVID 19. So I encourage my colleagues
9 to vote aye and with that I vote aye on all. Thank
10 you.

11 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank
12 you. Caban?

13 TIFFANY CABAN: Aye on all.

14 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Carr?

15 DAVID CARR: I would like to disclose on
16 the record that we're funding CUNY in the
17 transparency resolution today and my spouse is a
18 student at CUNY and with that said I'll be voting no
19 on Pre-Considered Resolution 502 and Introduction
20 470A. And aye on the rest. Thank you.

21 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank
22 you. De La Rosa?

23 CARMEN DE LA ROSA: I would like to
24 explain my vote.

25 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Go ahead.

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2 CARMEN DE LA ROSA: I just want to
3 acknowledge I spoke about it at Last Stated I mean
4 but today we are voting on a street co-naming for
5 John Collado who was a neighbor who was killed by
6 police in my District in 2011. John was a father, a
7 grandfather. He was someone who everyone knew on the
8 block where I grew up and he was murdered by police
9 officers in 2011 on my street. And so I want to
10 honor his memory and the memory that he left for our
11 community and I vote aye on all. Thank you.

12 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank
13 you. Dinowitz?

14 ERIC DINOWITZ: Yes.

15 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Farias?

16 AMANDA FARIAS: I vote aye on all.

17 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Feliz?

18 OSWALD FELIZ: Aye.

19 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK:
20 Gennaro?

21 JAMES GENNARO: Mr. Leader I ask
22 permission to explain my vote?

23 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Go ahead.

24 JAMES GENNARO: I just wanted to, one of
25 the streets is going to be named for Sylvia Weprin.

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2 She and her husband Saul were mentors of mine and I
3 am so glad that she is being honored by the street
4 co-naming and I want to keep my remarks on my Bill
5 short so I stay within the two minutes. But I do
6 certainly want to thank the Speaker for everything
7 that she put behind 470 and the Members of the
8 Committee the 40 co-sponsors. You know Jeremy John,
9 Faiza Ali, Jeff Baker, Andrew Vazquez, Brad Reid,
10 Malak Nassereddine, Samara Swanson, Ricky Chawla,
11 Andrew Borne, Andrew Lane Wallace and my own staff
12 Henry, Ann, Natalia and Kosakowa
13 [phonetic], Matt Leroy and last but not least my LD
14 Nabby Kaur sitting right behind me who was the
15 greatest LD worker and proud to have her on my
16 staff. So thank you Nabby and thank you everyone.
17 I should vote too right?

18 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: We will
19 take your vote as well.

20 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Yeah.

21 JAMES GENNARO: I vote aye.

22 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank
23 you Council Member. Gutierrez?

24 JENNIFER GUTIERREZ: Aye.

25 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Hanif?

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2 SHAHANA HANIF: I would like to disclose
3 on the record that my fiancé is affiliated with an
4 organization that we fund the New York Immigration
5 Coalition. And aye.

6 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: I'm not
7 going to get used to that.

8 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Hanks?

9 KAMILLAH HANKS: Permission to explain my
10 vote. Thank you Mr. Majority Leader. I am also
11 excited to mention three street co-namings that I
12 sponsored of three tireless advocates for North
13 Shore. Ms. Jennifer Brumskine Gray an amazing and
14 fierce advocate for the African and Liberian
15 community. Mr. Joseph Carroll who served as the
16 Community Board 1 District Manager for 39 years and
17 lastly my pastor, my friend, my mentor, Mr. James L.
18 Seawood. And I am very proud to be sponsoring these
19 street co-namings. Thank you very much and I vote
20 aye on all.

21 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank
22 you. Holden?

23 ROBERT HOLDEN: Aye on all.

24 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Hudson?

25

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2 CRYSTAL HUDSON: Aye on all. And I would
3 like to disclose on the record that my partner is
4 employed by Planned Parenthood which is in the
5 Resolution. Thank you.

6 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank
7 you. Joseph?

8 RITA JOSEPH: Aye on all.

9 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Kagan?

10 ARI KAGAN: I would like to disclose that
11 my daughter is a student at CUNY College and we are
12 funding CUNY in the resolution. So I am voting no on
13 Pre-Considered resolution 542 and on in Intro 470 A
14 and I vote aye on all the rest.

15 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank
16 you. Krishnan?

17 SHEKAR KRISHNAN: Aye on all.

18 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Lee?

19 LINDA LEE: Aye on all.

20 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Louis?

21 FARAH LOUIS: I vote aye.

22 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Marte?

23 CHRISTOPHER MARTE: Aye.

24 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy?

25 FEMALE: Darlene.

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2 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Menin?

3 JULIE MENIN: Aye on all.

4 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Moya?

5 FRANCISCO MOYA: I vote aye.

6 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank

7 you. Narcisse?

8 MERCEDES NARCISSE: Aye.

9 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Nurse?

10 SANDY NURSE: Aye. Congratulations.

11 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Osse?

12 CHI OSSE: I vote aye on all.

13 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK:

14 Paladino?

15 VICKIE PALADINO: I vote aye on all

16 except for Pre-Considered Reso 502, Intro 470A.

17 Thank you.

18 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank

19 you. Restler?

20 LINCOLN RESTLER: Aye.

21 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK:

22 Richardson-Jordan?

23 KRISTINA RICHARDSON-JORDAN: Permission

24 to explain my vote?

25 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Go ahead.

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2 KRISTINA RICHARDSON-JORDAN: I just
3 wanted to say something about Elijah Muhammad Way
4 because that is in my District. We got the
5 signatures and it is long overdue and I just want to
6 say that it's actually not okay family by family I
7 mean human family. It's actually not okay to erase
8 black leaders who are not pleasing to white people.
9 It actually is way overdue. So, I profoundly vote
10 aye. It is not okay to sanitize black history and
11 black leadership. I profoundly vote aye on Elijah
12 Muhammad Way. And aye on all.

13 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Riley?

14 KEVIN RILEY: Aye.

15 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Rivera.

16 Excuse me. Salamanca?

17 RAFAEL SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

18 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK:

19 Sanchez?

20 PIERINA SANCHEZ: Permission to explain

21 my vote?

22 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Go ahead.

23 PIERINA SANCHEZ: I'd also like to

24 celebrate the life of Dr. Thomasina Bushby who we are

25 naming the street after in our district. She was a

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2 long-time servant of the community and Community
3 Board 5. She was on Morris Heights Health Center's
4 Board. She was a long-time professor of Monroe
5 College and just someone who gave so much of herself
6 to the Community. So I am very honored that we can
7 do this for our community on behalf of Dr. Bushby and
8 with that I vote aye.

9 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK:
10 Shulman?

11 LYNN SHULMAN: Aye on all.

12 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK:
13 Stevens/

14 ALTHENA STEVENS: Aye on all.

15 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Ung?

16 SANDRA UNG: Aye on all.

17 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK:
18 Velazquez?

19 MARJORIE VELAZQUEZ: Aye on all and I
20 would like to disclose on the record my brother is a
21 Board Member of Samaritans New York and my husband is
22 the Deputy Commissioner for DEP.

23 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank
24 you. Vernikov?

25

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2 INNA VERNIKOV: Aye on all except no on
3 470 A, Pre-Considered Reso 502 and I abstain from
4 897A. Thank you.

5 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank
6 you. Williams?

7 NANTASHA WILLIAMS: Just disclosing for
8 the record that I am a CUNY student and I vote aye on
9 all.

10 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank
11 you. Won?

12 JULIE WON: Aye on all.

13 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank
14 you. Yeger?

15 KALMAN YEGER: Aye on all with the
16 exception of Introduction 470 on which I vote no and
17 I abstain on Intro 897 and Resolution 502. Thank
18 you.

19 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank
20 you. Borelli?

21 JOSEPH BORELLI: Thank you. I will vote
22 no on Pre-Considered Reso 502, no on Intro 470 A and
23 aye on all the rest.

24 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Powers?
25

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2 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: I vote
3 aye.

4 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker
5 Adams?

6 SPEAKER ADRIENNE ADAMS: Permission to
7 explain my vote?

8 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: You have
9 permission.

10 SPEAKER ADRIENNE ADAMS: Thank you so
11 much Majority Leader. I just want us to lift up it
12 is black history month and I wanted to lift up a few
13 of the street co-namings that we've wanted to do for
14 so long. I'm just going to lift up a couple of them.
15 One was already mentioned and that's Clifford Glover
16 Road. I think we all remember if we don't then we
17 should definitely look it up those of you who are
18 newer than some of us in this room who Clifford
19 Glover was and how he died to brutally. I also
20 wanted to mention Carmichael Way. This is very
21 significant to the southeast Queens community. We
22 that have been in southeast Queens for a very long
23 time remember the famed Carmichael's diner owned by
24 the brothers Carmichael Benjamin and King from South
25 Carolina where my own family hails from. They

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2 operated their diner for decades and Carmichaels was
3 a staple in southeast Queens in my own district. It
4 is actually where my parents took me to lunch when I
5 graduated from Bayside High School. So it is my
6 honor to have a street co-naming to remember them and
7 I also wanted to lift up Cecelia Owen Cox. She
8 smashed gender barriers in the fire department. She
9 was one of the original 41 women hired in 1992. She
10 was a black female firefighter. She was the first
11 woman assigned to a ladder company and the first to
12 be a ladder company chauffer. She opened many, many
13 doors and was extremely brave so she was brave not
14 only going to the firehouse as a black woman but she
15 also exhibited bravery by standing up for other
16 women. She was one of the women who came forward to
17 complain about sexual assault in the fire department
18 and we remember her and we are so honored to lift her
19 up by way of a street co-naming in the district. She
20 inspired dozens of women to become firefighters and
21 we look at her as a beacon to continue that tradition
22 even in her death. So very proud of the street co-
23 namings in my community and the great 28. Also
24 wanted to mention the founder of Sikhism Guru Nanak.
25 We will lift him up as well by re-naming co-naming in

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2 District 28 Guru Nanak Way. Thank you so much for
3 your attention. I vote aye on all.

4 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank
5 you. All items on today's general order calendar are
6 adopted by a vote of 49 in favor, zero against, and
7 zero extensions with the exception of resolution of
8 502 adopted by a vote of 42 in favor, 6 against, and
9 1 abstention, Intro 470A adopted by a vote of 42 in
10 favor, 7 against and zero abstentions, and Intro 897
11 adopted by a vote of 47 in favor, zero against and 2
12 abstentions. We will now move to the Introduction
13 and readings of bills.

14 SPEAKER ADRIENNE ADAMS: All Bills have
15 been referred to committees as educated on today's
16 agenda.

17 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you.
18 We are now going to move into discussion of today's
19 Resolutions. A number of folks signed up speak. I
20 will first call on Council Member Lee and will be
21 followed by Council Member Shulman.

22 LINDA LEE: Good afternoon Madam Speaker,
23 Majority Leader and colleagues. It is an honor and a
24 privilege for Council Members Ung, Krishnan, Won,
25 Hanif and I to pass our resolution today calling upon

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2 the Department of Education to recognize Diwali as an
3 official holiday for our students and I also want to
4 give a heartfelt thank you and shout out to our
5 amazing colleagues in this chamber who supported and
6 co-sponsored this Legislation and of course I also
7 want to thank you state colleagues who are carrying
8 this Bill. I know we have Assembly Member Jennifer
9 Rajkumar who is here with us today carrying it on the
10 Assembly side and thank you to Senators Joseph
11 Addabbo and John Liu who are carrying it on the
12 Senate side. And this is not just a victory for the
13 hundreds of thousands of New York who are Hindu,
14 Sikhs, Jains and Buddhist who every year have to make
15 the difficult choice between going to school or
16 celebrate an important holiday with their families.
17 But it is a historic step forward for the larger AAPI
18 community of 1.1 million New Yorkers. I know that
19 the addition of the Lunar New Year holiday that was
20 fought for many years was a huge victory for the
21 community and it was historic and now adding Diwali
22 will foster that understanding and respect for our
23 histories and cultures. Thank you so much.

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2 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you.
3 We will go to Council Member Shulman followed by
4 Council Member Williams.

5 LYNN SHULMAN: I am a proud co-sponsor of
6 Resolution 164 to make Diwali a school holiday. I
7 want to thank my colleague Linda Lee for introducing
8 this resolution and everybody else who has gone on
9 it. Making Diwali a school holiday was part of my
10 campaign platform when I ran in 2021 and I am so glad
11 it is getting closer to reality and I also want to
12 acknowledge Assembly Member Jennifer Rajkumar who
13 represents part of my district who has been steadfast
14 in her commitment to make Diwali a New York City
15 School Holiday in the New York State Legislature.
16 Thank you.

17 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you.
18 We will go to Council Member Williams followed by
19 Council Member Stevens.

20 NANTASHA WILLIAMS: I'm thrilled to have
21 introduced Resolution 488 as a Delta. This
22 resolution is very close to my heart and I am excited
23 to have introduced this alongside my Majority Whip
24 Selvena Brooks-Powers with support from fellow
25 Council Members Riley, Farias, and Krishnan. Today

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2 we are calling the Council of the City of New York to
3 recognize the contributions of Delta Sigma Theta
4 Sorority Incorporated to public service by
5 designating March 3rd annually as Delta day in the
6 City of New York. We chose March 3rd because on
7 March 3rd, 1913 founding Delta Member Osceola
8 McCarthy Adams led fellow Deltas down Pennsylvania
9 Avenue in Washington D.C. in a march for women's
10 voting right at a time where black women were
11 discouraged from participating. This was our
12 Sorority's first public act in a century plus long
13 history of civil rights and activism. Oh my gosh my
14 time. Our illustrious organization has made many
15 contributions to the well-being of the City, state
16 and nation. This recognition is long overdue. I'll
17 skip over the fact that we have 300,000 members and
18 over 1,000 collegiate and alumni chapters and I want
19 to thank Regina for her intentionality in drafting
20 this resolution and special shout out to my Soros who
21 have joined us here on this historic day in the
22 chambers. We look forward to hosting you this April
23 for our official Delta Day at City Hall and encourage
24 my colleagues to come out and meet members during
25 that time. Thank you so much Majority Leader.

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2 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: That was
3 good quick reading. Well done. We will now go to
4 Council Member Stevens and then Council Member
5 Brooks-Powers.

6 ALTHENA STEVENS: I come to the chambers
7 once again as I show up every time a black, a
8 daughter of a black woman, a mother of a black woman,
9 a City Council Member in a borough led by black women
10 Vanessa Gibson. A member of the First Majority
11 Council led by a black woman Adrienne Adams and most
12 importantly all the black women who is trail blazing
13 all across the City. The essence on Black Magic
14 should be celebrated each and every day as black
15 women surpass boundaries and can seriously exemplify
16 excellent in all facts of life. This day shall stand
17 as a symbol as we uplift current and future
18 generations of Black Girl Magic. Our stories, our
19 journeys or strides, our success will no longer be
20 silenced or overlooked. From this day on Black Girl
21 Magic will shine light on all women of color. It is
22 my honor to get and vote and pass resolution 486
23 today which will recognize the accomplishment and
24 issues faced by black women by designating February

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2 15th annually as Black Girl Magic Day in the City of
3 New York.

4 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you.
5 Council Member Stevens. We will now hear from
6 Council Member Brooks-Powers followed by Council
7 Member Farias.

8 SELVENA BROOKS-POWERS: I think it is
9 fitting that during this Black History Month where we
10 serve in the first ever woman led majority that we
11 will pass two important resolutions today. I must
12 thank my colleagues, Council Member Stevens and my
13 Soro Council Member Williams for their work on two
14 resolutions. I am so proud to be a co-sponsor of
15 today. Reso 486 recognizing February 15th as Black
16 Girl Magic Day and Reso 488 which would designate
17 March 6th as March 3rd excuse me as Delta Day in
18 honor of my Sorority Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
19 Incorporated. As an almost 18 year member of my
20 illustrious sisterhood Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
21 Incorporated I am especially humbled by our rich
22 history our organization continues build upon. 110
23 years ago our organization took part in our very
24 first public act fighting for women's voting rights.
25 New York City is home to the first Alumni Chapter and

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2 I am so proud of the work our members continue to do
3 in their communities on a collegiate and alumni level
4 right here in the greatest City in the world. To my
5 Soros in the balcony and to those watching virtually
6 we are our founders dreams personified. For me Delta
7 Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated is a community of
8 black women that has helped shape my own magic.
9 Black women have always had to fight to make space
10 for ourselves and others and we draw strength from
11 being in a community with one another. That's why I
12 am proud to be a delta and that is why I am so proud
13 to serve in this city council alongside so many
14 amazing black women. You all inspire me every day
15 and I am blessed to do this work with you even AKA
16 next to me. So happy Black Girl Magic Day is here.

17 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you.

18 SELVENA BROOKS-POWERS: And happy Delta
19 Day. Thank you.

20 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: I'm going
21 to let you and the Speaker settle the beef over
22 there. We will now go to Council Member Farias and
23 will be followed by Council Member Hanif.

24 AMANDA FARIAS: With 14 co-sponsors I am
25 excited to say that after this meeting Mother

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2 Language Day will be recognized by the City of New
3 York. February 21st is a federal holiday in
4 Bangladesh that commemorates those who lost their
5 lives fighting in the Bangla Language Movement. The
6 UNs educational, scientific and cultural organization
7 proclaims this day as an international Mother
8 Language Day it is about time New York City
9 recognizes the holiday. Promoting the diversity of
10 our city's languages ensures that the next
11 generations of New Yorkers can learn and practice in
12 foreign traditions and that we can pass on these
13 traditions and continue to fight the long lasting
14 impact of colonialism in our shared communities.
15 Thank you to co-sponsor Council Member Shahana Hanif
16 and the co-sponsors Caban, Won, Hudson, Krishnan,
17 Dinowitz, Williams, Osse, Aviles, Marte, Louis, Menin
18 and Sanchez for your support. Shout out to my
19 community who is in the balcony today. Thank you to
20 Mezeta [phonetic] for all your hard work and finally
21 happy Mother Language Day. Lastly really quickly I
22 would like to say congrats to my colleagues Council
23 Members Brooks-Powers and Williams on honoring Soro
24 today from this AKA and to CM Stevens designating
25 Black Girl Magic Day. Thank you so much.

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2 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you.
3 We will now hear from Council Member Hanif followed
4 by Council Member Krishnan.

5 SHAHANA HANIF: Thank you. As the first
6 Bangladeshi City Council Member and daughter of
7 Kenzington and now little Bangladesh. The largest
8 Bangladeshi and working class community in Brooklyn
9 which I proudly represent I am thrilled the
10 resolution 474 commemorating [Speaking foreign
11 language] Mother Language Day is on today's agenda.
12 I want to thank Council Member Amanda Farias for her
13 leadership on this resolution which I am proud to co-
14 sponsor. New York City is home to the largest
15 Bangladeshi Community and a community that is visible
16 and engaged in all facts of City life. This
17 resolution is a bold statement from our City that we
18 stand with the Bangladeshi community in our never-
19 ending struggle for Language justice. The Bangla
20 language movement in Bangladesh was a political
21 uprising to speak, read and write in Bangla without
22 persecution and for it to be used in government
23 documents. The revolution for true language justice
24 continues here and I am proud that so many of my
25 colleagues here understand that language is political

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2 and an issue of survival and care. [Speaking foreign
3 language]. I encourage my colleagues to vote in
4 favor of Resolution 474.

5 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you.
6 Hold your applause. Thanks. We are going to now the
7 last person we have signed up is Council Member
8 Krishnan. Thanks.

9 SHEKAR KRISHNAN: Thank you so much
10 Majority Leader. I want to speak on two resolutions
11 today as the first Indian- American ever elected to a
12 New York City Council it is history. I am so proud
13 to join Council Member Lee and so many others in a
14 Resolution to make Diwali a school holiday in New
15 York. This is a holiday that means so much to so
16 many south Asian communities across religions and is
17 long overdue for our growing South Asian population
18 to finally recognize Diwali as a school holiday. So
19 that so many in the City like my own children can
20 celebrate a holiday without having to make a decision
21 between celebrating it and school as I had to do
22 growing up. I couldn't be prouder and I want to
23 congratulate the leadership of Council Member Lee
24 with this resolution and I am so proud to join her
25 and so many of my colleagues today in pushing for

2 Diwali to be a school holiday and joining in the
3 efforts of our state colleagues as well like Assembly
4 Member Rajkumar who is here too. And their efforts
5 as well. So thank you and looking forward for
6 finally having Diwali be a school holiday in New
7 York. I also would like to speak in representing
8 Jackson Heights and Elmhurst Queens another large and
9 vibrant Bangladeshi community speaking in support of
10 the Resolution by our colleague Council Member Farias
11 for international Mother Language Day on February
12 21st. For the Bangladeshi community this day marks
13 the anniversary of when the people of Bangladesh
14 fought recognition of the Bangla language. We honor
15 that fight to keep our cultures alive by promoting
16 the preservation and protection of all languages used
17 by people. Queens is the most linguistically diverse
18 place on Earth and is one of the most ethnically
19 diverse counties in the United States. Queens is the
20 future and they say in Bangla and a favorite poem of
21 mine too. [Speaking foreign language]. I want to
22 say thank you so much especially to so many advocates
23 who have fought for this resolution on this day
24 including Sister Mazeta Houdin [phonetic] who is here

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2 today in our gallery and of course the leadership of
3 Council Member Farias. Thank you.

4 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you.
5 We don't have anyone else signed up is there anyone
6 else who wants to speak on Resolutions or General
7 Discussion. Resolutions Council Member Osse.

8 CHI OSSE: Thank you Majority Leader I'll
9 be brief. You know as Chair of the Committee on
10 Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International
11 Intergroup relations I get to hold hearings on some
12 of the most amazing resolutions that we see in this
13 body including Council Member Farias' Resolution for
14 Mother Language Day. Council Member Stevens' Bill or
15 Resolution on Black Girl Magic Day and one of my
16 favorites that I have ever heard is Council Member
17 Natasha Williams and Selvena Brooks-Powers Resolution
18 recognizing the contributes of Delta Sigma Theta my
19 office is run by a Delta, Naomi Hawkins and I am so
20 proud to be able to vote it out of committee for this
21 amazing black woman and Delta that really makes our
22 office run as smoothly as it does even though she
23 talks to her Sororities all day on the phone. I can
24 hear through the walls. She's great though. Thank
25 you.

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2 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you.

3 Anybody else like to speak on today's resolutions.

4 Okay. Seeing now. We will now have a voice vote on

5 the Resolutions today. If you wish to avoid against

6 or abstain from any of today's resolutions please

7 notify the Legislative Documents unit by email or by

8 approach the Dias before the vote. I will now read

9 the Resolutions into the record. Resolution 164

10 calls on the New York City Department of Education to

11 establish Diwali as an official holiday for New York

12 City public school students. Will all of those in

13 favor please say aye?

14 ALL: Aye.

15 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: All

16 opposed please say nay. Any extensions? The ayes

17 have it. Resolution 474 recognizes February 21st as

18 Mother Language Day in the City of New York which

19 honors the importance of the Bangla Language of

20 Bangladeshi everywhere and promotes the acceptance of

21 linguistic and cultural diversity in our communities.

22 All of those in favor please say aye.

23 ALL: Aye.

24 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: All

25 opposed say nay. Any abstentions? The ayes have it.

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2 Resolution 486 recognizes the accomplishments of and
3 issues faced by black women by designating February
4 15th annually as Black Girl Magic Day in the City of
5 New York. All of those in favor please say aye.

6 ALL: Aye.

7 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: All
8 opposed say nay. Any abstentions? The ayes have it.
9 Resolution 488 recognizes the contributions of Delta
10 Sigma Theta to public service by designating March
11 3rd annually as Delta Day in the City of New York.
12 All of those in favor please say aye.

13 ALL: Aye.

14 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Please
15 mark the speaker as aye. All opposed say nay. Any
16 abstentions? The ayes have it. We are now going to
17 move into today's general discussion. We have a
18 number of folks signed up. We are going to start
19 with Council Member Barron.

20 CHARLES BARRON: Thank you very much. My
21 colleagues I rise to say and acknowledge two great,
22 great black women whose birthday is today February
23 16th one was a teacher for 20, 36 years on the Board
24 of Education and a great leader of our community.
25 She was in this body here and also in the State

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2 Assembly one of the greatest black women I have ever
3 met in my life and that is my strong black beautiful
4 warrior Queens wife, Inez Barron. Happy birthday
5 sweetheart. The second was my Chief of Staff another
6 strong powerful black woman Sister Viola Plumber of
7 the December 12th movement. Today is her birthday as
8 well. So congratulations and happy birthday. I also
9 am rising because I have a resolution in with the
10 public advocate Jumaane Williams. We want to have
11 Wall Street and Pearl Street some signage that
12 indicates that's where the first enslaved Africans
13 came in to build New York City. You know New York
14 City started off as New Amsterdam with the Dutch and
15 then they stole this land from the Algonkian people
16 indigenous people and then installed us to build the
17 capitalistic economy and now you don't want to pay us
18 reparations. But that's how New York City started
19 off. As a matter of fact, Peter Stiverson, Stiverson
20 High School he said he could have beaten the English
21 who took over New York City in 1664. They called it
22 New Amsterdam they changed it to New York because of
23 the Duke of York but Peter Stiverson said he would
24 have beaten the English if he didn't have to feed his
25 200 enslaved Africans all that food. So we just

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2 wanted to remind you of the establishment of this
3 City County 370 years and also New York City 300 and
4 some odd years ago was founded on the debt of land
5 from the indigenous people and the enslavement of
6 African people so support this resolution.

7 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you
8 Council Member. We will now go to Council Member Lee
9 who will be followed by Council Member Nurse.

10 LINDA LEE: Thank you. Good afternoon
11 Majority Leader, Madam Speaker and colleagues. Today
12 it is my honor to introduce Intro 930 alongside
13 Education Chair Rita Joseph, Council Members Sandra
14 Ung and Shekar Krishnan to require the Department of
15 Education to distribute information regarding phone
16 interpretation services for students. New York is a
17 city of immigrants. 3 million of our residents are
18 foreign born hailing from over 200 countries. Almost
19 half of our city speaks a language other than
20 English. Our City and education system should also
21 reflect that. We can and we should accommodate the
22 linguistic needs in every family to ensure that our
23 children can receive a quality education on either
24 road to a brighter future. So I appreciate your

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2 support as we pursue more language access across our
3 City schools. Thank you.

4 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you.
5 And we will now go to Council Member Nurse followed
6 by Council Member Hanks.

7 SANDY NURSE: Thank you Majority Leader.
8 Today I am proud to introduce two pieces of
9 Legislation that will move our city and state closer
10 to guaranteeing housing for all. The first is
11 Resolution is 506 calling for the State Legislature
12 to pass and the Governor to sign the good cause
13 eviction Bill long, long, long overdue. Good cause
14 would protect nearly 784,000 New York City renter
15 households against predatory rent strikes and unjust
16 evictions. It would compel landlords to justify rent
17 hikes greater than 50 percent for better condition
18 without fear of retaliatory evictions. It would also
19 guarantee lease renewals to most market rate tenants
20 which would stem the flow of households entering into
21 the shelter system. The need for good cause could
22 not be clearer. This past January New York City rent
23 hit record highs. 54 percent of all low-income
24 tenants saw rent increases last year which was a 15
25 point increase from 2021. Among market rate tenants

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2 who had increased this last year only 32 percent saw
3 any improvement to actually justify the increase. As
4 we face unprecedented rental pressures good cause
5 eviction is the single greatest protection we can
6 give to tenants and residents to stop the flood of
7 people into our shelters. I know many of you are
8 eager to Governor Hochul sign good cause into law.
9 The second Bill I'm introducing is Intro 932 would
10 compel the City to create a one-time feasibility
11 study on developing a municipal social housing
12 development agency. I know many of you are in
13 support of this and we are looking forward to passing
14 this soon. Thank you.

15 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you.

16 And now go to Council Member Hanks followed by
17 Council Member Abreu.

18 KAMILLAH HANKS: Thank you. Today I am
19 proud to introduce my Bill Intro 928 which will
20 require the Department of Education to report on
21 funding for restorative justice programming and
22 services within our schools throughout our City. As
23 you are all aware violence in our schools is a
24 serious pervasive issue. Effective restorative
25 justice programming in schools is necessary to ensure

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2 the solution focuses on repairing harm with an
3 emphasis on learning and community involvement. In
4 addition to requiring the DOE to report on amount of
5 funding provided the bill will also require reporting
6 on specific restorative justice programs and services
7 if such programs and services are utilized by
8 students in the applicable year. I hope bypassing
9 this bill we will work to ensure that restorative
10 justice programming remaining properly funded and
11 properly utilized to reduce instances of violence in
12 our school system and I encourage you to sign on to
13 Intro 928. Thank you.

14 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you.
15 We will now go to Council Member Abreu followed by
16 Council Member Caban.

17 SHAUN ABREU: Good afternoon and thank
18 you Majority Leader. Today I am introducing two
19 important pieces of legislation relating to right to
20 counsel and parity for right to counsel attorneys.
21 The first piece of legislation Introduction 921 would
22 require the office of civil justice to prepare an
23 annual estimate of the funding needed to pay right to
24 counsel attorneys a comparable salary with law
25 department attorneys. This estimate would be

2 extremely useful in advocating of pay parity which is
3 crucial if we want to attain lawyers we are otherwise
4 losing to the private sector. Secondly, Resolution
5 499 would call upon the New York City Legislature to
6 introduce and pass and the governor to sign
7 legislation that would acquire the office of Court
8 Administration which sets the calendar for these
9 eviction cases to manage the housing docket and
10 create an upper limit of how many housing cases can
11 be placed on the calendar per month. I cannot stress
12 just how important this is. Right now the right to
13 counsel coalition estimates that some 13,000 cases
14 are moving forward where tenants who are entitled to
15 an attorney never receive one. This is in conflict
16 with the intent of the right to counsel law that was
17 passed by this body. And it is imperative that we
18 continue to fight for this issue and support this
19 ground breaking protection that has since been
20 replicated in other localities across the nation.
21 Let me repeat, no cases in housing court should
22 proceed without a right to counsel and right now we
23 are seeing that happen too many times and I think
24 that as a body we need to be able to address that
25 addressing pay parity and making sure that our

2 lawyers have the capacity to address the eviction
3 crisis that we are facing. I urge you to sign on to
4 both of these pieces of Legislation as a poor tenant
5 in this fight.

6 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you.
7 We will hear from Council Member Caban followed by
8 Council Member Marte.

9 TIFFANY CABAN: Thank you today alongside
10 Members Rivera and Hanif I'm introducing Intro 925
11 and the idea behind it is simple. All people deserve
12 to be spoken of as people. The problem is that again
13 and again in our City's Charter and Administrative
14 Plumbing and Building Codes so many times that this
15 Bill needed to be over 80 pages to identify them all.
16 We are describing people in such a way as to portray
17 them as something other than. Something less than
18 precious beloved human beings entitled to life,
19 liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We're
20 describing them as inmates and prisoners and I want
21 to point out two problems with these descriptions.
22 The first is that it is dehumanizing people what's
23 been done to them rather than what they are. That is
24 the people who are confined in cages on Riker's
25 Island and elsewhere are not in their own personal

2 cells as an essential individual inmates or prisons
3 rather they are human beings, New Yorkers, our
4 neighbors, our friends, our loved ones that their
5 cage tells you nothing about them and a lot about the
6 society incarcerating them. The second problem is
7 that this language facilitates the denial of their
8 basic human rights. It would be unforgiveable to
9 subject our neighbors, friends and loved ones to
10 torture deprivation and refusal of basic medical
11 attention. But let's be honest to do those things to
12 inmates or prisons that almost makes sense. In this
13 way, using those terms acts as a tool for fortifying
14 and expanding our disastrous system of mass
15 incarcerating. Words matter. If we want a city
16 characterized by respect for the dignity and human
17 rights of all it is time we excised these
18 dehumanizing terms from our City's Charter and Codes
19 and replace them with humanizing language like person
20 incarcerated and person in custody. Last year our
21 colleagues at the state level took similar steps and
22 I for one don't want our City to lag behind Albany so
23 I urge all of my colleagues to support this important
24 Bill. Thank you.

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2 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you.
3 We will now hear from Council Member Marte followed
4 by Council Member Carr.

5 CHRISTOPHER MARTE: Today I am
6 introducing Resolution 505 urging the City to
7 implement an adaptive renew strategy for the planned
8 Manhattan Borough based jail in Chinatown. Riker's
9 Island must close as soon as possible and the
10 barbaric conditions of our systems must change.
11 However, even supporter of this proposal must admit
12 that demolishing the existing jail in Chinatown and
13 replacing it with the world's tallest jail is both
14 financially and from a criminal justice angle
15 unfeasible. Experts and advocates have provide
16 adaptive reuse as the exiting Manhattan Detention
17 Center can meet the goals of the Borough based jail
18 plan without doubling the size of the existing
19 facility. Such a significant construction projects
20 will have devastating environmental impact on a low-
21 income immigrant community of Chinatown. Just this
22 morning there was clouds of smoke causing residents
23 to cough. This resolution presents an alternative to
24 this otherwise doom project and I look forward from

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2 the support of colleagues and from City Hall. Thank
3 you.

4 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you
5 and we will hear from Council Member Carr followed by
6 Council Member Brooks-Powers.

7 DAVID CARR: [Speaking foreign language]
8 Good afternoon colleagues. I am proud to announce
9 the return of the Italian Caucus to the City Council.
10 I want to thank my colleagues in the caucus Council
11 Members Ariola, Borelli, Brannan, Gennaro, Holden and
12 Paladino for their support of me as Chair. I want to
13 say [Speaking foreign language] to the Speaker for
14 supporting the return of this long-standing
15 institution and in particular Jeremy John and Carlos
16 Biotto [phonetic] for dealing with my enthusiasm over
17 it for the last several months. I look forward to
18 having many celebrations that promote the history,
19 culture and contributions of the Italian American
20 community to our City and our country right here in
21 City Hall and I promise no matter what they are there
22 will be food. So thank you so much.

23 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Count me
24 as a chair to the Irish Caucus I look forward to your
25 food than mine. But congratulations. We will now go

2 to Council Member Brooks-Powers and then it will be
3 followed by Council Member Aviles.

4 SELVENA BROOKS-POWERS: I just quickly
5 want to thank Council Member Aviles for introducing
6 three pieces of legislation today to address the
7 issues caused by trucking in last mile facilities all
8 of which I am proud to co-sponsor. Truck traffic has
9 exploded in New York City in the last few years.
10 Projections project more than 1 billion in E-Commerce
11 packages will be delivered annually to New York City
12 by 2024. I have seen how this has impacted my
13 district, the JFK Industrial business zone
14 experiences some of the highest volumes of trucking
15 activity in the City. This has directly impacted
16 communities next door whose residents deal with
17 trucks parked illegally on their streets, noise and
18 air pollution and additional congestion. The City
19 can and must do more to help our neighbors who are
20 impacted by truck traffic. I know Council Member
21 Aviles understands these concerns and has seen first-
22 hand how trucking and last mile facilities have
23 impacted areas like Red Hook in Sunset Park. Advance
24 this legislation, I will be holding a hearing on
25 trucking in the committee on Transportation and

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2 Infrastructure within the next few months to talk
3 about how we hold the city accountable, how we hold
4 the industry accountable and how we as a council
5 address this problem and make a difference in our
6 communities. Thank you.

7 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you.
8 We will hear from Council Member Aviles and finally
9 Council Member Brewer.

10 ALEXA AVILES: So thank you so much.
11 Today I am introducing three more pieces of
12 legislation to address the rapid and unchecked
13 expansion of last mile E-commerce distribution
14 facilities. For those of you who may not know the
15 last mile business model followed the long-standing
16 tradition of exploitation and extraction of
17 Communities of Color and low income communities.
18 Take a district like mine, like the one I represent.
19 A mixed used district that has bore the brunt of
20 every manner of polluting infrastructure in New York
21 City, a weigh transfer station, peaker plant, cement
22 plants, oil and gas combined with age old
23 discriminatory land use and housing policies at a
24 cultural trend that expects the delivery of good
25 instantaneously and we suddenly hold one of the

2 largest concentrations of polluting facilities with
3 no regulation, no mitigation and no regard for the
4 people that live in the community that have to deal
5 with the thousands of additional tractor trailer,
6 sprinter vans, delivery trucks and cars per day.
7 What might be an enormous opportunity for our city to
8 move in the direction of a just transition for
9 valuable green manufacturing and healthy development
10 after decades of disinvestment and neglect is instead
11 squandered and sold to corporate bohemias. Our City's
12 lack of planning has resulted in corporations choking
13 off access to the water front, filling our streets
14 with truck congestion or air pollution and pushing
15 out the opportunity for growth and true local
16 manufacturing and a green sustainable manufacturing.
17 We must stop propagating this model of extraction
18 under the guides that the problem of last mile is too
19 complex for our city planners. Not only has the last
20 mile coalition put forward a text amendment proposal
21 to the Department of City Planning we have also
22 proposed a good number of short term mitigation
23 efforts to improve the health and well-being of our
24 community. I hope you will stand with us and thank
25 you to all the co-sponsors for your support.

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2 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you
3 and last but not least we will hear from Council
4 Member Brewer.

5 GALE BREWER: Thank you. I just want to
6 mention that in terms of the co-street naming we have
7 a Bill Intro 227 which would require the co-naming
8 biographical information to be made publicly
9 available so all New Yorkers and visitors know more
10 about the people who earn this honor. Obviously some
11 people know the major names, celebrities but they
12 don't know the great community leaders and heroes and
13 I hope that we can pass this Bill with a hearing.
14 Number two I want to join Council Member Nurse in the
15 support of good cause Legislation. I think we all
16 receive as I do lots of calls from people who are
17 market rate and for no good reason they are being
18 told to leave. Many of these buildings are large so
19 we are not talking about smaller buildings and this
20 would be a way to keep people in their homes. They
21 could certainly be evicted if there was a reason but
22 it has to be a real reason and not just because the
23 rent is going up. I also want to thank Council
24 Member Sanchez because there will be a lot of
25 discussion about housing bills on February 23rd

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2 including land bank which I am sponsoring and I
3 mention that because it is apparently many states,
4 many cities in the State of New York and cities
5 around the country already have a land bank in
6 existence and so we are way behind the curve and it
7 would help make sure that we have affordable housing
8 and I too want to thank everyone who supported co-
9 naming for Al Vann. I served with him in the City
10 Council for 12 years and he was definitely a very,
11 very special man. Thank you very much.

12 MAJORITY LEADER KEITH POWERS: Thank you.
13 Did anyone else sign up to speak? Seeing none I will
14 call on speaker Adrian Adams to close today's stated
15 meeting.

16 SPEAKER ADRIENNE ADAMS: Thank you
17 Majority Leader. The stated meeting of February
18 16th, 2023 is hereby adjourned.

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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 March 7, 2023