

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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November 13, 2014  
Start: 1:37 p.m.  
Recess: 3:10 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E:

MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO  
Speaker  
LETITIA JAMES  
Public Advocate

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Maria Del Carmen Arroyo  
Inez D. Barron  
Fernando Cabrera  
Margaret S. Chin  
Andrew Cohen  
Costa G. Constantinides  
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.  
Elizabeth S. Crowley  
Laurie A. Cumbo  
Chaim M. Deutsch  
Inez E. Dickens  
Daniel Dromm  
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.  
Mathieu Eugene  
Julissa Ferreras

## COUNCIL MEMBERS: (CONTINUED)

Daniel R. Garodnick  
Vincent J. Gentile  
Vanessa L. Gibson  
David G. Greenfield  
Vincent M. Ignizio  
Corey D. Johnson  
Ben Kallos  
Andy L. King  
Peter A. Koo  
Karen Koslowitz  
Rory I. Lancman  
Brad S. Lander  
Stephen T. Levin  
Mark Levine  
Alan N. Maisel  
Steven Matteo  
Darlene Mealy  
Carlos Menchaca  
Rosie Mendez  
I. Daneek Miller  
Annabel Palma  
Antonio Reynoso  
Donovan J. Richards  
Ydanis A. Rodriguez  
Deborah L. Rose  
Helen K. Rosenthal  
Ritchie J. Torres  
Mark Treyger  
Eric A. Ulrich  
James Vacca  
Paul A. Vallone  
James G. Van Bramer  
Mark S. Weprin  
Jumaane D. Williams  
Ruben Wills

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

Junior High School 157 Stephen A. Halsey

MOUSE Squad

Sean Doyle

Founder & CEO

Lifetime Family

1  
2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: We're gonna if...  
3 Oh I'm sorry, we're gonna do Karen Koslowitz'  
4 Proclamation first. Got really quiet all of a  
5 sudden. Thank you. So MOUSE Squad, Junior High  
6 School 157... [cheers, applause] being named 2014 Mouse  
7 Squad of the Year. The MOUSE Squad is a very  
8 successful youth organization [clapping] that  
9 empowers underserved communities to learn, lead and  
10 create with technology, so congratulations. And I'll  
11 ask Council Member Koslowitz... [applause]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Thank you,  
13 Madame Speaker.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Come on up guys,  
15 come on up.

16 [background comments]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Usually we run  
18 from them, this... [laughter][background comments]  
19 Okay. [background comments]

20 Today we are honoring the MOUSE Squad.  
21 In 2000 we had MOUSE Squad; it started in the year  
22 2000, a year before I left the Council, so I did it  
23 that year, but unfortunately was not able to do it  
24 the rest of the time. But now I've been doing it  
25 since I returned to the Council and I wanna introduce

1  
2 everybody to the MOUSE Squad, who was recognized not  
3 only in New York City, but the entire country.

4 [cheers, applause]

5 Junior High School 157 in Rego Park, to  
6 all of you, congratulations; you worked hard and you  
7 came out really on top. So good luck and we have a  
8 Proclamation. Can you please read the Proclamation?

9 CITY CLERK: Council, City of New York  
10 Proclamation.

11 Whereas the Council of the City of New  
12 York is proud to honor the MOUSE Squad at Junior High  
13 School 157, Stephen A. Halsey, for their outstanding  
14 work and congratulates all of its members for being  
15 named 2014 MOUSE Squad of the Year. And whereas,  
16 founded in 1997, MOUSE Squad is a very successful  
17 youth development organization that empowers students  
18 from underserved communities to learn, lead and  
19 create with technology. The students at JHS 157 have  
20 provided critical technical support to  
21 administrators, teachers and peers. Junior High  
22 School 157 is a school which is dedicated to  
23 preparing its students to become productive citizens  
24 by instilling in them a love of learning through  
25 enriched standard-driven curricula. And whereas, the

1  
2 MOUSE Squad at JHS 157 has been together for more  
3 than eight years and is currently comprised of 45  
4 students who meet three times a week to work on  
5 special projects focused on digital media and  
6 technology. Halsey Squad members are frequent micro  
7 project contributors and have received recognition on  
8 the MOUSE's Wire for their work. They have gone  
9 above and beyond to create projects like board games  
10 from our serious game certification and robots for  
11 the garage robotic certification. Squad members have  
12 learned to use 3-D printers and are a mentor school  
13 to other schools in New York City that are new to 3-D  
14 printing and they have even participated in a special  
15 assignment with the American Museum of Natural  
16 History to 3-D print models of dinosaurs. Halsey's  
17 MOUSE Squad coordinators led a digital meet-up about  
18 Makerspaces, do-it-yourself technology and media  
19 projects to encourage other MOUSE Squads to take on  
20 more hands-on projects. And whereas, Vincent Suraci,  
21 Principal, JHS 157 Stephen A. Halsey, Patricia  
22 Elfers-Wygand and Lori Stahl-Van Brackle, MOUSE Squad  
23 coordinators, have demonstrated an incredible  
24 commitment to ensuring the students are engaged and  
25 excited about the important work that they are doing

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via the MOUSE Squad. Now therefore be it known, that the Council of the City of New York is proud to honor the members of the MOUSE Squad at JHS 157 Stephen A. Halsey for their outstanding achievements and congratulates them for being named 2014 MOUSE Squad of the Year. Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the Entire Council; Karen Koslowitz, Council Member 29th District, Queens.

[cheers, applause]

[pause]

[background comments]

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: You wanna... Who wants to speak, say something? You wanna say something?

FEMALE VOICE: I would like to thank everybody that's made us number one in the entire country; it's a big honor to hold on your shoulders... [background comments] and it's even heavier on my shoulders. [laughter] And I would like to say that... [background comment] I don't know what to say, actually. [laughter] Thank you.

[background comment] [cheers, applause]

[background comments] [applause, cheers]

[background comments]

1  
2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Alright, the next  
3 and last ceremonial is Council Member Laurie Cumbo.  
4 Right. We need to... right, if we can... Council Member  
5 Cumbo, I think... [background comments] I don't know if  
6 you... Alright. Okay. So the next ceremonial is  
7 Council Member Cumbo recognizing Raymond V. Ingersoll  
8 NYCHA development on their being listed as the NYCHA  
9 development with the number one decrease in crime, 75  
10 percent, thanks largely due to support from the Fort  
11 Greene community, so she's gonna talk about that and  
12 give it to some of the NYCHA development leaders.

13 [background comments] [applause]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Everybody from  
15 Ingersoll, can you come on up and please join us in  
16 the front? [background comments] Thank you very  
17 much. [background comments] [laughter] We're still  
18 coming; that's how big we are, we're a large group.  
19 [background comments]

20 Good afternoon everyone... [background  
21 comments] oh, Community Affairs, can we have you all  
22 in this photo as well in this experience? I just  
23 wanna say to everyone before I begin my presentation;  
24 I am so excited and humbled by my District support  
25 today, it's so incredible to have all of you here



1 today in such large numbers and this is awesome,  
2 [background comments, applause] this is incredible.  
3 I wanna thank Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and  
4 Council Member Ritchie Torres, Chair of Public  
5 Housing Committee, for their support and advocacy to  
6 keep all 57 NYCHA community and senior centers open  
7 this past summer. [cheers, applause, background  
8 comments] The closure of these centers would have  
9 been detrimental to neighborhoods such as ours across  
10 this City and a major setback in improving public  
11 safety. It has been an incredible year thus far  
12 serving as the member of the 35th District in  
13 Brooklyn where I represent five NYCHA developments  
14 that I'm so very proud of. Today it is my honor and  
15 privilege to acknowledge the residents of the Raymond  
16 V. Ingersoll Houses and community partners with a New  
17 York City Proclamation in recognition of their  
18 continued advocacy and unwavering support to the  
19 betterment of the Fort Greene neighborhood in  
20 Brooklyn.

22 The Ingersoll Houses was one of 15 NYCHA  
23 developments included in the \$200 million  
24 comprehensive citywide plan announced by the de  
25 Blasio Administration to reduce violent crime through

1  
2 more targeted law enforcement efforts, immediate  
3 physical improvements, aggressive community  
4 engagement and outreach efforts and the expansion of  
5 work in education programs. I am joined by men and  
6 women who worked tirelessly throughout the summer,  
7 including myself -- we played Spades, we did  
8 basketball tournaments, we did film festivals, we did  
9 programs, we did So You Think You Can Sing, So You  
10 Think You Can Dance; we all came together to do  
11 incredible programming. And what I wanna say is,  
12 from recreation to arts programs, the Fort Greene  
13 development saw a decline in crime by 75 percent,  
14 [cheer] what an incredible achievement in just three  
15 months. [applause] And what I also wanna add is  
16 that there are so many people that made this possible  
17 -- Shola Olatoye, Chair and CEO of the New York City  
18 Housing Authority, The Raymond V. Ingersoll Houses'  
19 Jalda Mason, Manager Clement Walker, Assistant  
20 Superintendent Hiram Mendez and Supervisor of  
21 Caretakers, the Ingersoll Resident Association,  
22 former President Dominique Bryant and Anthony Sosa,  
23 the President-elect who is here with us, the  
24 University Settlement Ingersoll Community Center,  
25 Michael Zisser and the CEO, Tamika Ford, Program

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2 Director Samantha Johnson, and there's so many others  
3 -- we have PSA3, Captain Julio Delgado, the  
4 Commanding Officer, Detective Leroy Houser [sp?] and  
5 Police Officer Jeremy Eusebi [sp?] from Community  
6 Affairs. And then we have from the 88th Precinct  
7 Captain Peter Fiorello, the Commanding Officer,  
8 Police Officers Vallos [sp?], Brathway [sp?] and  
9 Officer Sergeant from Community Affairs; Taj Gibson,  
10 the Chicago Bulls forward and a former Ingersoll  
11 resident who is represented by his parents today, Mr.  
12 and Mrs. Gibson, who did a phenomenal job of bringing  
13 community support by organizing an incredible  
14 basketball tournament that attracted youth from the  
15 Tri-State area to our basketball courts at Ingersoll,  
16 and Darrell [sp?] Burgess [sp?], the CEO of Kids in  
17 the Crossfire and his Vice President Dennis Simmons.  
18 I wanna thank Sean Doyle, Founder and CEO of Lifetime  
19 Family, and I cannot forget the Garden of Eden  
20 gardeners -- Edna Grant, President, Arnethia  
21 Singleton, Edith Tucker and Mamie Grant.

22 This was an incredible -- all the people  
23 that I listed and there are so many more that I did  
24 not list -- but it takes this level of collaboration  
25 to make our communities not only safe, but places

1  
2 where we can raise our family and have the type of  
3 memories that every family should experience. So I  
4 wanted to bring you all here today because you all  
5 are New York City and you represent the very best of  
6 what New York City has to offer and I'm humbled by  
7 your presence and I can't thank you so very much.  
8 Thank you.

9 [background comments, applause]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Yes, and we will  
11 now have the formal reading of our Proclamation and  
12 I'm so happy so many of my colleagues are standing  
13 with me here today. Yeah, so we're gonna have the  
14 formal presentation, we've gotta get official now;  
15 we're gonna read the Proclamation. [background  
16 comments]

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council, City of New  
18 York Proclamation.

19 Whereas the Council of the City of New  
20 York is proud to honor the residents of the Raymond  
21 V. Ingersoll Houses and community partners for their  
22 outstanding leadership and continue advocacy for  
23 public safety, youth development and senior  
24 engagement. And whereas, the New York City Housing  
25 Authority (NYCHA) provides public housing for low-

1  
2 and moderate-income residents throughout the five  
3 boroughs of New York City.

4 NYCHA was created in 1934 and is the  
5 largest public housing authority in North America,  
6 with 334 developments. And whereas, the Raymond V.  
7 Ingersoll NYCHA Houses, a 22.9-acre complex in Fort  
8 Greene, was completed on February 24th, 1944. Today  
9 it's 20 buildings or home to more than 4,500 New  
10 Yorkers. The development was named after Raymond V.  
11 Ingersoll, a former Parks Commissioner and Brooklyn  
12 Borough President who was a staunch advocate for  
13 public housing.

14 And whereas, earlier this year the City  
15 Council and Mayor de Blasio's administration secured  
16 \$17 million to keep 57 NYCHA community and senior  
17 centers open. Through a \$210.5 million citywide plan  
18 to reduce violent crime in NYCHA developments, the  
19 Ingersoll Houses underwent structural upgrades to  
20 enhance security, provide additional officers and  
21 expand the summer hours of its community center to  
22 remain open until 11 p.m. seven days a week to  
23 increase public access to quality programming for all  
24 ages.

1  
2 And whereas, the Ingersoll Houses  
3 community has demonstrated their tenacity and  
4 unwavering dedication to the betterment of our  
5 beloved community, working in partnership with  
6 several local organizations, including PSA3, the 88th  
7 Precinct, University Settlement Ingersoll Community  
8 Center, former Ingersoll resident and Chicago Bulls  
9 forward, Taj Gibson, the Ingersoll Resident  
10 Association, Kids in the Crossfire, Lifetime Family  
11 and the Garden of Eden gardeners to host education,  
12 recreational and arts programs that have galvanized  
13 the community and supported all cultures.

14 And whereas, New York City remains an  
15 extraordinary place to live due to the tireless  
16 efforts of these dedicated individuals who have  
17 cultivated a spirit of unity, friendship and love  
18 that led to a remarkable 75 percent decline in crime  
19 within the Ingersoll development between July 1st and  
20 September 14th.

21 Now therefore be it known, that the  
22 Council of the City of New York proudly honors the  
23 residents of the Raymond V. Ingersoll Houses for  
24 their invaluable contributions to the Fort Greene  
25 community. Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the

1  
2 Entire Council; Laurie A. Cumbo, Council Member, 35th  
3 District, Brooklyn; Ritchie Torres, Chair, Public  
4 Housing Committee.

5 [cheers, applause] [background comment]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I wanna add as --  
7 one of the things that we hear so much in our  
8 community about our men and one of the things that  
9 I'm so proud of is that we have so many strong men in  
10 our community and Ingersoll that have stepped up to  
11 the plate in a very big way, providing leadership,  
12 from our TA leaders to the heads of our not-for-  
13 profit organizations, to the heads of our programs  
14 for youth and so I wanna utilize this opportunity to  
15 have Sean Doyle, who is a rising star in our  
16 community, whose future is so very bright that's  
17 going to go on to do many, many extraordinary things  
18 in our community and beyond and bring it back always.  
19 So without further ado I bring on Sean Doyle.

20 [laughter, background comments, cheers]

21 SEAN DOYLE: On behalf of Ingersoll  
22 Community, I would like to thank you all for your  
23 participation for helping out; we would like to leave  
24 with, "anything is possible."

25 [background comments, cheers, applause]

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2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Alright, I think  
3 we're done with ceremonials today.

4 [background comments, cheers]

5 [pause]

6 [background comments]

7 [pause]

8 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Ladies and gentlemen,  
9 could I have your attention, please? Quiet in the  
10 chambers please, quiet in the chambers. Please find  
11 a seat, please. Quiet in the chambers. Quiet,  
12 please. At this time, please place all electronic  
13 devices to vibrate; will all non-Council employees,  
14 non-Council employees please leave the main floor of  
15 the chambers; can have a seat in the balcony. Thank  
16 you.

17 [pause]

18 [background comments]

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Everyone have  
20 their seat; everyone rise. For the Pledge of  
21 Allegiance, please rise. I pledge allegiance to the  
22 flag of the United States of America and to the  
23 republic for which it stands, one nation under god,  
24 divisible, with liberty and justice for all.

25 Please be seated. Roll call.



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CITY CLERK: Arroyo.  
COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.  
CITY CLERK: Barron.  
COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.  
CITY CLERK: Cabrera.  
COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.  
CITY CLERK: Chin.  
COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.  
CITY CLERK: Cohen.  
COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.  
CITY CLERK: Constantinides.  
COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Here.  
CITY CLERK: Cornegy.  
COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Present.  
CITY CLERK: Crowley. Cumbo.  
COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Present.  
CITY CLERK: Deutsch.  
COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.  
CITY CLERK: Dickens. Dromm.  
COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.  
CITY CLERK: Espinal.  
COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Present.  
CITY CLERK: Eugene.  
COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Present.

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CITY CLERK: Ferreras.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Present.

CITY CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

CITY CLERK: Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

CITY CLERK: Gibson.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Here.

CITY CLERK: Greenfield.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Here.

CITY CLERK: Johnson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Present.

CITY CLERK: Kallos.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.

CITY CLERK: King. Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

CITY CLERK: Koslowitz.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Present.

CITY CLERK: Lancman.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Present.

CITY CLERK: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

CITY CLERK: Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

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2 CITY CLERK: Levine.  
3 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.  
4 CITY CLERK: Maisel. Matteo.  
5 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.  
6 CITY CLERK: Mealy. Menchaca.  
7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.  
8 CITY CLERK: Mendez. Miller.  
9 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Present.  
10 CITY CLERK: Palma. Reynoso. Richards.  
11 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.  
12 CITY CLERK: Rodriguez.  
13 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Present.  
14 CITY CLERK: Rose.  
15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.  
16 CITY CLERK: Rosenthal.  
17 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.  
18 CITY CLERK: Torres. Treyger.  
19 COUNCIL MEMBER Treyger: Here.  
20 CITY CLERK: Ulrich. Vacca.  
21 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.  
22 CITY CLERK: Vallone.  
23 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.  
24 CITY CLERK: Weprin. Williams.  
25 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

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CITY CLERK: Maisel.

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Here.

CITY CLERK: Wills. Ignizio. Van Bramer

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

CITY CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Here.

[background comment]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

Please rise for the invocation delivered by Minister  
Dominique Bryant of Victorious Triumphant Word  
International Church in the borough of Brooklyn.

REVEREND BRYANT: Let all hearts and  
minds be clear. Heavenly Father, as we stand in  
unity on this November 13, 2014, we approach your  
throne boldly to honor your presence in this room.  
We honor you for being the creator of the heavens and  
the earth; we honor you as the omniscient, omnipotent  
and omnipresent god and because you're all knowing,  
all powerful and all present, we dedicate this  
meeting on this day before you. Father, as the  
leaders in this great city gather together today to  
discuss the pertinent issues that affect the lives of  
their constituents, I ask that you would pour unto  
them the wisdom that they will need to create the

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2 laws that will govern and shake the very integrity  
3 and lifeline of this city. I ask that you will  
4 impregnate them with the knowledge and understanding  
5 of the many needs that plagues the lives of the many  
6 people who call this city home. Father, I pray that  
7 you will guide and direct this meeting so that it  
8 will be full of wisdom, positivity, productivity and  
9 respect for one another as public servants. Father,  
10 we thank you in advance for the accomplished work  
11 that will result from this meeting, facilitated  
12 through a collaborative mindset and shared goal for  
13 the advancement of this great city. We thank you  
14 that because of the unity represented in this room  
15 you have and will continue to command the blessings  
16 in this city; with many blessings, amen.

17 [background comment]

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please be seated.  
19 Council Member Cumbo.

20 [background comments]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Good afternoon. I  
22 rise to spread the invocation today. Dominique  
23 Bryant... [interpose]

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the  
25 chambers please.

[background comment]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quite in the chambers.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Dominique Bryant is a licensed minister and youth pastor at the Victorious Triumphant Word International Church in Brooklyn. In May 2015 she will be ordained as an elder. She earned her Masters Degree in theology and is a professor at the Victorious College of Theology satellite school of the North Carolina College of Theology.

I just wanna say I first met Dominique Bryant three years ago and I heard very much about her before I met her; the word on the street was that Ingersoll had a new TA leader who was 25 years old, and so in my mind I couldn't imagine that there was going to be a new leader who was going to be so young and able to take on the challenge, but upon meeting her, I instantly experienced her power and her faith and her love of god and that power has so much contributed to the transformation of Ingersoll under your leadership as their TA leader and I thank you so much for your leadership and what you have brought and contributing to all that we experience today and

1  
2 I'm so very proud that Ingersoll had the highest  
3 reduction in crime of the NYCHA developments that  
4 were pulled out by Mayor de Blasio, and I thank you  
5 for your leadership, I thank everyone that came today  
6 from Ingersoll to represent so very well; I'm proud  
7 of you and she's also the most dynamic constituent  
8 affairs director and I later hired her to work with  
9 me on staff. Thank you very much and thank you to my  
10 colleagues.

11 [applause]

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you, Fort  
13 Greene and thank you, Reverend Bryant. Council  
14 Member Miller.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: [background  
16 comments] Council Member make a motion to accept the  
17 October 7th meeting minutes as written.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: So be it.  
19 Messages and Papers from the Mayor.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Communications  
22 from City, County and Borough Offices.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: M 0188 through M 0201  
24 on Page 3, Base Station Licenses.

25 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Transportation.

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Petitions and  
3 Communications.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

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

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

8 [background comments]

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: May we have quiet  
10 in the chambers please.

11 [background comments]

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Communication  
13 from Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you Madame  
15 Public Advocate and good afternoon. Buenas tardes a  
16 todos.

17 Before we begin today, I wanna take a  
18 moment to recognize that yesterday was the  
19 anniversary of Flight 587, when it crashed. It's  
20 been 13 years since 265 lives were lost in a tragic  
21 plane crash and we continue to mourn them today. So  
22 I just wanted to ask everyone just to join in a  
23 moment of silence to remember the loss of those 265  
24 lives.

25 [moment of silence]



1  
2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you. Today  
3 the City Council is voting on two legislative items  
4 to improve housing policy and protect New York's  
5 tenants. Introduction 0348, sponsored by Council  
6 Member Ritchie Torres, creates inspection fees for  
7 recurring violations of the housing maintenance code.

8 When building owners repeatedly fail to  
9 correct violations, requiring the Department of  
10 Housing Preservation and Development to make numerous  
11 inspection visits, it creates a drain on public  
12 resources. This bill requires building owners who  
13 have numerous uncorrected violations over a 12-month  
14 period to pay an inspection fee of \$200 in order to  
15 help offset the costs. So with that I'd like to ask  
16 Council Member Ritchie Torres to say a few words  
17 about that bill.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Thank you, Madame  
19 Speaker. First it's worth noting that the three  
20 strikes law, as I call it, I think is gonna be my  
21 first bill, so it only took me 11 months to pass a  
22 bill, [laughter] so I'm among the slackers,  
23 [applause] but I supposed it's better to get it done  
24 well than to get it done quickly, but some members  
25 can do both; I have trouble. But the three strikes

1  
2 law is a simple bill if HPD inspects an apartment and  
3 issues a violation for a dangerous or immediately  
4 dangerous condition and the landlord fails to  
5 certifiably repair it within the legal timeframe,  
6 then the landlord will have one strike and once the  
7 landlord has three strikes, becomes a repeat  
8 offender; then the owner will have to bear the cost  
9 of the third inspection and every inspection that  
10 follows and so finally owners will have an incentive  
11 to make repairs on apartments. Under the current  
12 system, a Notice of Violation is a little like a  
13 parking ticket without a fine; there's no incentive  
14 to actually repair the condition, and finally, the  
15 attachment of inspection fees to subsequent  
16 inspections will change that dynamic. So I feel  
17 inspection fees have the potential to improve the  
18 quality of our housing stock and ensure that  
19 landlords are making repairs in more cases and can be  
20 a more effective tool than penalties, which depends  
21 on HPD bringing landlords to court and that happens  
22 infrequently, so these inspection fees will be  
23 imposed to a much greater frequency and the impact of  
24 these inspection fees are gonna be felt much more  
25 widely. And I wanna thank the Speaker for allowing

1  
2 me the opportunity to introduce this bill and as well  
3 as the Housing Committee Chair, Jumaane Williams.

4 Thank you.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,  
6 Council Member Torres. And also Introduction 0345-A,  
7 sponsored by Council Members Reynoso and Garodnick,  
8 expands the City's alternative enforcement program  
9 for distressed residential buildings with severe  
10 building violations. Under the bill the program  
11 would grow from 200 buildings to 250 and allow HPD  
12 more flexibility in setting criteria for inclusion.  
13 The alternative enforcement program provides building  
14 owners with an urgent incentive to provide livable  
15 conditions for tenants where they have failed to act  
16 in the past. Expanding this program will protect  
17 more New Yorkers and improve living conditions in  
18 this city.

19 I'd like to thank Jennifer Wilcox,  
20 Shijuade Kadree, Guillermo Patino, Jose Conde, Ed  
21 Atkin and Jeff Baker for their work on these two  
22 bills and would ask that Council Members Reynoso and  
23 Garodnick say a few words.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Thank you,  
25 Madame Speaker. I also want to give a shout-out to

1  
2 Public Advocate Tish James who knows AEP all to well;  
3 thank you for that; during its inception she was in  
4 and around.

5 As housing prices continue to rise in New  
6 York City, our existing stock of affordable housing  
7 is more threatened than ever. Mayor de Blasio has  
8 committed to the preservation of 120,000 units of  
9 affordable housing in his new housing plan. However,  
10 in rapidly gentrifying areas, such as Bushwick in my  
11 district, landlords are turning to tactics of  
12 disinvestment that border on the criminal in an  
13 effort to drive rent-stabilized tenants from their  
14 homes and replace them with tenants who can afford  
15 much higher rent.

16 HPD's alternative enforcement program  
17 (AEP) seeks to address this issue by requiring HPD to  
18 identify the City's most poorly maintained buildings  
19 based on building code violations and target them for  
20 repair. If the landlord of an AEP building does not  
21 address violations within four months, HPD will  
22 undertake the necessary repairs on its own and bill  
23 the landlord for the cost.

24 I thank the Council for allocating  
25 \$750,000 in additional funding to this program in

1  
2 this year's budget and for passing Int. 0345 today,  
3 which would expand the program according from 200 to  
4 a minimum of 250 buildings. I wanna thank Make the  
5 Road for their assistance with this bill and to Jen  
6 Wilcox and Ed Atkin of the Housing Committee, and the  
7 expansion of AEP will have a dramatic impact for  
8 rent-stabilized tenants throughout New York City and  
9 help achieve Mayor de Blasio's goal for preserving  
10 existing affordable housing citywide. And  
11 congratulations to the Speaker on her bill to ban  
12 bins. Thank you.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank you very  
14 much, Madame Speaker and to my colleague, Council  
15 Member Reynoso, it's been a pleasure working with him  
16 on the AEP bill as well as I wanna express my thanks  
17 to HPD for their collaboration in this effort.

18 As you heard from Council Member Reynoso,  
19 too often some of the most vulnerable New Yorkers are  
20 forced to live in hazardous conditions in their  
21 buildings which are left uncorrected for far too long  
22 and to deal with this, this Council, back in 2007,  
23 crated the alternative enforcement program and has  
24 had a very successful track record in improving the  
25 lives of tenants by fixing up the very worst

1  
2 buildings that are out there and with today's vote we  
3 can take a step forward in strengthening and  
4 expanding that program.

5 We're also gonna send an important  
6 message to negligent building owners; if you allow  
7 your property to fall into disrepair, we're not going  
8 to sit back and let it happen. In those worse cases,  
9 today even more broadly defined, New York City will  
10 come in and repair the buildings, improve the lives  
11 of residing tenants and send you the bill. These  
12 issues were the impetus for this Council putting  
13 nearly a million dollars into the budget for this  
14 program in this fiscal year.

15 These problems are also frequently the  
16 consequence of over-leveraged buildings where owners  
17 take out far too much debt and either try to increase  
18 their income by taking aim at rent-protected tenants,  
19 as they have done in Stuyvesant Town, or they reduced  
20 their costs by starving their properties for repairs,  
21 as happens too frequently in this city and what this  
22 bill is intended to address.

23 So this is an important expansion of the  
24 program and one that I believe will greatly impact  
25 the lives of New Yorkers who are living under

1  
2 unacceptable conditions, so I encourage my colleagues  
3 to vote yes; I also wanna congratulate Council Member  
4 Torres on his also significant bill. Thank you.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,  
6 Council Member Garodnick and thank you to Council  
7 Member Reynoso for acknowledging that then Council  
8 Member Tish James was the original sponsor of this  
9 bill and now we're glad that we're expanding it.

10 We're also excited to be voting on  
11 Introduction 0378, sponsored by Council Member Costa  
12 Constantinides, which requires an 80 percent  
13 reduction in greenhouse gas emissions citywide by  
14 2050. In September the Council announced a climate  
15 agenda to make New York a more sustainable and  
16 environmentally friendly city. This bill is the  
17 first of multiple actions we plan to take in order to  
18 implement that plan.

19 While rising seas and extreme weather  
20 events are likely to be part of New York City's  
21 future, we can still prevent the worst outcomes. Not  
22 only can we turn the tide of climate change, but as  
23 the most populous city in the country and a global  
24 leader, have a moral responsibility to do so.

1  
2 By enacting this measure the Council will  
3 continue to place New York on the leading edge of  
4 fighting climate change. I'd like to thank Samara  
5 Swanston, Bill Murray, Jeff Baker and Ed Atkins for  
6 their work on this bill and ask that our colleague  
7 Costa Constantinides say a few words.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Thank  
9 you, Madame Speaker.

10 A little more than a month ago many of us  
11 in this room marched alongside over 400,000 people  
12 from all over the city and all over the world in the  
13 largest climate demonstration in history.

14 [background comments] I know that I will never  
15 forget the poignant contrast of the solemn moment of  
16 silence compared with the echoing roar of the crowd  
17 that followed with a call to action in the battle  
18 against climate change. In this spirit I am  
19 immensely proud that we're moving forward today on  
20 Int. 0378, which would require that New York City  
21 reduce its carbon emissions by 80 percent by 2050.  
22 With this stand... [interpose]

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: May we have some  
24 quiet in the chambers please. Quiet in the chambers.

25 [background comment]



1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: With this  
3 standard written into the administrative code we have  
4 strengthened our commitment to a more sustainable  
5 future; would also make New York the largest city in  
6 the world to commit to this crucial goal. I am proud  
7 that with this bill we'll be taking bold steps to  
8 provide 21st century solutions to improve our  
9 resiliency, encourage public and private sector  
10 innovation and lay the groundwork for future  
11 technological progress.

12 I wanna thank the Chair of the  
13 Environmental Protection Committee, who's been a true  
14 champion for the environment, Donovan Richards, for  
15 all of this efforts and leadership, I wanna commend  
16 our Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito not only on this  
17 bill, but her vision for this Council in combating  
18 climate change and the boldness in which she's  
19 undertaken that, and to our administration for  
20 weaving 80 by 50 into the fabric of how the City is  
21 going to grow for generations.

22 I additionally wanna thank the staff,  
23 Jeff Baker, Bill Murray, Samara Swanston, who worked  
24 so hard, the 50-plus people who came to testify in  
25 favor of this bill and lastly, my staff, Nick

1  
2 Roloson, Nick Widzowski, Shachar Sharon, Brian  
3 Barnwell, Niki Kokkinos and Josefina Germosen. Thank  
4 you, Madame Speaker.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you. We're  
6 also excited to be voting on Int. 0378... sorry about  
7 that; we just did that one. And finally we're gonna  
8 be voting on Introduction 0409-A which will update  
9 and improve the City's law regarding illegally placed  
10 collection bins on public property. The past few  
11 years a number of illegally placed collection bins on  
12 public property have skyrocketed from under 100 to  
13 over 2,000, an increase of more than 2,000 percent.  
14 These illegal bins are a nuisance, an eyesore and  
15 blight on our public spaces. Current law allows the  
16 Sanitation Department to remove illegally placed bins  
17 30 days after posting a notice on the bin. However,  
18 this has allowed owners of the bins to simply move  
19 them from one illegal location to another each time a  
20 notice is posted. Under this bill the Sanitation  
21 Department will be authorized to remove illegally  
22 placed bins immediately. In addition, violators will  
23 be fined \$250 for the first offense and \$500 for each  
24 subsequent offense. And while we want to encourage  
25 New Yorkers to donate clothing and other materials to

1  
2 those in need, we also want to ensure that  
3 organizations collecting these items are doing so  
4 responsibly and this bill will achieve both of those  
5 goals.

6 So I'd like to thank Colin Howe, Ed  
7 Atkins and Jeff Baker for their work on this bill.  
8 I'm the lead sponsor and I hope everyone supports it.

9 Before I conclude I'd like to mention a  
10 few more things. I wanna acknowledge first that we  
11 have visiting students here to observe the Council  
12 today from the International Community High School,  
13 they're here, yes. [applause]

14 International is a high school in the  
15 Bronx for recently arrived immigrant students and I  
16 had the chance to meet with them and with these young  
17 New Yorkers a few weeks ago and enjoyed speaking with  
18 them, so I'm happy to have them here today and I'm  
19 proud to have International High School in my council  
20 district. So welcome to the chambers.

21 And also, as we all know, Tuesday was  
22 Veterans Day; we should always be grateful to those  
23 who have bravely served our country and kept us safe,  
24 but this week especially our brave servicemen and  
25

1  
2 women, present and past, are especially on our minds,  
3 so I wanna recognize them all.

4 I also do wanna say congratulations to  
5 the LGBT Caucus, I had the pleasure of presenting an  
6 award to the caucus, the largest we've had in this  
7 Council's history, and I was recognized by The  
8 Hetrick-Martin Institute, so congratulations to the  
9 LGBT Caucus members.

10 And lastly, tomorrow is Deputy Chief of  
11 Staff Margaret Nelson's last day in the Council.

12 [background comments] Margaret has done a terrific  
13 job with the Council and played a crucial role in so  
14 much of what we've accomplished over this past year  
15 and prior years and we're going to definitely miss  
16 her here, but she is joining the Parks Department as  
17 their new Chief of Staff [background comments] and we  
18 do wish here the best of luck. [applause, cheers]

19 Well thank you, Margaret, and now we know  
20 who to nudge whenever we have those problems with our  
21 Parks projects. [laughter] And with that we  
22 conclude Communication from the Speaker.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Congratulations  
24 Margaret; you certainly deserve it.

25 General Orders, Council Member Barron.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Madame  
3 Public Advocate. I wanted to talk briefly about the  
4 bill that addresses the clothing bins that we see  
5 throughout, peppering and salting our communities,  
6 they've been a concern to me for a long time; they  
7 seem to particularly come in communities where  
8 there's a low-income neighborhood and as we've talked  
9 about, they're unsightly, but in addition to that,  
10 they are deceptive. Several months ago, when I was  
11 concerned about them, I went online and did some  
12 research; most of the clothing that is collected in  
13 those bins is part of a multi-national, multi-  
14 million-dollar business. The clothes are taken,  
15 they're cleaned, they're baled and they are sold to  
16 middlemen who in turn sell them overseas, they sell  
17 them at open-air markets and in some instances where  
18 they are not sold, they are taken to South American  
19 countries and rather than being distributed to the  
20 needy they are burned in an open field and children  
21 who might otherwise benefit are kept away from going  
22 to get the clothing that is then doused with a fuel  
23 and burned.

24 So I think that this is a great bill, I  
25 think we're really addressing the need for people who

1  
2 think that they're giving to charity but in many  
3 instances that is not happening and if you would like  
4 to go online, you can go to a website, How Textile  
5 Recycling Works and you can see some of the data and  
6 the information regarding this instance and I think  
7 that we're making a great move here not only in terms  
8 of improving the looks in our community, but not  
9 allowing companies to deceive people to think that  
10 the donations that they're giving are for a  
11 charitable cause. Thank you.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
13 Council Member Richards.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I wanted to  
15 speak on Intr. 0378, Council Member Constantinides'  
16 bill. Today New York City will take a historic step  
17 in the right direction by becoming the largest city  
18 in the world to commit to reducing carbon emissions  
19 by 80 percent by 2050. For those of us who  
20 encountered Hurricane Sandy, we all know too well  
21 that if we don't address climate change now that we  
22 are creating a dangerous dynamic for future  
23 generations. You see, climate change doesn't  
24 discriminate or look at your socioeconomic status;  
25 good air, water quality and flood-free neighborhoods

1 shouldn't be considered a luxury for some but a human  
2 right for all. By passing Int. 0378 we understand  
3 that we are going way beyond rhetoric to put a stem  
4 to the challenges we will continue to face as a city,  
5 nation and world when it comes to climate change.  
6 According to the United Nations, only an aggressive  
7 push over the next 15 years will be sufficient to  
8 bring greenhouse gas emissions under control and if  
9 greater efforts to cut emissions are not implemented  
10 soon, future generations that are seeking to limit or  
11 reverse climate change will have to depend on  
12 technologies that currently do not exist in order to  
13 permanently remove greenhouse gas emission from the  
14 atmosphere.  
15

16 In a historic climate change bill just  
17 announced yesterday, Preside Barack Obama and Chinese  
18 President Xi Jinping -- I hope I said that right --  
19 announced both countries will curb their greenhouse  
20 gas emissions over the next two decades. Under the  
21 agreement, the United States will cut its 2005 level  
22 of carbon emissions by 26 to 28 percent before year  
23 2025 and China would peak its carbon emissions by  
24 2030 and will also aim to get 20 percent of its  
25 energy from zero carbon emission sources by the same

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2 year. When we pass Costa's bill today, New York City  
3 will become the largest city once again in the world  
4 to commit to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by  
5 80 percent by 2050 and it will set a path for  
6 investment in renewable energy sources and a  
7 transition away from the use of fossil fuels. It is  
8 clear that at the local level [bell] we have to be  
9 bold if we want to improve our chances for a  
10 sustainable future. Just would like to thank the  
11 Speaker; I wanna thank Costa, who's been an amazing  
12 partner in the Environmental Protection Committee  
13 [interpose]

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member,  
15 please conclude.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: and.. and I  
17 wanna thank Samara Swanston, Bill Murray, all of  
18 Costa's staff -- Laura Popa, Jeff Baker, Kate Selway  
19 [sp?], Jarrell [sp?] Burney [sp?] and the  
20 administration. Thank you.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
22 Seeing no other speakers, Reports of Special  
23 Committees.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reports of  
3 Standing Committees.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee  
5 on Environmental Protection, Int. 0378, greenhouse  
6 gases.

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
8 General Order.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee  
10 on Finance, Int. 0480, Fordham Road BID.

11 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
12 General Orders.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered LU 0144  
14 and Res 0467 and LU 0145 and Res 0468, tax  
15 abatements.

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
17 General Order.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee  
19 on Housing and Buildings, Int. 0345-A, alternative  
20 enforcement program.

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
22 Coupled on General Order.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Int. 0348-A, housing  
24 inspection fees.

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

4                   COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee  
5 on Land Use, LU 0126 through LU 0131 on Page 6,  
6 Astoria Cove.

7                   SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Approved with  
8 Modifications and Referred to the City Planning  
9 Commission pursuant to Rule 11.70(b) of the Rules of  
10 the Council and Section 197-(d) of the New York City  
11 Charter.

12                   COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 0132 and Res 0469,  
13 landmark designation.

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

16                   COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 0136 and Res 0470,  
17 Parks Department facility.

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

20                   COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 0137 and Res 0471,  
21 Green-Wood Cemetery.

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

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management, Int. 0409-A, collection bins.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and Coupled on General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: On the General Order Calendar we have the resolution appointing various persons. Commissioner of Deeds.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on General Orders and at this time I ask for a roll call of all items on the Coupled General Order Calendar.

CITY CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye on all.

[background comment]

CITY CLERK: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye on all.

[background comments]

CITY CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Cabrera.

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COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Cohen.

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Constantinides.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye on  
all.

CITY CLERK: Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Cumbo.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Dromm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Espinal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Ferreras.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye on all.

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CITY CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Congratulations to a great lineup of bills today; I vote aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Gibson.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Permission to explain my vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you, Madame Public Advocate. I wanna thank all of my colleagues who pass really good bills today; I wanna recognize our Speaker for passing the publicly assessable collection bins bill and I wanna recognize Council Member Ritchie Torres for passing his very first bill and Council Members Reynoso and Garodnick for very good bills as well and Council Member Constantinides, and I also wanna thank all of the staff and board members at the Fordham Road BID in the Bronx; I've been working with them along with Council Members Cabrera and Torres and I'm very excited that they are going to continue to expand opportunities for Bronx businesses on Fordham Road in the Bronx. And with that I will vote aye on all. And I also wanna

1  
2 congratulate Margaret Nelson and thank you so much  
3 for being such a great help and assistance to me; I  
4 wish you well in your new position. God bless.  
5 Thank you, Madame Public Advocate.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

7 CITY CLERK: Greenfield.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Can I explain  
9 my vote?

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you  
12 very much. I would also like to congratulate Council  
13 Member Reynoso for his legislation, along with  
14 Council Member Garodnick; it's one of these great  
15 common sense piece of legislations and I'm really  
16 thrilled to be supporting it today. I wanna  
17 congratulate Council Member Torres, not just his  
18 first bill, but a bill that really will improve the  
19 lives of many renters and it's very significant. So  
20 thank you for that. Costa Constantinides, I don'  
21 know how he does it; in his spare time he negotiates  
22 major land use deals and he's also the leading voice  
23 for sustainability in this body, following a long  
24 tradition set by his predecessor, so thank you, Costa  
25 for that. And of course, the Speaker, these bins are

1  
2 really I think the vein of our existence and the  
3 ability to finally get rid of them is terrific. I  
4 actually authored a bill that would allow us to blow  
5 them up, but the Speaker rightfully rejected that; I  
6 went with her approach, which was simply take them  
7 away. And finally, I do wanna thank, of course,  
8 Margaret Nelson for the great work that she's done  
9 here at the Council; I wish her a lot of luck; I  
10 wanna publicly say that I expect her cell phone  
11 number to be exactly the same. I vote aye on all.

12 CITY CLERK: Johnson.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye on all.

14 CITY CLERK: Kallos.

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

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I wanna  
19 congratulate Council Member Torres on his first bill  
20 and congratulate Council Member Constantinides an  
21 being the environmental leader in the Council and for  
22 this amazing legislation. I vote aye on all.

23 CITY CLERK: Koo.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

25 CITY CLERK: Koslowitz.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: May I be  
3 excused to explain my vote?

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I want to  
6 congratulate Margaret Nelson; we're going to miss  
7 her; I know her for many, many years and she's been  
8 excellent, I remember when she worked for Council  
9 Member di Brianza [sp?] and I wish her the best of  
10 luck and I vote aye on all.

11 CITY CLERK: Lancman.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

13 CITY CLERK: Levin.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

15 CITY CLERK: Levine.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

17 CITY CLERK: Maisel.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Aye.

19 CITY CLERK: Matteo.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Aye.

21 CITY CLERK: Mealy.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye on all.

23 CITY CLERK: Menchaca.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye on all.

25 CITY CLERK: Mendez.



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COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Miller.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Reynoso.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Rosenthal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Torres.

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Permission to  
explain my vote. I just wanna... [crosstalk]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I wanna thank  
Council Member Reynoso and Council Member Garodnick  
for being great partners in advancing the Housing  
Quality Act. I wanna thank a number of advocacy  
organizations -- Make the Road, NYCC, Vocal New York,  
Urban Justice Center, CASA, UHAB, Community Service  
Society, and KAV [sp?]. And I wanna thank my  
wonderful Chief of Staff, Sindri McDonald and my  
Legislative Director, Rahul Saksena. And I wanna

1  
2 thank my former employer, Councilman Jimmy Vacca,  
3 because everything I learned about housing was in his  
4 office, so I wanna thank you as well. Thank you.

5 CITY CLERK: Treyger.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.

7 CITY CLERK: Ulrich.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Yes.

9 [background comments]

10 CITY CLERK: Vacca.

11 CITY CLERK: Can I explain my vote?

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I first wanna  
14 thank my friend Ritchie Torres for those very nice  
15 remarks and to commend him on his first piece of  
16 legislation. [background comment] I commend the  
17 others as well. I really wanted to be heard because  
18 I noted that as part of the Astoria Housing proposal  
19 and I commend Councilman Constantinides, but they're  
20 getting a \$5 million City grant or City allocation  
21 for a pier for a ferry; I have to tell you, I'm  
22 envious, we in the Bronx are the only borough still  
23 without ferry service, which is environmentally  
24 friendly and which will get a lot of people out of  
25 their cars and on the waterfront that's vastly

1  
2 unused. For years we've been fighting for ferry  
3 service in the Bronx and we've been overlooked, yet  
4 we are the borough in most need. Ferry service  
5 should be concentrated in far-flung neighborhoods  
6 that don't have public transportation access. What  
7 we do is that when we install ferry service we put it  
8 in neighborhoods within the ring of Manhattan and we  
9 don't [background comments] put them where people are  
10 stranded and lack public transportation. So I say  
11 congratulations; I vote aye on all, but I cannot let  
12 the opportunity go without saying that something must  
13 and should be done in the Bronx; we have a vast  
14 unused waterfront; we've been asking for years, so  
15 I'm hoping that goodwill will prevail and we will  
16 continue our fight in my borough, but I vote aye on  
17 all.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
19 Council Member Richards and the residents of Rockaway  
20 join with you.

21 [background comment]

22 CITY CLERK: Vallone.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Madame Advocate,  
24 permission to vote aye on this and all matters before  
25 the Council today?

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: May I please explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you. I wanna congratulate everybody who has bills today. I did wanna talk about the bills that Torres and Reynoso have. Congratulations to Council Member Torres on his first bill; very proud to have these bills come through the Housing Committee; as a former tenant organizer, I really wish that I had these bills present at the time when I was organizing; we racked our brains on how to deal with underlying conditions that landlords routine ignore, so I'm very proud of that bill and very excited that Council Member Reynoso has built upon the work that the Public Advocate had done with the new AEP and I'm very excited that the administration has been welcoming to both; looking forward to the new tenant organizing generation having these two tools in their

1  
2 weaponry to battle the bad actors in the industry,  
3 and I too wanna say congratulations to Margaret  
4 Nelson, who did a fantastic job, along with a crew of  
5 great staff people on the Gun Violence Task Force  
6 that I co-chaired with Council Member Cabrera; it  
7 can't be [background comments] understated the work  
8 that she did to get us to where we are with the work  
9 in the City Council today; she's gonna be missed  
10 daily and I know the City Council's loss is a great  
11 gain for Park Department. I vote aye on all.

12 CITY CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

13 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I vote aye. But  
14 I wanted to... I just found out that Council Member  
15 Barron, it's your 23rd year anniversary today?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: 32nd.

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: 32nd... [cheers]  
18 they wrote it wrong; they mixed the numbers.  
19 [applause] 32... 32nd anniversary. Congratulations.  
20 [applause] [laugh] They inverted the number; they  
21 gave me 23. So congratulations. I vote aye.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Congratulations,  
23 Council Member Barron. And all items on today's  
24 General Order Calendar were adopted... quiet... were

25

1  
2 adopted by a vote of 46 in the affirmative, 0 in the  
3 negative and 0 abstentions.

4 Introduction and Reading of Bills.

5 Discussions of Resolutions. Seeing none. General  
6 Discussion. Council Member Johnson.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you,  
8 Madame Public Advocate. I rise today to ask my  
9 colleagues to join me in supporting Int. 0535, which  
10 would extend rights to time off for cancer screenings  
11 currently granted to municipal employees all  
12 throughout New York State, except for R5 counties in  
13 New York City. [background comment] The Civil  
14 Service Law provides that any public employee or  
15 public officer has a right to take paid leave of up  
16 to four hours per year for breast cancer screening or  
17 for prostate cancer screening, but excludes cities  
18 with populations over a million, which is our city,  
19 New York City. Regular mammograms increase the  
20 chances that cancer can be detected early and treated  
21 effectively. Similarly, early detection and  
22 treatment are key components to combating prostate  
23 and colon cancer. Colon cancer is the second leading  
24 cause of cancer death in New York City, claiming  
25 nearly 1,500 lives per year; if caught early, it is

1 almost completely preventable. Employees of the City  
2 of New York should have the same benefits afforded to  
3 all other New York State governmental employees, to  
4 be able to undergo screenings necessary for effective  
5 treatment of these cancers and I hope all my  
6 colleagues will join me in signing on and co-  
7 sponsoring Int. 0535. Thank you very much, Madame  
8 Public Advocate.  
9

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

11 Council Member Kallos.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I rise and am  
13 pleased to introduce bill 0536 that will allow New  
14 Yorkers to register to vote or update their  
15 information and apply for an absentee ballot at the  
16 same time. We're a mobile city, often changing  
17 addresses and getting out of town for working hard on  
18 election day; it turns out most New Yorkers don't  
19 plan their lives around election day like we do, so  
20 according to a professor at Queens College, up to 23  
21 percent of New York City voters are registered with  
22 information that is no longer up-to-date. They  
23 shouldn't have to go update their registration, wait  
24 for a card in the mail and then fill out an absentee  
25 application by which time it's sometimes too late to

1  
2 vote. We should make it easy for New Yorkers to  
3 vote, not more difficult; this bill is part of a  
4 concerted effort to combat our low participation  
5 rates and ensure that more New Yorkers can easily  
6 register to vote. I hope you will consider signing  
7 on and thank those who already have done so. Thank  
8 you.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member  
10 Vacca.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Thank you. I look  
12 today at the list of bill introductions and I must  
13 voice concern about legislation that I see that  
14 basically seeks to legislate the New York City Police  
15 Department. I realize for many people in this body  
16 and for many people in this city this is a very  
17 difficult topic; I just want to extend some words of  
18 caution. I believe in having a police commissioner  
19 in the City of New York who runs the day to day  
20 operations of the New York City Police Department. I  
21 want a police commissioner free to do his or her job  
22 and I want good police officers and most police  
23 officers in this city are damn good. I want them  
24 supported and I want them respected. By virtue of  
25 their job, police officers in New York and across the



1 nation have discretion; if used inappropriately,  
2 there are avenues of redress that must be utilized.  
3 We in this body are not law enforcement  
4 professionals; that's why there is a police  
5 commissioner and those professionals serving under  
6 him and if there are systematic issues, we in this  
7 Council have oversight authority; we should use it  
8 and we should use it effectively. Some of the  
9 legislation introduced, even if it doesn't pass,  
10 sends the wrong message and if some of the  
11 legislation I see passes, it would be a grave mistake  
12 for our city and for this institution. Some of the  
13 bills, if passed, they'd be historical, right, they'd  
14 be historic in that they would represent a grave  
15 mistake for our city and for this institution.  
16 [bell] I recognize all advocates and all  
17 stakeholders, but today I wanna advocate for law-  
18 abiding citizens in this city. Much of the  
19 legislation that we are considering will be  
20 legislation that will exist in perpetuity and it  
21 would mean that this Council is inserting itself into  
22 what would be many times the day to day operations of  
23 the police department... [interpose]

25

1  
2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member,  
3 could you please bring your comments to a close?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I will.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I for one am not  
7 prepare to go there. I think that we go down a path  
8 that many of us should realize now is not a path we  
9 want to go down. So I extend these words of  
10 cautiousness to my colleagues, who I respect, and I  
11 hope they're taken in that vein. Thank you.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
13 Council Member Treyger.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you. I  
15 ask for your support on a package of bike safety  
16 bills, Int. 0544 and 0545, intended on increasing  
17 safety on our streets for all New Yorkers and to  
18 build upon the Council's efforts that we've already  
19 undertaken to advance Vision Zero. The first law  
20 extends the ban [background comments] on the use of  
21 hand-held devices to make phone calls, send or  
22 receive text messages or surf the web while cycling.  
23 The second, which really is evidence of the crux of  
24 this proposal and the focus on safety, would  
25 authorize and create bike safety courses that

1  
2 cyclists could take in lieu of fines for first  
3 offenses that don't lead to injury or property  
4 damage. I was prompted to introduce this legislation  
5 after watching a cyclist swerve into incoming traffic  
6 while texting on Stillow [sp?] Avenue, nearly causing  
7 a horrific collision. I was surprised to learn that  
8 there is no law prohibiting such reckless behavior  
9 [background comments]... [interpose]

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: May we have quiet  
11 in the chambers, please, quiet; [background comment]  
12 we're still in session. Sorry, Council Member.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Chicago has  
14 already instituted a similar ban and California is  
15 considering a state-wide ban. Our bill is the least  
16 punitive in the country; we already have rightfully  
17 focused much attention on motor vehicles and I wanna  
18 be clear in saying that drivers clearly have the  
19 biggest role and responsibility when it comes to safe  
20 streets; however, the bottom line is that we all have  
21 a responsibility to move around in a safe and  
22 responsible manner that does not place others at risk  
23 of injury or death. All stakeholders have a role to  
24 play to advance Vision Zero. I am proud that this  
25 legislation has the support of Bike New York and a

1  
2 number of my Council colleagues, including champion  
3 for Vision Zero, Chair Ydanis Rodriguez, Council  
4 Member Carlos Menchaca, who doesn't just talk the  
5 talk; he bikes the bike, Council Members Vincent  
6 Gentile, Laurie Cumbo, Ben Kallos and others and I  
7 hope that you will join this effort to make our  
8 streets safer [background comments] and reach the  
9 ultimate goal of Vision Zero. Thank you.

10 [background comment]

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And for a vote,  
12 Council Member Dickens.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: I vote aye on  
14 all.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Back to General  
16 Discussion. Council Member Crowley.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Thank you,  
18 Madame Public Advocate. I rise today to talk about  
19 Jack Kittle, who is a dear friend and somebody  
20 [background comments] I've admired for a very long  
21 time; he's retiring as Political Director of the  
22 Painters Union after dedicating over 40 years of work  
23 and service to the working people in the City of New  
24 York and there is going to be a celebration tonight  
25 at the Beekman and many Council Members have signed

1  
2 on to a proclamation for him. So I invite you to  
3 come celebrate Jack's work and his retirement over at  
4 The Beekman starting at 6 p.m. tonight.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Congratulations  
6 Jack. Council Member Rosenthal.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Wow, that's  
8 the first time I have heard an invitation to a bar,  
9 but I too am very fond of Jack. Public Advocate  
10 James, I rise today to ask my colleagues to consider  
11 signing on to Res 0465, which follows the SUNY Board  
12 of Trustees, which on October 2nd, 2014 adopted a  
13 resolution to create a comprehensive system-wide  
14 uniformed set of sexual assault prevention response  
15 practices at the SUNY campuses, requiring all 64  
16 [background comment] campuses to adopt a sexual  
17 assault victim's bill of rights, a unified definition  
18 of affirmative consent, training programs for campus  
19 personnel dealing with sexual assault and an  
20 extensive public awareness campaign. Following  
21 SUNY's example, I'm calling on the CUNY Board of  
22 Trustees to adopt a similar resolution in regards to  
23 establishing a unified system of sexual assault  
24 prevention across its campuses. [background  
25 comments] Neither SUNY nor CUNY resolutions require

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2 outright reporting to the police after a sexual  
3 assault occurs, but both strongly encourage victims  
4 of sexual assault to report the incidents to campus  
5 public safety or their local police precinct. The  
6 CUNY policy changes are more explicit in requiring  
7 that colleges report incidents to law enforcement if  
8 the Title IX coordinator decides that such action is  
9 necessary and strongly recommends reporting to local  
10 law enforcement where appropriate if an incident  
11 involves a visitor to the CUNY campus. Sexual  
12 assault on campus is a terrible and leading cause of  
13 concern to women and certainly my two daughters, on  
14 their college campuses [bell] and I urge our New York  
15 City college campuses to take a strong and bold move  
16 to support these women. Thank you... [crosstalk]

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Thank  
18 you. Council Member Williams.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you. I'd  
20 just very quickly like my colleagues to look at Int.  
21 0548, 0549, 0550 and 0540. In order, one deals with  
22 the Police Department submit a Council report on  
23 naloxone hydrochloride, basically what is used for  
24 heroin overdoses, a law to create task force of  
25 representatives on feasibility of implementing both

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2 online and electronic voter registration through the  
3 Board of Elections. Another local law in relation to  
4 conforming the New York City energy conservation code  
5 to New York State energy code and I'm happy to join  
6 with Council Member Cornegy as co-sponsor, with the  
7 lead sponsor of Council Member Lancman in relation to  
8 chokeholds.

9 I went through that quickly because I  
10 really wanted to respond to some words that were said  
11 directly of my colleague on I assume were some of the  
12 bills that are gonna be put in and I very much  
13 appreciate discussions on these bills. I did wanna  
14 mention, so we're clear, the redress that exists now  
15 in dealing with police issues are not working; if  
16 they did work we wouldn't be at this position. As  
17 well, Council Members, none of us here are experts in  
18 most of the departments that we have oversight on,  
19 whether it is the Health Department, the Sanitation  
20 Department or the Fire Department, we also do not  
21 have expertise necessarily in the NYPD; we do however  
22 have a job to provide oversight and make sure that  
23 the policing that is done in this city is done  
24 equitably and hopefully we can continue discussions  
25 on the bills here, but make sure the discussions are

1  
2 actually what's in the bill; not mass hysteria that's  
3 created, not necessarily by my colleagues here, but  
4 outside forces. I'm very disappointed in the PBA and  
5 some of the other police unions, the ad that was in  
6 the paper today was disgusting; I have known them at  
7 this point, unfortunately, to tell complete untruths  
8 and try to spread mass hysteria instead of dealing  
9 with the facts on the bills. The mass hysteria  
10 that's always talked about when we deal with better  
11 policing has never come to fruition, whether across  
12 the country or the bills that we passed this last  
13 year and it will not happen with these bills that are  
14 carefully crafted at this moment in time. So those  
15 police unions, I would ask, if you cannot be adults  
16 in this discussion, please be quiet [bell] and let  
17 the adults have a productive conversation on  
18 equitable policing in this city and safer streets.  
19 Thank you.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
21 Council Member Chin.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you, Madame  
23 Public Advocate. Good afternoon. I'd like to ask my  
24 colleagues to sign onto Int. 0527, which I'm  
25 introducing today. This bill would call for the City



1  
2 to annually monitor and report ambient noise level  
3 citywide. As Council Members, noise complaints are  
4 probably the most common issue we hear from our  
5 constituents. I know in my district in Lower  
6 Manhattan I get lots of calls about bar noise,  
7 traffic noise and late-night construction noise. In  
8 a report put out by the Department of Health this  
9 year, they say that noise pollution is a big issue in  
10 New York City, but the City currently does not  
11 monitor or report ambient noise citywide, but it is a  
12 real health issue for all New Yorkers. This bill  
13 would require sound monitors to be installed  
14 throughout the city and begin annual reporting by the  
15 City on the state of noise pollution levels and its  
16 health impacts on New Yorkers. I'd like to thank  
17 Samara Swanston of the central staff for her work on  
18 this bill and I hope my colleagues will sign on.  
19 Thank you.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member  
21 Gentile.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Thank you. As  
23 we celebrate Veterans Day it's always good to look  
24 for ways to honor veterans, especially those who  
25 suffered a disability as a result of their service.

1  
2 One tangible way New York City can honor disabled  
3 vets is to give them an expedient way to get from  
4 point A to point B; not to have to contend with  
5 traffic jams, especially when traveling to VA  
6 hospitals or other medical care related to their  
7 service disability. Some service-related  
8 disabilities cause these vets pain and suffering when  
9 stuck in traffic; we can help and give disabled vets  
10 who qualify for a disabled veterans license plate,  
11 the use of the City's HOV express lanes, regardless  
12 of occupancy. This is a way to help and honor our  
13 disabled vets. But to ensure that localities like  
14 ours are not penalized with loss of federal money, we  
15 need to call on the federal government to hold us  
16 harmless. So I ask for your co-sponsorship on Res  
17 0464 today, which calls on Congress to pass and the  
18 President to sign legislation allowing states and  
19 localities to grant disabled veterans access to high  
20 occupancy vehicle lanes without risking the loss of  
21 federal highway funds to the localities; that's  
22 Veterans Day Res 0464.

23 Also, childhood cancer research got the  
24 spotlight in September, so I'm introducing Res 0463,  
25 asking the State to create a specialty license plate

1  
2 that says "Cure Childhood Cancer" and proceeds of  
3 which will go to specific research on pediatric  
4 cancer research.

5 And finally, introducing a bill to  
6 suspend alternate side street parking and muni meters  
7 on September 11; 9/11 is a day of solemn reflection  
8 and ceremonies that no New Yorker should have to  
9 spend concerned about being issued a parking summons;  
10 our city should not be playing the gotcha game on a  
11 solemn day like September 11th; that is Int. 0531.

12 Thank you.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member  
14 Greenfield.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you  
16 very much. I must say that I personally very much  
17 enjoy the open mic portion [background comments] of  
18 our Council meetings; it's a great opportunity to  
19 hear what our colleagues are thinking and what pieces  
20 of [background comments] legislation they're working  
21 on. I'm always surprised that people leave, 'cause  
22 for me it really is the highlight. And [background  
23 comments] I really would just like to highlight one  
24 piece of legislation that I'm introducing; I have a  
25

1  
2 few, but I'm just gonna focus on one and that is Int.  
3 No. 0532.

4           So here's what happens, right, for some  
5 bizarre reason, under the City's regulations, your  
6 recycling is only picked up once a week; god forbid  
7 you should actually be one of the people who for  
8 example has their recycling picked up on a Monday; it  
9 makes your life very difficult, because what happens  
10 is, all of these holidays are on Monday and your  
11 recycling doesn't get picked up and you end up with a  
12 week's worth of trash; it happens on Tuesday, for  
13 example on Veterans Day, but it's something that  
14 really is very challenging and it's a major quality  
15 of life issue that I have heard from a lot of my  
16 constituents. So I'm introducing what is in effect a  
17 common sense piece of legislation and this  
18 legislation basically says that if there is a holiday  
19 and you cannot pick up said recycling, we should not  
20 have two weeks worth of recycling piling up and  
21 rodents and roaches and all the other nasty stuff  
22 that happens when you've got mounds of garbage and  
23 instead, the City should do something that's really  
24 crazy; they should pick up the trash the next day,  
25 and I'm asking that you kindly consider signing onto

1  
2 this legislation; it's Int. No. 0532, common sense  
3 piece of legislation that would in fact require the  
4 City to do something basic, which is, pick up the  
5 trash. Thank you very much.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
7 Council Member Barron.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Madame  
9 Public Advocate. I rise to talk about the Astoria  
10 Cove bill which we did not actually pass, but which I  
11 understand has been sent back to another agency for  
12 fine-tuning. And while I commend my colleague,  
13 Council Member Constantinides, for the work that he's  
14 done, I do feel that this is not a bill that  
15 incorporates or that presents what we will hopefully  
16 see as affordable housing. The bill talks about  
17 affordable, but it's affordable basically for people  
18 from \$51-110,000, [background comments] so it does  
19 not look at persons who make less than that in terms  
20 of offering them housing, nor does it look to have  
21 provisions for persons with disabilities or the  
22 homeless. So yes, we know this is luxury housing,  
23 but is in fact a way of keeping population isolated  
24 from each other and establishing a ban that does not  
25 reach to the affordability of most of New York City

1  
2 and even exceeds the affordability of that area  
3 median income.

4           Secondly, in terms of Int. 0540, which  
5 addresses chokeholds, we know that so-called  
6 chokeholds have been banned since 1993. "Members of  
7 the NYPD will not use chokeholds. A chokehold shall  
8 include but is not limited to any pressure to the  
9 throat or windpipe which may prevent or hinder  
10 breathing or reduce intake of air." There were 1,000  
11 complaints made between 2009 and 2013 of illegal  
12 chokeholds and there were only 9 cases that were  
13 substantiated and the most serious sanction that  
14 those police officers received was a loss of vacation  
15 days. I think that we need to look at this [bell]  
16 misuse of the chokehold, which has been banned, and  
17 look at the lack of consequences and I think that  
18 this intro will do much to correct that situation.

19 Thank you.

20           PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member  
21 Cumbo.

22           COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I am pleased that  
23 through a coalition created of housing advocates,  
24 tenant associations, elected officials and labor  
25 unions from Brooklyn to the Rockaways we were able to

1  
2 thus far negotiate a better affordable housing mix  
3 for the residents of Astoria Queens and create  
4 quality unionized jobs for hard-working New Yorkers.  
5 However, what remains unresolved is that 700 units of  
6 affordable housing owned by Alma Realty in Brooklyn  
7 are being transitioned into market rate apartments as  
8 we speak that local residents cannot afford and where  
9 many tenants are currently faced with pending  
10 evictions. Many of the leases are up December 1st  
11 and we are faced with the challenges of how to work  
12 with our tenants in our district so that that doesn't  
13 happen. Though Alma Realty will create slightly more  
14 than 400 units of affordable housing in Astoria, 700  
15 will be lost in Brooklyn for a net loss of 200  
16 affordable housing units in New York City that will  
17 be paid for with our taxpaying dollars. This is not  
18 a win for the Mayor of the City of New York who  
19 promised to build 120,000 units of affordable housing  
20 and to build 80,000 units of affordable housing. The  
21 Mayor's goal was to utilize taxpayer dollars to  
22 create more affordable housing and yet we are moving  
23 backwards and not forward. I remain hopeful that  
24 between now and when the vote is taken a win-win can  
25 be created by Alma Realty to stabilize the affordable

1  
2 housing units in Crown Heights until an appropriate  
3 tax abatement program can be negotiated in order to  
4 preserve those affordable housing units. This is a  
5 very challenging situation in our district, as many  
6 over the 700 tenants have no idea what their future  
7 will be come December 1st; they do not know if they  
8 will be evicted, they do not know if they will have  
9 to transition their children to different schools  
10 that they worked hard to get into, they do not know  
11 if they are gonna have to move to another location  
12 and they do not [bell] understand what the future  
13 holds for them. So I do hope that we can secure a  
14 win-win situation that will preserve those affordable  
15 housing units and to actually implement the Mayor's  
16 goal. Thank you.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member  
18 Koo.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you, Madame  
20 Advocate. Today I'm asking my colleagues to support  
21 my bill, Int. 0537, which is to amend the  
22 administrative code of the City of New York in  
23 relation to the designation of a small business  
24 accessibility coordinator. This proposed legislation  
25 will require an employee within the Mayor's Office



1  
2 for People with Disabilities to be designated as a  
3 small business accessibility coordinator, responsible  
4 as a liaison with agencies involved in accessibility  
5 projects and for educating business owners and  
6 operators about their obligations under local, state  
7 and federal law to make their business accessible to  
8 people with disability. So I hope my colleagues will  
9 sign on to this bill. Thank you.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

11 Council Member Cornegy.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I would like to  
13 briefly speak about Int. 0540, the chokehold bill  
14 that is co-sponsored by myself, Jumaane Williams and  
15 Rory Lancman. I was absolutely sickened when I saw  
16 the video showing the NYPD officers treatment of  
17 brother Eric Garner, but I'm so grateful that that  
18 video exists. Likewise, I'm grateful for the new  
19 CCRB leadership that has released data on the number  
20 of chokehold complaints filed in recent years. That  
21 video and that data are clear, they don't lie; this  
22 dangerous practice banned by NYPD policy for decades  
23 is still being used and as a result, New Yorkers are  
24 being hurt and some, in the case of brother Garner,  
25 are losing their lives. For those reasons I don't

1  
2 think that there should be an argument that this bill  
3 is not needed. Let's codify with the criminal law  
4 that the NYPD are sworn to uphold and protect -- no  
5 chokeholds, period. The bill will provide hope for a  
6 measure of justice to individuals and families that  
7 have been harmed by chokeholds and provide clarity to  
8 every officer in our city. Let's speak clearly and  
9 strongly together to ensure that no other man or  
10 woman experiences this particular brutality in the  
11 city we all love. Please joint Council Members  
12 Lancman, Williams and myself in co-sponsoring and  
13 passing Int. 0540. Thank you.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
15 Council Member Cabrera. [background comments]  
16 Council Member Cabrera.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you so  
18 much. Just wanted to take a moment, brief but  
19 informing [sic], to thank Margaret Nelson; she just  
20 is simply an amazing city staff that got us through  
21 the Gun Violence Task Force that Council Member  
22 Jumaane Williams was pouring his heart, and today we  
23 have 14 districts in which we have prevention  
24 intervention programs for those involved in crews and  
25 gangs and working also with victims of violence, gun

1  
2 violence. Margaret, thank you so much, it's a loss  
3 to the City Council, but it's still a gain to the  
4 City and that's good with me. I wish you the best  
5 and thank you so much.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member  
7 Ulrich.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Thank you, Madame  
9 Public Advocate. I wish to echo some of the  
10 sentiments that were expressed earlier by my good  
11 friend and colleague Jimmy Vacca regarding the  
12 proposed police bills, but specifically I wanna get  
13 into the one that would require NYPD officers to gain  
14 the permission or consent of individuals that they  
15 wish to search when they don't have probable cause  
16 and when they're not making an arrest or have a  
17 warrant to make that arrest. It's deeply troubling  
18 to me that despite driving crime down to historic  
19 levels, despite New York becoming the safest big city  
20 in America, that we would somehow find other ways to  
21 make it more difficult for police officers to do  
22 their jobs and to keep New Yorkers safe. Why we are  
23 attempting to demoralize police officers who are  
24 already demoralized, who are already underpaid, who  
25 are always getting their butts kicked in the news

1 every day by folks who don't like them to begin with,  
2 quite frankly, is beyond me, it just doesn't make any  
3 sense. The idea that we're gonna ask people  
4 permission before we search them, who's gonna say  
5 yes; of course they're gonna say no. This would be  
6 the equivalent of us giving people the opportunity to  
7 refuse a breathalyzer when they're driving under the  
8 influence, of driving intoxicated. If someone is up  
9 to no good, if someone is about to commit a crime, if  
10 there's an investigation into a crime or a pattern of  
11 crimes, police officers should be free to use the  
12 reasonable suspicion and the constitutional  
13 protections that they have to engage that individual,  
14 to search that individual if they think that the  
15 individual might have illegal weapons, dangerous  
16 guns, knives, drug paraphernalia; what have you. We  
17 are making it more difficult for police officers and  
18 basically telling them, don't stop people, don't  
19 search people, even when you think they're up to no  
20 good, even when you think they have a gun, even when  
21 you think they're about to commit a crime, because  
22 we're gonna bring you up on charges, we're gonna put  
23 you in the newspaper tomorrow, we're gonna embarrass  
24 you in some way, shape or form; [bell] it's sending  
25

1  
2 the wrong message to the police; it's sending the  
3 wrong message to all New Yorkers. Thank you.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
5 Council Member Gibson.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you, Madame  
7 Public Advocate. I also want to thank all of our  
8 distinguished veterans, for those who have served and  
9 are serving; I wanna recognize my uncle, who is a  
10 Vietnam War veteran and thank him for his service and  
11 I want to thank all of my colleagues about a week-  
12 and-a-half ago that stood with me and many of our law  
13 enforcement groups; members of the Council, in  
14 regards to the recent retirement of the First Deputy  
15 Commissioner, Rafael Pineiro of the Police  
16 Department, as well as the former Chief of  
17 Department, Chief Philip Banks. Recognizing that we  
18 have the greatest and most diverse police department  
19 in the entire nation, the loss of Chief Banks, as  
20 well as Deputy Commish Pineiro is certainly a loss to  
21 all 40 and 28 years of dedicated service, so I really  
22 want to acknowledge and go on record in thanking Raf  
23 Pineiro and Phil Banks for their incredible service  
24 and dedication to all New Yorkers and the City of New  
25 York and thank them for their service, and also

1  
2 moving forward, in some of the new appointments that  
3 have recently made by Commissioner Bratton in  
4 Benjamin Tucker, as well as of Chief James O'Neill  
5 and James Secreto, as well as Carlos Gomez, in  
6 recognizing that this conversation must continue  
7 around diversity, around changes and reforms, around  
8 the cultural shift, and I want my colleagues to be  
9 very clear that as your Chair of this Committee, I  
10 will continue to work with everyone, with our  
11 advocacy groups, with out law enforcement, with all  
12 of my colleagues to make sure that we strike the  
13 necessary balance, we ensure that law enforcement has  
14 the ability and resources to do their jobs and do  
15 their jobs well, is respecting individuals' rights  
16 and really that there's one system of justice for all  
17 New Yorkers and so I really wanna thank our Speaker,  
18 because she has always been a champion on these  
19 issues and I'm looking forward as we have [bell]  
20 conversations on these legislations to make sure that  
21 we strike that balance that is necessary for public  
22 safety for this entire City of New York. Thank you  
23 again, Madame Public Advocate.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. On  
25 behalf of Council Member Jumaane Williams, I wanna

1  
2 recognize his cousin, Andre Mitchell, on his first  
3 visit to City Hall. Welcome. In addition to that,  
4 let's stand up and.. okay, we gave a shout-out to his  
5 cousin, welcome. [laughter]

6 All items on today's on General Order  
7 Calendar were adopted by a vote of 47 in the  
8 affirmative, 0 negative and 0 abstentions, and to  
9 close with the Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito.

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: No, thank you  
11 again, Madame Public Advocate and I guess it's.. the  
12 ending's earlier than before, 3:10; this meeting is  
13 adjourned.

14 [gavel]

15 [background comments]

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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 \_\_\_\_\_ November 18, 2014 \_\_\_\_\_