

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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August 25, 2010

Start: 3:20pm

Recess: 4:30pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E: CHRISTINE C. QUINN
Speaker

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

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

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

Mercedes Campbell Crossland
Staff Sergeant
U.S. Air Force

Carlos Rodriguez
Resident, Queens
Former Lifeguard

Lloyd Land
Reverend
First United Christian Church of Staten Island

1
2 SPEAKER QUINN: All right, we are
3 going to get started, we have two ceremonials.
4 The first one is being done by our Deputy Majority
5 Leader Inez Dickens. But before we start the
6 ceremonials, I want to recognize that we are
7 joined today by a very important member of the
8 Council family, by Council Member Helen Foster's
9 mother. And I want to thank her for joining us
10 today. [applause] And Hopalong Dickens is on her
11 way up here. And as far as we can tell, this foot
12 was not broken by kicking any member of the New
13 York City Council, but--and that's our story and
14 we're stick--[laughs] That's our story and we're
15 sticking to it. Here you go, Inez.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you.
17 I, I want to introduce to the Council, and I'm
18 going to ask for Staff Sergeant Mercedes Campbell
19 Crossland to please come up. Mercedes? Mercedes?

20 SPEAKER QUINN: Here she comes.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: And your
22 family, come on. [applause] Now y'all can do
23 better than this. She serviced [applause, cheers]
24 our entire country. Where's your mother? All
25 right.

1
2 SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic] And if
3 members want to join in--

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Yeah,
5 bring, bring, bring--tell your family to come on
6 up. Yes. Staff Sergeant Campbell Crossland has
7 had outstanding service, not only to the United
8 States Air Force, and the nation at large, but for
9 her service to each one of us, and she has enabled
10 each of us to exercise our freedom. Because it is
11 people just like Staff Sergeant Campbell Crossland
12 who risk their lives every day for our safety. I
13 want to also point out that such bravery and work
14 ethic was born and cultivated in the village of
15 Harlem, by the way. [cheers, applause] And that
16 Staff Sergeant Mercedes Campbell Crossland is a
17 proud parishioner of the wonderful New Mount Zion
18 Baptist Church, which of course is a fabulous
19 church in Harlem. Through her comprehensive work
20 in photography, and excellently executed
21 reconnaissance missions, the photographic
22 documentation was implemented as a national level
23 intelligence product. Her photography directly
24 contributed to the prosecution and detention of
25 nine terrorists. [applause] Please, please join

1

2 me once again in congratulating Staff Sergeant
3 Mercedes Campbell Crossland on being named Air
4 Force Times' 2009 Airman of the Year. [applause,
5 cheers] [off mic] You want to say something?
6 Where's the proc?

7

8

SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic] She's got
it, Inez.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Oh.

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11

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13

SPEAKER QUINN: And if we could ask
the Clerk to read the proclamation, but I love
that the Airman of the Year is a woman. [cheers,
applause]

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CLERK: Council, City of New York
Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of
New York is proud to honor Staff Sergeant Mercedes
Campbell Crossland for her outstanding service to
the U.S. Air Force and the nation. And whereas,
born and raised in the village of Harlem, Mercedes
Campbell Crossland is a beloved member of her
church family at New Mount Zion Baptist Church,
and her community. Acting upon her religious and
moral values, which have always led her to help
and guide others, she joined the Air Force.
During 2008, she was assigned to the 97th Air

1
2 Mobility Wing at Altus Air Force Base in Oklahoma,
3 as a photographer. Although she carried a rifle
4 throughout her tour, Staff Sergeant Crossland
5 received the Combat Commander's Coin because of
6 life saving shots from her camera. And whereas,
7 assigned to an Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal
8 Unit, Staff Sergeant Crossland's primary duty was
9 to photograph unexploded, improvised explosive
10 devices, to provide intelligence on tactics and
11 techniques. Photographs from her 120 missions,
12 including the 45 she led, helped create an
13 intelligence database on IEDs, saving countless
14 lives during combat operations. The photographic
15 document was so comprehensive that it was
16 implemented as a national level intelligence
17 product. Her photography directly contributed to
18 the prosecution and detention of nine terrorists.
19 During her deployment, Staff Sergeant Crossland
20 also assisted an intelligence unit in tracking
21 detainees by mapping position and location
22 patterns to predict insurgent targets. And
23 whereas, Staff Sergeant Crosland was named the Air
24 Force Times' 2009 Airman of the Year. The award
25 established in 2001 by the Army Times Publishing

1
2 Company recognizes significant contributions from
3 members of each service branch. Upon her return
4 to the United States, it is a great honor to pay
5 tribute to her for her military service. Now
6 therefore be it known that the Council of the City
7 of New York honors and congratulates Staff
8 Sergeant Mercedes Campbell Crossland, upon being
9 names Air Force Times' 2009 Airman of the Year.
10 Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the Entire
11 Council; Inez E. Dickens, Council Member 9th
12 District Manhattan. [applause, cheers]

13 MERCEDES CAMPBELL CROSSLAND: Hi, I
14 don't want to take up too much of your time, I
15 just want to say thank you for all your support,
16 to all of us airmen, and troops, as others would
17 say. I want to thank the speaker and also my
18 mother. Everybody, take care of your parents.
19 [applause] 'Cause they take care of you first.
20 Thank you.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. Thank
22 you very much, Staff Sergeant, be very safe, thank
23 you very much. [pause] And the Staff Sergeant is
24 throwing out the first ball at the Cyclones game
25 tonight. And Council Member Vallone gave her the

1
2 good advice of aiming high. And our final
3 ceremonial is going to be by Council Member Peter
4 Vallone. [pause] Just hang on, Peter. And
5 Council Member Vallone and Council Member Ulrich,
6 I guess they're doing this together. Just give us
7 a couple seconds. [pause]

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you,
9 Madam Speaker. Can I call Carlos Rodriguez up
10 here. Everyone, we're now going to honor a man
11 who saved three lives at the, on Rockaway Beach.
12 So I'd like to call Carlos Rodriguez and his
13 family up here. Now, when I read about this, I
14 think most of us read about it, it was an inch or
15 two in the papers that a surfer saved three
16 swimmers in the Rockaways, while there were no
17 lifeguards on duty. No, I used to be a lifeguard,
18 so I said, "Wow, you know, if this is true, this
19 is amazing." So I did a little research, because
20 on my bet day, I didn't save three people at the
21 same time. Even with a surfboard. And I did a
22 little research, and spoke to Carlos, and it truly
23 is an amazing story. He was out there surfing as
24 he often does, and the beaches were closed, and
25 three young swimmers because it was 90 degrees,

1
2 got swept way out into eight foot waves. No one
3 else was around, so Carlos did what, I don't know
4 how many other people would do, but, but paddled
5 over to the first young woman, pulled her up onto
6 the surfboard, and she's here with us today. And
7 that's a very difficult thing to do to begin with.
8 And, she fought a little bit, as most people would
9 be doing, if they were in eight foot, in eight
10 foot swells. Then he went over and found the
11 other woman, who was also screaming, the other
12 young woman. Got them both on the surfboard. At
13 this point, the man, the young man, who's also
14 here with us today, had floated way out. And he
15 had to make a decision, bring these two women in,
16 or go out and get him. He went out with them on
17 the surfboard, pulled him up by, by basically by
18 his hair. He had to spend over a week in the
19 hospital because of the amount of, the young man,
20 who was, who was pulled out, because of the amount
21 of water in his lungs, but Carlos managed to pull
22 him up on the surfboard. And then with the three
23 of them, four total, on the surfboard, managed to
24 get in through eight foot waves, as I said. An
25 amazing thing--if Carlos was not there, these

1
2 young people would not be with us today.
3 [applause] Come on up. Come on up, yeah, two of
4 them are here right now, yeah, they're--yeah,
5 okay. So, as a, I, I lifeguarded on the, in Long
6 Branch, New Jersey, while Carlos was lifeguarding
7 in Long Branch, in the Rockaways, back in, back in
8 the '80s, '80s, okay, shh. So, I saw this in the
9 paper, and I said, "This is really a remarkable
10 thing by a remarkable man," and I wanted to bring
11 him down here and, and honor him, by the whole
12 City Council, and by my colleague, Eric Ulrich,
13 who represents the Rockaways. Take a little
14 better care down there, will ya? What're we going
15 to do without Carlos next time? [laughs] And--
16 what do we do, do we read--? I will ask the Clerk
17 to read the procs now.

18 CLERK: Council, City of New York,
19 Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of
20 New York is proud to honor Carlos Rodriguez, for
21 his extraordinary heroism off Rockaway Beach. And
22 whereas, at the age of 16, Carlos Rodriguez moved
23 with his family from Uruguay to New York. After
24 high school graduation, he attended Brooklyn
25 College to pursue a degree in journalism. During

1
2 this time, he also became one of the 1,200 New
3 York City lifeguards for the New York City
4 Department of Parks and Recreation, who watch over
5 more than 20 million swimmers between Memorial Day
6 and Labor Day. And whereas, today at the age of
7 34, Mr. Rodriguez is no longer a New York City
8 lifeguard, but he still loves to surf. On this,
9 on May 26, 2010, with the temperature reaching
10 into the 90s, he planned to surf off Rockaway
11 Beach. He paddled out 100 yards between eight
12 foot swells, but before he could catch the first
13 wave, he saw two teenage girls in distress. As
14 soon as he heard them scream, "Help, help, I can't
15 swim," in Spanish, he knew there was no time to
16 lose. And whereas, Mr. Rodriguez paddled over and
17 helped one of the panicked girls onto his
18 surfboard, and then went after her friend,
19 rescuing her from under water by her hair.
20 Incredibly, a third friend had been dragged even
21 further out to sea, but Mr. Rodriguez saved him,
22 too, before the man went under. It took 20
23 minutes and all his might to paddle the trio back
24 across the rough waters to shore. And whereas,
25 Mr. Rodriguez exhibited courage above and beyond

1
2 the call of duty, and risked his own life to save
3 three strangers. He has truly distinguished
4 himself as a great friend of our City, and he is
5 worthy of the esteem of all New Yorkers. Now
6 therefore be it known, that the Council of the
7 City of New York most gratefully honors Carlos
8 Rodriguez for his extraordinary heroism off
9 Rockaway Beach on May 26, 2010. Christine C.
10 Quinn, Speaker for the Entire Council; Peter F.
11 Vallone, Jr., Council Member, 22nd District,
12 Queens; Eric Ulrich, Council Member, 32nd District,
13 Queens. [applause, cheers]

14 CARLOS RODRIGUEZ: Thank you very
15 much. Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you
16 very much. Thank you. I have to say that it is a
17 life changing experience. Nothing that I have, as
18 Mr. Vallone said here before, our Council Member,
19 I want to thank, too. Lifeguards, we are
20 lifeguards forever. So that's why I have to thank
21 the City twice. I want to thank you for this
22 beautiful proclamation ceremony and for all of you
23 attending. And I want to thank you for the
24 training that I was given back then, when I became
25 a lifeguard, that it has been so useful for me in

1

2 every corner that I have taken to an unexpected
3 situation. The camaraderie in between human
4 beings, and this is something that we have to have
5 so clear today, in our days, where we are living
6 our life in this dangerous world. Have a plan,
7 have a plan with your family, with your kids, how
8 to save each other for any situation. Teach them
9 how to swim, teach them how to, teach them how to
10 do shipyard, life saving rescue techniques.

11 'Cause you're going to use them eventually. I
12 can't stand hearing these stories of kids dying in
13 the water in a, in a pool, in the summers, and
14 there's so many of them that go because we don't
15 know what to do, even, after we save them, we
16 don't know how to revive them. So, please teach
17 your kids about the life rescues. And then again,
18 a lifeguard is always a lifeguard, a surfer always
19 a surfer. We have a code, and our code is to look
20 for each other's safe. So, I want to thank you
21 for being here, and I see you alive and it gives
22 me such a pleasure to see you still kicking.

23 [laughs] Thank you, everybody. [applause]

24 MALE VOICE: Hang ten!

25 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Carlos

1

2 Rodriguez, thank you. [applause, cheers]

3 Congratulations.

4

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
5 much. Thank you very much. Thank you. And that
6 concludes today's ceremonials.

7

[background noise, long pause]

8

MALE VOICE: Ladies and gentlemen,
9 can I have your attention, please. At this time,
10 can you please place all cell phones and pagers to
11 vibrate, they're about to begin. Thank you.

12

[gavel]

13

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Ladies and
14 gentlemen, please rise for the pledge of
15 allegiance.

16

[pledge of allegiance]

17

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Roll call.

18

CLERK: Sorry, Arroyo.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

20

CLERK: Barron.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [off mic]

22

Here.

23

CLERK: Brewer.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

25

CLERK: Cabrera.

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

3

CLERK: Chin.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

5

CLERK: Comrie.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Here.

7

CLERK: Crowley.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

9

CLERK: Dickens.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [off mic]

11

Here.

12

CLERK: Dilan.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Here.

14

CLERK: Dromm.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

16

CLERK: Eugene.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

18

CLERK: Ferreras. Fidler.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.

20

CLERK: Foster.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: [off mic]

22

Here.

23

CLERK: Garodnick.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

25

CLERK: Gennaro.

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: [off mic]

3

Here.

4

CLERK: Gentile.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

6

CLERK: Gonzalez.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: [off mic]

8

Here.

9

CLERK: Greenfield.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Here.

11

CLERK: Halloran.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Present.

13

CLERK: Ignizio.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.

15

CLERK: Jackson.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Here.

17

CLERK: James.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: [off mic]

19

Here.

20

CLERK: Koo.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Here.

22

CLERK: Koppell.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: [off mic]

24

Here.

25

CLERK: Koslowitz.

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off

3

mic] Here.

4

CLERK: Lander.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

6

CLERK: Lappin. Levin.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

8

CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: [off

10

mic] Here.

11

CLERK: Mealy.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.

13

CLERK: Mendez.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

15

CLERK: Nelson.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: [off mic]

17

Here.

18

CLERK: Palma.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

20

CLERK: Recchia.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: [off mic]

22

Here.

23

CLERK: Reyna.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.

25

CLERK: Rodriguez.

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

3

CLERK: Rose. Sanders. Seabrook.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: [off mic]

5

Here.

6

CLERK: Ulrich.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Present.

8

CLERK: Vacca.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

10

CLERK: Vallone.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

12

CLERK: Van Bramer.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

14

CLERK: Vann.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Here.

16

CLERK: Weprin.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

18

CLERK: White. Williams.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

20

CLERK: Oddo.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Here.

22

CLERK: Rivera.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Here.

24

CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

25

SPEAKER QUINN: Yes, here.

1

2 CLERK: We have a quorum.

2

3

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
4 very much, - - present. Ladies and gentlemen,
5 please rise for the invocation being delivered
6 today by Reverend Lloyd Land.

7

LLOYD LAND: In the beginning was
8 the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word
9 was God. Through him all things were made, and
10 without him nothing was made that has been made.
11 In Him was life, and the life was the light of
12 men. A light that shineth in the darkness and the
13 darkness comprehended it not. He was in the
14 world, and the world knew him not. He came unto
15 his own and his own received him not, but yet unto
16 as many as received him, to them gave He power to
17 become sons of God. Father, in the name of Jesus,
18 we come to you, and we ask you Lord to bless this
19 assembly. Father, in the name of Jesus, your word
20 says that He was in the world. And He dwelt among
21 us. Father, let this City Council be your
22 dwelling place this day. We thank you Lord God in
23 the name of Jesus for Speaker Quinn, and every
24 person that will participate in this, the decision
25 making process here today. We come to you lord

1
2 and we ask you to lead and guide, because your
3 word says that the footsteps of the righteous are
4 ordered by the Lord. Therefore, Father, in the
5 name of Jesus, we ask you Lord, to wash them in
6 righteousness. Righteousness, in its purest form,
7 is simply doing what's right. Doing what you know
8 to be the right thing to do. Lord God, your word
9 is paramount in our lives, and in the name of
10 Jesus Christ, we come to you and we ask you, order
11 our footsteps this day. Order the decision making
12 process this day. In the name of Jesus Christ, we
13 pray and we thank you, and go forth rejoicing.
14 Thank you, Lord God, amen. But City Council, I
15 would like you to do me a favor. This week, on
16 Thursday, at 12:05 p.m., Staten Island lost a
17 very, very good resource. His name was Dr. David
18 Kpormakpor, the former President of Liberia. He
19 was a member of my congregation, a civil rights
20 advocate, and a human rights advocate, in the
21 purest form. And I would like to ask you to give
22 him just a moment of silence. [moment of silence]
23 We thank you. May the Lord bless and keep this
24 body. Amen.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you

1

2 very much. Council Member Gonzalez?

3

4

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALES: Motion to spread the invocation in full upon the record.

5

6

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered. Council Member Ferreras.

7

[pause]

8

9

10

SPEAKER QUINN: I make a motion that the minutes of the Stated Meeting of June 9, 2010 be adopted as printed. And if I--

11

12

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

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SPEAKER QUINN: If I could also ask my colleagues to rise for a moment, please. On August 20, 2010, longtime Brooklyn Democratic District Leader Bernie Catcher, who was 70 years old, passed away after a long and valiant struggle. He was born in Brownsville, Bernie had a true love of his Borough of Brooklyn, of New Yorkers, and of politics. And he always focused on how to get things accomplishment--accomplished for the Borough and City he loved. His funeral was held this past Sunday. Bernie is survived by many cousins and a very, very large political family in New York. At our first Stated Meeting

1
2 in September, we'll be joined by former Council
3 Member Herb Berman and some of Bernie's other
4 friends and colleagues for a more appropriate
5 remembrance of Bernie. But I just wanted to make
6 sure we didn't forget about him today. [pause]
7 Thank you, Mr. Majority Leader.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
9 very much, Madam Speaker. Messages and papers
10 from the Mayor.

11 CLERK: None.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:
13 Communications from City, county and borough
14 offices.

15 CLERK: None.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Petitions
17 and communications.

18 CLERK: None.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Land Use
20 Call-Ups.

21 CLERK: M212 and M213.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Could those please
23 be coupled on a Land Use Call-up and could we
24 please have a roll call on the coupled Land Use
25 Call-Ups.

1

2

CLERK: Arroyo.

3

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

4

CLERK: Barron.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [off mic]

6

Aye.

7

CLERK: Brewer.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

9

CLERK: Cabrera.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

11

CLERK: Chin.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

13

CLERK: Comrie.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

15

Permission to vote on all Land Use Call-Ups,

16

general order items and everything on today's

17

Council calendar.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye on all.

20

CLERK: Crowley.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

22

CLERK: Dickens.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

24

CLERK: Dilan.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.

1

CLERK: Dromm.

2

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: [off mic]

3

Aye.

4

CLERK: Eugene.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

6

CLERK: Ferreras. Fidler.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

8

CLERK: Foster.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.

10

CLERK: Garodnick.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

12

CLERK: Gennaro.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

14

CLERK: Gentile.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

16

CLERK: Gonzalez.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: [off mic]

18

Aye.

19

CLERK: Greenfield.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

21

CLERK: Halloran.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Aye.

23

CLERK: Ignizio.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

25

1

CLERK: Jackson.

2

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye.

3

CLERK: James.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye.

5

CLERK: Koo.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

7

CLERK: Koppell.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Mr.

9

10 Majority Leader, with--may I have unanimous
11 consent to vote aye on the Land Use Call-Ups, all
12 the general orders calendar, and all resolutions?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Thank you.

15 CLERK: Koslowitz.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

17 CLERK: Lander.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

19 CLERK: Lappin.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

21 CLERK: Levin.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye. Sorry,
23 that, that last one was Levin, sorry, I thought it
24 was--[laughter]

25 CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: [off

3

mic] Aye.

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CLERK: Mealy. Mendez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

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CLERK: Nelson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.

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CLERK: Palma.

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

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CLERK: Recchia.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.

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CLERK: Reyna.

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.

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CLERK: Rodriguez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

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CLERK: Rose. Sanders.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Permission

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to vote on past Land Use item call-ups.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: I vote

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aye, I also vote aye on this one.

22

CLERK: Seabrook.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Aye.

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CLERK: Ulrich.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

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CLERK: Vacca.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I ask

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permission to vote on all general order calendar

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items and Land Use items, and I vote aye on all.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

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CLERK: Vallone.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

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CLERK: Van Bramer.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

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CLERK: Vann.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

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CLERK: Weprin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

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CLERK: White. Williams.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

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CLERK: Oddo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: [off mic]

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Yes.

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CLERK: Rivera.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

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CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

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SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic] Yes.

24

CLERK: Today's Land use Call-Ups

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were adopted by a vote of 46 in the affirmative,

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2 with zero in the negative. Communication from the
3 Speaker?

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5 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
6 much. First, let me call on the Chair of
7 Government Operations Committee to make an
8 announcement. Chairperson Brewer.

9

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you
11 very much. I'm delighted that Valerie Vasquez and
12 folks from the Board of Elections are here. Come
13 on out and say hi with your amazing staff. As we
14 know, on the 14th [applause] of September, we have
15 elections with new machines. And Valerie Vasquez
16 and her wonderful staff have been showing us, and
17 so that we can then either ask that they come to
18 our community, which some of us are already doing,
19 but in addition, we too will know how to share the
20 information with our constituents. So, it was a
21 lot of work to get the machines here, to get the
22 staff here, and I thank you very much on behalf of
23 the entire Council. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

24

25 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
much, Chair Brewer. Sticking with Government
Operations, we are voting today on Intro 260A.
This is a piece of legislation related to our City

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2 Clerk's office, I want to thank Matt Gewolb and
3 Alex Pastilnik and Rob Newman for their work on
4 this legislation. Want to thank Chairperson
5 Brewer whose Committee this bill goes through,
6 this bill went through. You know, we I think are
7 all very aware that in New York State, we do not
8 have marriage equality for all families. Now
9 there are some states and jurisdictions that do,
10 there are some countries outside of the United
11 States that do. We in the City of New York have
12 done just about everything we could think of to
13 make sure that all families in our five boroughs
14 are recognized equally. We have domestic
15 partnership for City employees, we passed
16 legislation which would have had domestic
17 partnership requirements for employees of City
18 contractors, we passed a law that says if you come
19 here to the City of New York and you have been
20 married or a domestic partner or a civil union in
21 another jurisdiction, we recognize you
22 automatically as a domestic partner in New York.
23 And in New York State, Governor Patterson took
24 action recognizing all same sex marriages that are
25 conducted in other jurisdictions. We want to make

1
2 sure that every New Yorker who goes to our good
3 City Clerk's office or to the Marriage Bureaus,
4 either trying to get married if they're a same sex
5 couple, or who are going to get the fullest
6 recognition they can get from the City of New
7 York, domestic partnership, that those New Yorkers
8 are given information about where in the United
9 States and in the world, they can go to get
10 married if that is what they want for themselves
11 and their family. We're going to end passing this
12 law, require that that information is always on
13 the City Clerk's website, that it is posted at the
14 Marriage Bureaus and the City Clerk's offices, and
15 also given out in hardcopy at the Marriage Bureau
16 and the City Clerk's office. But as importantly
17 as the information that New Yorkers will now get,
18 that will give them an avenue to even greater
19 recognition of their families, I believe our vote
20 today sends another message to the New York State
21 Senate: that we in the City of New York have gone
22 as far as we can go. We're thinking out of the
23 box on a regular basis to make sure that all of
24 the families of New York know that they are loved,
25 respected and supported by the government of the

1
2 City of New York. But yet again, every day, the
3 State Senate fails to recognize the families of
4 our great state, and fails to do the job that we
5 have done so many times, recognizing all families.
6 So I want to thank everyone who has worked on this
7 piece of legislation. And I hope finally the New
8 York State Senate hears the cries of families
9 throughout our five boroughs and throughout the
10 State of New York and finally does the right thing
11 and passes marriage equality for our great State.
12 Let me call on the Chair of our Government
13 Operations Committee, Gale Brewer.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you,
15 Madam Speaker. The hearing that we had was very
16 helpful, because for all the reasons that you just
17 listed, it's an important bill. But in addition,
18 right now what happens is people just call friends
19 to figure out, "What do I do when I go to
20 Connecticut? What do I do when I go to
21 Massachusetts?" etc. Because you could be
22 disabled. What are the challenges? And it's a
23 constant friend of friend information system, as
24 opposed to good information on the website in the
25 office that is updated constantly. So we have the

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2 promise of the City Clerk that it will be updated
3 constantly, and I think that the information will
4 be more important because it is something that
5 people can trust and they don't have to run around
6 and find friends, although god knows we need the
7 friends in order to get the bill passed. Thank
8 you very much.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you,
10 Chairperson Brewer. We're also voting today on
11 Intro 87A, a piece of legislation that was passed
12 out of our Housing and Buildings Committee, and I
13 want to thank the Chair of that Committee, Eric
14 Dilan. I also want to thank Bob Hom, Ben Goodman,
15 Laura Rogers, Jeff Haberman and the folks at Make
16 the Road New York, who worked with us on this
17 legislation. This is a piece of legislation
18 that's been sponsored and championed by Council
19 Member Melissa Mark-Viverito, and I want to thank
20 her. 87A will require that any individual who
21 owns 25 percent of, or more, of a residential
22 property in the City of New York, that that
23 individual's identity be listed on the filings
24 that building owners have to make on an annual
25 basis. Right now, far too often, when tenants

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2 don't have heat or hot water or have other
3 buildings problems, and they go to try to find out
4 who their owner of their building is, so they can
5 get redress, all they can find are the letters
6 LLC. They can't find who the person is behind the
7 corporation, they can't find a person to call, a
8 person to write to. This is also an enormous
9 challenge at times for our Department of Housing,
10 as they're trying to hold landlords accountable to
11 their legal responsibility to tenants. 87A is
12 going to bring much needed transparency to the
13 question of who owns the building you rent in, and
14 that transparency is going to be an important tool
15 to make the buildings of the City of New York
16 truly livable and safe for tenants who are paying
17 their rent every single month. And I again want
18 to thank Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito for
19 her work championing this and many other tenant
20 issues in the City Council and call on her to say
21 a few words.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

23 Thank you, Madam Speaker. First of all, I'm very
24 pleased that we are voting today on Intro 87A.
25 Under this legislation, as you've indicated,

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2 corporate owners of residential buildings will be
3 required to provide the City with the names and
4 contact information of their company's principal
5 partners, when they file the registration
6 statements with the City of New York.

7 Additionally, these corporate entities will no
8 longer be able to register with the addresses of
9 mail handling facilities, as they so often do now,
10 and will instead be required to provide a real,
11 brick and mortar address, where the true owners of
12 the building can be reached. In passing this
13 legislation, the City Council will be sending a
14 clear message that landlords should not be allowed
15 to hide behind shell companies and P.O. boxes as
16 their tenants scramble to resolve housing issues.
17 The increased level of transparency proposed by
18 the legislation has benefits for all parties
19 involved. For example, legal service providers
20 have reported that the lack of information as to
21 the individuals that have a real stake in
22 residential buildings has forced some tenants into
23 litigation, when problems with their housing could
24 have otherwise been settled outside of a
25 courtroom. I would like to thank Speaker Quinn,

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2 the Housing and Buildings Chair Eric Dilan, as
3 well as Jay Faberman, Bob Hom, and Ben Goodman. I
4 would also like to thank, from my staff, Joe
5 Toronto, who worked very hard on this legislation
6 as well. And lastly, I want to really thank in a
7 special way all of the advocates that have come
8 out in support of this legislation, most
9 particularly Make the Road New York, that's here
10 today to witness this vote. I know there are many
11 Make the Road Members here today that have been
12 organizing to help bring this bill to passage, so
13 I want to thank them all for their work for being
14 here, to witness this victory for tenants
15 citywide. And again, obviously, I urge all my
16 colleagues to vote yes on this intro. Thank you.

17 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
18 much, Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito. And
19 again, thank you to Chairperson Dilan for his work
20 on this piece of legislation. Lastly, I want to
21 talk about a Land Use items we're voting on today,
22 15 Penn Plaza. I know he left already, but I want
23 to thank the Chair of our Land Use Committee,
24 Leroy Comrie, and the Chair of our Zoning
25 Subcommittee Mark Weprin for all of their work on

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2 this project. I also want to thank Ramon
3 Martinez, Danielle Deserbo [phonetic] and Gail
4 Benjamin, as well as the rest of the Land Use
5 staff for their work on this project. I want to,
6 in addition to the two chairs, also thank Council
7 Members Dickens and Vann for their work on this
8 matter today, and also Council Member Sanders.
9 This project, and this zoning vote today, are
10 going to help make sure that New York City has a
11 new and important 21st Century office tower in
12 midtown Manhattan. This rezoning is going to make
13 sure that New York City is keeping pace with
14 London and the rest of the world as it relates to
15 having the type of high tech office space
16 businesses need and want right now. The fact that
17 there's a developer who wants to build a building
18 right now in the midtown district, who believes
19 that if he builds a large building, that it will
20 be filled up by workers and financial industries
21 and other tenants. That is an important message
22 to all of us, to the City of New York, and to the
23 rest of the world, that New York City is moving
24 forward and moving out of this recession. This
25 building is going to create 6,000 at least

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2 construction jobs, and numerous permanent jobs
3 after it is built. It is a sign that New York
4 City is constantly growing and moving forward.
5 Now, questions have been made about, raised about
6 whether this building will have a significant
7 impact on the Empire State Building. Now the
8 Empire State Building is one of the most iconic
9 buildings in the City of New York, a building that
10 in some ways is synonymous with the City of New
11 York. And it is an important an iconic part of
12 our skyline. But our skyline is always changing
13 and growing. New York City is not a stagnant
14 city, it is never a place that will be frozen in
15 time. It is a place that is always literally and
16 figuratively striving for the heavens. This
17 building will be in addition to our skyline, an
18 addition that sends a message that we are going to
19 compete as hard as we can for the jobs of the 21st
20 Century. It is also a building whose development,
21 because it is significant has been thoroughly
22 studied, through the environmental impact
23 statement process, studied by the City Planning
24 Commission, studied by the Landmarks Preservation
25 Commission. And in all of those studies, we

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2 looked at numerous view corridors of the Empire
3 State Building. The impact on the view of the
4 Empire State Building was deemed not to be
5 significant. Now we appreciate the Empire State
6 Building's concerns, but none of the facts or
7 scientific or data analysis bear out the belief
8 that there will be significant impact on their
9 view, the view of their building. So this vote
10 today is one where we can make a statement about
11 the future of New York, about the every growing
12 nature of New York, and one that brings with it
13 \$150 million in transportation additions to this
14 neighborhood, paid for by the developer. Anyone
15 who has been around Penn Station around rush hour
16 knows how many people there are on the street. So
17 have the Gimbels Tunnel reopened, so people can
18 move underground, is going to be just as one
19 example, an important benefit, to the traffic and
20 pedestrian flow in that neighborhood. So as both
21 the Speaker and the person who represents 15 Penn
22 Plaza, I would urge all of my colleagues to
23 support this vote, want to thank everyone who
24 worked on the Land Use matters, as well as the
25 Transportation matters, and the MWBE issues that

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2 were raised, and again thank everyone for their
3 support on this matter. I know that the Chair of
4 the Land Use Committee has left, but I want to
5 call on the Chair of the Subcommittee, Mark Weprin
6 and thank him for the high level of attention he
7 gave this project.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Thank you,
9 Madam Speaker. I want to thank you for your
10 leadership and thank Chairman Comrie and the staff
11 for all their help. As the Speaker mentioned,
12 this, this project is really about New York of the
13 future. The fact that this huge office building
14 will be coming into New York City, a state of the
15 art modern office building, is a huge benefit for
16 New York. The global economy has changed, my
17 friends, and, and in other parts of the world,
18 they're building new and modern office buildings.
19 New York City has an office, the average age of
20 office buildings in this City, the building stock,
21 is well over 60 years old. We need new and modern
22 buildings, in order not only to retain the
23 businesses, but to attract new businesses, to come
24 to New York City. This is very important, and
25 it's going to generate thousands of jobs, billions

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2 of dollar in economic activity, and Speaker Quinn
3 mentioned over \$100 million, \$150 million dollars
4 in transportation improvements at the biggest
5 transportation hub in the City of New York. And
6 it's going to connect the whole process. There is
7 the Amtrak, Long Island Railroad and five subway
8 lines, all right there. This is the perfect place
9 to build a big office tower, it's being so
10 accessible. And it's going to move New York into
11 the future, and it's just the beginning of what
12 New York of the future is going to look like. Now
13 I would be remiss if I didn't discuss an issue
14 that came up in our hearings, something that's
15 very important to the members of this Council.
16 New York of the future does not mean that
17 buildings have to include workers and construction
18 of the past. And this City is an amazing City,
19 with so many new immigrants, more than half of the
20 City is made up of people of color, so many new
21 entrepreneurs are popping up every day, someone
22 with an idea, and a skill and a computer. We need
23 to reach out to these new businesses, to reach out
24 to new firms, and that's why this Council feels
25 very strongly that not only for this development,

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but in the future, that developers don't look to the workers of the past but look to the workers of the future, as well, by including minority and women owned businesses in all construction jobs, because that's who makes this City great, that who's going to make this City grow in the future, and this is just one step in what's going to be a very bright future, the best days of New York City are ahead of us, and I'm looking forward to seeing it continue to grow. Thank you.

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much, Chair Weprin, and that concludes communications from the Speaker.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Next we'll move on to discussion of general orders. Council Member Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Yes, Mr. Chair, I'd like consent to vote aye on all general order items on the calendar.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: I vote aye.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you very much. Next we move on to Council Member

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Barron.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you very much. My colleagues are staying to say to us, New York City is now about buildings, New York City is about people. We must bear in mind when we construct buildings, we must determine what the impact that building is going to be on people. For us to sit here, knowing that the City is now 65 percent people of color, knowing that this Council is a majority people of color, and for us to construct a building in mid-Manhattan that's 67 stories high, and not a single Black or Latino or Asian firm is going to be able to afford the rent in that building, or the commercial space rent in that building, and as their constructing it, they have the nerve to say they only going to commit to a possible goal of 15 percent for minority and women contractors, and we're talking about the future? Well, the future of the City, demographically has changed. We should vote no, and demand that some space be allocated for firms that's not going to be able to afford those rents. This is a project for the rich, for the elites, in this City, and this City Council should not go for

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2 that. When they say "thousands of jobs," jobs for
3 who? When they say we're going to have economic
4 development and more revenue that'll go into the
5 general budget, for who? That general budget
6 money never trickles down to the 'hood. It
7 doesn't trickle down to our neighborhoods. The
8 only time we've ever progressed as a people in
9 this nation, is when you specify, when you get
10 specific with the goals and the commitments to our
11 communities. Vote no.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Council
13 Member.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: This is an
15 elitist project.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
17 very much. Next we'll move on to Council Member
18 Foster.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Thank you.
20 I'd like to per--permission, excuse me, to vote
21 aye on all of the general, general order calendar,
22 please.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I, so
24 ordered.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye on all,

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2 thank you.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.

4 Next we'll move on to Council Member Mealy.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Can I have
6 permission to vote on all Call-Ups and all
7 general, general orders?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye on all.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
11 very much. Seeing no others, we'll move on to
12 reports of special committees.

13 CLERK: None.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Reports of
15 standing committees.

16 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
17 Finance. Resolution 370-A, District Plan for the
18 34th Street Business Improvement District.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled
20 on general orders.

21 CLERK: Preconsidered Resolution
22 421, organizations to receive funding in Fiscal
23 Year 2011.

24 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
25 orders.

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2 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
3 Housing and Buildings, Intro 87A, filing of
4 registration statements by owners of dwellings.

5 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled
6 on general orders.

7 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
8 Land Use, Resolution 191, granting for franchise
9 for installation of telecommunications equipment.

10 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
11 orders.

12 CLERK: LU-159 and Reso 428 through
13 LU 163 and Resolution 132 on page 4, applications
14 regarding 15 Penn Plaza.

15 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
16 orders.

17 CLERK: LU-164 and Resolution 433
18 and LU-165 and Resolution 434, designation by the
19 Landmarks Preservation Commission.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
21 orders.

22 CLERK: LU-166 and Resolution 435
23 through LU-168 and Resolution 437, on enclosed
24 sidewalk cafés.

25 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general

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2 orders.

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CLERK: Preconsidered LU-169 and
Resolution 438, primary intermediate school
facility.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
orders.

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CLERK: Preconsidered LU-170 and
Resolution 439 through LU-173 and Resolution 442,
various UDAPs.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
orders.

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CLERK: Report of the Committee on
Rules, Privileges and Elections, M178 and
Resolution 433, approving the appointment of Joel
Foreman, M.D.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
orders.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: General
order calendar.

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CLERK: Introduction 260-A,
information regarding same sex marriages.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
orders.

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CLERK: Resolution appointing

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2 various persons Commissioner of Deeds.

3 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
4 orders and at this point I ask for a roll call on
5 all items that have been coupled on the general
6 order calendar, please.

7 CLERK: Barron.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Pass, so I
9 can--

10 CLERK: Brewer.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye,
12 I'm somebody who likes old things, and I do worry
13 about icons, like the build--Empire State
14 Building; however, listening to my colleagues and
15 realizing the need for jobs, realizing the need
16 for new buildings, and realizing that there is a
17 good location at 15 Penn, which is in the
18 commercial district, I am persuaded that views are
19 important, but history is, and history's
20 important, but it's certainly, this is a building
21 that is worth supporting. And this transportation
22 hub additions are equally important. I vote aye
23 on all.

24 CLERK: Cabrera.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

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CLERK: Chin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye on all.

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CLERK: Crowley.

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COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote

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aye.

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CLERK: Dickens.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Permission

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to explain my vote?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: I just

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want to commend my colleagues, Council Members

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Comrie and Vann, for the hard work that they did

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in, in working on this, this, this development

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project, dealing with the heights. But, and my

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council, my colleague, Council Member Barron, did

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address issues that are of serious concerns, and

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that's why they took the fight up. And so I

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commend them for fighting for not only a minimum

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goal, because that's what we usually talk about,

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but instead no less than 15 percent. So it's not,

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it's not fair, it should be more, but if we don't

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put it in then we get nothing frequently. So, I

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commend you, my colleagues, for the hard work that

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you did for including MWBEs, so that it wouldn't

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2 be a minimum, but it would be a guarantee of no
3 less than. In addition, I thank you for seeing to
4 it that there would be a monitoring firm in place
5 to ensure that this occurs. In addition, you also
6 address the issue of the retail space and I am
7 grateful to see that in, because frequently it is
8 not in any of the agreements that we have in Land
9 Use. So, I thank both of you, I commend you, and
10 I vote aye.

11 CLERK: Dilan.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye on all.

13 CLERK: Dromm.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

15 CLERK: Eugene.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

17 CLERK: Ferreras. Fidler.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Majority
19 Leader Rivera, may I be briefly excused to explain
20 my vote?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: First let
23 me just begin by saying that I am going to be
24 voting aye on all, but I, the vote on 15 Penn
25 Plaza was particularly troubling for me. First, I

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2 happen to believe that we've landmarked a lot of
3 things, and if there's one thing that's iconic and
4 landmarkable in the world, it would be the part of
5 our skyline that the Empire State Building is in.
6 But I'm also troubled by the applicant, which in
7 my community, Vornado Realty, has shown not only
8 that they're not a good neighbor, but they can't
9 be trusted to keep their word, even written word.
10 So, I'm glad there's going to be an independent
11 monitor of the promises that they've made here.
12 On the other side, we have the jobs. And the fact
13 that in this economy, to get someone to build a
14 project of this size, that is so sorely needed, is
15 a difficult thing to do, and I don't want to
16 discourage it. What persuades me ultimately is my
17 belief that the member in whose district the
18 project lies should get as much deference as
19 possible, and this project is supported by that,
20 by the member, it happens to be the Speaker. And
21 for that reason, I am voting for it. But I would
22 just urge my colleagues to rely heavily on that
23 independent monitor when it comes to Vornado
24 Realty Trust. Thank you.

25 CLERK: Garodnick.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

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CLERK: Gennaro. Gentile.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

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CLERK: Gonzalez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.

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CLERK: Greenfield.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: No on

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268, 260-A, aye on everything else.

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CLERK: Halloran.

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COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Going to

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vote nay to 191, aye to the rest. Thanks.

13

CLERK: Ignizio.

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes, I'd

15

just like to vote no on 191, Reso 191, and aye on

16

all others. Thank you.

17

CLERK: Jackson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Majority

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Leader, may I be excused to explain my vote?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you.

22

My colleagues, serving on the Land Use Committee

23

on the Zoning and Franchise Committee, I listened

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to our colleagues, Leroy Comrie, Al Vann, and

25

other colleagues speak about the project by

1
2 Vornado Realty Trust. And in listening to that, I
3 had to say something and stand up and speak on
4 behalf of my colleagues with respects to MWBEs,
5 knowing that as the co-chair of the Black, Latino
6 and Asian Caucus, listening to my colleagues who
7 are members of the caucus, I had to stand with
8 them and speak in favor of increased minority and
9 women owned businesses in New York City. And more
10 specifically, I said, the community that I
11 represent in Northern Manhattan, based on the 2000
12 census, an average family of four earned less than
13 \$34,000 a year, and knowing what the employment
14 situation is today, meaning that there's record
15 unemployment, and especially in communities of
16 color. I had to stand and say that the situation
17 was unacceptable, and I stood with my colleagues
18 in voicing that to the representatives of the
19 Realty Trust that were in the hearing room. So,
20 I'm very, very pleased to hear that no less than
21 15 percent of the, as per the agreement, is going
22 forward in dealing with this realty trust company.
23 I am proud to stand here with my colleagues and I
24 am so pleased that Leroy Comrie, Al Vann, Inez
25 Dickens and our Speaker and others, that spoke

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2 during the hearings, and some of them that were
3 not people of color, but obviously members that
4 are sensitive to the needs of the people of our
5 great City. And I thank all of you for being
6 involved and speaking out on behalf of the people
7 of New York City. Thank you. And I vote aye on
8 all.

9 CLERK: James.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: I vote aye
11 on all, but before I do, before I vote, it's
12 really critically important that going forward we
13 can no longer negotiate piecemeal on every
14 particular project. There needs to be a template
15 going forward with respect to increasing
16 opportunities for businesses of color and women in
17 the City of New York, creating community benefits
18 in the City of New York. I believe that every
19 single time we go forward on a major capital
20 project, we have to delay the project because we
21 need to negotiate. What we need is a template for
22 all projects in the City of New York, so that we
23 can ensure that every project the City benefits,
24 that all residents benefit, and that no one is
25 left out. I vote aye on all.

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CLERK: Koo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote aye on
all except Resolution 191. Aye on all except 191.

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CLERK: Koslowitz.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye on
all.

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CLERK: Lander.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I vote aye
on all, with special enthusiasm for Intros 260A
bringing us steps closer to marriage equality, and
87A enabling tenants to know who their landlord
is; and with the reservations on 15 Penn Plaza
that have been so well stated by Chairman Comrie
and others, aye on all.

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CLERK: Levin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye on all.

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CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye
on all.

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21

CLERK: Mealy. Mendez.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

23

CLERK: Nelson.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: [off mic]

25

Aye on all.

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CLERK: Palma.

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye on all.

3

CLERK: Recchia.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye on

5

6 all.

CLERK: Reyna.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye on all.

8

CLERK: Rodriguez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

10

CLERK: Seabrook.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: [off mic]

12

13 Aye.

CLERK: Ulrich.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: No on Reso

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16 191 and aye on all others.

CLERK: Vallone.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: May I be

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19 excused to explain?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: I'm going

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22 to vote no on Reso 191, regarding the cell towers.

22

23 I was the one who introduced the Resolution which

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24 politely asked the Empire State Building to light

24

25 up in honor of Mother Teresa on her birthday,

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1
2 which is tomorrow. And like all of my colleagues,
3 I'm going to be voting on this matter solely on
4 the merits, I just happen to be particularly happy
5 that the merits are not on the side of the Empire
6 State Building. [laughter] You know what, we're
7 not going to see the lights tomorrow night, for
8 Mother Teresa, but I think years down the road,
9 we'll see a beautiful new edition to our skyline,
10 which in my mind will be Mother Teresa Tower. So,
11 I vote aye on all the rest, thank you.

12 CLERK: Van Bramer.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye on
14 all.

15 CLERK: Vann.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: May I explain
17 my vote?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: I serve on
20 the Zoning and Franchise Committee, and I was
21 appalled when Vornado Realty Trust made their
22 presentation, because they had not considered or
23 provided for any involvement on behalf of people
24 of color in New York City, which as you know is
25 the new majority. I was equally disturbed that

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2 we, all of us as a Council, had not acknowledged
3 this glaring omission up until that point. I was
4 very concerned about that. But I'm very pleased
5 that once we became aware of that omission, that
6 we responded. Members showed a great deal of
7 concern, as did the Speaker in his, in her staff.
8 We were able to put together and they were
9 receptive to the recommendations that we made that
10 I think are significant. You got from nothing to
11 a guarantee of 15 percent of the dollar value of
12 the construction trade; you go from nothing to not
13 less than 15 percent of the total dollar value of
14 the soft costs, including architecture,
15 engineering, legal, insurance. You have the
16 provision for a monitor that we will make
17 recommendations, that will be report to the City
18 Council and other things as well. So, I think
19 Tish James is correct, and I think that the issue
20 today will cause us to be more assertive to put
21 together the type of template that she mentioned
22 that all that come before us will know their
23 standard that they must meet, to make sure that
24 all people in New York City are being, will be
25 involved in any involvement that takes place. I

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2 think today will be a key day to make sure that
3 that happen. So I'd like to thank Raymond,
4 representing the Speaker, Chuck and everyone that
5 got involved, to make sure the Vornado listened.
6 They were responsive, they came to the table, they
7 made some conceptions, and I think we have a good,
8 pretty good deal here, but it can be better and
9 will be better, when we as a caucus assert
10 ourselves early on in the process. Thank you, I
11 vote aye.

12

CLERK: Weprin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye on all.

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CLERK: Williams.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: May I be
excused to explain my vote?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: First,
I'm just very excited about 87A. As a community
organizer, it was, tenant organizer, particularly,
it was always very difficult trying to find out
the proper owners of a building, so I want to
thank Melissa Mark-Viverito and all those who
worked on it for getting this bill passed. When
it comes to Vornado and the 1510 Penn Plaza, I am

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2 a young black male, and some accounts part of the
3 48 percent that's employed, and I'm very excited
4 about that. But every day I try to remind myself
5 of the 52 percent that is unemployed, and that is
6 very important to me. And I took much issue with
7 the earlier versions of what was going on. I'm
8 going to vote aye this time because I think it,
9 there was a lot of last minute things that came
10 up, and I think with the time that we had, we got
11 some things that we never got before. I like the
12 minimum of 15 percent and like the monitoring
13 system. But I do think in the future, to get my
14 vote at least, we're going to have to work on a
15 lot more. I vote aye on all. Thank you.

16 CLERK: Barron.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: May I be
18 excused to explain my vote. I just want to remind
19 my colleagues, when we were numerical, numerically
20 the minorities in this body, we got 25 and 30
21 percent from, for minority and woman businesses,
22 25 and 30 percent, and oftentimes they didn't even
23 honor that commitment. Check out Yankee Stadium
24 that we talked so much about jobs for here, when
25 you look at the actual jobs that come to our

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2 community now that it was built, it didn't come
3 near the promise that they made to this body.
4 Look at the Ratner project and Nets Arena, all of
5 these "jobs" we're supposed to get, we didn't come
6 near getting what we supposed to get, that they
7 promised to the community. And now to be the new
8 majority and we're accepting less than 50 percent,
9 less than half of what we normally negotiate for,
10 so-called and minority and woman owned businesses,
11 it's absurd. And I think at some point we got to
12 use our power, the only thing they understand in
13 negotiations is when you use your power and demand
14 more. We're 65 percent of this City, and we're
15 getting 15 percent of these contracts; whites are
16 35 percent of the City, and they're going to get
17 85 percent of the contracts--that makes no sense.
18 And we will not be found anywhere in that building
19 when it comes to office space rental and
20 commercial space rental. So with that I vote no
21 on Land Use items 159 and Reso 428, 160 with the
22 accompanying Reso, 1612 and accompanying Reso, 162
23 and the accompanying Reso, 163 and the
24 accompanying Reso, and I vote no on Reso 191 and
25 aye on all the rest.

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CLERK: Ferreras.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: I'd like to vote aye on all the Land Use Call-Ups and aye on all general orders.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

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CLERK: Oddo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: I vote no on Reso 191 and aye on all others, and would simply say that nine years ago, 19 sick, evil bastards were part of a plot that stole the New York City skyline that we love, and I think with today's vote, we get a chance to steal a small part of it back. So, I vote yes on all, other than Reso 191.

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CLERK: Rivera.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

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CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

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SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic] Aye.

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[pause]

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All items on today's general order calendar were adopted by a vote of 48 in the affirmative, with zero in the negative and zero abstentions; with the exception of Intro 260-A, which was adopted by a vote of 47 in the affirmative, with on in the negative and

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2 zero abstentions; and Resolution 191, which was
3 adopted by a vote of 41 in the affirmative, seven
4 in the negative and zero abstentions; and Land--LU
5 159 and Reso 428 through LU 163 and Reso 432,
6 which was adopted by a vote of 47 in the
7 affirmative, with one in the negative and zero
8 abstentions; and the revised Land Use Call-Ups
9 was, call up vote is 48 in the affirmative, with
10 zero in the negative. At this point in time,
11 we'll move on to Introduction and reading of the
12 bills.

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SPEAKER QUINN: All bills are
14 referred to Committees as indicated on the agenda.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Seeing as
16 there are no Resolutions, we'll move on to general
17 discussions. Council Member Brewer.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Two, two
19 things. First of all, I hope people will sign on
20 our Smart Development legislation that talks about
21 ways in which, when we have development as
22 discussed today, there's impact positively in the
23 neighborhood. Number two, tomorrow is Women's
24 Suffrage Day, in addition to other days, and it's
25 a day that I hope we will continue to celebrate in

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2 many different ways. We, I want to thank Council
3 Member Dilan in particular, because we're going to
4 begin our housing clinics in Manhattan on
5 September 1st, and we have them every Wednesday,
6 and that housing initiative really does save many,
7 many thousands of people's homes by getting a
8 little bit of support with City Council money,
9 they're able to stay in their homes. I want to
10 thank Council Member Dilan for that. And to say
11 that we put in your boxes a tree survey that we
12 did in the neighborhood, and we're following up on
13 the bill that you kindly supported to make sure
14 that stores that keep their doors open that are
15 large, and when the air conditioning is on and
16 it's hot outside, they should keep the doors
17 closed. Working with Eric Goldstein at NRDC,
18 we're making sure that happens. Thank you very
19 much.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
21 very much. Seeing no others, this meet--Council
22 Member Ydanis Rodriguez.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: [off
24 mic] Okay, I just would like to inform everyone to
25 really - -

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Turn your
3 mic on, Council Member.

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Your mic's not on.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I would
6 like to call everyone to follow the call from our
7 Speaker and the rest of the City Council on
8 dedicating tomorrow and honor Mother Teresa. I
9 know that we have identified a number of projects
10 to do community service. And tomorrow, regardless
11 that - - day, we not be lighting blue and white in
12 honor of Mother Teresa, but still it's a great
13 opportunity for us to be in the mass at St.
14 Patrick Church, but also to dedicate tomorrow to
15 do community service to follow her step. Thank
16 you.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
18 very much, next we have Council Member Lander.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you,
20 I just want to say I look forward to my service
21 tomorrow in honor of Mother Teresa and would urge
22 Council Members to sign on to two bills I'm
23 introducing today: Intro 325, which would require
24 that if a construction job has already a
25 prevailing wage job and requires the payment of

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2 prevailing wages, we post that notice on the site
3 so workers will know that they're in fact supposed
4 to be paid a prevailing wage, and make it less
5 likely that they would be taken advantage of; and
6 also a Resolution co-sponsored with Council Member
7 Nelson in support of a bill that Congressman
8 Nadler has introduced into Congress, that would
9 allow local ports, including our own Port of New
10 York and New Jersey, the Port Authority to
11 establish both wage and environmental standards
12 that would allow us to move forward in making our
13 ports cleaner and safer places. Thank you.

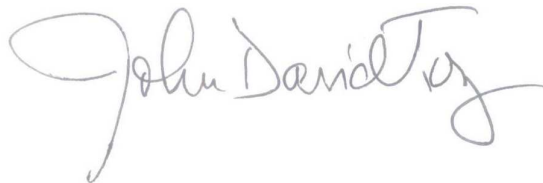
14 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
15 very much. Seeing no others, this meeting is
16 adjourned.

17 [gavel]

18

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John David Tong". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Signature_____

Date September 9, 2010