

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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FEBRUARY 25, 2021  
Start: 1:41 p.m.  
Recess: 3:30 p.m.

HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING (VIRTUAL ROOM 1)

B E F O R E: Majority Leader, Laurie A. Cumbo

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Corey D. Johnson, SPEAKER  
Adrienne E. Adams  
Alicka Ampry-Samuels  
Diana Ayala  
Inez D. Barron  
Joseph C. Borelli  
Justin L. Brannan  
Fernando Cabrera  
Margaret S. Chin  
Costa G. Constantinides  
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.  
Laurie A. Cumbo  
Chaim M. Deutsch  
Ruben Diaz, Sr.  
Darma V. Diaz  
Daniel Dromm  
Mathieu Eugene  
James A. Gennaro  
Vanessa L. Gibson  
Mark Gjonaj  
Barry S. Grodenchik

Robert F. Holden  
Ben Kallos  
Peter A. Koo  
Karen Koslowitz  
Brad S. Lander  
Stephen T. Levin  
Mark Levine  
Farah N. Louis  
Alan N. Maisel  
Steven Matteo  
Carlos Menchaca  
I. Daneek Miller  
Francisco P. Moya  
Bill Perkins  
Keith Powers  
Antonio Reynoso  
Kevin C. Riley  
Carlina Rivera  
Ydanis A. Rodriguez  
Deborah L. Rose  
Helen K. Rosenthal  
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.  
Mark Treyger  
Eric A. Ulrich  
Paul A. Vallone  
James G. Can Bramer

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

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

4

2 JOHANNA M. CASTRO: We're live.

3 C.D'ALBA, DIRECTOR OF SECURITY: Thank  
4 you. Will you start the backup recordings, please?

5 SGT. SADOWSKY: PC recording is started.

6 SGT. PEREZ: Backup is rolling.

7 SGT. JONES: Cloud is going.

8 C.D'ALBA, DIRECTOR OF SECURITY: Can  
9 everyone please turn on their videos? Hello and good  
10 afternoon and welcome to today's Stated Meeting. At  
11 this time, I ask that everyone please turn off all  
12 electronic devices. Please turn them to vibrate.  
13 Madame Majority..

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. Good  
15 afternoon and welcome to the stated meeting of  
16 February 25th, 2021. I am Majority Leader Laurie  
17 Cumbo, and I'd like to thank you for joining us at  
18 this virtual meeting of the New York City Counsel.  
19 If you would like to follow along, the agenda for  
20 today's meeting is posted on our website.

21 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Please join  
22 us for the Pledge of Allegiance. I pledge allegiance  
23 to the flag of the United States of America, and to  
24 the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under  
25 God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. Roll

3 Call.

4 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Adams. Avery

5 Samuel.

6 Avery Samuels: Present.

7 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Ayala.

8 CM AYALA: Present.

9 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Barron.

10 CM BARRON: Less than present.

11 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Riley.

12 CM RILEY: Present.

13 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Brannan.

14 CM BRANNAN: Here.

15 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Cabrera.

16 CM CABRERA: Present.

17 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Chin.

18 CM CHIN: Present.

19 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK:

20 Constandanides. Cornegy.

21 CM Cornegy: Aqui.

22 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Deutsch

23 CM DEUTSCH: I'm here.

24 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Darma Diaz.

25 CM DARMA DIAZ: Presente.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Ruben Diaz

3 CM RUBEN DIAZ: Presente.

4 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Dromm.

5 CM DROMM: Here.

6 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Eugene.

7 Gennaro. Gibson.

8 CM VANESSA GIBSON: Good afternoon

9 everyone. I am here.

10 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Gjonaj.

11 Grodenchik.

12 CM GRODENCHIK: I am here.

13 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Holden.

14 CM HOLDEN: Here.

15 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Kallos.

16 CM KALLOS: Here.

17 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Koo.

18 CM KOO: Present.

19 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Koslowitz.

20 CM KOSLOWITZ: Here.

21 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Lander.

22 CM LANDER: Here.

23 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: LEVIN.

24 CM LEVIN: HERE:

25 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Levine.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 CM LEVINE: Here.

3 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Louis.

4 CM LOUIS: Here.

5 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Miasel.

6 CM MIASEL: Here.

7 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Menchaca.

8 CM MENCHACA: Presente.

9 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Miller.

10 CM MILLER: Here.

11 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Moya.

12 CM MOYA: Here.

13 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Perkins.

14 Powers.

15 CM POWERS: Here.

16 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Reynoso.

17 CM REYNOSO: Here.

18 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Riley.

19 CM RILEY: Present.

20 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Rivera.

21 CM RIVERA: Present.

22 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Rodriguez.

23 CM RODRIGUEZ: Aqui tambien.

24 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Rose.

25 Rosenthal.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 CM ROSENTHAL: Here.

3 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Salamanca.

4 CM SALAMANCA: Present.

5 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Treygor.

6 CM TREYGOR: Here.

7 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Ulrich.

8 CM ULRICH: I'm present.

9 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Vallone.

10 CM VALLONE: Here.

11 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Van Bramer.

12 CM VAN BRAMER: Here.

13 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Yeger.

14 CM YEGER: Here.

15 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Matteo.

16 MINORITY LEADER MATTEO: Here.

17 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Cumbo.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Present.

19 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Speaker

20 Johnson.

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I'm here.

22 MIKE MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Madame

23 Majority Leader, we have a forum.

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so

25 much. We will now have today's invocation which will



1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 be delivered by Reverend Kelly U. Farrow, Spiritual  
3 Leader of Covent Avenue Baptist Church, located at  
4 420 Convent Avenue in Manhattan.

5 KERRY U. FARROW: Thank you, everyone.  
6 Can you join with me in a word of prayer? Dear God,  
7 we come today with petitions on our hearts and minds.  
8 We come asking you to hear our prayers, our desires,  
9 our joys, our hurts, and despairs. Sometimes, as  
10 black people, we wonder if you hear us. We wonder if  
11 you will be the Lord that will deliver us, but we  
12 think back on the liberation of our ancestors, and  
13 how you crushed their enemies and removed them danger  
14 seen and unseen, and we know we have a God who is our  
15 protector and remember, you are deliverable of your  
16 people, and liberation of the oppressed. So, we come  
17 today in the background of what you did yesterday,  
18 knowing your power is fully at work today, and we see  
19 how you work in and out of time into tomorrow. We  
20 come asking you to heal our land, add a soothing bond  
21 to our wounds, of our hearts and deliver us this day  
22 from the hands of injustice. Revive our joy, Oh God,  
23 restore our love and reconcile a kinder nature toward  
24 you and toward our neighbor. Teach us how to love as  
25 you love, show us how to forgive as you forgive, and

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 direct us into the truth of who you are in justice,  
3 faith and resilience. Lord, we love you. We know we  
4 need you. We need your guidance, we need your  
5 wisdom, and we need your protection. Lord, you are  
6 our high place. You are our citadel and we look to  
7 you to lead us and guide us along the way. The hymns  
8 teach us great is thy faithfulness, for you fail us  
9 not. We thank you Lord for your goodness you have  
10 given us in this life and the blessings we will have  
11 when we meet you in glory. We thank you Lord and we  
12 are grateful for your loving kindness towards us.  
13 We know there is none like you in the heavens or in  
14 the Earth, and we, your people, remember as our  
15 parents have taught us, as the ages has taught us,  
16 that you will never us nor forsake us, and for that,  
17 again, we say thank you. Oh Lord, you are the  
18 ancient of days. You are time itself, and we, your  
19 creation, honor you today. Thank you for breathing  
20 life into us and giving our lives purpose and honor.  
21 Teach us how to walk worthy of that purpose and  
22 honor, and display it in faithfulness, kindness, love  
23 and justice towards all people. Most of all, thank  
24 you for our salvation that rest fully and entirely in  
25 the person of Jesus Christ. Now to the one who is

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 able to keep us from falling, to the only rise God,  
3 be glory, power, and dominion now and forever more,  
4 Amen.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Amen. Thank you  
6 so much for that very timely prayer. I know that the  
7 hearts and minds of this body are very heavy with the  
8 losses that we have experience, so I thank you so  
9 much Reverend Farrow at this time. I would now like  
10 to ask the Council Member, Mark Levine to spread the  
11 invocation onto the record.

12 CM LEVINE: Thank Madame Majority Leader,  
13 and I'm really honored to do so, and honored to say a  
14 little bit about the incredible Reverend honorable  
15 Dr. Kelly U, Ursula Farrow who is known in our  
16 community as a preacher, educator, lecturer, mentor,  
17 social justice advocate, political voice, and  
18 businesswoman. Reverend Dr. Kelly finished her  
19 Bachelor's degree at NAYA college as a dual major in  
20 Business and Bible, went on to pursue her Masters of  
21 Business Administration with a concentration in Human  
22 Resource Management from NAYA School of Business.  
23 The following year, after completing her MBA, she  
24 graduated with her Masters in Divinity with a  
25 concentration in Theology from Alliance Theological

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 Seminary. Also, to add to her list of education  
3 accomplishments, Reverend Dr. Kelly has completed the  
4 requirements for her earned PhD in Education at  
5 Capella University with a concentration in Higher  
6 Education Administration. In the fall of 2018, Dr.  
7 Farrow created an inaugurated Circle of Sacred Fire,  
8 which is a preaching intensive designed to prepare  
9 women of color in ministry in the area of preaching.  
10 The alpha circle gathered a diverse population of 20  
11 women to focus on the circle's three fundamental  
12 principles, preaching with a black church context,  
13 preaching with the women as ethic, and preacher as  
14 person leadership development. Dr. Farrow is also  
15 part of the faculty at Pilar College in Newark, New  
16 Jersey as well as Manhattan College in Riverdale.  
17 Dr. Farrow's interdisciplinary womanist ethic is  
18 engaged with all things business in theology. As a  
19 womanist theologian in her various settings, she  
20 eloquently brings theological conversation and best  
21 practices in business ethics, organizational  
22 leadership, and ministry development. Dr. Farrow  
23 works in several area within the black church context  
24 and outside of it. Some of her appointments include  
25 Chief of Staff to the women of color and ministry

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 project. She also serves as a mentor to women in  
3 ministry in the New York City Cohort of Rise Together  
4 National Mentoring Network. Not only does she  
5 mentor, but she also creates safe spaces in context  
6 that empowers women and men in business and business  
7 development. Over a period of 10 years, Dr. Farrow  
8 has worked as a business consultant guiding startups  
9 to great success, and has held several senior  
10 leadership roles within top organizations in the  
11 private finance sector of nonprofit healthcare. Dr.  
12 Farrow has also received the honor and distinction of  
13 being inducted into the National Scholars Honor  
14 Society for Academic Excellence and was the recipient  
15 of the Young Outstanding Woman of America Award. She  
16 currently serves as a member of the Baptist  
17 Minister's Conference of greater New York and  
18 vicinity, and we're honored that she delivered our  
19 invocation today. Thank you and back to you Madame  
20 Majority Leader.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so  
22 much, Council Member Levine, and thank you for  
23 sharing Dr. Reverend Farrow with us today. She is  
24 such a joy and force of power throughout New York  
25 City, and we see clearly why you recommended her

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 today to give today's prayer. I would now, at this  
3 time, like have the adoption of minutes by Council  
4 Member, Brad Lander. Council Member Lander, you may  
5 be on mute.

6 CM LANDER: Madame Majority Leader, can  
7 you hear me? I apologize. My connection is  
8 unstable.

9 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Yes, we can hear you.

10 CM LANDER: All right, thank you. I move  
11 that the minutes of the stated meeting of the City  
12 Council on February 11th, 2021 be adopted as  
13 permitted.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so  
15 much, Council Member Lander. We will now move right  
16 into messages and papers from the Mayor.

17 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: One.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Communication  
19 from City, County, and Borough offices.

20 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: M287 the election of  
21 James F. Gennaro, new Council Member 24th District.

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Congratulations to  
23 Council Member Gennaro. Received, ordered, printed,  
24 and filed.

25

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Preconsidered M288 and  
3 289 transfer of city funds and new revenues.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Finance.

5 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: M290 withdrawing  
6 Celia Cea Weaver for appointment to the Planning  
7 Commission.

8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Received, ordered,  
9 printed and filed.

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Petitions and  
11 Communications.

12 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: None.

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Land use callups.

14 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: None.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, and  
16 will now have communication from Speaker Corey  
17 Johnson.

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you, Madame  
19 Majority Leader. Good afternoon, welcome to our  
20 Stated Meeting. As everyone knows, our mission hit a  
21 tragic and unfortunate milestone this week. On  
22 Monday, American counted half a million Americans who  
23 have died from COVID-19, and it's pretty certain that  
24 that is an underestimate of the number of people that  
25 we've lost. In New York City, as of yesterday,

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING  
2 29,860 of our neighbors and loved ones and friends  
3 have died from this virus. We have done so much hard  
4 work so far, and we have a lot of hard work ahead of  
5 us to make sure that more New Yorkers get vaccinated  
6 and that we are taking more steps to help our city  
7 recover from COVID-19. Before we dive into our  
8 legislative agenda, I want to take a moment to  
9 acknowledge some important loses in our city in  
10 addition to the folks that we've lost from COVID. As  
11 always, we acknowledge those who died while on the  
12 job, and I'm sad to say that we have two of those  
13 deaths today. On February 18th, an elevator mechanic  
14 apprentice, named Joseph Rosa died in an accident in  
15 the Bronx. He was 25 years old. We also lost Dante  
16 Thomas, a deli working on February 16th, he was shot  
17 and killed while working at a Bronx deli, he was 33  
18 years old, and as we do at every Stated Meeting, I  
19 want to remember the lives of those that we lost to  
20 9-11 related illnesses. We recently lost Detective  
21 Marcos Quinones of the New York City Police  
22 Department, before he retired from the NYPD,  
23 Detective Quinones was a top expert in religious  
24 cults at the police department. He was 65 years old.  
25 I also want to acknowledge the death of police



1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 officer, Nicolas Propero. He was 48 years old and we  
3 lost Sergeant Adrian Rodriguez of the NYPD. We also  
4 mourn the passing of police officer Terrance  
5 Connolly, who proudly served in 112th police precinct  
6 in Queens, he was 47 years old. EMS Lieutenant, Page  
7 Humphreys, from station 16, also died of 9-11 related  
8 illnesses and retired after 39 years of service, and  
9 we lost fire patrolman, Robert Renold of the New York  
10 City Fire Patrol. He was 67 years old. Recently,  
11 Barry Delawl of the Department of Sanitation lost his  
12 battle to 9-11 related illness. We are sending our  
13 condolences to all of their families and friends, and  
14 we have some exceptionally sad news here as part of  
15 our council family. We lost Emanuel, better known as  
16 Manny, Braxton, life companion to our friend and  
17 colleague, Council Member Debbie Rose. Stylish and  
18 smart, Manny was devoted supporter of Debbie. He  
19 even designed shirts featuring her portrait. He wore  
20 those shirts proudly. Manny is survived by his  
21 sister, Dorothy Lee Green, sons Emanuel Braxton, Jr.  
22 and Emory Braxton, and daughter, Shana as well as her  
23 sister, Kelly Haroldson. Debbie, we are so deeply  
24 sorry for your loss and we send our condolences in  
25 the name of the council to Manny's family, to you,

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 and your family. We know how much Manny meant to  
3 you. Together, I think more than 40 years, you and  
4 Manny, we are so deeply sorry. We are also very sad  
5 to report that our dear friend and colleague, Adrian  
6 Adams unexpectedly lost her mother last night in the  
7 middle of the night. We just learned about this a  
8 few hours ago, and we don't have a lot of details,  
9 but it was very, very sudden. Ruth Edy Middleton was  
10 a retired New York City Correction Captain, and this  
11 is a devastating, devastating loss for Council Member  
12 Adams who was extremely close to her mother. I spoke  
13 to her earlier and she said that her mother was her  
14 best friend. As many of you, I'm sure remember,  
15 Council Member Adams lost her father to COVID in May.  
16 It has been a really, really difficult year for  
17 Council Member Adam and her family and we are hugging  
18 you and wishing that we could be there in person to  
19 comfort you and provide solace to you and Jay and  
20 your family. Let us pause for a moment for silence  
21 for Manny Braxon, Ruth Edy Middleton, Joseph Rosa,  
22 Dante Thomas, Marco Quinones, Nicholas Propero,  
23 Adrian Rodrigues, Terrance Connolly, Page Humphreys,  
24 Robert Renold, Barry Delawl, and all of those that we  
25 have lost to COVID-19. We are thinking of you Debbie

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 and Adrian. Also, I'd like not that the city has  
3 seen a horrific wave of attacks against Asian and  
4 Asian Americans. We cannot allow the Asian community  
5 or any of our communities to live in fear and to be  
6 unfairly targeted. These senseless and heartless  
7 attacks are an attack on our entire city and on our  
8 city's values. I want to acknowledge that tomorrow  
9 is the 20th anniversary of the first terrorist attack  
10 on the World Trade Center. We lost six New Yorkers  
11 that day, and more than 1000 people were injured.  
12 This is a tragedy that we do not forget, and let's  
13 recognize that this evening, our Jewish friends and  
14 neighbors are honoring the Holiday of Purim. To  
15 everyone celebrating, we wish you a happy and joyous  
16 Purim, and on the final note, I want to welcome back  
17 Council Member Jim Gennaro to the Council.

18 Congratulations. I'm not sure if he's here yet.  
19 CM GENNARO: I'm here, I'm here Mr.  
20 Speaker.

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Oh wonderful,  
22 wonderful. Well, we are so happy to have you here,  
23 Council Member Gennaro. You were an esteemed member  
24 of this body for many, many years and we are just  
25 very fortunate, and your District is fortunate to

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 have you back, so, welcome to your first Zoom Stated  
3 Meeting, and we look forward to hearing you, and also  
4 to recording your votes later day. Now, let's dive  
5 into our agenda. Today, it includes several bills  
6 designed to strengthen our city out of the Land Use  
7 Committee who will be voting on the following items.  
8 The Cork Theater, a project which will facility the  
9 rehabilitation and expansion of the Landmark Theater  
10 and the development of a hotel on zoning lot in  
11 Council Member's Keith Power's District, 42-01 28th  
12 Avenue rezoning which will facilitate the development  
13 of a new eight-story mixed-use building with 54  
14 housing units, including approximately 14 affordable  
15 units, and Council Member Costa Constantinides'  
16 District, 16th Avenue rezoning. We will vote to  
17 disapprove the applications for rezoning to allow a  
18 five-story commercial office building which is out of  
19 context with the character of the surrounding  
20 residential area, and this rezoning was slated to  
21 take place in Council Member Kalman Yeger's District.  
22 We're voting on a landmark's preservation commission  
23 designation of the East 25th Street historic District  
24 in Council Member Farah Louis' District, the first  
25 historic District in East Flatbush. Congratulations

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 Council Member. The Everlasting Pine HDFC ground

3 lease amendment, a UDAC project approval and

4 disposition to amend the ground lease for additional

5 50-year term. This will facilitate the preservation

6 of 87 apartments for seniors in Council Member

7 Margaret Chin's District. The Harlem, East Harlem

8 Urban Renewal Plan will extend the duration of the

9 plan for 40 years in Council Members Bill Perkins and

10 Diana Ayala's Districts. 214-32 Hillside Avenue

11 rezoning will facility the development of a two-story

12 commercial building with parking in Council Member

13 Barry Grodenchik's District, and out of the Finance

14 Committee, we'll be voting on several items.

15 Introduction number 2046A, sponsored by Council

16 Member Brad Lander will clarify and codify the

17 existing requirement in practice of the Mayor issuing

18 capital commitment plans and capital project detail

19 reports. The current language of the charter does

20 not clearly delineate the requirement and timelines

21 of the two distinct reports that are produced and

22 this bill will address that clarity. Brad has been

23 working on these issues for a long time. This comes

24 on the capital tracker that we did that was his bill

25 last year, so I want to congratulate him, and from

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING  
2 the staff, I want to thank Rebecca Chasen and  
3 Stephanie Ruiz. Preconsidered introduction which is  
4 sponsored by Council Member, Danny Dromm, our Finance  
5 Committee chair would extend the date by which the  
6 council has to submit its preliminary budget response  
7 from March 25th to April 1st, and I want to thank  
8 Rebecca Chasen from our Finance Division for that,  
9 and the other preconsidered introduction of the  
10 Finance Committee, sponsored by Council Member Dromm,  
11 would extend for the 2021 to 2022 tax year, all  
12 senior citizen and disabled home owner property tax  
13 exemptions C and D which were received in the 2020 to  
14 2021 tax year without requiring the submission of a  
15 new renewal application except in four circumstances  
16 where the Department of Finance has reason to believe  
17 the property is no longer eligible to receive the  
18 benefit. Those circumstances are; the owner may have  
19 died, the owner has sold the property to a new owner,  
20 a new owner was added to the deed, or the owner no  
21 longer uses the property as a primary residence, and  
22 from the staff, again, I want to thank Rebecca Chasen  
23 and Emory Adev. We will be voting on two article 11  
24 property tax exemptions. One in Council Member's  
25 Ayala's District and one in Council Member Antonio

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 Reynoso's District. A transparency resolution, an  
3 expense budget modification, and revenue budget  
4 modification. Moving on to our legislative agenda.  
5 Our first bill comes out of our Economic Development  
6 Committee and is sponsored by Council Member Paul  
7 Vallone. Introduction number 1839A will require the  
8 Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation to submit  
9 an annual report to the Mayor and the City Council  
10 Speaker detailing progress on the entity's master  
11 plan for land use. The Legislation will facilitate  
12 ongoing oversight of the long-term development of the  
13 Brooklyn Navy Yard. From the staff, I want to thank  
14 Joshua Kingsley and Emily Forgeon. Next, we have two  
15 bills related to fire safety at film production sites  
16 Coming of out of the Fire and Emergency Management  
17 Committee. This legislation responds to instances  
18 like the tragic, tragic death of firefighter, Michael  
19 Davidson. He lost his life battling a fire at a  
20 converted brownstone being used as a film set. The  
21 fire department was unaware of the brownstone was  
22 film production location and that it was altered with  
23 temporary walls and subdivisions to facilitate  
24 filming while impeding means of egress and altering  
25 the building's layout. As a result, firefighter

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 Davidson was trapped in the burning building.

3 Introduction number 1849A, sponsored by Council

4 Member Joe Borelli will require the fire department

5 to establish fire safety provisions for certain film

6 production locations. The legislation will also

7 establish a certificate of fitness for a production

8 location fire safety manager that also designates

9 circumstances where certain filming activities will

10 require fire department inspection or supervision of

11 the location or the presence of a production location

12 fire safety manager during filming, and I really want

13 to acknowledge and continue to send condolences out

14 to firefighter Davidson's widow, Eileen, who was

15 instrumental as part of moving this package of bills

16 forward with Council Member Borelli, the chair of the

17 committee, and of course, with Council Member Cornegy

18 who has the next bill, introduction number 1852A,

19 sponsored by Council Member Cornegy which would

20 require any person permitted for scouting, rigging,

21 and production activities to provide film set

22 blueprints in advance to the fire department. The

23 legislation would also require that the fire

24 department and the Mayor's office and Media and

25 Entertainment establish protocols to enable



1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING  
2 interagency information sharing requiring film  
3 production activities authorized by a permit obtained  
4 from the Mayor's office of Media and Entertainment.  
5 Under the bill, these protocols would provide the  
6 fire department with access to all permit  
7 information, require local fire houses to be notified  
8 when certain film permits are issued, and enable fire  
9 fighters to receive detailed information on  
10 production location conditions including any  
11 alterations. The bills requires that at film  
12 production locations, means of egress are maintained,  
13 portable fire extinguishers are present, and the  
14 location is maintained free of accumulated flammable  
15 waste. I want to thank from the staff, Joshua  
16 Kingsley and I want to thank the two major unions  
17 that represent members of the FDNY, the UFA, led  
18 their president, Andy Answell, and from UFOA, Jake  
19 Lamonda. They were instrumental to this bill as  
20 well. Thank you to UFA and the UFOA for their  
21 partnership and help on this. The next bill is  
22 related to renewable Riker's and the city council's  
23 vision for the future of the island. Introduction  
24 number 1591B, sponsored by Council Member Costa  
25 Constantinides, would require the Department of

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 Environmental Protection in consultation with the  
3 Department of Sanitation to study the feasibility of  
4 constructing a new wastewater treatment facility on  
5 Riker's Island. This study will take in  
6 consideration population projections, the minimum and  
7 maximum capacity of wastewater treatment facilities,  
8 what it should have, and the amount of wastewater  
9 that can be diverted from other facilities. Also the  
10 Department of Environmental Protection would assess  
11 the presence of methane on the island and the  
12 potential for installing methane recovery systems.  
13 The Department of Environmental Protection would  
14 solicit public comments and the Riker's Island  
15 Advisory Committee would make its own  
16 recommendations. The review would be submitted to  
17 the Mayor, the Council Speaker and the Riker's Island  
18 Advisory Committee and the public within three years.  
19 I want to thank from the staff, Rod Reed, Samara  
20 Swaston, and Nicloe Abend. The pandemic has been  
21 particular devastating for our city's homebound  
22 seniors. Especially those who are over 75 years old,  
23 who are at the highest risk for hospitalization and  
24 death from COVID-19. We need to get more of them  
25 vaccinated. That means creating a system to go to

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 them instead of having them to have to go out and try  
3 to get to a far-away appointment. The council will  
4 vote on legislation that does that. The bill comes  
5 out of our Aging Committee. Introduction number  
6 2225A, sponsored by Council Member, Mark Treygor who  
7 created a plan to vaccinate homebound seniors. Under  
8 the legislation, the Commissioner of Health and  
9 Mental Hygiene or another designated agency would  
10 establish a plan to vaccinate homebound seniors for  
11 COIVD-19 and post the plan on the department's  
12 website. The commissioner of Health and Mental  
13 Hygiene or another designated agency would also be  
14 required to report to the council an implementation  
15 of the plan every two month after the plan is issued,  
16 and I want to thank from the staff, Habani Ahauja,  
17 Sarah Liss, and Nell Bigman. Next the council will  
18 vote on five resolutions. Four out of our  
19 Immigration Committee and the last one from the  
20 Education Committee. Immigration New Yorkers have  
21 been disproportionately impacted by the devastating  
22 effects of COVID-19 and today, we are voting on four  
23 resolutions that seek to protect immigrants. Three  
24 of the immigration resolutions are from Council  
25 Member, Mathieu Eugene, calls on the Department of

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 Homeland Security to halt deportation proceedings

3 during the COVID-19 pandemic to restrict the global

4 spread of the disease. Resolution number 1417A, also

5 by Council Member Eugene calls on the Department of

6 Homeland Security to place a moratorium on all

7 removal proceedings for employment-based status

8 holders who lost their employment because of the

9 pandemic. Resolution number 1418A, also by Council

10 Member Eugene, calls on Congress to pass and the

11 President to sign legislation that would allow

12 employment-based visa holders to retrain lawful

13 status after their jobs, if the loss was due to the

14 COVID-19 pandemic. This legislation would provide

15 temporary work and residency authorization for

16 foreign-born individuals laid off because of the

17 pandemic. The last resolution in the immigration

18 package is resolution 1419A, sponsored by Council

19 Member Francisco Moya. This resolution calls on the

20 Federal Government to pass legislation that would

21 provide immigration relief for family members of

22 frontline workers in the health profession who have

23 died because of COVID-19, and from the staff, I wan

24 to thank Elizabeth Crown and Habani Ahauja for their

25 work on those four resolutions coming out of the

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING  
2 Immigration Committee, and lastly, our fifth  
3 resolution is one coming out of the Education  
4 Committee. Resolution number 1473, sponsored by  
5 Council Member Farah Louis, calls on the Department  
6 of Education to ensure remote learning is as  
7 affective as possible for students with disabilities.  
8 This resolution calls on the Department of Education  
9 to ensure parents are well-prepared and receive the  
10 necessary training to support and assist their  
11 children with remote learning, children who have  
12 disabilities, and I want to thank from the staff, Jan  
13 Atwell for her work on that resolution. Before I  
14 turn it back to you, Madame Majority Leader, I want  
15 to also say that we lost someone else that I was  
16 remiss in mentioning. Council Member Kevin Riley's  
17 grandfather, Noll Oscar Riley, he was a community  
18 leader in Coop City. He was 97 years old, and I want  
19 to recognize him and remember him today and send our  
20 condolences to Council Member Riley and his family.  
21 So, with that, I turn it back to you, Majority Leader  
22 Cumbo.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,  
24 Speaker Johnson. We will now move into discussion of  
25 General Orders. We will recognize who wish to speak

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 by using the rise hand function in Zoom. Please wait  
3 before you begin your remarks for our Sergeant at  
4 Arms to announce he has begun the countdown clock.  
5 The Sergeant at Arms will alert you when your time  
6 has expired. Mr. Parliamentarian, are there any  
7 Council Members registered to speak at this time.

8 LANCE POLIVY, PARLIAMENTARIAN: Yes,  
9 Madame Majority Leader. Council Members Lander,  
10 Salamanca, and Power.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Okay, we will  
12 begin with Council Member Lander.

13 CM LANDER: Thank you, Madame Majority  
14 Leader. There was a mix up with the dates earlier.  
15 I thought we were adopting the minutes of the  
16 February 11th meeting, but we are actually adopting  
17 the minutes of the January 28th meeting, so I make a  
18 motion for unanimous consent to adopt the minute of  
19 the City Council meeting of January 28th, 2021.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

21 CM LANDER: Thank you.

22 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: And do you also  
23 wish to speak at this time?

24 CM LANDER: That's okay. I'll speak  
25 during the, during the vote.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Okay, I thought  
3 we had a trooper. So, now, we will go to Council  
4 Member Salamanca, followed by Council Member Powers.

5 SGT. MARTINEZ: Time begins now.

6 CM SALAMANCA: Thank you, Majority  
7 Leader. At the last stated meeting, I brought up  
8 some concerns regarding the renewable Riker's  
9 package. Again, my position is that I believe in  
10 these bills. My concern was that there was no  
11 communication to the Community Board in the Bronx  
12 which oversees Riker's. My voice was heard. I want  
13 to thank Council Member Costa Constantinides. He met  
14 with the Community Board yesterday and there's a  
15 commitment again to have an in depth presentation  
16 with Bronx Community Board next month, and I just  
17 wanted to inform my colleagues and I just want to  
18 congratulation Costa and I will be voting yes on  
19 Intro 1591. Thank you.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you Council  
21 Member Salamanca. Council Member Powers.

22 CM Powers: Thank you. Hi, good evening,  
23 or good afternoon everyone. First of all, I want to  
24 welcome our new colleague, but an old colleague, Jim  
25 Gennaro back to City Council. Looking forward to

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 working along side of you. I just want to say two  
3 things. One is I want to thank Council Member Riley  
4 and Council Member Cornegy for their bills today on  
5 the fire safety. Firefighter, Michael Davidson was a  
6 friend and his family, and Eileen, and the kids, also  
7 a friend, and that loss was loss not just to people I  
8 know, but to the entire city, and I really am  
9 grateful for their work here to make sure that that  
10 never happens again and that no family and no group  
11 of friends have to lose something like firefighter,  
12 Michael Davidson, so I want a very big thank you to  
13 them. We're also taking a vote today on the Cork  
14 Theater which is in my District which is a Broadway  
15 theater that is taking advantage of (Inaudible) to  
16 allow them to do a rehab of their theater. I don't  
17 have to tell anybody that moment where Broadway has  
18 the lights off, is a really important moment to make  
19 sure that we can move forward on an important project  
20 to modernize a theater and to bring back Broadway  
21 stronger than ever before. So, I would ask you all  
22 for your support on that. I want to thank chairs  
23 Salamanca and Moya and Raju, and the (Inaudible) for  
24 working very, very hard over the last couple of  
25 years, but particularly in the last few weeks to get



1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 that done, and I ask everyone to vote yes, today, so,  
3 thank you, and Ms. Majority Leader, I thank you for  
4 your consideration.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. Mr.  
6 Parliamentarian, are there any other members who wish  
7 to speak at this time?

8 LANCE POLIVY, PARLIAMENTARIAN: Yes,  
9 Council Members Constantinides, Riley, Cornegy, and  
10 Vallone.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member  
12 Constantinides, you may begin.

13 CM CONSTANTINIDES: Thank you, Majoriy  
14 Leader Cumbo. First, I want to begin by thanking my  
15 colleague, Council Member Salamanca for his  
16 graciousness and the ability to have the conversation  
17 that we did yesterday with Community Board in the  
18 Bronx, and I'm looking forward to many years of  
19 partnership as we move and transition Riker's island  
20 to a better Riker's, so, thank you for your  
21 partnership and of course, thank you to the Speaker  
22 for your leadership as well. Today's we're going to  
23 be moving forward into 1591B as a Riker's Act that  
24 would be VP Commissioner in Consultation with the  
25 Sanitation Commissioner to assess the feasibility of

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 conduction a wastewater treatment facility on Riker's  
3 Island. The study would consider a population  
4 projection and possible alternatives to wastewater  
5 treatment disposable as well as (Inaudible) maximum  
6 capacity by wastewater treatment facility on the  
7 island, and looking at how wastewater might be able  
8 to be diverted from other facilities such as  
9 Huntpoint, Bowery Bay or College Point, and the  
10 capacity for future capture of CSOs on the island.  
11 The bill will also look at organic waste, recycling,  
12 recomposting, codigestion, biosolid reuse to assess  
13 methane, a potential for installation of methane  
14 recovery systems, and also look at the Riker's Island  
15 Advisory to be able to make recommendation to the  
16 department regarding the feasibility and (Inaudible)  
17 the presence of methane. I want to thank all of the  
18 advocates have worked so hard on all of these bills,  
19 Videll Guzman, Condra Clark, Marco Barrios, Rebecca  
20 Bradsfry, the Freedom Agenda, Nija Nilpi, the Lipman  
21 Commission, (Inaudible) you're always in our  
22 thoughts, father, we miss you, the NRDC, Shamara  
23 Swanston, and our staff, Brad Reed, Nicole Inbee,  
24 Laura Popa, Nick Rolsowsky, my former Chief of Staff,  
25 Nick Prosen, Nick Aravontis, my former

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 Communication's Director, Toms Collin, and thank you  
3 my colleagues for your consideration today, thank  
4 you.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.  
6 Council Member Borelli.

7 CM BORELLI: Thank you, Madame Majority  
8 Leader. I just wanted to remind my colleagues that  
9 at every stated meeting, we start out by reading the  
10 names of city workers who died serving our city, and  
11 on April 11th, 2018, we did the same thing with the  
12 name of firefighter Michael Davidson, and unlike so  
13 many of those, we actually have the opportunity to  
14 make the changes that could prevent future deaths  
15 like that which, unfortunately, and tragically happen  
16 to him, so, these two bills that are coming out of  
17 the Committee on Fire and Emergency Management,  
18 fundamentally, changed the way the fire department  
19 responds to the film industry, and the way film  
20 industry keeps and treats their sets as safe working  
21 environments. I want to thank one person in  
22 particular, Ms. Eileen Davidson, who has been an  
23 absolute rock on this issue since the beginning. She  
24 has sat through in person with so many of our  
25 meetings, and you know, just has been stoic as we

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 spit-balled and hashed out the circumstances really,  
3 that led to the death of her husband, and I know  
4 she's doing it for her four children, and today, we  
5 also heard from Michael Davidson's parents who are  
6 really supportive of this bill, so I want to thank  
7 them for their commitment to making things better for  
8 future members of the FDNY. I want to thank the UFA  
9 for their support, the President, Andy Ansboro and  
10 the Vice President Bobby Eustice, and of course, I  
11 want to thank our staff who worked on the bill, my  
12 staff member, Fred Masha, Josh Kingsley, Jeff Baker,  
13 Rachel Cordera, William Hungatch, and Jason Goldman,  
14 who everyone knows is just always so pleasant to deal  
15 with. So, this bill will really impact the way we do  
16 business in New York City. It will allow the film  
17 industry to keep operating. We love them. We want  
18 them, and it will be done safer, so thank you.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so  
20 much. Council Member Cornegy.

21 CM CORNEGY: Thank you, Madame, Madame  
22 Majority Leader. Can you hear me?

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Yes, we can.

24 CM CORNEGY: First of all, I want to say  
25 thank you to Speaker Corey Johnson for creating an

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 environment where we can actually work across the  
3 aisles and set an example for this nation, that when  
4 we set our sights on doing something on behalf of our  
5 first responders, there is space in this crazy  
6 political environment to work across the aisles. I  
7 had the chance to work with Chair Borelli on these  
8 two bill, and in particular, my bill. So, good  
9 afternoon. My name is Council Member Robert Cornegy.  
10 I'd like all of my colleagues to have an obligation  
11 to make sure that New Yorkers do not die needlessly,  
12 especially in the commission of their assigned  
13 duties. Earlier today, we had a Zoom meeting  
14 including Eileen Davidson and her young children who,  
15 quite frankly, were much more well-behaved than mine  
16 would have been during these circumstances. Ms.  
17 Davidson is mourning the loss of her husband,  
18 Lieutenant Michael Davidson, and these children will  
19 spend most of their lives without their father.  
20 Lieutenant Davidson should not have died. His wife  
21 should not have been mourning his life, and her grief  
22 compels me to act. Lieutenant Davidson died during a  
23 5-alarm fire at a Harlem walkup on March 22, 2018.  
24 The film production company altered the building  
25 during and created a hazard resulting in his death.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 That is why Council Member Borelli and I sponsored  
3 intros 1849A and 1852A. Our city must provide  
4 adequate information when then the firefighters  
5 arrive at a building that has been altetered during a  
6 filming. We urge immediate and I'm asking for all of  
7 my colleagues to vote yes on these bills. At heart,  
8 they were very simple. Film production company  
9 should communicate better with the fire department,  
10 and onsite locations for film production should be  
11 cleared of life-threatening violations. With our new  
12 powers of communication, I see no reason why we can't  
13 communicate and improve communication between filming  
14 production companies and the fire department as we  
15 try to include communication. In the age of  
16 Instagram and Twitter, we also have the opportunity  
17 to honor and strengthen older forms of  
18 communications. That's why I want to also mark the  
19 introduction of New York City Living Treasure  
20 legislation I introduced today with Council Members  
21 Mark Gjonaj and Cumbo. Our city serves as home to  
22 numerable cultural traditions, festivals and art  
23 forms. These serve as an undispsible part of the  
24 intangible cultural heritage of our city. This  
25 Living Treasure legislation will put our city in line

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 with decades long-efforts to elevate intangible  
3 cultural heritage from the 1950s to now. I urge my  
4 colleagues to sign on to this Living Treasures  
5 legislation as well. Thank you, so much Madame  
6 Majority Leader for this time.

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.  
8 Council Member Vallone.

9 SGT. MARTINEZ: Time begins.

10 CM VALLONE: Thank you, Madame Majority  
11 Leader. First and foremost, I wish all of our love,  
12 prayer, and condolences to Council Members Rose and  
13 Adams during these times. Welcome back Council  
14 Member Jim Gennaro, and I just wanted to take this  
15 time now, cause I don't think I'll be able to later,  
16 to just explain a little about 1839. So, thank you  
17 to Speaker Johnson, always proud to stand with you,  
18 especially on this legislation. The Brooklyn Navy  
19 Yard has evolved from it's early as a Navy ship  
20 building yard. It's one of the city's most well-run  
21 engines for economic development. The yard provides  
22 stable, affordable space for industrial businesses  
23 with 450 employing 11,000 people and generating over  
24 2.5 billion per year in economic activity. The joint  
25 partnership is a template for the future growth and

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 viability of all small businesses manufacturing  
3 technology and industry expansion, especially during  
4 the pandemic and resulting finance hardship the city  
5 faces. However, we must not forget that our city is  
6 the ultimate landlord for all city-owned properties.  
7 Therefore, it is imperative that the city council is  
8 included in the process and kept informed on the  
9 progress of any new and ongoing results, especially  
10 when the property is vital and successful as the  
11 Brooklyn Navy Yards. Prior to Intro 1839, we had  
12 none. Today's bill brings much needed accountability  
13 to one of the city's most vital economic assets,  
14 especially in light of the ongoing expansion of the  
15 Navy Yard's master plan, which was announced in 2018.  
16 Any significant investment made by the city should  
17 come with the equally significant oversight and  
18 transparency to ensure that we are responsible using  
19 tax-payer funds. We accord the Navy Yard Development  
20 Corp and the businesses for their hard work  
21 throughout the pandemic, and I'd like to thank my  
22 fellow Council Member who voted unanimously in favor  
23 of the bill this morning as well as Jeffrey Baker,  
24 Emily Forgeon, Alex Polinoff, Josh Kingsley, my Chief  
25 of Staff, Jonathan Shook, and again our Speaker for



1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 all of our records to bring today to a vote. I urge  
3 my colleagues to vote I, and lastly, Madame Majority  
4 Leader, may I have permission to vote on all items on  
5 today's calendar?

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
7 granted.

8 CM VALLONE: The right to vote I on all  
9 matters on today's calendar except sustain on 2231  
10 for a later date, hoping to get further information  
11 on the Department of Finance senior executives.  
12 Thank you, Madame Majority Leader.

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you Council  
14 Member Vallone. Are there any members in this  
15 department who wish to speak?

16 LANCE POLIVY, PARLIAMENTARIAN: Yes,  
17 Darma Diaz and Council Member Yeger.

18 SGT. MARTINEZ: Time begins.

19 LANCE POLIVY, PARLIAMENTARIAN: Again,  
20 this is a reminder this only about items that will be  
21 on the General Orders calendar today.

22 CM DARMA V. DIAZ: Thank you for this  
23 opportunity. I'll be quick, I'll be brief. I just  
24 want to personally thank on behalf of the clients  
25 that I have worked with in system that whose status

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 is documented in immigrants. I want to thank you for  
3 the resolutions you're presenting today. Having  
4 dealt with individuals that were not able to obtain  
5 apartments during COVID because of their lack of  
6 income, and by meeting these four resolutions, it  
7 just brings it home to me, and knowing that I  
8 represent a diverse community, I just want to thank  
9 you for just having the conversation and knowing that  
10 I'm amongst individuals that are focused. I'm oftentimes  
11 asked, "Why do you mind advocating for those that  
12 cannot vote for you". It is my duty and it is my  
13 obligation as a human being to assure that everyone I  
14 come in contact with has a voice. So, therefore, I  
15 encourage my colleagues to support in the resolutions  
16 that are presented today. Thank you.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,  
18 Council Member Diaz. Council Member Yeger.

19 CM YEGER: Thank you. In December, the  
20 legislature passed and the governor signed the  
21 Emergency Eviction and Foreclosure Act of 2020.  
22 Among other provisions, the legislation required the  
23 city to carry over the senior citizen's home owner  
24 exemptions and disabled home owner exemptions from  
25 last year to the next year without requiring a new

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 application. Today, the council considers  
3 Introduction 2231, which will allow the city to deny  
4 to any property owner whom the Department of Finance  
5 "has reason to believe" may no longer be entitled to  
6 the exemption. These property owners would be  
7 required to file an application by March 15th, a  
8 little over two weeks from now. To be clear, if this  
9 council does nothing today, if we do not pass this  
10 law, every homeowner entitled to the exemptions will  
11 receive it without doing anything more. This law  
12 allows the city to deny to certain homeowner. For  
13 example, if the Department of Finance believes the  
14 homeowner has passed away, who amongst us wants to  
15 explain to a senior citizen that, "Oh, so sorry, but  
16 the city thought you were dead". We all have  
17 constituents who with the passage of this law will be  
18 required to file new applications in 18 days;  
19 otherwise, they will be denied the exemptions.  
20 Today, we are wisely passing Intro 2225, which I'm  
21 proud to cosponsor, acknowledging that so many of our  
22 seniors are homebound and need our help.  
23 Introduction 2231 does the opposite. If you are  
24 absolutely comfortable with the idea that the  
25 Department of Finance never errors, that it's data is

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 always correct, that an eligible senior citizen or  
3 disable homeowner has never been improperly denied an  
4 exemption, then this bill for you, vote your  
5 conscious. But if you are like me and you believe  
6 that once again, the city is balancing it's budget  
7 improperly on the backs of our neighbors, that is it  
8 is likely as not that they department will declare  
9 dead those very much alive, that if an error is made  
10 by the department, there will be insufficient time to  
11 fix by March 15th, then please join me in voting no.  
12 Remember, if we vote no, not a single eligible senior  
13 citizen or disabled homeowner will lose the  
14 exemption. It is only a yes vote that will  
15 potentially cause this result. I urge you, please  
16 join me in voting no today on 2231 and stand up for  
17 our neighbors. They will all receives this  
18 exemption. Nobody will be denied. Thank you.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,  
20 Council Member Yeger. Just to be sure, Mr.  
21 Parliamentarian, are there any other members who wish  
22 to speak that we have not acknowledged at this time?

23 LANCE POLIVY, PARLIAMENTARIAN: Two more.  
24 Council Members Rosenthal and Gjonaj.

25

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member  
3 Rosenthal, you may begin following the time clock.

4 SGT. MARTINEZ: Time begins.

5 CM ROSENTHAL: Thank you so much. I  
6 don't think I would have spoken up about this before,  
7 but I rise to remind everyone that, I guess if you  
8 have, the Department of Finance has a list of people  
9 who are part of the exemption category. I think it's  
10 about 800 people, and I think people should do the  
11 responsible thing which is reach out to the members  
12 of their community who are on that list to make sure  
13 that if they are eligible that they can fill out the  
14 paperwork. I know that's work that my office does  
15 every year anyways, and we, of course will be  
16 reaching out to the people in our District and we  
17 have, I guess, a little over two weeks to fill it  
18 out. You know, what I am so impressed by the  
19 Department of Finance is that their not sort of  
20 taking the sloppy approach of just automatically  
21 renewing all of them, but instead, being responsible  
22 bureaucrats by identifying people in homes that may  
23 no longer be eligible for what is a sacred tax  
24 deduction for those who are struggling. It's so  
25 important for those who are struggling to get those

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 exemptions, but it's also so important that those who  
3 try to cheat the system, maybe sell their property or  
4 add in somebody onto their lease who is also bringing  
5 in an income to make sure those people do not benefit  
6 from an exemption that they no longer are, you know  
7 able to get. You know, our tax dollars are precious.  
8 We have so many needs in our city, and I just want to  
9 thank the Speaker. I want to thank the Finance team  
10 for making sure that this legislation is good and  
11 solid, and of course, we should make sure, keep our  
12 Department of Finance's feet to the fire to make sure  
13 that they do right by all of those who are eligible  
14 for the exemption. I know I'll be watching that very  
15 closely in my desk track. Thank you very much.

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so much  
17 Council Member Rosenthal. We will now have Council  
18 Member Gjonaj.

19 CM GJONAJ: Thank Majority Leader. First  
20 let me begin by extending my sincerest condolences to  
21 Council Member Adam's family on their loss. I will  
22 keep her and her family in my prayers as they deal  
23 with the loss of another loved one. I'll also take  
24 this moment to recognize and congratulation Council  
25 Member Gennaro on coming back to the City Council. I

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 want to echo some of the comments that were made by  
3 my colleagues including Council Member Rosenthal  
4 where I truly agree with her on transparency and  
5 making sure that our tax payer dollars are spent  
6 wisely on those that should be paying, must pay, but  
7 I want to firmly argue and reinforce the argument  
8 that Council Member Yeger made that two weeks is not  
9 sufficient time. Introduction 2231 will only give a  
10 little over two weeks' time for our most vulnerable,  
11 the very ones that we say we need to protect and  
12 defend, our senior citizens and our disabled  
13 homeowners that are currently receiving a real estate  
14 tax exemption. The Department of Finance has  
15 outlined four categories. One, death. Two, if there  
16 was a property transfer or sale. Three, adding a  
17 person to the deed or four, if there was any change  
18 in primary address. Of the 800 properties, Majority  
19 Leader, 28 are in my District. I received those  
20 addresses yesterday. Of the 28, my own research  
21 revealed, four are death-related, six are for  
22 transfer of what appears to be a sale, leaving 18  
23 properties, six which have no change that I can  
24 confirm of any of those four aside of a satisfaction  
25 of mortgage as being a reason for change, and lastly

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 12 are due to trust and family transfers with an  
3 added family member where the last name is correlated  
4 to that homeowner. We are going to be doing an  
5 injustice to our most invulnerable homeowners who are  
6 in a pandemic where we will not be able to reach them  
7 because they may not be here to \_\_\_\_\_, two, is they're  
8 currently living with their children as this pandemic  
9 and crisis has forced them to seek shelter in the  
10 homes where they can get the comfort and the  
11 healthcare that they need. So, I'm going to urge my  
12 colleagues and Council Members to consider this vote.  
13 It's 800 homes. Two weeks is not sufficient time.  
14 The damage can be permanent and overwhelming to our  
15 community homeowners. Thank you very much, Majority  
16 Leader.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so much  
18 Council Member Gjonaj. Are there any other members,  
19 Mr. Parliamentarian, who wish to speak at this time?

20 LANCE POLIVY, PARLIAMENTARIAN: No Madame  
21 Majority Leader.

22 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, and I  
23 thank all of our colleagues for their participation.  
24 At this time, we are going to have the Report of  
25 Special Committees.



1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: None.

3 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Reports of  
4 Standing Committess.

5 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Report on the  
6 Committee of Aging Intro 2225A COVID-19 vaccination  
7 for homebound seniors.

8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on  
9 General Orders.

10 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Report on the  
11 Committee of Economic Development in Intro 1839A,  
12 Brooklyn Navy Yard.

13 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on  
14 General Orders.

15 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Report on the  
16 Committee of Environmental Protection Intro 1591B  
17 Riker's Island Wastewater Treatment Facility.

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on  
19 General Orders.

20 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Report on the  
21 Committee of Finance. Intro 2046A, Capital Project  
22 Reports.

23 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on  
24 General Orders.

25

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Preconsidered Intro  
3 2230, Preliminary Budget Dates.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
5 Orders.

6 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Preconsidered Intro  
7 2231, Property Tax Exemptions.

8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
9 Orders.

10 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Preconsidered Reso  
11 1544, Transparency Reso.

12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
13 Orders.

14 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Preconsidered M288  
15 and Reso 1548 and M289, and Reso 1549, Transfer of  
16 City Funds and New Revenues.

17 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
18 Orders.

19 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Preconsidered LU731  
20 and Reso 1550, and preconsidered LU732 and Reso 1551,  
21 Tax Exemptions.

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
23 Orders.

24 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Report of the  
25 Committee on Fire and Emergency Management. Intros

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 1849A and 1852A, Film Production Fire Safety  
3 Provisions.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on  
5 General Orders.

6 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Report on the  
7 Committee of Land Use, LU714 and 715, 4211 9th Street  
8 Special Permit.

9 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Approved with  
10 modifications and referred to the City Planning  
11 Commission pursuant to Section 197D of the New York  
12 City Charter.

13 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: LU722, and Reso 1752,  
14 and LU723 and Reso 1553, 16th Avenue Rezoning.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Motion to disapprove.

16 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: LU724 and Reso 1554,  
17 East 25th Street, Historic District.

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
19 Orders.

20 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: LU725 and Reso 1555,  
21 Everlasting Pine HDFC Ground Lease Amendment.

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
23 Orders.

24 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: LU726 and Reso 1556,  
25 East Harlem URP amendment.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
3 Orders

4 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: LU727 and 728, 9114  
5 5th Avenue Rezoning.

6 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Approved with  
7 modifications and referring to the City Planning  
8 Commission pursuant to Section 197D of the New York  
9 City Charter.

10 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: LU729 and Reso 1557,  
11 21432 Hillside Avenue Rezoning.

12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
13 Orders.

14 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Report on the  
15 Committee of Rules, Privileges and Elections.  
16 Preconsidered Reso 1546, Council Committee Changes.

17 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
18 Orders.

19 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: On General Orders  
20 calendar, LU712 and Reso 1558 through LU721 and Reso  
21 1561 Various Applications.

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
23 Orders, and I'm asking that the Clerk take a roll  
24 call vote on all of the items that are coupled on  
25 today's General Orders Calendar.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Amprey-Samuel.

3 CM SAMUEL: I vote I on all.

4 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Ayala.

5 CM AYALA: I vote I on all.

6 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Barron.

7 CM BARRON: Permission to explain my  
8 vote.

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
10 granted.

11 SGT. MARTINEZ: Time begins.

12 CM BARRON: Thank you. I vote I on all  
13 with the exception of Intro 2231 which is the  
14 requirement that there are a number of people who  
15 would have to reapplied because DOF believes that  
16 they are no longer eligible. At this point, there  
17 would 11 families, homeowners that would possibly  
18 lose their exemption if they don't get an application  
19 and submit it on time. As has been said, we're  
20 living in the pandemic. These are homeowners who may  
21 not be here, who may be with relatives living  
22 elsewhere or maybe even hospitalized and not have the  
23 ability to be contacted, and for me to know that  
24 there are 11 homeowners who may be eligible, but not  
25 have the ability to be contacted and apply means that

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 I would be doing them a great dis-service and  
3 wouldn't want to have to meet them some place and ask  
4 me why I voted for a bill that put them in this  
5 category when they are presently already protected.  
6 So, for that reason, I'm voting no on 2231. Thank  
7 you.

8 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Thank you. Borelli.

9 CM BORELLI: I vote I on all except Intro  
10 2231, M288 and Resolutions 1416A and 1417A, 1418A,  
11 and 1419A. Thank you very much.

12 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Thank you. Council  
13 Member Brannan.

14 CM BRANNAN: Thank you, I vote I on all  
15 with the exception of 2231.

16 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Cabrera.

17 CM Cabrera: Permission to explain my  
18 vote.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
20 granted.

21 SGT. MARTINEZ: Time begins.

22 CM CABRERA: Thank you so much. First, I  
23 want to congratulate Council Member Gennaro who came  
24 in 2010, how he led in issues related to the  
25 environment, his passion. All this marked me with

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 his love and award-winning films, so welcome. We're  
3 glad to have you back. Also, I want to extend my  
4 condolences and my prayers to Council Member Adams  
5 who lost her mommy. I know what that feels like. I  
6 lost my mommy this year. I know some of us here as  
7 well, and to Council Member Riley, losing a  
8 Patriarch, his grandfather. My prayers are with you,  
9 and with that, I want to vote (Inaudible) Intro 2231  
10 and congratulations to Council Member Treyger,  
11 tremendous bill. Thank you for taking care of our  
12 seniors and issue that I'm dealing with right here in  
13 my particular District, and also to Council Member  
14 Borelli and UFO for looking out for our firefighters.  
15 Thank you so much.

16 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Thank you. Council  
17 Member Constantinides.

18 CM CONSTANTINIDES: Permission to explain  
19 my vote.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
21 granted.

22 SGT. MARTINEZ: Time begins.

23 CM CONSTANTINIDES: Thank you Majority  
24 Leader. I want to begin by extending my condolences  
25 to Council Member Adams in the loss of her mother,

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 Council Member Rose on the loss of her partner,  
3 Council Member Riley on the loss of his grandfather.  
4 I'm praying for all their families this evening. I  
5 want to welcome back a very good friend of mine and  
6 mentor and Council Member Gennaro, who, once upon a  
7 time, about 13 years ago, hired me as a third year  
8 law student to become his Legislative Director, and  
9 we did lot of great work together in the six years  
10 that we worked together. He has been a great friend  
11 and mentor to me over the years, and I'm excited to  
12 have him back at this council doing the great work  
13 that he's always done. So, on behalf of the people of  
14 his District, and on behalf of the people of the city  
15 of New York on environmental issues. So, welcome  
16 Council Member Gennaro. I'm only sad that we're not  
17 going to be able to sit together in the chamber with  
18 one another, you know, arm-in-arm. So, with that, I  
19 vote I on all and I again, thank my colleagues and  
20 look forward to helping support on Intro 1591B.  
21 Thank you.

22 MAJORITY LEADER: Thank you.

23 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Cornegy.

24 CM Cornegy: Permission to explain my  
25 vote.



1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
3 granted.

4 CM CORNEGY: I want to also extend my  
5 condolences to all of our colleagues, Riley and Rose,  
6 and Adrienne Adams who have lost loved ones during  
7 this very difficult time. I want to congratulate all  
8 of my colleagues who are patching something in  
9 important bills today, and I want to vote I on all  
10 except 2231. Thank you.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you Council  
12 Member Cornegy.

13 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Deutsch.

14 CM DEUTSCH: Permission to explain my  
15 vote.

16 MAJORITY LEADER: Permission granted.

17 SGT MARTINEZ: Time begin.

18 CM DEUTSCH: First, I want to  
19 congratulate our new colleague, Jim Gennaro. I want  
20 to echo the words of Fernando Cabrera, of what he  
21 said about Jim Gennaro. I also want to echo the  
22 words made about Intro 2231, of what my colleagues  
23 have mentioned, Council Member Kalman Yeger, Mark  
24 Gjonaj, Inez Barron, and I also want to echo the  
25 words that the Speaker said in which everyone had

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 confirmed and with that said, I vote no on Intro  
3 2231, and I on the rest.

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

5 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Darma Diaz.

6 CM DARMA DIAZ: I vote I.

7 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Ruben Diaz.

8 CM RUBEN DIAZ: I vote yes on except on  
9 Intro 2231.

10 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Dromm.

11 CM DROMM: I on all.

12 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Eugene.

13 CM Eugene: May I have permission to  
14 explain my vote?

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
16 granted.

17 SGT MARTINEZ: Time begins.

18 CM EUGENE: Thank you very much. First,  
19 I would like to express my deepest sympathy to  
20 Council Member Adams and Council Member Rose. The  
21 only thing that I can say is, you know, may God give  
22 you, both of you, the strength you need to overcome  
23 this very difficult moment. I would also like to  
24 take this opportunity to welcome back Council Member  
25 Gennaro. I had the opportunity to serve together

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 with you, and I know who you are. Your experience  
3 and your dedication are a clear asset to this  
4 District that you are going to serve. Welcome back  
5 and all success. May God bless you and your family.  
6 Thank you. With this, I vote yes on all except on  
7 Intro 2231, thank you.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you Council  
9 Member Eugene.

10 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Gennaro.

11 CM GENNARO: Permission to speak on my  
12 vote.

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Please.

14 CM GENNARO: First of all, I mourn with  
15 the Council family with regard to Council Members  
16 Adams and Rose and Riley, their families will be in  
17 my prayers. I wish to thank the Speaker and you,  
18 Madame Majority Leader and my dear brother, and  
19 brother Costa and all my colleagues, on your great  
20 wishes, it's great to be back, and with that I vote I  
21 on all.

22 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

23 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Gibson.

24 CM GIBSON: Permission to explain.

25

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
3 granted.

4 SGT MARTINEZ: Time begins.

5 CM GIBSON: Thank you, thank you Speaker,  
6 Madame Majority Leader. Good afternoon colleagues  
7 and everyone. I want to joint with all of you in  
8 sending all of our love and condolences of, you know,  
9 comfort, prayer and healing to our sisters, to  
10 Council Member Debbie Rose, and Council Member  
11 Adrienne Adams, and certainly sending love and light  
12 to Council Member Kevin Riley. On all of your loses,  
13 we are praying that God strengthens you in the days  
14 and weeks ahead. I also want to join with Council  
15 Member Salamanca, my colleague in Bronx Delegation in  
16 recognizing the great work of Council Member  
17 Constantinides, and thank you for including the Bronx  
18 in all of the conversations as it relates to  
19 renewable energy and the future of Riker's Island.  
20 There was such a long history of Riker's Island, a  
21 very painful one, and as we look towards a renewable  
22 energy system and what that looks like on the island,  
23 certainly the borough of the Bronx has a vested  
24 interest in that land and I appreciate your  
25 leadership in making sure that the Bronx in not

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 forgotten. So, with that congratulations to all of my  
3 colleagues who have introduced bills. I also want to  
4 join with everyone in welcoming our newest colleague  
5 from Queens, Gennaro. We're looking forward to  
6 working with you, and with that, I vote on I on all,  
7 and Happy Black History month to my colleagues and  
8 friends and Happy Hispanic Heritage Month as well.

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you Council  
10 Member Gibson.

11 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member  
12 Barron.

13 CM BARRON: Yes, thank you. I wanted to  
14 amend my vote. I'm also voting no on 720 and 721,  
15 and I want to join with the rest of the body in  
16 extending condolences to Council Member Debbie Rose,  
17 Council Member Adrienne Adams, and Council Member  
18 Riley on the loses that they've suffered and we're  
19 keeping them in our prayers, thank you.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

21 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Just to clarify  
22 Council Member, to the Land Use items.

23 CM BARRON: Yes, that's correct, Land Use  
24 items.

25 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Thank you.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 CM BARRON: Thank you.

3 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Gjonaj.

4 CM GJONAJ: Permission to explain my  
5 vote, Majority Leader.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
7 granted.

8 SGT MARTINEZ: Time begins.

9 CM GJONAJ: Thank you. As I extend my  
10 sincere condolences to Council Member Adams, I did  
11 not mention Council Member Rose and Riley. I extend  
12 my heartfelt condolences on the loss their loved  
13 ones. I will be voting I on all except Intro 2231,  
14 and I encourage my colleagues to do the same. Thank  
15 you.

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

17 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Grodenchik.

18 CM GRODENCHIK: Permission to briefly  
19 explain my vote, Madame Majority Leader.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
21 granted.

22 CM GRODENCHIK: Thank you very much.

23 First let me extend my condolences as a number of our  
24 colleagues have done today. It was just yesterday  
25 that I was working with Adrienne Adams to help one of

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 her constituent's mom try to find a bed in a nursing  
3 home, and now today, we're dealing with such grief,  
4 and I am so very, very sorry to receive the news of  
5 her mother's passing as I am of the passing of Debbie  
6 Rose's partner and Kevin Riley's grandfather. So, my  
7 condolences to all of them, and may they be  
8 comforted. I want to welcome back my dear friend,  
9 Jim Gennaro. When he defeated me for his council  
10 seat in 2001, little did either of us suspect that we  
11 would be sitting in a New York City Council together,  
12 but I'm happy to welcome him back today as a  
13 colleague and as a dear friend and brother, and I  
14 look forward to serving with him, and to supporting  
15 the 188th Street caucus. He knows what that means.  
16 Finally, before I vote I on all, I want to wish  
17 everybody who is celebrating, starting this evening, a  
18 very, very happy and sweet Purim. Purim is a holiday  
19 where the Jewish people celebrate deliverance from  
20 tyranny, from those who would have, not only  
21 oppressed us, but have murdered us for the fact that  
22 we are Jews. We are grateful to God for his  
23 deliverance at that time as we are every day, and I  
24 want to wish my fellow Jews and everybody really who

25

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 is celebrating Purim, a happy, sweet and Kosher  
3 purim. With that, I vote I on all.

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

5 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Holden.

6 CM HOLDEN: Permission to briefly explain  
7 my vote.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
9 granted.

10 SGT MARTINEZ: Time begins.

11 CM HOLDEN: Prayers for the Adams, Rose  
12 and Riley families on your tremendous loss and my  
13 condolences, and welcome to round two to my Queens  
14 colleague, Jim Gennaro. It will be great working  
15 with you. With that, I vote I on all with the  
16 exception of Intro 2231 and M288 with accompanying  
17 Resolution 1548, which I vote no. Thank you Madame  
18 Chair.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

20 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Kallos.

21 CM KALLOS: I on all.

22 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Koo.

23 CM KOO: Permission to explain my vote.

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
25 granted.



1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 CM KOO: Thank you, thank you Majority  
3 Leader. First I want to express my sincere  
4 condolences to Council Member Adams for her mother's  
5 passing and Council Member Debbie Rose for lifetime  
6 good friend, Manny passed away, and Council Member  
7 Riley's grandfather passed away. Please accept my  
8 sincere condolences, and second I want to welcome our  
9 esteemed former Council Member Gennaro, and I love to  
10 work with you. Really, I want to say, I vote I on  
11 all. Thank you.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,  
13 Council Member Koo.

14 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Koslowitz.

15 CM KOSLOWITZ: I on all.

16 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Lander.

17 CM LANDER: Request permission to explain  
18 my vote.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
20 Granted.

21 CM LANDER: Thanks so much. First, I  
22 join all my colleagues in condolences for Council  
23 Members Adams and Riley, and Council Member Rose, for  
24 you especially. I'm just thinking back to so many  
25 times when Manny was there for you in the very

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 hardest times, and when you were there for him in the  
3 hardest times too, that beautiful, beautiful  
4 partnership, and we're heartbroken for all of you,  
5 and with all of you as much as we possibly can be.  
6 This is such a rotten time to lose someone, and we  
7 love all of you. I do also want to welcome Council  
8 Member Gennaro back to this body who I also had the  
9 good fortune of serving with and look forward to  
10 again. I want to thank my colleagues for supporting  
11 my bill today to clarify and codify the Capital  
12 Projects information that we got from the  
13 administration. Last year, we passed a Capital  
14 Projects Tracker Bill to create an online tracking  
15 system which will enormously help in making sure that  
16 infrastructure investment that we so desperately need  
17 for a just recovery are more likely to be on time and  
18 on budget, not cost twice as much and take twice as  
19 long as we know they so often do. So, thank you for  
20 supporting that legislation today. I vote no on  
21 Intro 2231, and I on all other items. Thank you.

22 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

23 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Levin.

24 CM LEVIN: I want permission to explain  
25 my vote.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
3 granted.

4 SGT MARTINEZ: Time begins.

5 CM LEVIN: I want to offer my condolences  
6 to my colleagues Adrienne Adams for the loss of her  
7 mother, Council Member Riley on the loss of his  
8 grandfather, and especially Council Member Rose on  
9 the lose of her partner, Manny. I know just how  
10 (inaudible) in your time of grief, and with that, I  
11 vote I on all.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

13 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Levine.

14 CM LEVINE: Thank you, request permission  
15 to briefly explain my vote.

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
17 granted.

18 SGT MARTINEZ: Time begins.

19 CM LEVINE: Thank you so much. I just  
20 want to offer my heartfelt condolences to our  
21 colleagues Council Members Rose, Adams and Riley on  
22 the devastating loses that their mourning. We join  
23 you in this mourning, sending you much love and  
24 prayers. I also want to welcome back Council Member  
25 Gennaro, and I want to wish all of those who are

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 observing tonight's holiday Happy Purim, and finally,  
3 I will be voting I on all. Thank you.

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

5 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Lewis.

6 CM LEWIS: Permission to explain my vote.

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
8 granted.

9 SGT MARTINEZ: Time begins.

10 CM LEWIS: Thank you Madame Majority  
11 Leader and Speaker Johnson for the opportunity to  
12 speak. I wanted to first express my heartfelt  
13 condolences to Council Members Rose, Adams and Riley.  
14 You all are in my thoughts and prayers, and I also  
15 want to send a warm welcome to our new colleague  
16 Council Member Gennaro. A process that I had started  
17 from the beginning of my time as Council Member, the  
18 landmarking of East 25th Street is finally being  
19 voted on today. I fully support the residents of  
20 East 25th Street and urge my colleagues to vote for  
21 the preservation of the iconic architecture of  
22 Flatbush by designating this block of landmark. I  
23 vote I on all except 2231. I fully support the  
24 exemption and all, but with the limited time to  
25 contact 25 homeowners in my District that would be

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 impacted, I wouldn't be able to support this today,  
3 but look forward to working with the Council in  
4 supporting these homeowners in the future, thank you.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

6 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Maisel.

7 CM MAISEL: Yes.

8 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Menchaca.

9 CM MENCHACA: Permission to explain my  
10 vote.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
12 granted.

13 SGT MARTINEZ: Time begins.

14 CM MENCHACA: Thank you Majority Leader,  
15 and I want to send my condolences to Council Members  
16 Riley, Rose, and Adams. Sending love and light to  
17 you and your families. I want to vote no on 2231.  
18 This is consistent with some of the other things that  
19 the Mayor's office is trying to create revenue at a  
20 time when the pandemic, I think, forcing us all to  
21 stop and rethink how we are doing that, and I want to  
22 vote I on the rest. Thank you.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

24 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Miller.

25

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 CM MILLER: Permission to explain my  
3 vote.

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
5 granted.

6 SGT MARTINEZ: Time begins.

7 CM MILLER: Thank you Madame Majority  
8 Leader. On behalf of my colleagues of the Black and  
9 Latino caucus, I would like to take this opportunity  
10 to extend our profound condolences and sympathy to  
11 our dear sisters, Debbie Rose and Adrienne Adams on  
12 the loss of their family members, Manny Braxton and  
13 retired New York City Correction Captain, Ruth Edy  
14 Middleton as well as brother Kevin Riley on the  
15 passing of his grandfather. These are trying times.  
16 May their hearts and souls begin to mend by receiving  
17 the everlasting mercy and compassion of the Almighty  
18 and extend to their family from our City Council  
19 family (inaudible) indeed God, we came from and to  
20 God we will return and may the Creator send his  
21 angels and receive their works into paradise. I vote  
22 I on all. Thank you so very much, Madame Majority  
23 Leader.

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

25 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Moya.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 CM MOYA: Madame Majority Leader,  
3 permission to explain my vote?

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
5 granted.

6 SGT MARTINEZ: Time begins.

7 CM MOYA: Thank you, Madame Majority  
8 Leader. I just wanted to explain my vote on Reso  
9 1419. Almost a year battling COVID-19, a pandemic  
10 that has shaken us in more ways than one, we have  
11 seen who has bore the brunt of this pandemic and that  
12 is Black, Brown, Latino and Immigrant Communities.  
13 Our frontline healthcare workers who are  
14 predominantly foreign-born have literally sacrificed  
15 their lives to make a difference and help save lives  
16 during one of the worst pandemics this city, this  
17 country, this globe has ever seen. The families of  
18 these frontline workers not only had to suffer the  
19 loss of their loved ones, and had to deal with the  
20 financial hardship and are at risk of losing their  
21 own immigration status. I introduced this resolution  
22 because we need to value the contributions and honor  
23 the sacrifices immigrants have made for our city and  
24 for our country, and we must treat our immigrant  
25 communities, including and especially children with

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 humanity. One way we can do so is by providing  
3 immigration relief to surviving family members of  
4 frontline healthcare workers who passed away as a  
5 result of contracting COVID-19. These families,  
6 these children are already battling COVID-19 on top  
7 of suffering great loss. They should not be fighting  
8 deportation or losing the only home that they've ever  
9 known in the United States solely because their  
10 family members sacrificed their lives to help others  
11 during this unprecedented pandemic. So, I ask and  
12 encourage my colleagues to please vote yes on  
13 Resolution 1419 and with that, I'd like to say I'll  
14 be voting I on all.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

16 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Powers.

17 CM POWERS: I on all.

18 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Thank you, one  
19 moment. Reynoso.

20 CM REYNOSO: Permission to explain my  
21 vote.

22 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
23 granted.

24 SGT MARTINEZ: Time begins.

25



1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 CM REYNOSOS: I want to extend my  
3 condolences to Council Members Riley, Rose and Adams.  
4 In a time, you know, when we're dealing with mass  
5 grief, I don't want it to become numb to the folks  
6 that are suffering for so much, so I just want to  
7 just, I can't tell you how heartbroken I am, and  
8 hope, you know, anything you need from me, please,  
9 please reach out. I want to vote I on all, I  
10 believe, with the exception of 2231, can you correct  
11 if I'm work, Clerk, the Legislation related to the  
12 exemption status for seniors.

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Correct.

14 CM REYNOSO: So, I want to vote no on  
15 that and I on the rest. Thank you so much.

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

17 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Riley.

18 CM RILEY: Permission to explain my vote.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
20 granted.

21 SGT MARTINEZ: Time begins.

22 CM RILEY: Thank you Majority Leader,  
23 thank you. I would just like to extend my condolences  
24 to my colleagues, Council Member Rose and Council  
25 Member Adams for their loss. I would also like to

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 extend my gratitude to my colleagues for recognizing  
3 my grandfather, who was 97 years old, Noel Oscar  
4 Riley, who passed away on February 12th, uh, the same  
5 that my grandmother passed away when I was in high  
6 school in 2003. So, she called him up, like my  
7 family said and he was taking too long, but he lived  
8 a very beautiful life. I just want to continue to  
9 carry out his legacy in his name. He was a very  
10 social person in his community from a quazi  
11 community. So, I just thank everyone for recognizing  
12 him today. This would mean the world to him. He was  
13 very proud of me and was able to see me in the seat  
14 before he passed away, so thank you so much. I would  
15 like to vote I on all. Thank you.

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Amen. Thank you.

17 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Rivera.

18 CM RIVERA: A warm welcome to Council  
19 Member Jim Gennaro. I vote I on all.

20 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Rodriguez.

21 CM RODRIGUEZ: My condolences to our  
22 colleagues that have lost a loved one, and I vote I  
23 on all.

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

25 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Rosenthal.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 CM ROSENTHAL: Permission to explain my  
3 vote.

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
5 granted.

6 SGT MARTINEZ: Time begins.

7 CM ROSENTHAL: Thank you. I vote I on  
8 all, no exceptions. I just really, first of all, of  
9 course, welcome Council Member Gennaro. I remember a  
10 decade ago standing a rally with you on some  
11 environmental justice issue. You were just, you just  
12 terrific, so welcome, welcome back, I guess, but I  
13 really want to extend my, my deepest heartfelt  
14 condolences to Council Members Adams, Rose and Riley.  
15 Council Member Riley, it was just such a beautiful  
16 tribute to your grandfather. You know, as elected  
17 officials, we have things that happen in our life,  
18 the normal, everyday things that happen to everyone,  
19 but you know, it feel like we have a little bit of  
20 time, only a little of time to, to remember our loved  
21 ones, but the truth is that we will remember them for  
22 the rest of our lives, and they've all put a  
23 wonderful imprint into who you are, and I appreciate  
24 that so much, especially Council Member Rose and  
25 Adams who I know a little bit better. I know how

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 deeply an imprint these people had in your life, so,  
3 with deep condolences, and, and also congratulations  
4 to all of those sponsors with great legislation  
5 that's passing this time. So, thank you very much. I  
6 vote I on all, all of it. No exceptions. They're  
7 all great bills, thank you.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,  
9 Council Member Rosenthal.

10 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Salamanca.

11 CM SALAMANCA: I on all.

12 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Treyger.

13 CM TREYGER: I on all.

14 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Ulrich.

15 CM ULRICH: Good afternoon and welcome  
16 back to Council Member Gennaro. My condolences to my  
17 colleagues who lost relatives. I'm voting I on all  
18 with exception M288, and preconsidered Intro 2231,  
19 I'm voting no on those two measure. I on all others.

20 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: My apologies Council  
21 Member Ulrich, you said M288 and?

22 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member  
23 Ulrich?

24 CM ULRICH: Yes, I'm sorry. I said I'm  
25 voting no on M288 and Preconsidered Intro 2231.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Thank you, my  
3 apologizes.

4 CM ULRICH: Thank you.

5 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Van Bramer.

6 CM VAN BRAMER: Uh, great condolences to  
7 my colleagues, I vote I on all.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

9 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Thank you. Yeger.

10 CM YEGER: Madame President, may I be  
11 excuse to explain my vote?

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
13 granted.

14 SGT MARTINEZ: Time begins.

15 CM YEGER: Thank you very much. The  
16 first, of course, I want to echo one of my colleagues  
17 on expressing our profound condolences for myself  
18 personally, on behalf of the people I represent, and  
19 joining with my colleagues in this body to our  
20 friends and our brothers and sisters, Council Members  
21 Adams, Rose, and Councilman Riley. These loses are  
22 profound. I don't think anybody hasn't lost somebody  
23 this year. I lost my grandmother earlier during the  
24 course of the last year, you know, and they all get  
25 to watch us get to this place, and I don't think it's

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 pride as much as fascination that we managed to get  
3 here, and to see us here, we did them proud, I hope  
4 we do, every day, and I express my condolences to  
5 them. To our new colleague, Councilman Jim Gennaro,  
6 before you got here, I frequently speak on this floor  
7 or now over this computer of the giants who came here  
8 before I did, and who shoes I try to fill and there's  
9 a lot room. You're one of those giants. You know, I  
10 knew you when you were in the Council, you someone  
11 who helps tremendously. I look forward to looking up  
12 to you, continuously throughout our service together  
13 and if the people return me to having our time  
14 together in people's house next year, but you will do  
15 us proud, and I know that, and I expect nothing less.  
16 I am voting no on Intro 2231 for the reasons I stated  
17 earlier. I am grateful and proud of all my  
18 colleagues who joined in this opportunity to stand up  
19 for our neighbors, and with great understanding to  
20 those who were not able to do so. I also vote no on  
21 Resolution 1548 consistent with how I have voted in  
22 the past on items like this, but specifically, this  
23 Resolution, moving funds out of our Community Boards  
24 against their will, inexplicably and in many cases,  
25 they will have to struggle to make...

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 SGT MARTINEZ: Times up.

3 CM YEGER: Those cuts. This was not done  
4 with the consent of the Community Boards. It was  
5 dictated upon them, and I'm not going to be able to  
6 vote in favor of that, as somebody who has served on  
7 our Community Board for 18 years, I cannot support  
8 that. So, with that, I've casted my votes. I vote I  
9 on the remainder, and my gratitude who all who have  
10 wished my community a Happy Purim. I extend that  
11 back to you. Thank you.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,  
13 Council Member Yeger.

14 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Thank you, Council  
15 Member Rose.

16 CM ROSE: I on all.

17 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Thank you. Matteo.

18 CM MATTEO: Thank you. I'm voting no on  
19 2231, M288 and accompany Reso 1548. Thank you.

20 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Thank you. Cumbo.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I vote I on all.

22 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

23 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I on all.

24 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Okay. Thank you. All  
25 items on today's General Order Calendar have a vote

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING  
2 of 46 in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and  
3 no extensions with the exception of the following.  
4 Preconsidered Introduction 2231 has 28 in the  
5 affirmative, 17 in the negative and one extension.  
6 M288 with Resolution 1548 has 41 in the affirmative,  
7 five in the negative, with no extensions, and Land  
8 Use Items 720 and 721 with their accompanying  
9 Resolutions have a vote of 45 in affirmative, one in  
10 the negative, and no extensions. There are no Land  
11 Use calls.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. The  
13 items on today's General Order calendar are adopted.  
14 Introduction and reading of bills.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: All bills are referred  
16 to Committees as indicated on today's agenda.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. We'll  
18 now move into the Discussion of Resolutions. As a  
19 reminder, please wait until the Sergeant at Arms  
20 begins the countdown clock before you begin your  
21 remarks. Mr. Parliamentarian, are there any members  
22 who have signed up and in what order?

23 LANCE POLIVY, PARLIAMENTARIAN: Yes.  
24 Council Member Eugene.

25



1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member  
3 Eugene, you may begin.

4 CM EUGENE: Thank you very much, Madame  
5 Majority Leader, and thank you Speaker Johnson.  
6 Today's I'm discussing three very important pieces of  
7 legislation that I believe are critical to protecting  
8 the well-being of members of the immigrant community  
9 who are facing deportation or other removal  
10 proceedings as well as safe-guarding their countries  
11 of origin during the COVID-19 pandemic. Resolution  
12 1416, calls on the United States Department of  
13 Homeland Security to hold all deportation proceedings  
14 for the life of the COVID-19 pandemic as a means of  
15 restricting the spread of the disease. Resolution of  
16 1417, calls on the United States Department of  
17 Homeland Security to hold all removal proceedings for  
18 employment-based status orders that suffered a loss  
19 of employment due to COVID-19 pandemic. Resolution  
20 1418 calls on the United States Congress to pass and  
21 the President to sign legislation that would permit  
22 employment-based status orders to remain legal status  
23 in the United States after loss of employment if such  
24 loss was related to COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the  
25 availability of the COVID-19 vaccination, we all know

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 that the (inaudible) is a serious threat to the  
3 global community. As we have also (inaudible) to  
4 protect the members of the immigrant population in  
5 the United States, especially those facing  
6 deportation. Unfortunately, (inaudible) are often  
7 not a practice during the deportation proceeding, and  
8 because of this COVID-19 is easy to spread among  
9 deportees and it will be transmitted outside of the  
10 United States and then potentially infect those who  
11 are returning to the United States while having an  
12 exponentially handful affect our country still  
13 struggling to contain the virus. If we are going to  
14 continue to fight this (inaudible), we must be more  
15 proactive in protecting the safety of those facing  
16 deportation. I know that there are many status  
17 orders within my District and throughout New York  
18 City who have suffered a loss of employment due to  
19 COVID-19, and I believe it is our moral obligation to  
20 protect them from removal proceedings but remind them  
21 of the COVID-19. They are contractors, business  
22 owners, laborers, hard-working people and so many  
23 status orders who lost employment during the COVID-  
24 19. We must protect their health and well-being so  
25 that they are not deported to countries where COVID

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 remains a serious threat. They are the workers who  
3 present the strength of our local economy and their  
4 tireless dedication to our city has kept us moving  
5 forward throughout this crisis. I believe that this  
6 legislation is necessary to help employment-based  
7 status orders remain in safe and secure environments  
8 while trying to secure new worker opportunities  
9 through the extent of the COVID-19 pandemic. We  
10 should protect our immigration population from  
11 deportation during this pandemic while eliminating  
12 the spread of COVID-19. I want to thank my  
13 colleagues who have responded to this legislation,  
14 and I would also like to thank the City Council  
15 Legislative Department and I urge all my colleagues  
16 to vote yes on this very important legislation.  
17 Thank you very much, Madame Majority Leader, and  
18 thank you, Mr. Speaker.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so much  
20 Council Member Eugene. Mr. Parliamentarian, are there  
21 any other members who wish to speak on today's  
22 Resolutions specifically?

23 LANCE POLIVY, PARLIAMENTARIAN: No,  
24 Madame Majority Leader.

25

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. We'll  
3 now have a voice vote on today's Resolutions. If you  
4 wish to vote against or abstain from either of  
5 today's Resolutions, please notify the Legislative  
6 Documents Unit by email. I'll now read today's  
7 Resolutions into the record. Resolution 1416A calls  
8 on the United States Department of Homeland Security  
9 to halt all deportations proceedings for length of  
10 the COVID-19 pandemic as a means of restricting the  
11 global spread of this disease. Will all those in  
12 favor say I?

13 VARIOUS VOICES: I.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: All opposed say  
15 Nay. Any abstentions? The Is have it. Resolution  
16 1417A calls on the United States Department of  
17 Homeland Security to place a moratorium on all  
18 removal proceedings for employment-based status  
19 holders that suffered a loss of employment during or  
20 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Will all those in  
21 favor say I?

22 VARIOUS VOICES: I.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: All opposed say  
24 Nay. Any abstentions? The Is have it. Resolution  
25 1418A calls on the United State Congress to pass and

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 the President to sign legislation that would permit  
3 employment-based status holders to obtain lawful  
4 status after loss of employment if such loss was  
5 related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Will all those in  
6 favor say I?

7 VARIOUS VOICES: I.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: All opposed say  
9 Nay. Any abstentions? The Is have it. Resolution  
10 1419A calls on the United States Congress to pass and  
11 the President to sign legislation that would provide  
12 immigration relief for family members who derive  
13 lawful immigration status from a frontline worker who  
14 passed away during or due to COVID-19. Will all those  
15 in favor say I?

16 VARIOUS VOICES: I.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: All opposed say  
18 Nay. Any abstentions? The Is have it. Resolution  
19 1473 calls upon the New York City Department of  
20 Education to provide families of children with  
21 disabilities the necessary training and equipment to  
22 provide and enable distance learning. Will all those  
23 in favor say I?

24 VARIOUS VOICES: I.

25

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: All opposed say  
3 Nay. Any abstentions? The Is have it. Thank you,  
4 and we will now move into General Discussion. As a  
5 reminder, please wait until the Sergeant at Arms  
6 begins the countdown clock before you begin your  
7 remarks. Mr. Parliamentarian, are there any members  
8 at this time who wish to speak?

9 LANCE POLIVY, PARLIAMENTARIAN: Yes.  
10 Council Member Levin and Barron.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member  
12 Levin, you may begin.

13 SGT. MARTINEZ: Time begins.

14 CM LEVIN: Thank you, Madame Majority  
15 Leader. I just was remiss in neglecting my good  
16 friend, Jim Gennaro who is rejoining us at the  
17 Council. Jim is one of the most sweetest, most  
18 wonderful guys I know, and I welcome him back. Thank  
19 you very much. Welcome back, Jim.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.  
21 Council Member Barron.

22 SGT MARTINEZ: Time begins.

23 CM BARRON: Thank you Madame Majority  
24 Leader. Just as we're coming to the end of  
25 celebrating Black History Month, I just wanted to

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 call attention to the fact that on February 22nd we  
3 celebrated the anniversary of the assassination of  
4 Minister Malcolm X, and as many people know, he was  
5 very much involved in the struggle for civil rights  
6 and for social justice, and one of his quotes was  
7 that the future belongs to those who prepare for it  
8 today, and I just want to encourage my colleagues  
9 that as we are sitting here and as we are debating  
10 legislative matters and considering what will be the  
11 future coming out of this pandemic, that we be very  
12 mindful that we have a great opportunity to change  
13 what has been the status quo, to fight for the equity  
14 that has been denied to particularly people of color,  
15 and low income people, and that we have an obligation  
16 and an opportunity to make sure that when this is all  
17 over, we have a more balanced and just society.

18 Thank you.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so  
20 much, Council Member Barron. Are there any other  
21 members who wish to speak at this time?

22 LANCE POLIVY, PARLIAMENTARIAN: Council  
23 Member Rosenthal.

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member  
25 Rosenthal, you may begin.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 SGT MARTINEZ: Time begins.

3 CM ROSENTHAL: Thank you so much. I just  
4 really wanted to mention and reel this back to all of  
5 my colleagues who voted against 2231, I really heard  
6 you loud and clear and I thought everyone raised  
7 great points. You know, what it tells me is that  
8 when we are in the position to, our oversight hearing  
9 with the Department of Finance, we should certainly  
10 raise this issue and make sure they have the staff to  
11 do the outreach necessary for those 800 New Yorkers,  
12 many of who no longer are eligible, but certainly,  
13 there will be some who are eligible get reenrolled.  
14 So, I thought it was important. I appreciate Council  
15 Member Yeger, Council Member Gjonaj who spoke  
16 extensively on it. It's a really fair point, but  
17 yeah, so, that's all. Thank you very much. Thank  
18 you, Majority Leader.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so  
20 much, Council Member Rosenthal. Are there any other  
21 members who wish to speak at this time?

22 LANCE POLIVY, PARLIAMENTARIAN: Yes,  
23 Madame Majority Leader. Council Members Grodenchik  
24 and Yeger.

25



1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member  
3 Grodenchik, you may begin.

4 SGT MARTINEZ: Time begins.

5 CM GRODENCHIK: Thank you, Majority  
6 Leader. Very briefly, as we enter the budge season,  
7 our first budget hearing is this coming Tuesday. I  
8 want to remind my colleagues and our Mayor that too  
9 many people in this city are still going hungry.  
10 Thanks to the leadership of this Council and Speaker  
11 Johnson, we have made a dent in the hunger issue in  
12 this city, but it has not gone away, and I hope that  
13 all of my colleagues and the Mayor and his team will  
14 keep this foremost in their mind as we go over the  
15 next few months to craft the budget for FY22. Thank  
16 you.

17 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Barry, I want to say  
18 thank you. You and Steve were the real early  
19 leaders, and I'm glad you keep talking about it. You  
20 started this right when you joined the Council, and  
21 it's one of the most important things we do annually.  
22 So, I'm so glad you mentioned that today, thank you,  
23 Councilman Grodenchik.

24 CM GRODENCHIK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker,  
25 and thank you to Steve.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member  
3 Yeger.

4 CM YEGER: Thank you Madame President. I  
5 very much appreciate Council Member Rosenthal's kind  
6 remarks about today's vote and the results of the  
7 vote. I just do want to point out that out first  
8 oversight hearing on the budget is on March 2nd, and  
9 that will be 13 days before the deadline for any of  
10 these affect homeowners, these senior citizens, the  
11 ones that we voted today to make sure the homebound  
12 of them are getting their vaccinations. They will  
13 have to have these forms completed by that time, 13  
14 days from that hearing, and as I look at the  
15 calendar, I don't see that the Department of Finance  
16 is even coming on that first day. It's simply OMB  
17 and you know, the controller, IBO. There wasn't  
18 time. There wasn't time for us to do anything other  
19 than vote this down to make sure our neighbors are  
20 going to get hurt with their exemptions. If there  
21 was time, it would have been great to consider it.  
22 That's why this was a Preconsidered. It was done  
23 quickly and not because of this Council, but because  
24 of how the short time the administration acted, but  
25 the State Legislature gave the city authority, asked

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 to pass these exemptions along with no acts in  
3 December, and here we are February 25th, and I think  
4 this why so many of our colleagues stood up today,  
5 and thank you very much Madame President.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so  
7 much, Council Member Yeger. Are there any other  
8 members who wish to speak at this time?

9 LANCE POLIVY, PARLIAMENTARIAN: Council  
10 Member Barron will be our final speaker.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Okay, Council  
12 Member Barron.

13 CM BARRON: Thank you for the opportunity  
14 to make a correction. I stated the date of the  
15 assassination of Malcolm X as February 22nd. It's  
16 actually February 21st, 1965. Thank you for allowing  
17 me to correct it on the record.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. Just  
19 to be sure before we close out this meeting, are  
20 there any other members who wish to speak?

21 LANCE POLIVY, PARLIAMENTARIAN: No,  
22 Madame Majority Leader.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Well, as the  
24 Majority Leader, I want to officially welcome Jim  
25 Gennaro. It's been a pleasure speaking with you at

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 the Dem Conference. I had the pleasure of meeting  
3 your personally, but I certainly look forward to  
4 working with you. I also want to encourage all of  
5 my colleagues as there are many new members in this  
6 body, I think it's important for us to reach out to  
7 them, to give what guidance we can during this time  
8 because as we can all imagine how difficult it is to  
9 open or not open our office, hire new staff and to  
10 navigate this online has been quite a challenger. I  
11 would say that when I hear the losses that so many  
12 members of this body are facing, it really should  
13 remind all of us throughout this entire city and  
14 nation that we are just simply a nation consistently  
15 in mourning, and we need to treat each other kinder,  
16 because we are all people in mourning who have lost  
17 someone, and to my colleague, Debbie Rose, I had an  
18 opportunity to meet Manny many times, and I can just  
19 say, I applaud you for being here today, I understand  
20 what a heavy loss this is, and when I saw him wearing  
21 those different designer Debbie Rose T-shirts and  
22 button downs, I said, "We should all be so lucky to  
23 be loved and supported in such an incredible way",  
24 you were loved in a way that many of us can only  
25 imagine, and so your loss is our loss, and I'm here

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

2 for you, my sister. To Adrienne Adams, we love you  
3 so much, so deeply and we understand what an  
4 incredible loss this is on the heels of recently  
5 losing your dad. We can tell who you are by the  
6 quality of legislator you are, and we know where your  
7 ideal come from, and I too know what a heavy loss  
8 this is, and for Council Member Riley, for you to  
9 have had the opportunity for your grandfather to see  
10 you elected to his body, has got to be such an  
11 extraordinary feeling for you to know that he saw you  
12 accomplish something so great. So, we are all here  
13 for here as we all share in your loss as we are all  
14 grieving at the same time, and so, I just want to  
15 extend my condolences to you all and this entire  
16 body, and let's continue to work together, to be  
17 kinder to one another, and to recognize that we are  
18 all in mourning. Thank you, and I will now turn it  
19 over to Speaker Corey Johnson to close this meeting.

20 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you Madame  
21 Majority Leader. The Stated Meeting of February  
22 25th, 2021 is hereby adjourned.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

24 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Everyone be safe.

25 JOHANNA M. CASTRO: Thank you.

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, 2021