

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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March 16, 2017  
Start: 1:17 p.m.  
Recess: 2:57 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Public Advocate

MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO  
Speaker for the Council

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Inez Barron
- Fernando Cabrera
- Margaret S. Chin
- Andrew Cohen
- Costa G. Constantinides
- Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
- Laurie A. Cumbo
- Chaim M. Deutsch
- Daniel R. Garodnick
- Vincent Gentile
- Vanessa L. Gibson
- Barry Grodenchik
- Corey Johnson
- Ben Kallos
- Andy L. King
- Peter A. Koo
- Karen Koslowitz
- Rory I. Lancman

Brad S. Lander  
Mark Levine  
Alan N. Maisel  
Steven Matteo  
Carlos Menchaca  
Rosie Mendez  
I. Daneek Miller  
Annabel Palma  
Donovan J. Richards  
Ydanis A. Rodriguez  
Deborah L. Rose  
Helen K. Rosenthal  
Rafael Salamanca  
Mark Treyger  
Eric A. Ulrich  
James Vacca  
Paul A. Vallone  
Jumaane D. Williams  
James G. Van Bramer

Antonio Reynoso

Ritchie J. Torres

Ruben Wills

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

Jose Avila Francisco  
Chairman of the Board of the Garifuna  
Coalition USA

Martin Luther King High School Varsity  
Soccer Team  
Coach Martin Jacobson and staff

Wayne Holly  
New York City Conflict of Interest Board

Minister Regina Russ  
Pastor of House of the Lord Church  
176-03 Jamaica Avenue, Queens New York

2 [sound check, pause]

3 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Good afternoon,  
4 everyone. Welcome to City Hall to our Council  
5 Chambers. I am Council Member Vanessa Gibson of the  
6 16<sup>th</sup> District in the Bronx. I am so honored to be  
7 here with our Speaker and many of our colleagues in  
8 government and I certainly want to acknowledge our  
9 Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito. Every year during  
10 this occasion she has put forth the effort to ensure  
11 that we recognize the growing culture and diversity  
12 of the Garifuna American People in our city. And so  
13 on my behalf and my colleagues, Madam Speaker, thank  
14 you for every year bringing us together. So ladies  
15 and gentleman, we are here to recognize March 11  
16 through April 12 as Garifuna American Heritage Month  
17 in the City of New York in the observance of the  
18 220<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the forcible deportation of the  
19 Garifuna people by the British from the St. Vincent's  
20 and Grenadines on March 11, 1797 and their settlement  
21 in Central American on April 12, 1797. Our city is  
22 home to the largest concentration of Garifuna  
23 Americas outside of Central America with an estimated  
24 200,000 living in the South Bronx, Brownsville and  
25 East New York and Brooklyn and Manhattan's Upper West

2 Side representing a growing, vibrant and emerging  
3 ethnic group. On September 27, 1996, Articles of  
4 Incorporation were filed for the Bicentennial  
5 Committee pro-commemoration of the arrival of the  
6 Garifuna to Honduras. The Committee organized the  
7 celebration of the Garifuna Bicentennial in Honduras  
8 in April of 1997. The bicentennial laid the  
9 foundation for the Modern Garifuna Advocacy Movement  
10 in Central America and eventually the modern day  
11 African Descendant Movement in Latin America. This  
12 year we also commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the  
13 Garifuna Bicentennial. The Bicentennial Committee  
14 evolved into the Garifuna Coalition USA. This  
15 heritage month celebrating Garifuna Americas provides  
16 an opportunity to recognize the significance of  
17 Garifuna's contributions to the quality and character  
18 of life and through many events and activities  
19 throughout the month for all New Yorkers to gain a  
20 greater appreciation and understanding of Garifuna  
21 history and traditions and the roles that Garifuna  
22 Americans have played and will continue to play in  
23 our community and the City of New York. It is my  
24 honor and privilege once again to recognize March 11  
25 through April 12 as Garifuna American Heritage Month

2 in the great City of New York. Thank you all for  
3 being here. We appreciate the contributions, the  
4 work that you do and we look forward to our continued  
5 partnership and most of all our continued  
6 partnership. Gracia feliz y dades.

7 [applause]

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Now we will have  
9 our clerk read the New York City Council  
10 Proclamation.

11 CLERK: Council, City of New York,  
12 Proclamation. The Council of the City of New York is  
13 proud to celebrate Garifuna American Heritage Month  
14 as we honor the Garifuna community for its  
15 outstanding service and contributions to the  
16 community and New York City and whereas the Garifuna  
17 are an ethnic group of mixed ancestry descendant of  
18 Caribbean, Arawak and African people living along the  
19 Caribbean coast in Belize, Guatemala, Nicaragua  
20 Honduras and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. During  
21 World War II, Garifuna's began migrating to the  
22 United States in significant numbers as Merchant  
23 Marines in search of a better life but their numbers  
24 were virtually obscured in New York City until March  
25 25, 1990. On that tragic date, someone set fire to

2 the Happy Land Social Club and committed the most  
3 horrific mass murder our city had ever known until  
4 9/11. Fifty-nine of the 87 victims were Honduran,  
5 more than 70 percent of the Honduran victims were  
6 also of Garifuna descent and whereas in the 27 years  
7 since the Happy Land Social Club fire, the Garifuna  
8 community has grown stronger while promoting its wide  
9 range political, economic and social issues and  
10 cultural contributions. In 2001, the United Nations  
11 Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,  
12 UNESCO, proclaimed the Garifuna language, dance and  
13 music as a masterpiece of the oral and intangible  
14 heritage of humanity and whereas today, New York City  
15 is proud to be home to the largest Garifuna  
16 population outside of Central America with more than  
17 200,000 living in the South Bronx, Brownsville, and  
18 East New York and Brooklyn and the Village of Harlem.  
19 The Garifuna Coalition has been working to raise  
20 awareness and appreciation of this community and its  
21 contribution to our city's culture and society and we  
22 are proud to support those efforts on this occasion.  
23 Now therefore be it known, that the Council of the  
24 City of New York including all the members of its  
25 Bronx delegation is proud to celebrate Garifuna

2 American Heritage Month and the enduring bonds that  
3 connect the United States and Garifuna countries of  
4 origin. Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the  
5 entire Council, Vanessa L. Gibson, Council Member  
6 16<sup>th</sup> District Bronx, and many other members of the  
7 City Council.

8 [applause]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you once  
10 again to our Speaker and all of my colleagues on the  
11 New York City Council and with that I want to  
12 recognize and acknowledge and incredible leader in  
13 the Garifuna community, our Chairman of the Board of  
14 the Garifuna Coalition USA, Mr. Jose Avila Francisco.

15 JOSE AVILA FRANCISCO: Thank you Madam  
16 Council Member, Madam Speaker. It is a pleasure and  
17 great honor to be here again, especially this year as  
18 you heard in the proclamation we were forcibly  
19 deported from St. Vincent and the Grenadines. That  
20 is why we are in solidarity with all of those  
21 immigrants who are not being forcibly deported from  
22 the United States of America. This is significant to  
23 us because we are part of that immigrant, we are part  
24 of the diversity of New York City so being recognized  
25 here today, again, we are just a representative of



2 the people that make up New York City that make up  
3 New York State that make up the United States of  
4 America so thank you once again and it is quite a  
5 pleasure to be here with the contingent of getting a  
6 group from all parts of New York City because we are  
7 all over the city even though the Bronx is the  
8 largest Garifuna community in the world with over  
9 100,000. Thank you again. It is a pleasure and an  
10 honor.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And thank you so  
12 much on behalf of our colleagues in the Council, we  
13 welcome you and we celebrate you so thank you for  
14 your comments. They really mean a lot especially in  
15 this difficult time that many families are living so  
16 thank you for the solidarity. Thank you.

17 [pause]

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Which is  
19 the second one -- Helen? Helen Rosenthal, honoring  
20 the Martin Luther King High School Varsity Soccer  
21 Team for winning the PSAL Championship for the 16<sup>th</sup>  
22 time in the last 20 years. Come on guys. Come on  
23 up, come on up.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I am just  
25 going to start in here. Coach Jake, great to see

2 you. As these athletes come and join us, I am going  
3 to start by saying I am incredibly proud to be  
4 honoring the Martin Luther King High School Boys  
5 Varsity Soccer Team for their 16<sup>th</sup> win of the New  
6 York City Public High School Championship which means  
7 their coach is also doing an amazing job. Coach Jake  
8 everyone. Since the Martin Luther King Soccer Team  
9 came under the guidance of Coach Martin Jacobson --  
10 you know, I'm getting a little pressure here to keep  
11 moving. Come on guys speed it up. Coach Jake even  
12 telling me what to do. Are we ready? So since the  
13 Martin Luther King Soccer Team came under the  
14 guidance of Coach Martin Jacobson in 1994, the teams  
15 that represented Martin Luther King have amassed a  
16 432 to 20 to 10 record and have been nationally  
17 ranked many times over in the last 20 years. That  
18 ain't shabby. This year the team defeated Beacon  
19 High School. Is Corey Johnson -- uh oh. Not here  
20 yet. But once again, I think you beat Beacon High  
21 School to win your 16<sup>th</sup> annual New York City Public  
22 High School Championship. It's pretty amazing and  
23 these guys obviously come from all over the city and  
24 the soccer team finished the season with an overall  
25 record of 20 to 1 and additionally the team was

2 ranked number 14 in the nation by the National Soccer  
3 Coaches Association of America's final poll of the  
4 season. The team's supportive network within the  
5 school has created a team that not only practices  
6 together but eats lunch and attends class together  
7 and if I remember correctly you guys all vote  
8 together in participatory budgeting which is how we  
9 got a turf that hopefully will be built soon for  
10 Martin Luther King High School. So the team has one  
11 of the highest graduation rates of any team in New  
12 York City Public Schools with over 96 percent of the  
13 players completing their high school education. The  
14 team has seen hundreds of players go on to college  
15 and many have gone on to play soccer at the  
16 professional level demonstrating the importance of  
17 team sports to educational success. Thanks to all  
18 the players, the coaches, if you have any assistants  
19 which I assume you do, the staff the teachers and the  
20 parents for the support they have shown to the team  
21 members in all facets of their life and I am gonna  
22 ask the Clerk to read the Proclamation which is  
23 really good.

24 CLERK: Council, City of New York

25 Proclamation. The Council of the City of New York is

2 proud to honor the Martin Luther King Varsity Soccer  
3 Team recognizing the 16<sup>th</sup> win of the New York City  
4 Public High School Championship in the past 20 years  
5 and thanks all players, coaches, staff, teachers and  
6 parents for the support they have shown to the team  
7 members in all facets of their lives and whereas  
8 since the Martin Luther. And whereas since the  
9 Martin Luther King Soccer Team came under the  
10 guidance of Coach Martin Jacobson in 1994, the teams  
11 that represented King have amassed a 443 to 20 to 10  
12 record and have bene nationally ranked many times.  
13 This year the team defeated Beacon High School to win  
14 its 16<sup>th</sup> New York City Public High School  
15 Championship. And whereas the Martin Luther King  
16 Soccer Team finished the season with an overall  
17 record of 20 to 1. Additionally, the team is ranked  
18 number 14 in the nation by the National Soccer  
19 Coaches Association of America's final poll of the  
20 season. The team's supportive network within the  
21 school has created a team that not only practices  
22 together but eats lunch and attends class together.  
23 And whereas, Martin Luther King Soccer Team has one  
24 of the highest graduation rates of any team in New  
25 York City Public Schools with more than 96 percent of

2 the players completing their high school education.  
3 The team has seen hundreds of their players go on to  
4 college and many have gone on to play soccer at the  
5 professional level demonstrating the importance of  
6 team sports to educational success. Now therefore be  
7 it known, that the Council of the City of New York  
8 proudly honors and congratulates Martin Luther King  
9 Soccer Team for their 16<sup>th</sup> New York City Public  
10 School Championship and for fostering educational  
11 success through team sports.

12 [applause]

13 CLERK: Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker  
14 for the entire Council, Helen Rosenthal, Council  
15 Member 6<sup>th</sup> District Manhattan.

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you so  
17 much, Coach. I am just laughing because I think it  
18 said -- the Proc said 1994 you joined Martin Luther  
19 King, right, at school?

20 COACH JAKE: [Inaudible]

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: No, no I mean you  
22 took over the team in 1994 and one of the students  
23 was like damn, I'm like, probably older than you  
24 before you were born, he's been working and serving.  
25 How many of the young people here, do you play any

2 other sports, play on another team? No? Oh, they  
3 play just one. Some do multiple. Thank you for the  
4 coaches and the assistant coaches and everyone else.  
5 Thank you so much. If you could say a few words,

6 COACH JAKE: I want to thank Helen, thank  
7 you very much, Council Speaker and my boys. First I  
8 want to thank my assistants, they are all here. They  
9 showed up. I can't do it alone and mostly I am  
10 looking around here and I am going to lose some kids  
11 at graduation and seven key players who are seniors  
12 had a role in this year's championship. Thank you  
13 guys and thank you the ones coming back. I can't  
14 wait to start again next year. But this is a great  
15 honor and such a pleasure to coach such find young  
16 men and we all talked about it outside, the coaches  
17 what a great group you are. You are great on the  
18 field, off the field, in the classroom. Let's hope  
19 you guys graduating have a great life and again thank  
20 you to the City of New York. We are part of the City  
21 of New York and we represent you well and being  
22 nationally known as a high school soccer team without  
23 a field but Helen you're going to take of that. We  
24 will have a small field to practice soon. I do thank

2 you very much guys. You make me feel proud. Thank  
3 you.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you guys.  
5 Can we have one official photo?

6 [pause]

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right. They  
8 are going to get certificates in the Committee Room  
9 next door. All right. We have one more ceremonial.  
10 Thank you. So Conflicts of Interest Board, we have a  
11 Proclamation for you. We love our trainings by the  
12 Conflicts of Interest Board. Come on up. Our  
13 mandated yearly training. All right. Where are the  
14 reps from COIB? If they can come up please. Yeah,  
15 yeah, yeah, of course, come on. I am going to hand  
16 it over to Council Member Kallos.

17 [pause]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I want to just  
19 welcome the Conflicts of Interest Board. They are an  
20 agency much like Hebrew National. They answer to a  
21 higher authority.

22 [background comment - inaudible]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I was warned that  
24 joke wouldn't go by but Kip did not write my  
25 material. At Conflicts of Interest Board, we have an

2 opportunity here in the Council and for any city  
3 employee to make sure that we are kept on the  
4 straight and narrow and for many of us that means  
5 calling Wayne Holly to ask him questions like how  
6 many angels can dance on the pin of a needle and I am  
7 still waiting for that answer but in all honesty,  
8 keeps us out of trouble and we really appreciate that  
9 and in addition to some very entertaining annual  
10 conflicts trainings and we just want to thank you for  
11 a lifetime of service not only at the Conflicts of  
12 Interest Board but I didn't know you had worked at  
13 MFY, which is actually one of the top agencies for  
14 referrals from our office, so my social work team  
15 says thank you, thousands of constituents say thank  
16 you and just thank you for building MFY, thank you  
17 for your great work at COIB and there is a lot of  
18 great text here which we will ask the Clerk to please  
19 read.

20 CLERK: Council, City of New York  
21 Proclamation. The Council of the City of New York is  
22 proud to honor Wayne Holly upon his retirement in  
23 recognition of his nearly two decades of service to  
24 the New York City Conflict of Interest Board. And  
25 whereas the Conflicts of Interest Board is dedicated



2 to promoting both the reality and perception of  
3 integrity in city government but preventing unethical  
4 conduct before it occurs. To that end, the Board is  
5 charged with administering New York City's Conflict  
6 of Interest Law contained in the City Charter as well  
7 as the city's Financial Disclosure Law and the  
8 Lobbyist Gift Law. To interpret and enforce these  
9 laws, The Conflict of Interest Board depends on a  
10 select group of public servants with an unwavering  
11 commitment to principals of fairness, clarity and  
12 commonsense. Mr. Holly is such an individual. And  
13 whereas, born in California, Mr. Holly grew up in a  
14 military family and moved frequently completed high  
15 school in Virginia, attended Claremont McKenna  
16 College in California then Yale Law School and then  
17 bounced back to Los Angeles to two years of private  
18 practice. He soon crossed the country again to join  
19 the ACLU's Cleveland Chapter as staff counsel before  
20 finally arriving in New York City in 1985 as the  
21 Executive Director of MFY Legal Services. He  
22 excelled in that position for 14 years until joining  
23 the Conflicts of Interest Board in 1999. And  
24 whereas, Mr. Holly manages the counseling side of the  
25 Conflicts of Interest Board providing legal and

2 practical advice to New York City's 350,000 public  
3 servants about our city's ethics laws. Through the  
4 legal advice unit, city officials receive  
5 confidential answers to their ethical questions by  
6 telephone or in writing. In the event of a more  
7 novel or difficult question, the Board itself  
8 considers the issue before rendering a formal  
9 decision. With few exceptions, all communications  
10 between a city employee and the members and the staff  
11 of the Board are confidential and whereas Mr. Holly's  
12 key role commands a bird's eye view of city  
13 government because at some point all of government  
14 comes into contact with the Conflicts of Interest  
15 Board. Through it all, he has demonstrated the  
16 character and integrity to apply our city's ethics  
17 laws consistently, efficiently and even handedly to  
18 all city officials regardless of what position they  
19 hold in city government or how long they may have  
20 held it. And whereas, upon his retirement Mr. Holly  
21 can be proud knowing that his contributions reflect  
22 our highest ideals and will continue to strengthen  
23 city government and the lives of his fellow New  
24 Yorkers in the years ahead. Now therefore be it  
25 known, that the Council of the City New York

2 gratefully honors Wayne Holly for his outstanding  
3 service to the New York City Conflict of Interest  
4 Board and to the community at large. Melissa Mark-  
5 Viverito, Speaker for the entire Council, Ben Kallos,  
6 Council Member 5<sup>th</sup> District Manhattan, Alan Maisel,  
7 Council Member 46<sup>th</sup> District Brooklyn.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right. I  
9 want to thank our colleague, Council Member Kallos,  
10 for arranging this. Wayne, thank you for your 18  
11 years of service to the Conflicts of Interest Board.  
12 I have been just about 12 years and I think in the 12  
13 years we've been here, you've done every training. So  
14 thank you for the work you've done on our behalf and  
15 on the city's behalf and with that why don't you say  
16 a few words.

17 WAYNE HOLLY: First of all, thanks to  
18 you, Madam Chair, to the Committee Chair, Council  
19 Member Maisel, of course Council Member Kallos. This  
20 is a great honor for me personally but equally to  
21 this group here, this is the staff of the Conflicts  
22 of Interest Board. I will recognize my boss for  
23 another two weeks, the Executive Director Carolyn  
24 Miller and the rest of her staff. The Council has  
25 been a terrific supporter of our work over the 18

2 years I've been here and beyond. You are now my  
3 fourth speaker and the relationship has been  
4 wonderful and the training has occasionally been  
5 wonderful. So it has been a wonderful run for me but  
6 equally important is the role that the Council has  
7 played in helping build and support this institution  
8 we couldn't be more grateful for. I want to say  
9 thanks to all involved.

10 [applause]

11 [pause]

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: And with that we  
13 end ceremonials.

14 [pause]

15 CLERK: Ladies and Gentlemen, can I have  
16 you attention please? Can I please have your  
17 attention? At this time please place all electronic  
18 devices to vibrate. Will all non-council employees,  
19 non-council employees, please leave the main floor of  
20 the Chambers. Thank you.

21 [gavel]

22 [PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE]

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Please me seated,  
24 roll call. Quiet in the Chambers.

25 [ROLL CALL]

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: All rise for the  
3 invocation. The invocation will be delivered by  
4 Minister Regina Ross, the Pastor of House of the Lord  
5 Church in Queens at 176-03 Jamaica Avenue in the  
6 Borough of Queens. All quiet in the chambers please.

7 [INVOCATION]

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: A motion to spread the  
9 invocation in full upon the record, Council Member  
10 Miller? Quiet in the chambers please.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you Madam  
12 Public Advocate. It is my pleasure to spread the  
13 invocation for minister Regina Ross. As you have  
14 seen today that her ministry, which is part of the  
15 Great House of the Lord under leadership of Dr. Rev.  
16 Herbert Daughtry, has expanded their movement to  
17 Jamaica, Queens and the 27<sup>th</sup> District, a ministry  
18 which now brings to our community human services that  
19 are being provided to much needed population and we  
20 are very, very thankful for that. That is a skillset  
21 that Minister Ross has developed as assistant  
22 commissioner to HRA here serving the City of New  
23 York, leading and training many to do so. Her  
24 ministry is certainly a reflection of her life-long  
25 work and we are honored and privileged to have her in

2 Jamaica and the 27<sup>th</sup> District. It is my pleasure and  
3 privilege to spread the invocation. Thank you Madam  
4 Public Advocate.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Adoption of minutes.  
6 Council Member Koslowitz?

7 [background comments]

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Message and papers from  
9 the Mayor?

10 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: None.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Communication from  
12 city, county and borough offices?

13 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Preconsidered  
14 M486, expense budget.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Finance.

16 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Preconsidered  
17 M487, appropriation of new revenues.

18 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Finance.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Petitions and  
20 communications?

21 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: None.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Land Use call-ups?

23 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: M488 and M489  
24 various application.

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on call-  
3 up vote, roll call.

4 CLERK: Barron?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yes.

6 CLERK: Cabrera?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Yes.

8 CLERK: Chin?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

10 CLERK: Cohen?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

12 CLERK: Constantinides?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

14 CLERK: Cornegy? Crowley? Cumbo?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.

16 CLERK: Deutsch?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

18 CLERK: Dromm?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: I vote aye and  
20 with permission I would like to vote on all general  
21 orders.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: I vote aye.

24 CLERK: Espinal? Eugene? Ferreras-  
25 Copeland? Garodnick?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

3 CLERK: Gentile?

4 COUNCIL MEMEBR GENTILE: Aye.

5 CLERK: Gibson?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Aye.

7 CLERK: Greenfield? Grodenchik?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye.

9 CLERK: Johnson?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON? Aye.

11 CLERK: Kallos?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

13 CLERK: King?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye on all.

15 CLERK? Koo?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

17 CLERK: Gentile?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: With permission

19 I would like to vote on all call-ups and general  
20 orders?

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: I vote aye.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.

24 CLERK: Koslowitz? Lancman?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.



2 CLERK: Lander?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I vote aye and I  
4 request permission to vote aye on all orders on the  
5 general calendar.

6 PUBLIC ADVOATE: Yes.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I vote aye.

8 CLERK: Levine?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

10 CLERK: Maisel?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

12 CLERK: Mealy? Menchaca?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.

14 CLERK: Mendez?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

16 CLERK: Miller?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.

18 CLERK: Palma?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

20 CLERK: Perkins? Reynoso? Richards?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.

22 CLERK: Rodriguez?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

24 CLERK: Rose?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

2 CLERK: Rosenthal?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.

4 CLERK: Salamanca?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: I would like

6 to vote aye on all call-ups and with permission I

7 would like to vote on all coupled general orders.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: I vote aye.

10 Thank you.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

12 CLERK: Torres? Treyger?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.

14 CLERK: Ulrich?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Yes.

16 CLERK: Vacca?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

18 CLERK: Vallone?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

20 CLERK: Williams?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

22 CLERK: Wills?

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Cornegy.

24 CLERK: Cornegy?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

2 CLERK: Mattoe?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Yes.

4 CLERK: Van Bramer?

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Van Bramer?

6 CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Yes.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Today's Land Use Call-  
9 Ups are adopted by a vote of 38 in the affirmative  
10 and 0 in the negative. Quiet in the Chambers,  
11 please, as we now hear from the Speaker Melissa Mark-  
12 Viverito. Quiet in the Chambers.

13 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Madam  
14 Public Advocate. SO good afternoon to all my  
15 colleagues. If we could ask that you all rise.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: All rise.

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: So before we  
18 begin today, I want to acknowledge the passing of  
19 former Queens Borough President, Helen Marshall.  
20 Many of us were lucky enough to work with Helen  
21 during her 12 years serving Queens and know that her  
22 death is a true loss to the Queens Community. I  
23 heard many of my colleagues in this room who have had  
24 a personal experience of working with her, speak very  
25 highly of her and her accomplishments and ask that we

2 join in a moment of silence but also to allow two of  
3 our colleagues who had the opportunity to serve as  
4 Deputy Borough Presidents with her to say a few words  
5 before we take that moment of silence. Council  
6 Member Grodenchik and Council Member Koslowitz could  
7 say a few words. Karen, you want to start?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Thank you,  
9 Madam Speaker. It is a very sad day in Queens. It  
10 is a sad week in Queens because we lost someone who  
11 is very dear to many of us, someone who worked very  
12 hard. I had the privilege of knowing Helen since the  
13 late 70s. We became district leaders. We were  
14 district leaders together. We were in the City  
15 Council together for ten years. I had a close  
16 relationship with Helen and I miss her dearly. I was  
17 honored when Helen asked me to be her Deputy Borough  
18 President, really honored and I was the Deputy  
19 Borough President for eight years and we worked very  
20 closely together. Helen had a heart of gold. She  
21 wanted to make Queens great and she certainly did add  
22 to the greatness of Queens. We have been very lucky  
23 to have very decent, nice Borough presidents. Helen  
24 loved the Rockaways and she wanted to see the  
25 Rockaways developed. She used to call it the

2 Hamptons of Queens. She loved it so and she worked  
3 very hard and I think today and Donovan will agree  
4 with me that Rockaways has come a long way. Helen  
5 also worked with the Speaker at that time, Peter  
6 Vallone, Sr., to make the Frank Sinatra School in  
7 Queens along with Tony Bennett and Tony Bennett, I  
8 have a picture in my office of Helen, myself and Tony  
9 Bennett. He would come to visit us in Queens. Helen  
10 was a great lady, a fine lady and I will certainly  
11 miss her, her presence, her smile, her laughter and  
12 her just excitement. That's who Helen was.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Thank you,  
14 Karen. Thank you Madam Speaker. I stand today with  
15 all of us to give thanks for the life of my friend,  
16 my boss and mentor, the Honorable Helen Marshall, a  
17 three term Borough President of my beloved home  
18 Borough of Queens. I had the honor of serving as her  
19 Deputy for her final term as Borough President  
20 following in the footsteps of our colleague and  
21 friend Karen Koslowitz. Helen was a giant who cast a  
22 large shadow across the governmental and political  
23 landscape of our city and state. She served 31 years  
24 in elective governmental office but the truth of her  
25 success wasn't complicated. She worked it. She

2 worked hard, especially in her home community of East  
3 Elmhurst although she was at heart a young woman from  
4 the Bronx where she was born. I was struck by how  
5 she knew every single person. You could not walk the  
6 streets of East Elmhurst without her reading every  
7 single -- not almost every person, every single  
8 person that she came across she knew their names, she  
9 knew what they did and where they went to school and  
10 she knew where they worked. At the tribute dinner  
11 held by her beloved Elm Corp in 2013 just before she  
12 retired from public life, the former Attorney General  
13 of the United States Eric Holder said and I quote,  
14 "Mrs. Marshall we all stand on your shoulders," and  
15 he spoke the truth. Karen mentioned it about the  
16 Rockaways. The morning after Super Storm Sandy, I  
17 was with Helen as we went from community to community  
18 ravaged by the storms effects. We started in Howard  
19 Beach and into Broad Channel and then onto the  
20 Rockaways and all the way out to Breezy Point.  
21 People were suffering and she wanted to be there to  
22 comfort them and assure them all the things would get  
23 better. She did and they did and she made many, many  
24 returns to the Rockaways and to the communities of  
25 South Queens to meet and talk with the people there

2 as the communities recovered. Helen got into public  
3 service for all the right reasons. She did it to  
4 make the life better for the people in her community.  
5 She built schools and libraries, community centers  
6 and parks but she never forgot the important truth  
7 that institutions are only important in that they  
8 effectively serve all the people in the community.  
9 She never forgot that taking time to worry about each  
10 and every person she came across. She worried about  
11 the children and the seniors, about those less well-  
12 off and those with nowhere to turn. She worried  
13 about young people who needed schools and after  
14 school programs. She worried about seniors who were  
15 alone and about a community that needed parks and  
16 libraries and she built them all from 1957 on. But  
17 she did more than worry. She rolled up her sleeves.  
18 She got involved and she made a difference in the  
19 lives of millions of people from her beloved East  
20 Elmhurst to all across the State of New York. This  
21 Saturday, her funeral will be in East Elmhurst and in  
22 Sunday the Borough of Queens will honor her with a  
23 public memorial in the center she built at Borough  
24 Hall. May she rest in peace, may her family and  
25 friends be consoled and may her memory be for a

2 blessing for now and always and may we all seek to  
3 immolate the good deeds that she performed. God rest  
4 her soul. Thank you.

5 SPEAKER: MARK-VIVERITO: We can take a  
6 moment, please.

7 [pause]

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, my  
9 colleagues.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Please be seated.

11 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thanks Karen,  
12 thank Barry. I also want to take this moment to wish  
13 a farewell to someone who has been with this Council  
14 nearly 13 years performing dedicated work across  
15 several divisions. So today we wall want to wish  
16 farewell to Community Engagement Director Danni  
17 Ilpacaro. Many thanks for your years and service and  
18 your phenomenal record during your time here. Is she  
19 here? We can say -- she's not but we want at least  
20 everyone to know if you want to give her a call and  
21 we appreciate her service and thank her for that.

22 [applause]

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: So moving on to  
24 today's agenda, the Council will begin today by  
25 voting on a redevelopment proposal for the Sunset



2 Park Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library in Council  
3 Member Menchaca's district. Council approval will  
4 facilitate the development of this branch into an  
5 eight-story mixed use building featuring a  
6 significantly larger and state of the art library and  
7 49 units of low income affordable housing for the  
8 neighborhood. Council Member Menchaca has been  
9 working very diligently and hard on this project for  
10 several years now and he will say a few words.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you.  
12 Thank you Speaker and I rise to praise the work that  
13 so many have done for this UDAAP application for the  
14 Sunset Park Library. With this single item Sunset  
15 Park will have the opportunity and has taken the  
16 opportunity to address two very chronic needs: one is  
17 a brand new library and two is more affordable  
18 housing to solve the crisis. After more than two  
19 years of public hearings and community meetings, the  
20 Brooklyn Public Library and the non-profit affordable  
21 housing builder, Fifth Avenue Committee, has  
22 presented a plan to rebuild Sunset Park's aging and  
23 overcrowded and irreparable library. I note that  
24 this project's firm approval came with a VP, Brooklyn  
25 VP Borough President Eric Adams approval and the

2 local community Board Seven approval. The project  
3 proposes to build extremely rare permanently  
4 affordable housing above a new library that will be  
5 twice the size of the current branch. I hope members  
6 are taking notes here because this DNA that we've  
7 created is already impacting other neighborhoods.  
8 There are no market rate units and steeply discounted  
9 rents will be offered using AMI calculations that  
10 truly reflect the earnings of our neighborhood. The  
11 maximum legally allowed number of units will be set  
12 aside for local community board residents with a  
13 special set aside for survivors of domestic violence.  
14 Robust community engagement to determine the new  
15 library design is underway. A viable interim library  
16 location has been secured in Sunset Park's Historic  
17 Courthouse building. This project is the best use of  
18 our precious library site. Legitimate community  
19 questions about the guarantee of perpetual library  
20 use and the long-term preservation of the new  
21 affordable housing were raised and answered in these  
22 public hearings. Together with HPD and City  
23 Council's legal and land use advisors, and we thank  
24 them all, I have verified the legally binding  
25 instruments that ensure the sites public benefit

2 uses. As the project progresses, I will continue to  
3 hold the Brooklyn Public Library and the local non-  
4 profit builder accountable to the people of Sunset  
5 Park for the benefits they promised including the  
6 legal guarantees for truly affordable housing and the  
7 library use forever. Thank you, Speaker, for your  
8 dedication to this project as well and looking  
9 forward to voting and I ask everybody to support.

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you Council  
11 Member. Next piece of legislation takes on a renewed  
12 importance in light of this week's winter storm. New  
13 York City has approximately 900 private streets which  
14 by their nature do not receive normal maintenance  
15 services provided by the city to public roadways.  
16 This includes street cleaning and paving and snow  
17 removal services which are instead organized and paid  
18 for by homeowners on those private drives. Intro  
19 1071A sponsored by Council Member Alan Maisel would  
20 require the Department of Transportation to conduct a  
21 study of private streets in the city including a  
22 review of the factors that may be considered are  
23 necessary for the city's acquisition of private  
24 streets. I want to thank Kelly Taylor, Gafar Zaloff  
25 (SP), Jonathan Masserano, Emily Rooney, Chima Apter

2 (SP), and Brandon West. Council Member Maisel will  
3 say a few words.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Thank you, Madam  
5 Speaker. This bill has been a long time in coming.  
6 The problem has existed since probably the  
7 consolidation of the city in, I think, 1898. We do  
8 have these private streets which are not maintained  
9 or part of the city's map structure and this bill  
10 will go a long way towards resolving that problem by  
11 allowing for a study of the situation and also to  
12 take steps to acquire these streets where  
13 appropriate. I want to thank the Speaker and the  
14 staff who put this together and help work on this  
15 legislation. So thank you.

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you. Next  
17 Council will be voting on Intro 247A sponsored by  
18 Council Member Elizabeth Crowley which would  
19 categorize electrical work performed without a  
20 required license as an immediately hazardous  
21 violation and would impose a minimum penalty of  
22 \$4,888. I think Megan Chin, (SP) Patino, Jose (SP),  
23 Ed Atkin and Jen Wilcox. I want to thank Council  
24 Member Crowley for her work on this legislation that  
25 is going to go far in helping to ensure the safety

2 and reliability of electrical work performed  
3 throughout the city. I don't think she is with us,  
4 right? She is not with us and not we'd have her say  
5 a few words. Our next piece of legislation addresses  
6 a long-standing problem with recurrent flooding in  
7 Southeast Queens. This issue has affected over  
8 400,000 residents and recently sought \$1.7 billion  
9 directed toward finding a solution in the 2016 ten  
10 year capital plan. Introduction 1198A is sponsored  
11 by Council Member Donovan Richards would require the  
12 department of environmental protection to issue to  
13 the Mayor, the Council and the general public a plan  
14 for mitigating flooding in Queens Community Districts  
15 12 and 13. I want to thank Samara Swanston, Bill  
16 Murray, John Seltzer, Ed Atkin and Jen Wilcox and ask  
17 Donovan Richards to say a few words.

18 COUNCIL MEMEBR RICHARDS: Thank you,  
19 Madam Speaker, and today is a good day for Southeast  
20 Queens and because while we are happy that we  
21 certainly secured \$1.7 billion to finally address  
22 this long-standing issue, today we are now adding the  
23 components of accountability and transparency to this  
24 money. It is really shameful that when it rains that  
25 residents have to endure flooded basements, our

2 seniors, communities and as we try to keep  
3 communities affordable, you know, when you have to  
4 take that money out your pocket to clean out your  
5 basement, we really are threatening affordable  
6 housing and homeownership most importantly in our  
7 communities. So today is definitely a great day.  
8 There is a lot more work that needs to be done but I  
9 am happy to say that we finally are seeing hammers in  
10 the ground, we're seeing infrastructure investment  
11 and there is no way of getting around us that this  
12 issue had nothing to do with anything else outside of  
13 environmental racism and there is no other way to  
14 really say it because we've seen areas built out all  
15 across Queens and I could never understand how  
16 Southern Queens, one of the most densest parts of  
17 Queens with primarily communities of people of color,  
18 with homeownership why this community never had  
19 simple things like storm sewers in their communities  
20 so I am very happy to be here. I want to thank  
21 certainly the Chair of the Environmental Protection  
22 Committee, Costa Constantinides. I want to thank our  
23 Speaker for her leadership. I want to thank the  
24 fantastic and phenomenal Counsel Samara Swanson and  
25 Bill Murray and also Emily Lloyd, who is no longer

2 with us, the former Environmental Protection Chair  
3 who really said we were going to get this done and  
4 she stood up to make sure it did. I want to thank  
5 the Mayor obviously for allocating 1.7 billion and my  
6 colleague Council Member Miller who has been with us  
7 step by step, side by side really fighting to ensure  
8 that our communities finally get equity and get their  
9 just due. With that being said, I want to thank you  
10 and I urge all my colleagues to vote aye on this.

11 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thanks Council  
12 Member. [Inaudible 00:55:16] the industry New York  
13 City is facing challenging financial times.  
14 Introductions 1474A, 1475A sponsored by Council  
15 Member Ydanis Rodriguez would allow the rate of the  
16 medallion transfer tax from five percent to .5  
17 percent and would effectively eliminate the remaining  
18 distinction between individual and many fleet  
19 medallion's. This would allow all medallions to be  
20 owned by any owner regardless of whether they own a  
21 single medallion or more than one medallion. I want  
22 to thank Kelly Taylor, Gafar Zaloff (SP), Johnatan  
23 Masserano, Emily Rooney, Nicole Abine (SP), Chima  
24 (SP) and Brandon West and Council Member Rodriguez

2 will say a few words who has been working diligently  
3 on this issue.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you,  
5 Speaker for your leadership and supporting us in this  
6 initiative. I would like to dedicate those  
7 legislation to the 6,000 individual medallion owners  
8 in our city that they have been using the value of  
9 those medallions to get a mortgage and buy their  
10 houses in Queens, Bronx, Brooklyn and Staten Island  
11 and also using those -- the value of those medallions  
12 to send their kids to go to college and today they  
13 are seeing how the value of those medallions have  
14 been reduced. It is not secret that the yellow taxi  
15 industry is facing very challenging times right now.  
16 Fares and trips are down considerably and perhaps  
17 most significantly hundreds of taxis are sitting idle  
18 instead of being out on the road where they belong  
19 serving New Yorkers. While there are many factors  
20 behind it, the bottom line is that the yellow taxi is  
21 an iconic part of New York City and an important  
22 transportation option for New Yorkers and visitors  
23 alike. With this bill, we are taking steps to ease  
24 some of the restrictions and administrative burdens  
25 that medallion owners currently face with the hope



2 that this measure may help spur more investment in  
3 the taxi industry. It has long been my position that  
4 there can be a place for everyone in our taxi and for  
5 hire vehicle industry to do good. New York is a city  
6 of opportunity and innovation. It is important that  
7 every sector remain strong surpassing your safety and  
8 efficiently and offer drivers good opportunity to  
9 make a living as these industries have done for  
10 generations. I would like to thank again the Speaker  
11 and colleagues here, Mayor de Blasio and his  
12 administration for supporting us in this legislation.  
13 Thank you.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Gracias. Next  
15 the Council will vote on Intro 882A sponsored by  
16 Council Member Helen Rosenthal which would require  
17 city capital projects with a baseline cost of  
18 \$950,000 or more and involving the construction or  
19 reconstruction of one or more assembly areas to  
20 include an induction loop assisted listening system,  
21 it is kind of a hard term, it is one of these tongue  
22 twisters, in at least one assembly area. Assisted  
23 listening systems allow for individuals with hearing  
24 loss to hear what is happening in their immediate  
25 area without the need for any additional equipment.

2 Today's legislation makes New York City the largest  
3 jurisdiction in the nation to make formal  
4 accommodations for hearing loops and those who use  
5 them. I want to thank Nicole Abine (SP), Eric  
6 Bernstein, Michael Benjamin, Jeannette Merrill,  
7 Nathan Tow (SP), Iesha Shamberg (SP), (??) Nasser.  
8 Helen Rosenthal has been an incredible advocate, has  
9 been working really hard on this bill and again it  
10 really setting New York City apart as being the  
11 largest jurisdiction to do anything of this type.  
12 With that, if Council Member Rosenthal could say a  
13 few words.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you so  
15 much, Speaker. You know, in my first year in office  
16 I met Tom Harkin who was responsible for passing the  
17 Americans with Disabilities Act 25 years ago, just  
18 over 25 years now. I remember thinking about the  
19 impact his work has had on millions of Americans.  
20 Let's take a moment to think about what the ADA means  
21 that every American regardless of physical  
22 limitations should have the same level of access to  
23 employment, state and local government services,  
24 public accommodations, commercial facilities, and  
25 transportation and that no American should have to

2 live in fear or restrict their lives because they  
3 know there is a place they cannot enter or a public  
4 day to day activity they will not be able to fully  
5 participate in. Our office is continually searching  
6 for ways to ensure that New York City government is  
7 doing all it can to strengthen the ADA and now I am  
8 thrilled that this moment has come when we are the  
9 first municipality to legislate that hearing loops  
10 and the most up to date assisted listening devices  
11 must be used in city -- whenever a new public city  
12 dollars are put into a public building. Under the  
13 city's current capital plans, almost 300 new  
14 construction and renovation projects including  
15 libraries like the one that Council Member Menchaca  
16 worked so hard to get, school cafeterias and  
17 auditoriums and NYCHA community centers will be  
18 required to be looped across New York City. The  
19 impact that is far reaching -- the impact of this is  
20 far reaching. According to the Hearing Loss  
21 Association of America about 20 percent of Americans  
22 report some degree of hearing loss and as I continue  
23 to age and the rest of this Council continues to age,  
24 we are all going to be happy that our libraries will  
25 be looped when we need them. The legislation we are

2 passing today will enable tens and thousands of New  
3 Yorkers today to fully participate in public hearings  
4 and community life. I too want to thank all the  
5 center staff who has worked on this. Finance staff:  
6 (??) Nasser, Asia Shamburg, Mat Dewall and I want to  
7 give a special shout-out to my two legislative  
8 directors who have shepparded [sic] this legislation  
9 through from Amid Tagami (SP), my first legislative  
10 director, to Shawn Fitzpatrick now who has now put it  
11 over the goal line so thank you so much for your  
12 help. Today's bill passage is a victory for  
13 accessibility and thousands of New Yorkers.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thanks Helen and  
15 thanks for your leadership on that. The last item  
16 being voted on today concerns the overdose epidemic  
17 that has affected not only the country but every  
18 corner of New York City's communities. Intro 748B  
19 sponsored by Council Member Corey Johnson would  
20 require an agency designated by the Mayor to prepare  
21 a report on a municipal drug strategy including  
22 short-term and long-term plans and recommendations to  
23 coordinate private and public resources to address  
24 problems associated with drug use. The bill would  
25 also create a municipal drug strategy advisory

2 council comprised of members drawn from nearly a  
3 dozen city agencies. Council Member Johnson has been  
4 working very diligently on this on an issue that is  
5 very much impacting greatly this city and across the  
6 country as well. Staff, I want to thank, Nicole  
7 Abine (SP), Michael Benjamin, Jeanette Merrill,  
8 Carline Francisco and (??) Nasser and ask Council  
9 Member Johnson to say a few words.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam  
11 Speaker. It is a staggering, staggering statistic.  
12 Today in New York City, opioid abuse claims more  
13 lives than homicide. Repeat that again. Today in  
14 New York City, opioid overdoses we lose more folks to  
15 that than homicide in our city. It is the public  
16 health crisis of our day and today we are introducing  
17 or passing legislation that will help us fight back.  
18 Together this administration and this council have  
19 already taken steps to acknowledge and respond to  
20 this crisis making sure that more police officers are  
21 able to administer Naloxone if there is a heroin  
22 overdose to unveiling the Healing NYC Plan. But  
23 given the depth of this crisis, clear we need to go  
24 further in addressing both the human and saddle cost  
25 of drug addiction. I can talk about this personally.

2 I have been sober for almost eight years. I drank  
3 too much and used too many drugs and the best and  
4 most important thing I've ever done for myself in my  
5 life was get sober at the age of 27 on July 13, 2009.  
6 [applause] Intro 748 would establish procedures for a  
7 drug strategy plan and interagency and advocate  
8 coordination to most effectively combat this  
9 epidemic. It would put a focus on refining our  
10 city's drug policy so that it could address the  
11 mortality and mental health fallout from this intense  
12 epidemic and eliminate barriers for reintegrating the  
13 individuals and communities that have been most  
14 ravaged by its effects and by the lack of prior  
15 responses. This process would emphasize helping  
16 those who are struggling with drug addiction by  
17 promoting public health and science rather than  
18 letting politics and stigma stand in the way of  
19 peoples access to care. It would spearhead evidence  
20 based drug education and public health intervention  
21 efforts, enhance the availability of medical,  
22 psychological and social services to those struggling  
23 with drug use and it would analyze health, social and  
24 economic problems rooted in our broken drug policy.  
25 As we know the psychological services component of

2 treating those who are in recover from substance  
3 abuse disorders is often lacking and we need to  
4 revamp these efforts. I am grateful for all the  
5 First Lady's work on this. Such coordinated drug  
6 strategies have proven successful in large cities  
7 across Canada and Europe. New York City now has the  
8 opportunity to be at the national forefront of  
9 creating real change in how we approach drug policy.  
10 Too many lives have been lost or harmed by regressive  
11 policies, too many people have been criminalized over  
12 their use of drugs, too many people have not gotten  
13 the compassion and services that they need in a  
14 comprehensive way. This is about saving lives. This  
15 is about getting people with an addiction help and  
16 this is about emphasizing harm reduction. In our  
17 response, I ask my colleagues to please vote in favor  
18 of this important legislation. Thank you, Madam  
19 Speaker.

20 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you and  
21 with that we have communication -- we end  
22 communication from the Speaker. Nope, yep, yep.  
23 Sorry.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes? Yes, you've  
25 completed?

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Yes, I am. Thank  
3 you.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Seeing no one who has  
5 signed up on discussion of general orders, report of  
6 special committees?

7 CLERK: None.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Reports of standing  
9 committees?

10 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
11 Environmental Protection Intro 1198A, Flood  
12 Mitigation in Southeast Queens.

13 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
14 couple on general orders.

15 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
16 Finance, pre-considered Reso 1413 Expense Budget.

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
18 general orders.

19 CLERK: Pre-considered M490 and Reso 1422  
20 and M491 and Reso 1423, Council budget.

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Couple on general  
22 orders.

23 CLERK: Pre-considered M486 and Reso 1424,  
24 transferring funds between agencies.

25



1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 49

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
3 general orders.

4 CLERK: Pre-considered M487 and Reso 1425,  
5 appropriation of new revenues.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
7 general orders.

8 CLERK: Pre-considered LU 588 and Reso  
9 1426, Notre Dame Apartments.

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
11 general orders.

12 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Housing  
13 and Buildings Intro 247A, unlicensed electrical work.

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

16 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land  
17 Use LU 584 and Reso 1427 UDAAP Brooklyn.

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

20 CLERK: LU 585 and Reso 1428 disposition  
21 of city property.

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

24 CLERK: LU 586 and Reso 1429 property  
25 acquisition.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Couple on general  
3 orders.

4 CLERK: LU 587 and Reso 1430 on enclosed  
5 sidewalk café.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Couple on general  
7 orders.

8 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Mental  
9 Health, Developmental Disability, Alcoholism,  
10 Substance Abuse and Disability Service Intro 748B  
11 municipal drug strategy.

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

14 CLERK: Intro 882A induction loop  
15 systems.

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

18 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
19 Transportation Intro 1071A study private streets.

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

22 CLERK: Intro 1474A taxi cab licenses.

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

25 CLERK: Intro 1475A taxi cab ownership

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
3 coupled on general orders.

4 CLERK: On the general order calendar,  
5 resolution appointing various persons Commissioner of  
6 Deeds.

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
8 general orders. At this time I ask for roll call on  
9 all items on the coupled general order calendar.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: May we have quiet in  
11 the Chambers, please. Thank you. Roll call.

12 CLERK: Barron?

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

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.

17 Before I offer my vote, I wasn't here at the time  
18 that the invocation was offered but I do want to make  
19 acknowledgement that the presenter today, Regina  
20 Byrd, is my personal friend. We have been friends  
21 for more than 30 years. She was the teacher of my  
22 oldest son when we were in a church run institution  
23 for early childhood and she is a beautiful person in  
24 addition to being assistant commissioner in HRA, in  
25 addition to the leadership she provides for those

2 person and in other agencies as well. She is a  
3 humanitarian and we came to know each other through  
4 the work that was being done in regards to social  
5 justice. She was very involved in the issues of the  
6 day and offered herself for, for -- arrest regarding  
7 the issues of South Africa and so many other issues  
8 during the 70s, 80s, 90s and beyond so I wanted to  
9 acknowledge her and say that I continue to be  
10 impressed by what you do and offer you my love and I  
11 vote aye on all.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.

13 CLERK: Cabrera?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye on all.

15 CLERK: Chin?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Congratulations to  
17 my all colleagues on their legislation. I vote aye  
18 on all.

19 CLERK: Cohen?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

21 CLERK: Constantinides?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Madam  
23 Public Advocate, may I be able to explain my vote?

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: I want to  
3 congratulate all my colleagues on all their bills  
4 today but especially I want to congratulate Council  
5 Member Donovan Richards and Council Member Miller on  
6 Intro 1198. For decades there has been an under  
7 investment in infrastructure in Southeast Queens and  
8 flooding in homes. Every day when it floods, most of  
9 us have to worry about well do we have our umbrella,  
10 sadly for these residents inn Southeast Queens for  
11 decades had to worry about is my home going to flood,  
12 is my home going to be okay and this historic  
13 investment of 1.5 billion by the de Blasio  
14 administration will go a long way to rectifying these  
15 decades old flooding issues in Southeast Queens from  
16 the shallow water table to the lack of  
17 infrastructure. So I want to congratulate my  
18 colleagues for being strong advocates for their  
19 community. As Chair of the Environmental Protection  
20 Committee, I am proud to work with them and see this  
21 through and have this plan go into effect to make  
22 sure we have transparency and a plan that people can  
23 constantly refer to over the next decade. Thank you  
24 and congratulations to Council Member Richards and

2 Miller and of course our Speaker Melissa Mark-  
3 Viverito. I vote aye on all.

4 CLERK: Cornegy?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye on all.

6 CLERK: Cumbo?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission to  
8 explain my vote?

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I just want to  
11 congratulate Council Member Corey Johnson for his  
12 advocacy and utilizing his own personal experiences  
13 in order to shape and make New York City a better  
14 place. I vote aye.

15 CLERK: Deutsch?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye on all.

17 CLERK: Espinal?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I vote aye on  
19 all.

20 CLERK: Eugene?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: May I explain my  
22 vote?

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you very  
25 much. I would like to congratulate all my colleagues

2 on their legislation especially Council Member  
3 [inaudible due to shhhhh by Public Advocate 01:11:35]  
4 and I vote aye on all. Thank you.

5 CLERK: Garodnick?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

7 CLERK: Gibson?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Permission to  
9 explain my vote?

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you, Madam  
12 Public Advocate. I want to also add my voice in  
13 congratulating all of our colleagues who are passing  
14 important legislation today. I want to highlight and  
15 commend Council Member Corey Johnson on his work on  
16 Intro 748B. Working with him and Council Member  
17 Cohen and serving as one of the members of the  
18 Mayor's task force on opioid abuse. This has been  
19 something that is obviously hit the City of New York  
20 in an incredible way and our response has been  
21 aggressive. It has bene passionate. It has been  
22 full of resources and programs and for me it is  
23 looking at drug addiction and drug abuse from a  
24 holistic and health perspective. It is going after  
25 the manufacturers that are selling this dangerous

2 product and not double victimizing the user and while  
3 it's had a disproportionate impact on Bronx County  
4 and Richmond County I want to commend our colleagues  
5 on Staten Island for their work including the Borough  
6 President. We've had lots of conversations around  
7 opioid abuse. We are working with DOHMH as well as  
8 NYPD as well as other stakeholders in making sure we  
9 equip law enforcement and public health workers with  
10 the necessary information, the Naloxone and other  
11 measures so that we can obviously prevent deaths. We  
12 can focus on prevention and we can focus on the  
13 necessary treatment to make sure that we tackle this  
14 from a public health perspective so congratulations  
15 Council Member Johnson. Thank you for your work and  
16 I proudly vote aye on all. Thank you.

17 CLERK: Greenfield?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I vote aye on  
19 all including all the call-ups in general order.

20 CLERK: Grodenchik?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye on all  
22 and I want to congratulate Donovan Richards, Jr., and  
23 Daneek Miller for taking a lead on this issue that  
24 has been bedeviling the people of Southeast Queens  
25 all the way to North Shore Towers. I know that



2 doesn't sound like Southeast Queens but this is an  
3 issue that also effects my district. I am sure it  
4 effects Rory Lancman's district as well and it has  
5 been a long, long time since Claire Shulman spoke to  
6 Elle Appleton who was David Dinken's environmental  
7 commissioner to start the ball rolling so with that I  
8 vote aye on all.

9 CLERK: Johnson?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye on all.

11 CLERK: Kallos?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye on all.

13 CLERK: King?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Congratulations to  
15 every Council Member today who got legislation passed  
16 to make New York City a greater place to live and I  
17 vote on all.

18 CLERK: Koo?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Congratulations to  
20 Council Member Donovan and Miller and I vote aye on  
21 all.

22 CLERK: Koslowitz?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ:

24 Congratulations to Council Member Donovan and

25

2 Richards. I remember this problem going on for  
3 years. I vote aye on all.

4 CLERK: Lancman?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

6 CLERK: Levine?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye on all.

8 CLERK: Maisel?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

10 CLERK: Menchaca?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye on all.

12 CLERK: Mendez?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Yes.

14 CLERK: Miller?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Permission to  
16 explain?

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you Madam

19 Public Advocate. I would like to congratulate all of  
20 my colleagues on the legislation being passed today,  
21 most importantly I'd like to congratulate my  
22 colleague and neighbor, Donovan Richards, for his  
23 leadership on this important Intro that will  
24 alleviate decades of flood mitigation from the  
25 Southeast Queens community. Many have suffered times

2 and times again, home have literally been under water  
3 literally and figuratively and this will certainly  
4 bring the type of oversight that is necessary to  
5 ensure that the services are being delivered timely  
6 and efficiently and this transparency is precisely  
7 what the community has been asking for so I thank you  
8 for your leadership and I vote aye on all.

9 CLERK: Palma? Reynoso?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.

11 CLERK: Richards?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.

13 CLERK: Rodriguez?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

15 CLERK: Rose?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

17 CLERK: Rosenthal?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Permission to  
19 explain my vote?

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [Inaudible -  
22 off mic 01:16:10] who is providing cart service  
23 today and I really appreciate the work that she does,  
24 the individuals who are skilled in helping those who  
25 are deaf or hearing impaired are unsung heroes so I

2 want to thank her for being here. I want to thank  
3 Council Member Cohen for deftly chairing the  
4 committee that passed this legislation and I do want  
5 to say that as has been discussed before, we are  
6 moving forward with working with DaCast to loop the  
7 Chambers, the people's house. Thank you very much  
8 and aye on all.

9 CLERK: Torres?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye on all

11 CLERK: Treyger?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: With congrats to  
13 my colleagues, I vote aye on all.

14 CLERK: Ulrich?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye on all  
16 and I want to wish a very happy birthday to Karen  
17 Koslowitz and also our council photographer Bill  
18 Alatricty (SP). Today is his birthday. Happy  
19 Birthday, Bill! Karen's birthday was in the snow  
20 storm.

21 CLERK: Vacca?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye on all.

23 CLERK: Vallone?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on all.

25 CLERK: Williams?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Excuse me vote?

3 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Congratulations  
5 to all my colleagues on their bills. I do want to  
6 congratulate Council Member Maisel. I do know  
7 firsthand how difficult it is dealing with these  
8 unmapped streets so I want to say thank you for that  
9 and a special shout-out to Council Member Johnson, it  
10 is always courageous to share your personal story  
11 [inaudible 01:17:52] not just on that but doing  
12 something about it. I vote aye on all.

13 CLERK: Crowley?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote aye on  
15 all calendar items and all call-ups.

16 CLERK: Matteo?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Aye on all.

18 CLERK: Van Bramer? Speaker Mark-  
19 Viverito?

20 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye on all.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: All items on today's  
22 general order calendar were adopted by a vote of 44  
23 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and 0  
24 abstentions. In the revised Land Use call-ups were

25

2 adopted by a vote of 44 affirmative and 0 negative.

3 Introduction and reading of bills.

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

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: There are no  
7 resolutions on the calendar today. We will begin  
8 with general discussions beginning with Council  
9 Member Vallone.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you,  
11 Madam. I speak in support of Defraud Resolution  
12 1421. Defraud is a rapidly growing crime that  
13 targets our most vulnerable citizens, especially our  
14 elderly. Our current system makes it absurdly east  
15 for someone to fraudulently record a deed. What's  
16 worse is that once a fraudulent deed is processed,  
17 the only recourse for the owner is to hire a lawyer  
18 and undergo an arduous and lengthy and expensive  
19 legal process in an attempt to reverse the deed  
20 transfer. Therefore I am calling on the state to  
21 pass legislation that would mandate all real property  
22 conveyances to require a deed to be recorded on  
23 notice to all parties in the Office of the Clerk of  
24 the county where such real property is located.  
25 There currently is no such requirement and this

2 loophole is too often used to defraud those who  
3 inherit property without a deed being filed.  
4 Requiring the recording of deeds can grant the  
5 Department of Finance an opportunity to flag these  
6 deed transfers based on irregularities and  
7 information provided such as Social Security number  
8 and signatures. This legislation would be an  
9 important first step in preventing fraudulent deed  
10 transfers and protecting our most important asset,  
11 our home. Thank you.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. Council  
13 Member Kallos?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: In honor of  
15 Women's History Month I am proud to join the Speaker,  
16 Council Member Koslowitz, Cumbo, Van Bramer and  
17 Crowley in introducing Resolution 1414 to support  
18 Congress member Maloney's efforts to create a women's  
19 history museum in Washington DC. Two years ago this  
20 Council supported the first step of this process to  
21 study the feasibility of creating a museum. After a  
22 positive report, we must move forward and break  
23 ground on this long overdue museum to celebrate and  
24 honor the underappreciated and overlooked women who  
25 have made our country what it is and fought to make

2 it better. I also hope you will sign onto  
3 Introduction 1517. It is an Introduction submitted  
4 on behalf of the Conflicts of Interest Board. Anyone  
5 who knows who is running is caught in a catch 22 COIB  
6 pass to notify everyone who is running but the due  
7 date for them to receive the COIB paperwork, the  
8 Conflicts of Interest is actually on the same day as  
9 petitions are due. So this would expand the time by  
10 30 days so they would actually know who is running  
11 before they had to notify them so those folks would  
12 have 30 days to respond. Thank you.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Council Member Treyger.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Happy St.

15 Patrick's everyone! Colleagues, I ask respectfully  
16 to request your support for Intro 1526, an innovative  
17 piece of legislation which would allow food service  
18 establishments to remedy certain consumer affairs  
19 violations such as failure to display prices and  
20 sanitation violations such as failing to recycle  
21 certain materials by donating excess food to non-  
22 profits over an agreed upon period of time rather  
23 than paying the city a fine. Throughout the city,  
24 food pantries are in desperate need of increased  
25 supply and nearly one in six New Yorkers experience



2 food insecurity. Nearly one in five of our city's  
3 children and seniors depend of food pantries or soup  
4 kitchens. This bill will allow food service  
5 establishments to donate excess food to those who  
6 need it most, to remediate low level sanitation and  
7 consumer affairs violations. This innovative  
8 approach emphasizes positive behavior and fosters  
9 community linkages rather than relying on arbitrary  
10 punitive measure that can jeopardize the viability of  
11 small businesses without any providing strong  
12 community benefit. On behalf of small businesses  
13 surviving on the margins and many New Yorkers facing  
14 hunger, I urge you to sign on to Intro 1526. Thank  
15 you.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Council Member Van  
17 Bramer to vote?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I vote aye on  
19 all.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. Back to  
21 general discussion. Council Member Williams?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: First, I just  
23 want to add my condolences and prayers for peace and  
24 comfort for the friends and family of Queens Borough  
25 President Helen Marshall. She was respected by

2 everyone. She provided inspiration for me. She was  
3 a person of Caribbean descent and a CUNY grad. Then  
4 I would like to be thankful that one of our checks in  
5 government is doing their job and Trump's travel ban  
6 has been blocked for a second time. Hopefully, it  
7 won't go any further. His budget is coming out  
8 today. I believe we have to start being honest about  
9 what that might mean for our budget and all of us who  
10 are -- have looked back on history during protest  
11 movements, civil rights and others and really need to  
12 figure out that this is that time and we are going to  
13 have to do more than provide logic because logic  
14 doesn't work on this man or his administration. We  
15 are going to have to hit the streets and do a lot  
16 more to push back. Lastly, and I am going to stand  
17 for this, because I am saddened that an act of grand  
18 larceny, my Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative  
19 Director Nick E. Smith has been seduced by the dark  
20 side and this will be his last stated. I want to  
21 thank him so much for three and a half years he has  
22 spent in my office. He has been an invaluable member  
23 of my team. I have been so proud to see him grow.  
24 His [inaudible 01:24:04] has been a gift to me and my  
25 team. He has worked passionately for civil rights.

2 He has helped with the Fair Chance Act, community  
3 [inaudible 01:24:12] reform and many of the human  
4 rights law to protect victims of domestic violence,  
5 sex offenses and stalking, NYPD report of use of  
6 force [inaudible 01:24:30], protecting tenant and  
7 tenant relocates, helping to [inaudible 01:24:25] and  
8 so many. People here often confuse him as my Chief  
9 of Staff but he is actually the deputy. I can't say  
10 how much you have meant to be personally, brother,  
11 what you have meant to my office. You have been a  
12 god-send. Turned the office into a juggernaut. I am  
13 waiting now when you have to tell me particularly on  
14 my police and housing bills that you probably wrote  
15 why they are no longer a good idea but I just want to  
16 say congratulations and I really, really wish you  
17 the best of luck. You have been a god-send. I want  
18 to give you round of applause. Congratulations and  
19 peace.

20 [applause]

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Congratulations Eugene.  
22 I regret to inform everyone that our former  
23 colleague, Council Member Eric Deland, Senate Member  
24 Eric Deland, lost his mother, the wife of Senator  
25 Martin Deland, Deborah Deland passed away. Her

2 funeral arrangements this week and if anyone wants  
3 information please approach the desk. Council Member  
4 Eugene?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you, Madam  
6 Public Advocate and thank you also for this piece of  
7 information because Assembly Member Deland was a  
8 great, great City Council member and friend. My  
9 colleagues, it is my honor today to introduce a  
10 resolution, Resolution 1420, to declare June 22,  
11 which is the day that President Franklin Delano  
12 Roosevelt signed the GI Bill of Right into law. New  
13 York City Veteran tribute and advocate day to honor  
14 the sacrifices of our brave men and women in uniform  
15 who have made the sacrifices to our freedom, to  
16 secure our freedom. This resolution to declare New  
17 York City Tribute and Advocacy Day is meant not only  
18 to show our gratitude and respect to our veterans but  
19 to also advocate for better services and lend  
20 resources to help those who have served, ones that  
21 have returned home. I believe that we have an  
22 obligation as a city to serve those who serve our  
23 country and in doing so, set an example for other  
24 cities to follow our example. It is my hope that by  
25 setting aside June 22<sup>nd</sup> as Veteran Tribute and

2 Advocacy Day, we can show how important providing  
3 adequate resources and services for our veterans is  
4 for New York City and also encourage other cities to  
5 do the same. I ask my colleagues to support this  
6 legislation.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Council Member King?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Thank you, Madam  
9 Public Advocate. Today I am asking all of you to  
10 sign onto proposed legislation Intro 1518 that will  
11 waive civil penalties for housing maintenance calls  
12 violations in cases where the owner made a good faith  
13 effort to correction those violations. We definitely  
14 need to hold property owners accountable but we also  
15 need to make it a little bit more the reasonable for  
16 New Yorker who try to do right by their tenants. But  
17 we definitely don't want to allow those who have been  
18 bad landlords to escape from their responsibility by  
19 providing housing so this legislation will help those  
20 owners who are trying to correct their violations but  
21 still hold bad landlords accountable who have a lot  
22 of violations who are not doing the right thing so  
23 please I am asking all of you to sign on to Intro  
24 1518. Congratulations to everyone. Happy birthday  
25 to all my Pisces brothers and sisters. Brother

2 Nick, congratulations on your next chapter in your  
3 work field.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Council Member Palma?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Thank you. My  
6 esteemed colleagues I would like to bring attention  
7 to Resolution 1415 calling upon the New York State  
8 Education Department to convene a task force to  
9 access the cultural elements of state learned  
10 standards across subject areas in elementary, middle  
11 and high school and explore the grounding of  
12 standards [inaudible 01:28:34] challenges racism,  
13 ableism and sexism and is LGBT and TGNC affirming. I  
14 want to thank the Speaker for her partnership on this  
15 resolution and for sharing my vision for a more  
16 culturally sensitive curriculum with our public  
17 schools. I am confident that we have initiated the  
18 first step in helping our educational system evolve.  
19 Ultimately, it is my hope that our education  
20 department and state legislature would access the  
21 relevance of culture across subjects in our  
22 classrooms in an effort to make the necessary  
23 changes. People of color, people with disabilities,  
24 those that identify as LGBTGNC are all vastly  
25 underrepresented in our curriculum. I look forward

2 to working with the Committee on Education, with the  
3 staff and with the Speaker to provide a blueprint for  
4 the State Education Department to remodel our  
5 curriculum.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Council Member Barron?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Madam  
8 Public Advocate. I have great news. I am a grandma  
9 for the second time. My second grandchild, also a  
10 boy, was born on Friday and get your pens out and pay  
11 attention because it is a very lengthy name. His  
12 name is Osolewasay Califani Jalonny(SP) Johnson.  
13 Osolewasay means completed by God, Califani means  
14 destined to rule, Jalonny means mighty warrior and  
15 Johnson is their family name. So he was born on  
16 Friday, he weighs seven pounds, 15 ounces and his mom  
17 is only a size two but we got this healthy baby, all  
18 natural no kind of medication at all. Secondly, I am  
19 so glad that the women's caucus had the event last  
20 night that recognized women and I call attention to  
21 two of the women who are personal friends of mine to  
22 acknowledge, Valentina Jones and Brenda Stokely,  
23 focus on the labor movement and the great work that  
24 have done during their lifetime which often time goes  
25 unrecognized. And finally, on Friday, while my

2 grandson was being born, we were in Washington, a  
3 delegation of us were in Washington. We went to the  
4 Museum of African American History and Culture. It  
5 is a beautiful building, grand establishment and what  
6 it presents it presents very well. My critic, which  
7 is registered with them there, is that the exhibit  
8 starts in slavery. The exhibit talks about the  
9 trans-Atlantic horror of slavery. For me, it did not  
10 bring the intensity of that experience to light. One  
11 of my colleagues commented on it making a comparison  
12 to another museum which talks about a terrible  
13 atrocity attributed to our people. Dr. John Henry  
14 Clark said, "If you start your history in slavery,  
15 everything looks like progress," so there is no  
16 mention of the great African civilization that  
17 existed, there's no mention of the contributions of  
18 those African civilizations to the world's  
19 development and growth, the empires that lived that  
20 were existing there and the great contributions that  
21 they made to mankind. So that is a criticism. I  
22 think it is a very strong one. I did share it with  
23 the museum curator. He was a little astounded by my  
24 saying it but said going forward it is certainly  
25 something they need to think about. But we've got to



2 keep a connection between African Americans here and  
3 the great source of where they came from which is the  
4 continent of Africa. Thank you so much. And to all  
5 of my colleagues that went, we had a great time. It  
6 was very good. Thank you.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. SO do we  
8 call you grandma, grannie, nanny?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Grammy. You know  
10 it's an honor you get the Grammy. I'm Grammy.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Congratulations Grammy.  
12 Council Member Cumbo?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Congratulations  
14 Council Member Barron. Happy Women's History Month.  
15 I am so happy that so many of you were able to be  
16 here to turn the Chambers inside out to recognize the  
17 powerful contributions of women and to have all of  
18 you here was so dynamic and inspiring and to my male  
19 colleagues that came, as I said that might men are so  
20 much more powerful under the leadership of women. I  
21 want to bring your attention to Intro 1500. No  
22 matter how progressive our city may be, we must  
23 carefully examine how our agencies budgeting  
24 practices and policies have developed over the  
25 numerous years that have ruled from a white male

2 perspective. Intro 1500 will require relevant city  
3 agencies shall complete gender and racial equity  
4 assessments of their services and programs,  
5 employment practices, contracting practices and  
6 budgeting. Such assessments shall be submitted to  
7 the Speaker and the Gender and Racial Equity  
8 Committee. We continue to make herstory [sic] in  
9 Women's History Month. I also want to bring your  
10 attention to legislation that Council Member Kallos  
11 brought forward in terms of calling on Congress to  
12 pass and the President to sign, legislation that  
13 would establish an American Museum of Women's History  
14 as part of the Smithsonian in Washington DC. I also  
15 want to bring your attention during the campaign  
16 season, President Donald Trump asked what do you have  
17 to lose by voting for me and as we've seen in our  
18 budget, the National Endowment for the Arts has a  
19 proposed budget cut of \$152 million, The Institute of  
20 Museum and Library Services, \$231 million for 123,000  
21 libraries and 35,000 museums. The proposed budget  
22 cuts under Trump will hurt women, children, seniors,  
23 underserved and refugees. Under the Trump  
24 Administration, 14 million could lose their health  
25 care coverage by 2018, 21 million in 2020. I am

2 going to conclude with this, the Department of Human  
3 Services will have a 403 proposed million-dollar  
4 budget cut, the Department of Labor a \$434 million  
5 budget cut, the Department of State and US Agency for  
6 International Development, a \$70 million cut, Legal  
7 Services Corp., \$368 million, a 43 year old  
8 Congressionally chartered organization that helps  
9 provide free civil legal advice to poor and  
10 underserved people as well as the Neighborhood  
11 Reinvestment Corporation, \$175 million, better known  
12 as Neighborhood Works. The organization supports  
13 local, affordable housing programs. This budget is  
14 an assault and declares war on people that are  
15 working, struggling and trying to survive in America  
16 at this time and we need to be diligent to make sure  
17 that we come through for our people that we represent  
18 every day. Thank you.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Council Member Chin?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Good afternoon. I  
21 want to draw my colleagues attention to Resolution  
22 1407 which supports the passage of the Landlord  
23 Accountability Act of 2017 which was introduced by  
24 Congresswoman Nydia Velasquez. The Landlord  
25 Accountability Act or HR 202 would protect hundreds

2 of thousands Section 8 tenants who are experiencing  
3 or at risk of discrimination, harassment and  
4 displacement. HR 202 amends the Fair Housing Act to  
5 make it illegal for landlords to deny an individual's  
6 application for housing just because the perspective  
7 tenant holds a Section 8 voucher. The protection  
8 will include fines for property owners that violate  
9 the legislation, a complaint hotline for voucher  
10 holders and a transparent database of the complaints  
11 made and resolutions. I want to thank Council Member  
12 Reynoso for his partnership in introducing Reso 1407.  
13 I also want to thank council staff for their work  
14 drafting the bill and I encourage my colleagues to  
15 sign on to this resolution. Thank you.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Lastly, Council Member  
17 Cornegy?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Thank you Madam  
19 Public Advocate. I want to bring the remaining six  
20 colleagues that I have left in this body attention to  
21 a slate legislation that I have that would approve  
22 the state of affairs for small businesses in the City  
23 of New York, Intro 1506. This local law would  
24 require the agency to issue permits or licenses  
25 establishing publically available timelines for

2 approving permits. Intro 1507, this bill would  
3 create on on-site compliance consultation program for  
4 multiple dwellings. Intro 1508 would require the  
5 Department of Consumer Affairs to establish a record-  
6 keeping assistance program where individuals could  
7 have their civil penalties for violations related to  
8 record-keeping waived if they attend a course on  
9 record-keeping. Intro 1509, this bill would require  
10 the Commission on Small Business Services to post on-  
11 line business tools, organized by business type price  
12 point level of familiarity with computers. This tool  
13 would include but not be limited to accounting,  
14 record-keeping and bookkeeping services. Intro 1510,  
15 this bill would require the Commission of Small  
16 Business Services to create a comprehensive workforce  
17 development plan based on the results of the state of  
18 the small business survey. Intro 1511, this bill  
19 would require the Commission of Small Business  
20 Services to prepare and disseminate a state of small  
21 business survey by May 1, 2017 which will collect  
22 information from small business which will include  
23 but not limited to hiring needs, workforce  
24 development needs, barriers to growth and the need  
25 for additional city provided tools and resources.

2 I'd like to thank my staff, my partner in this  
3 Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and her office for  
4 their assistance in helping draft this legislation  
5 and I look forward to the hearings beginning on these  
6 legislative bills next month. Thank you.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: And lastly, I would  
8 like to invite my colleagues to sign on to Resolution  
9 1460-16 which I am introducing along with the Speaker  
10 calling on the State Legislature to pass and the  
11 Governor to sign the New York State reproductive  
12 Health Act. Every woman in this country should have  
13 the right to choose what she does with her body.  
14 With the threats of this new administration and the  
15 balance of the highest court at stake, it is more  
16 important than ever that New York State affirm our  
17 belief in this basic right. It is simple  
18 unconscionable that the fundamental protections of  
19 *Roe versus Wade* are not enshrined into permanent law  
20 in New York. We have a responsibility to protect all  
21 New Yorkers and our state senators must fulfill this  
22 duty by passing the Reproductive Health Act and I  
23 urge my colleagues to join me. Let me close again by  
24 wishing congratulations to Nick, may Helen Marshal  
25 and Deborah Deland rest in peace. Happy St.

2 Patrick's Day and Happy Greek Independence Day and we  
3 now stand adjourned. All items on today's general  
4 order and calendar were adopted by a vote of 45 in  
5 the affirmative, 0 in the negative and 0 abstentions  
6 and the revised Land Use call-ups were adopted by a  
7 vote of 45 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative. We  
8 stand adjourned.

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10 [gavel]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date April 9, 2017