

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
STATED MEETING

----- X

January 20, 2022
Start: 2:04 p.m.
Recess: 3:01 p.m.

HELD AT: Hybrid Hearing - Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E: Adrienne E. Adams
Speaker

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Shaun Abreu
Joann Ariola
Alexa Avilés
Diana Ayala
Charles Barron
Joseph C. Borelli
Erik D. Bottcher
Justin L. Brannan
Gale A. Brewer
Selvena N. Brooks-Powers
Tiffany Cabán
David M. Carr
Carmen N. De La Rosa
Eric Dinowitz
Amanda Farías
Oswald Feliz
James F. Gennaro

Jennifer Gutiérrez
Shahana K. Hanif
Kamillah Hanks
Robert F. Holden
Crystal Hudson
Kristin Richardson-Jordan
Rita C. Joseph
Ari Kagan
Shekar Krishnan
Linda Lee
Farah N. Louis
Christopher Marte
Darlene Mealy
Julie Menin
Francisco P. Moya
Mercedes Narcisse
Sandy Nurse
Chi A. Ossé
Vickie Paladino
Keith Powers
Lincoln Restler
Kevin C. Riley
Carlina Rivera
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.
Pierina Ana Sanchez
Lynn C. Schulman
Althea V. Stevens
Sandra Ung
Marjorie Velázquez
Inna Vernikov
Nantasha M. Williams
Julie Won
Kalman Yeger

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

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you. Good afternoon and welcome to today's hybrid Stated Meeting. At this time will all members on Zoom please turn on their cameras for verification purposes? Thank you. We are ready to begin.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Ladies and gentlemen, at this time please turn off all electronic devices, all electronic devices, please turn off all electronic devices. Mr. Majority Leader?

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Good afternoon and welcome to the Stated Meeting of January 20th, 2022. I am Majority Leader Keith Powers, and I'd like to thank you all for joining us today. If you'd like to follow along, the agenda for today's meeting is posted on the City Council's website.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Please join us for the Pledge of Allegiance.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Please ask for a roll call.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Abreu?

COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ariola?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Aye.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

COMMITTEE CLERK: Aviléz?

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: It's a roll call.

You can say here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Bottcher?

COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Brannan?

COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabán?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Carr?

COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: De La Rosa? Dinowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Farías?

COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Feliz?

COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gennaro?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gutiérrez

COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Hanif?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Hanks?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Holden?

COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Hudson?

COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Joseph?

COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Kagan? Krishnan?

COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lee?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Louis?

COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Marte?

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy? Menin?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Moya?

COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Here.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

COMMITTEE CLERK: Narcisse?
COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Present.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Nurse?
COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Here.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Ossé?
COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Present.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Paladino?
COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Yes.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Restler?
COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Peent.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Richardson-Jordan?
COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON-JORDAN: Here.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Riley?
COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Present.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Rivera?
COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Present.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Salamanca?
COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Sanchez?
COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Here [sic].
COMMITTEE CLERK: Schulman?
COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Here.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Stevens?
COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Present.

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ung?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Here.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Velázquez?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Presente.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Won?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: No.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Won?

11 Thank you. Yeger?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vernikov?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Present.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Borelli?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Here.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Brooks-Powers?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Present.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Powers?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: I'm here.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ayala?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Present.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker

24 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We'll

25 now have today's Invocation which will be delivered

1
2 by the Reverend Michael Livingston, Senior Minister
3 at Riverside Church located at 490 Riverside Drive in
4 Manhattan.

5 REVEREND MICHAEL LIVINGSTON: Let us
6 pray. Gracious, creating, loving God, be among us in
7 this moment and beyond. The New York City Council
8 begins a new year as a new Council. And dear elected
9 friends we are watching you with you, hoping the best
10 for you, praying for you, that the one God of all by
11 the many names we know her, the many forms he takes,
12 will be among you and that you will listen to one
13 another as if each one of you bears the image of God
14 on your face, as if God speaks through each one. What
15 an amazing opportunity and challenge awaits you to
16 represent the people of this great city, alive with
17 the languages and colors, cultures and customs of the
18 whole world. We dare to believe and trust that in
19 New York City we can live together as one people,
20 love one and all as we choose, enjoy the justice of
21 God laid bare, made plain, protected, and policies
22 and practices that privilege no borough or class,
23 color, or religion among us, but seeks to attend with
24 justice and compassion to the most vulnerable among
25 us. To ask of those most secure to give as though

1 their wellbeing depended upon the wellbeing of
2 others, as surely it does. God, come among us.
3 This Council led for the first time by an amazing
4 plurality of women of color, surely a sign these days
5 of Emanuel, God with us. We'll know your work goes
6 well as more people move from the streets into safe
7 and secure housing, as children learn in public
8 schools supported and equipped to nurture their God-
9 given gifts, as older New Yorkers are supported to
10 age with dignity in their homes and neighborhoods, as
11 workers are paid living wages and share in the
12 abundance our city owns, as policing is administered
13 with restraint and regard for the humanity inherent
14 in every person in every encounter, as public housing
15 is rehabilitated into living spaces, homes of dignity
16 and grace, as the carceral [sic] system becomes more
17 humane, restorative, safe for officers and inmates
18 alike. God of the universe, the city, the citizens,
19 hear our prayer, heal our city. Bless this council,
20 each member, the work they do together for us all.
21 In your many names we pray, amen.

22
23 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. I'm
24 now going to call on Council Member Shaun Abreu to
25 spread the invocation on the record.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Thank you,
3 Majority Leader. I would like to thank Reverend
4 Livingston for being here today through your work at
5 Riverside Church and your advocacy for underpaid
6 workers. You have served the City of New York and
7 the people of District 7 with distinction, kindness,
8 and care. It is also not lost upon us that we just
9 had Martin Luther King's birthday, and right at
10 Riverside Church is where he spoke about the fierce
11 urgency of now, and so that's what we're going to
12 keep into perspective as we carry our work out as
13 public servants. I motion for unanimous consent to
14 spread the invocation in full upon the record. Thank
15 you.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you,
17 Council Member Abreu. We'll now have the adoption of
18 minutes by Council Member Chris Marte.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CHRIS MARTE: I make a
20 motion that the minutes of the Stated Meeting of
21 December 9th, 2021 and December 15th, 2021 be adopted
22 as printed.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you.
24 Messages and papers from the Mayor?
25

1 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 12

2 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: M9 Mayor's veto and
3 disapproval message of Introduction Number 2443A of
4 2021.

5 SPEAKER ADAMS: Referred to Land Use.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Communication
7 from city, county, and borough offices?

8 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: None.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Petitions and
10 communications?

11 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: None.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Land Use Call-
13 ups?

14 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: M10 NYPD Bronx
15 Special Victims Services.

16 SPEAKER ADAMS: I would now ask that the
17 Clerk takes the roll call vote on all of today's Land
18 Use Call-ups?

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Abreu?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Ariola?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Aye.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Avilés?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Barron?

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Abstain.
COUNCIL CLERK: Bottcher?
COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Brannan?
COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Brewer?
COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Cabán?
COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Carr?
COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: De La Rosa?
COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Dinowitz?
COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Farías?
COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Feliz?
COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Gennaro?
COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.
COUNCIL CLERK: Gutiérrez?
COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Hanif?

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Hanks?
COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Holden?
COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Hudson?
COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Joseph?
COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Kagan?
COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Krishnan?
COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Lee?
COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Louis?
COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Marte?
COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy? Menin?
COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Moya?
COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Narcisse?

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Abstain.

COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Nurse?

COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ossé?

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Paladino?

COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Rustler?

COUNCIL MEMBER RUSTLER: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Richardson-Jordan?

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON-JORDAN:

COUNCIL CLERK: Riley?

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Salamanca?

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Sanchez?

COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Schulman?

COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Stevens?

COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

COUNCIL CLERK: Ung?
COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Velázquez?
COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Williams?
COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Won?
COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Yeger?
COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Vernikov?
COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Borelli?
COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Brooks-Powers?
COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Powers?
COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala?
COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Adams?
SPEAKER ADAMS: Aye.
COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Today's Land Use

Call-ups have a vote of 48 in the affirmative, 0 in

1 the negative, and 2 abstentions. Thank you. And just
2 as a reminder, I've been asked to remind folks just
3 to please keep your masks on while you're inside the
4 chambers. We're now going to have communications
5 from Speaker Adrienne Adams.
6

7 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Majority
8 Leader, and good afternoon everyone. Welcome to our
9 first full Stated Meeting of 2022, and I reiterate
10 before we go any further, I'd like to remind all
11 members that masks are required to be worn throughout
12 the meeting, even when speaking. On Sunday, January
13 9th, tragedy struck our city. In a heartbeat 17 New
14 Yorkers died in a horrific high-rise fire in the
15 Bronx, eight of them were children. Five of the
16 victims were members of the same family. This was a
17 devastating event and the worse fire in our city in
18 over 30 years. We mourn the deaths of those who lost
19 their lives, Haji Dukuray was 49 years old. His
20 wife, Haja, 37 years old, and their three children,
21 Mustapha 12 years old, Mariam 12 years old, and
22 Fatoumata five years old. We also mourn the deaths
23 of Fatoumata, 50 years old, and her three children,
24 Fatoumala 21 years old, Nyumaaisha 19 years old, and
25 Muhammed 12 years old. We also lost Fatoumata

1 Tunkara, 43 years old, and his son Omar, six years
2 old. We mourn the deaths of Hagi Jawara, 47 years
3 old, and his wife Isatou Jabbie, 21 years old, Sera
4 Janneh 27 years old, Seydou Toure 12 years old,
5 Haouwa Mahammadou just five years old, and Ousmane
6 Konteh two years old, the youngest victim of this
7 horrific, horrible fire. This City Council is
8 committed to working tirelessly to prevent these
9 kinds of tragedies from happening so no New Yorker
10 ever had to experience such heartbreak again.

11
12 Protecting the lives of tenants is a must, and we
13 have established a special taskforce to focus on it.

14 I would also like to acknowledge the senseless
15 killing of Crystal Byron Nevis. Crystal was working
16 as a cashier at Burger King in East Harlem where she
17 was shot to death during a robbery. She was just 19
18 years old and an extended family member of our
19 beloved Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala. We also mourn
20 the death of several New Yorkers who passed away
21 while simply doing their jobs. We lost Deliveristas
22 Salvador Navarette Flores and Taurino Rosendo
23 Morales. Salvador died when he crashed into an
24 illegally parked car in Manhattan and he was 31 years
25 old. Taurino was killed when he was hit by a box

1 truck, also in Manhattan. He was 37 years old. We
2 also lost Yao Pan Ma, he was a Chinese immigrant who
3 was collecting cans when he was brutally attacked in
4 Manhattan last April. Yao died of his injuries on
5 December 31st. He was 61 years old. We mourn the
6 death of FDNY Lieutenant Joseph Maiello who died of
7 natural causes on December 26th while he was at his
8 fire house in Staten Island. Lieutenant Maiello was
9 53 years old. And I would also like to send
10 condolences in my name and in the name of the entire
11 City Council to our exceptional colleague Deputy
12 Speaker Diana Ayala, whose mother Adelita Crespo
13 [sp?] passed away recently. We are sending you all
14 of our love and we keep you and your family in our
15 prayers. It has been an extremely tough time for
16 Deputy Speaker Ayala. Besides the passing of her
17 mother, Crystal Byron Nevis was her nephew's cousin.
18 This weekend we also learned about the unthinkable
19 loss of Michelle Alyssa Go. Michelle was pushed to
20 her death as she waited for a train at the Times
21 Square subway station. Michelle was described as a
22 kind, sweet, and generous soul. As we mourn her
23 loss, we must remember how she lived, with a
24 commitment and a passion to help others through her
25

1
2 volunteer work. The legacy of her death should move
3 us forward as a city to address the gaps that have
4 led to such tragedy. Michelle was just 40 years old.
5 As we continue to battle COVID, and COVID has hit us
6 very hard, we must ensure the City offers free, easy,
7 and equitable access to vaccines and testing across
8 all neighborhoods. Although it looks like the
9 Omicron Variant surge has reached its peak and is on
10 a downturn, we must remain vigilant and not let our
11 guard down at all. Keep wearing a mask. Keep social
12 distancing. Keep getting tested and vaccinated or
13 get boosted if you haven't already done so. As of
14 yesterday, January 19th, 37,122 New Yorkers died from
15 COVID. Let us stand now and pause for a moment of
16 silence for the victims of the horrific Bronx fire,
17 for Crystal, for Michelle, for Salvador, for Taurino,
18 for Yao Pan, for Lieutenant Maiello, for Adelita, and
19 for all of the lives we lost to the pandemic. Thank
20 you. You may be seated. On Saturday, we had a tense
21 and very scary moment coming out of Texas. A man
22 held four people hostage at a synagogue during the
23 Sabbath morning service. Fortunately, after an 11-
24 hour stand-off, an FBI team was able to rescue the
25 hostages at the Beth Israel congregation in

1 Colleyville. We express our solidarity with the New
2 Yorkers of Jewish faith, as well as those across the
3 country. We are grateful this tragic incident did
4 not end in the loss of life for any worshipers
5 because we know that places of worship have
6 unfortunately become targets. No one anywhere should
7 be afraid to enter their religious institutions to
8 pray, and I stand with the people of good conscience
9 everywhere to demand an end to hatred, bigotry, and
10 violence. January 27th marks International Holocaust
11 Remembrance Day, a day when we commemorate and honor
12 the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust and
13 the millions of others who were brutally murdered by
14 the Nazi's. We remember these tragic victims of
15 genocide, and we pledge never again. On Monday, we
16 remember the life of Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr.,
17 a leader who devoted his life to racial, social, and
18 economic justice. I joined New Yorkers across the
19 city to celebrate his life and legacy, but we cannot
20 just commemorate on his birthday. We must work to
21 continue his vision of justice and equity every
22 single day. We must honor his legacy by continuing
23 the struggle, our struggle, to ensure each and every
24 one of us has the justice and equality we deserve in
25

1 this country and in our city. There is an important
2 achievement that I want to acknowledge in honor of a
3 legendary poet, writer, teacher, and activist who is
4 among this country's greatest heroes. Last week,
5 Doctor Maya Angelou became the first African-American
6 woman to have her image engraved on a quarter. This
7 is a victory for all of us. Doctor Angelou made our
8 country better, and she has a very special place in
9 my heart. I remember as if it was yesterday when she
10 delivered the key note address at my graduation
11 ceremony at Spelman College. I will never forget
12 that day because I was in awe as she spoke. Her
13 words still resonate in my ears. The tenor of her
14 voice reverberated in heart. She inspired me then
15 and she continues to inspire me today. We are
16 beginning a new legislative session, a new and
17 historic legislative session. This is the most
18 diverse City Council ever.

19 [applause]

20
21 SPEAKER ADAMS: For the first time it is
22 led by an African-American Speaker, while the
23 majority of the members serving in the Council are
24 women, undeniably. Undeniably, this diversity makes
25 us stronger. At our last Charter meeting I announced

1 a few members of our Council's leadership team,
2 including Council Member Diana Ayala as Deputy
3 Speaker, Council Member Keith Powers as Majority
4 Leader, and Council Member Selvena Brooks-Powers as
5 Majority Whip [sic]. Today, I want to thank them and
6 announce some new members of the leadership team that
7 I'd also like to thank. Our leadership team also
8 includes, Council Member Gale Brewer, Council Member
9 Justin Brannan, Council Member Rafael Salamanca, and
10 Council Member Crystal Hudson. Together this group
11 will help guide our shared efforts to support members
12 craft equitable policies and execute our vision for
13 this legislative session, and I am confident that
14 together we will move our city forward. Now, before
15 I dive into the agenda of the day, I want to thank
16 from the bottom of my heart the entire central staff
17 of the City Council. They have worked hard to keep
18 this legislative body running, supporting each member
19 and tirelessly serving on behalf of New Yorkers.
20 Thank you for being the backbone of our legislative
21 body. I also want to give a special shout-out to the
22 Legislative Documents Unit for their tireless work
23 for this meeting. Thank you, Jonathan Etricks [sp?].
24 Thank you Ruthy DeFranco [sp?]. Thank you Matt
25

1 DiStefano [sp?]. Thank you Billy Martin. Thank you
2 Evette Molina [sp?]. Thank you Mike McSweeney, as
3 well. I also want to thank Lance Polive [sp?],
4 Associate General Counsel, Jeff Baker, Director of
5 the Legislative Division for their tireless work, and
6 a special mention to Jason Goldman for your work as
7 well. Thank you. During this legislative session we
8 will tackle the multiple crises our city is facing.
9 COVID-19 has widened the gaps in our economic and
10 public health system. This City Council will take
11 action, and we will address economic inequality, gun
12 violence, and community safety, healthcare
13 inequalities, and racial justice. New Yorkers want
14 good paying jobs. They don't want to choose between
15 putting food on the table, paying rent or paying
16 medical bills. They want to feel safe and live
17 without that constant fear of not making ends meet.
18 We cannot thrive as a city as long as all New Yorkers
19 lack the same economic opportunities we need to
20 succeed. For far too long communities of color have
21 been left behind, a situation highlighted and
22 exacerbated by the pandemic. In the coming days and
23 weeks, this Council will work to craft an equitable
24 budget to help all New Yorkers and ensure that our
25

1 city's policies improve the lives of every resident.
2 Together we have an obligation to fight for equity
3 and make every community in New York a better place
4 to live, work, and raise a family. Addressing
5 healthcare inequities is also at the top of my
6 agenda. Communities of color were the hardest hit by
7 pandemic. We suffered the most, yet we were the last
8 ones to get the necessary resources to battle this
9 unprecedented pandemic. We also must address the
10 issues of mental healthcare to ensure that resources
11 actually reach those in greatest need and are
12 available to communities. This is not only an issue
13 of public health, but we see how mental health is
14 intertwined with public safety. Another important
15 issue, of course, is childcare, and this is not new.
16 We have to be able to provide childcare for every
17 parent or guardian who needs it. There is no excuse
18 not to. New York is the richest city in the world,
19 and we should provide quality healthcare for our
20 families. We need strong-- we need a strong and
21 equitable school system that meets the needs of
22 children in every neighborhood with access to a
23 quality education. We will also seek to advance the
24 interest of hardworking New Yorkers across our city
25

1
2 whose labor is essential day-in and day-out to make
3 this city run. Our commitment to the principles of
4 the labor movement will help advance the rights of
5 workers as well as drive the economic wellbeing of
6 our city. One of the most important issues is public
7 safety. New York City cannot thrive without safety
8 and a sense of security when we go to work, when we
9 go to school, when we go to the supermarket, or just
10 walking across the streets in our very own
11 communities. Gun violence has increased in the last
12 two years of this pandemic. We now know the same
13 communities that have been the most harmed by COVID
14 are besieged by violence. We need to address public
15 safety in a comprehensive and holistic way that
16 invests in establishing strong communities. Every
17 stakeholder has a role to play to create a safe city
18 from public health workers to community-based
19 violence interrupters, from law enforcement, to youth
20 organizations, from workforce development groups to
21 others who increase economic opportunities. We have
22 a collective responsibility to address public safety
23 and the most effective approach is one that brings us
24 together to address underlying issues so we can
25 prevent gun violence before it even occurs. Members,

1 we're on a mission. Besides having the best budget
2 possible for all of our communities, this council
3 will pass impactful legislation, and ensure we have
4 oversight of every city agencies. Together, we will
5 get New York City back on its feet and make it the
6 fairest and best city in the entire nation. Before
7 we vote on the Committee Chairs, and other leadership
8 posts, I want to share with you my guiding principle.
9 I shared it with you during our Charter meeting when
10 I was elected Speaker. It's helped me get through
11 the most difficult times of my life. You all are
12 going to get tired of hearing me say it, but every
13 morning I wake up on purpose with a purpose, and that
14 is to serve the people of this great city. Today,
15 we're announcing the Committee and Subcommittee
16 Chairs. This is a team that will help us lead New
17 York City throughout our recovery. We have a very
18 diverse team that is a true snapshot of our diverse
19 city. I want to thank all of the Chairs of the
20 Committees and Subcommittees and all of the members
21 of each Committee, as we're on a mission to make this
22 city more affordable, with better paying jobs, with a
23 public education system that works for all of our
24 children, with affordable healthcare and childcare,
25

1
2 affordable housing where no one is left behind. I
3 thank you for your leadership. I also want to
4 acknowledge the members of each committee as well who
5 will play an important role in oversight and
6 addressing the critical issues of our city. I am so
7 very proud of each and every single one of you, and I
8 know that you will help us lead to accomplish our
9 mission, the mission of this great City Council of
10 this city of New York. Thank you, and with that, I
11 now turn it back over to you, Majority Leader Powers.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you,
13 Speaker Adams, and thank you for your leadership.
14 Congratulations to everyone here today. We'll now
15 move the discussion of General Orders. This section
16 of the meeting is for comments only on the items that
17 we'll be voting on today. We're going to count--
18 first call on Council Member Oswald Feliz.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Thank you so much.
20 Two Sundays ago, we saw a fire devastate the heart
21 and the soul of the community that I represent.
22 Seventeen innocent lives lost, including eight
23 babies. I want to thank everyone that has been there
24 for these affected families. I want to thank the
25 Fire Department. We saw them risking their own lives

1 to save the lives of the innocent people. I also want
2 to thank the Red Cross and the Office of Emergency
3 Management who have been here every single step of
4 the way ensuring that affected families received all
5 the resources they needed, including food, water,
6 shelter, clothing. And I also want to thank our
7 entire city, including all of my colleagues for
8 showing so much love and being there every step of
9 the way to make sure that these affected families
10 receive everything they needed. The Bronx continues
11 to be plagued by one challenge, fire. Some of the
12 worst deadliest fires have occurred in the Bronx,
13 including 1990, 87 lives lost in a deadly fire, and
14 including two Sundays ago, 17 innocent lives lost.
15 We need a system that protects our families, a system
16 that protects our tenants. That's why I'm proud to
17 be chairing the Twin Parks Citywide Taskforce on Fire
18 Prevention, and I'm looking very forward to working
19 with all of you to build that better system, a system
20 that helps ensure that a similar tragedy never
21 happens again. Thank you so much.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you,
24 Council Member Feliz. I'll just say on behalf of the
25 entire City Council, we're with you and your district

1 right now and look forward to working alongside you.
2 We're now going to hear from Council Member Charles
3 Barron.
4

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you very
7 much, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to mention that the
8 Speaker failed to mention the death of my mother,
9 Daisy Barron, who died as 96 years of age on December
10 14th. She failed to mention her, so I just wanted to
11 thank all of you who did reach out and express your
12 condolences. I couldn't tell you how much your words
13 of comfort meant to me and my family. Secondly, on
14 the General Order Calendar, we're going to have all
15 the Chairs selected, and I'll mention more when I
16 explain my vote. But the reason why I'll be
17 abstaining from this process because it continues to
18 be a process where outsiders select the chairs, and
19 outsiders influence who becomes the Speaker, and the
20 Speaker in this case, to me, is not independent and
21 too influenced by law enforcement and by the real
22 estate industry, which I think is going to be
23 reflected in the budget and legislation that comes
24 before us, and then Land Use items that come before
25 us. So I'll be appealing for you to be independent.

1
2 I'll be appealing for you to make sure that during
3 this time of Doctor Martin Luther King's birthday
4 when he said sometimes the white power structure
5 creates manufactured black leaders who are more
6 committed to the power structure, more committed to
7 the real estate industry than they are to the people,
8 no matter how much the flowery rhetoric goes forward.
9 So, I hope that we become the conscience of this
10 city, that we have to be the checks and balance to
11 the Mayor and not a go-along get-a-long for the real
12 estate industry and law enforcement, a budget that
13 gives more money to police than poverty. Thank you.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. Is
15 there anyone else-- Having said, we'll have the
16 report of the Special Committees?

17 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Reports of
19 standing committees?

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee
21 of Rules, Privileges, and Elections, Preconsidered
22 Resolution One and M11, Council rules and committees.

23 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General
24 Orders. I will now ask that the clerk take a roll
25

1
2 call vote on all of the items coupled on today's
3 General Orders Calendar.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Abreu?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Ariola?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Aye.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Avilés?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Barron?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: May I be excused
12 to explain my vote?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Permission
14 granted.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you very
16 much. Once again, I call on you my colleagues to get
17 beyond whether you got a chair or not, get beyond
18 whether you got your committee or not, and let's make
19 sure that we do the bidding of the people of this
20 city. They're counting on you. This is a new
21 Council, a majority women. This is a new Council
22 that has progressive people in this Council that when
23 you ran for office you were with the people and you
24 were with progressive ideas. This is our opportunity
25 to do that. I am disappointed on how many of you

1 caved into the normal process of getting chairs and
2 getting put on the Speaker's leadership team. Often
3 that compromises the bite that you have, the fight
4 that you have for the people. I'm hoping it doesn't
5 do that, particularly during budget time. we will
6 have over 100 billion dollar budget, and we will have
7 over scores of bills that come forward, and there'll
8 be a lot of development projects that come forward.
9 So I just want to leave you with Doctor King-- and
10 many of you may not know this, but he had a dram in
11 1967 with a radical revolutionary vision by 1968 when
12 he died. And Dr. King, by the way, was a black
13 radical, and Dr. King, by the way, was a socialist, a
14 Democratic socialist. And Dr. King, by the way, was
15 anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist wars. Doctor
16 King said, "For years I fought to reform some of the
17 institutions of the south, a little change here, a
18 little change there, but now I think quite
19 differently. We need a radical rearrangement of the
20 entire society, a revolution of values. Don't be
21 fooled by black faces in high places [sic], all skin
22 [inaudible] kinfolk, and everybody black doesn't
23 necessarily have your back." Thank you, and I
24 abstain.
25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

COUNCIL CLERK: Bottcher?

COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Brannan?

COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Cabán?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Carr?

COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: De La Rosa?

COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Dinowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Farías?

COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Feliz?

COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Gennaro?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I very humbly
and very gratefully vote aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Gutiérrez?

COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Hanif?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Permission to
3 explain my vote?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Permission
5 granted.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: As a daughter of
7 two working class Bangladesian [sic] Muslim
8 immigrants and our City's first Bangladeshi and first
9 Muslim woman Council Member, I'm deeply honored to
10 have been selected to serve as the Chair of the
11 Council's Committee on Immigration. Speaker Adams,
12 Council Members, thank you so much for this
13 opportunity. Millions of immigrants call our city
14 home, and as Committee Chair I will work tirelessly
15 to ensure their voices are heard and their rights are
16 respected. I'm looking forward to working with my
17 colleagues to advance legislation that embeds
18 language justice into our city's operations and
19 ensures New York is a true sanctuary city by cutting
20 off all of our access points with ICE. I'm also
21 committed to ensuring critical measures like the Our
22 City Our Vote and the Delivrista package are
23 implement effectively. We'll work with the Mayor's
24 Office of Immigrant Affairs to strengthen services
25 and programs that our immigrant community depends on,

1 and fight tooth and nail to make sure that critical
2 initiatives like ActionNYC, AccessHealth NYC, NYFUP
3 and adult literacy education get the full funding
4 they deserve. Also, make sure the City is a vocal
5 champion of immigrant rights on matters that fall
6 within state and federal jurisdiction. Let's be
7 clear, we need an immediate pathway to citizenship.
8 We need to end immigrant detention and deportation,
9 and we need a strengthened and ongoing excluded
10 workers' fund. I'm excited to partner with other
11 communities to ensure that we uplift immigrant
12 communities in all sectors of city life, including
13 our schools, our housing, the healthcare system, the
14 criminal legal system, and our workforce. I look
15 forward to transforming this committee to be one that
16 centers agenda-responsive and feminist legislative
17 and budgetary agenda that reflects care for all
18 immigrants. [speaking Bangla] I'll rap up in
19 Bangla. Our city is an immigrant city. I'll be
20 working for you. We'll be working collectively to
21 build immigrant power. I vote aye on all. Thank you.
22

23
24 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Hanks?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Aye.

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Holden?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I vote aye.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Hudson?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: I vote aye.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Joseph?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Kagan?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Aye.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Krishnan?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Lee?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Louis?

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

17 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Permission
18 granted.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Thank you, Majority
20 Leader Powers. I'd like to extend my condolences to
21 Deputy Speaker Ayala on the loss of her mother and
22 her cousin Crystal Nevis [sp?], Michelle Go's family,
23 and the entire Asian-American community in New York
24 City. I would also like to share with you all that
25 earlier this month the transnational Haitian

1
2 community celebrated Haiti's 218th anniversary of the
3 first black republic on January 1st, and on January
4 12th we honored the more than 300,000 Haitians that
5 were killed during the 7.0 magnitude earthquake in
6 2010. We have experienced concurrent crises, but our
7 faith and unwavering hope allows us to stand firm and
8 to fight against odds and overcome every setback.
9 The passage of the Haiti Development Accountability
10 and Institutional Transparency Initiative Act, also
11 known as HR2471 in the US Senate commits critical
12 support to an island of people who have been
13 suffering from political crises, environmental
14 disasters, and economic meltdowns for years. The
15 bill will finally offer a sustainable pathway towards
16 recovery for millions of Haitians struggling every
17 day. As the daughter of Haitian-Americans who
18 represent central Brooklyn, which many of my
19 colleagues call home, I want to thank Senator Schumer
20 for championing this legislation on behalf of our
21 families abroad. Thank you Majority Leader Powers
22 and Madam Speaker for this time. I vote aye.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Marte?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye.
25

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy? We'll come back to
3 Council Member Mealy. Council Member Menin?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Moya?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Narcisse?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: May I explain
9 my vote real quick?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Permission
11 granted.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: I'm honored to
13 be chosen by Speaker Adams, and I'm fully ready to
14 take my firsthand experience and do all I can to
15 ensure that doctors, nurses, and all hospital staff
16 have the resources available to them to provide the
17 best healthcare to all New Yorkers. This is a
18 pivotal time for our city as we continue to battle
19 the Omicron variant of COVID-19, which has decimated
20 our hospital, in particular, NYC Health + Hospitals
21 facilities and safety net hospital, which is in
22 traditionally underserved communities, need a
23 lifeline and our immediate attention so they can
24 flourish and not merely survive. They are on life
25 support right now as we speak. Further, our

1 community health centers-- in my district alone, we
2 have a large population and we don't have no
3 hospitals nor healthcare center. We need to further
4 our centers, especially in a high-risk neighborhood
5 to continue and serve the people of the population
6 that need to be served. It is deplorable that in
7 2022 the color of one's skin and the economic status
8 correlate to the quality of healthcare we receive.
9 Death rate are almost 30 percent higher in the
10 poorest New York City neighborhoods than in the
11 healthier neighborhood. Black women are eight times
12 more likely to die of pregnancy-related causes than
13 white New Yorkers. This is not acceptable in 2022.
14 I assure you that I'm prepared to confront these
15 issues, and I'm confident that this City Council will
16 make a sincere effort to eliminate these deadly
17 imbalances. We must do better for our New Yorkers,
18 and I'm ready. Thank you, Speaker Adams. And aye.

19
20 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you, Council
21 Member. Nurse?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Aye.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Ossé?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Aye.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Paladino?

COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Rustler?

COUNCIL MEMBER RUSTLER: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Richardson-Jordan?

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON-JORDAN:

Abstain.

COUNCIL CLERK: Riley?

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Salamanca?

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: I vote aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Sanchez?

COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Permission to explain my vote?

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Permission granted.

COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: At a time when our city faces an ongoing housing crisis, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, I thank Speaker Adams and my colleagues for the opportunity to be appointed to chair of the City Council's Committee on Housing and Buildings. In the last two weeks we have witnessed the devastating impact of the Twin Parks five-alarm

1 fire in Council Member Feliz's district and the South
2 Bronx fire just a few days later in Council Member
3 Salamanca's district. Due to the neglected building
4 and gas leaks claiming the lives of nearly 20 New
5 Yorkers and neighbors. The city has affordable
6 housing crisis, disproportionately impacting low to
7 moderate income communities and communities of color
8 for years has been exacerbated by the pandemic, and
9 the corresponding health and economic fall-out. Only
10 18 percent of renter-occupied homes are well-
11 maintained by landlords, according to the City's
12 Department of Health. Up to 70 percent of the lowest
13 income households live in homes they cannot afford,
14 according to the Herman Center, and nearly 300,000
15 evictions have been filed in the state with a lifted
16 eviction moratorium. And our building still emit
17 unsustainable levels of greenhouse gas emissions and
18 pollution. It is in this dire context that the work
19 of this committee and of housing advocates and other
20 leaders in the City of New York could not be more
21 important. I am energized to serve alongside a
22 speaker, a City Council and a Mayor committed to
23 working hard to protect tenants, demanding safe,
24 healthy, quality, and affordable housing, and
25

1 fighting against harassment, neglect, and speculative
2 landlords. Thank you. I vote aye.

3
4 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you Council Member.
5 Schulman?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Stevens?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Ung?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Velázquez?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Aye.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Williams?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Permission to
15 explain my vote?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Permission
17 granted.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I would like to
19 thank Madam Speaker for appointing me to Chair the
20 Committee on Civil and Human rights. Still being in
21 the spirit of Doctor Martin Luther King, Junior, I'm
22 reminded of this quote, "Returning hate for hate
23 multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night
24 already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out
25 [sic] darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot

2 drive out hate, only love can do that." I am eager
3 with love and bright light to address the many issues
4 plaguing our city as most can be seen as a civil or
5 human rights violation, whether it's black maternal
6 health and reproductive justice, restorative justice
7 surrounding marijuana, hate crimes, the lack of
8 housing, or the many inequities around the delivery
9 of government services and much more. I look forward
10 to working with our Speaker and my colleagues to make
11 our city a just place for all. Thank you, and I vote
12 aye.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Won?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Aye.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Yeger?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Mealy?

18 Vernikov? Sorry, Council Member?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Borelli?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Brooks-Powers?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Permission

24 to explain my vote?

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Permission
3 granted.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: First, I'd
5 like to extend my heartfelt condolences to Deputy
6 Speaker Ayala. My thoughts and prayers continue to
7 be with you during this difficult time. Also, I'd
8 like to say thank you to Madam Speaker Adams for the
9 opportunity to serve as the Chair of the
10 Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. As a
11 representative of the Southeast Queens community, one
12 of the City's transit deserts, I'm looking forward to
13 working with key stakeholders, government partners to
14 ensuring a fairer, more affordable, more accessible
15 transportation system for all across the city. I'm
16 honored to be in this role. I'm honored to be a part
17 of the newly formed COVID Recovery and Resiliency
18 Program as someone who represents a community that
19 had the second deadliest zip code at the height of
20 this pandemic. I'm looking to ensure that we have
21 equitable distribution of any resources pertaining to
22 COVID-19, and of course, it is an honor to be able to
23 work with each one of the members in this body to
24 move the City forward on its road to recovery. And
25 so with that, I vote aye.

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Powers?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: I vote aye.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Permission to
6 explain my vote?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Permission
8 granted.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Thank you. I
10 actually-- it's been a very difficult week for my
11 family and I think, you know, I try to learn lessons
12 in everything that happens to me, and this week I
13 took away some lessons that I hope will help guide
14 the work that we do this year. Crystal died at 19
15 years old working at Burger King overnight because
16 she was trying to make a couple of dollars to help
17 her mother pay bills, and that night her-- she didn't
18 want to go to work because she didn't feel safe. And
19 her mother reiterated to her the importance of her
20 being responsible, and you know, reminded her that
21 she was on the schedule and nobody else would be to
22 cover for her if she did not show up that night. And
23 her daughter shows up and an hour and a half later
24 she was shot and killed for a hundred dollars. I
25 think that the lesson that I learned there is that

1 we're not doing enough to ensure worker safety
2 protections. There's no reason why this 19-year-old
3 should have been working a night shift and that the
4 safety precautions were not put in place to ensure
5 that she got home to her mother the following
6 morning. I also want to express my deep appreciation
7 to all of you who have taken the time to call me and
8 text me and share your words of wisdom and support.
9 I found that many of us live in the same community
10 now and that we share in common the loss of a parent,
11 and I think it's one of the most difficult-- it's one
12 of the most difficult times of my life, because my
13 mom lived with me for 10 years, and I was very
14 fortunate, and I kept looking through stories and
15 saying, you know, my mother lived a long life. This
16 young girl was 19 and she was murdered at work.
17 People died in a fire and explosion in the Bronx.
18 They didn't deserve to go so young, and at least I
19 had those 10 years. You still selfishly want your
20 mom. Doesn't matter how old you are. I really want
21 to say thank you to all of you, and I think that I
22 learned many lessons in caring for my mom, how
23 difficult it is to be a caregiver, to have to juggle
24 work and family, health issues, being able to access
25

1 good quality healthcare, being able to even get a
2 homecare worker to show up because they're underpaid
3 and underappreciated, doing more to ensure that the
4 most vulnerable are taken care of in the way that
5 they deserve, regardless of where they live,
6 regardless of their race, regardless of how much
7 money they have or don't have. And so I will use all
8 of those experiences and try to make my mom proud and
9 ensure that other families don't have to endure what
10 many of us have had to. But I really wanted to say
11 thank you to all of you for being so kind to me and
12 my family during this difficult time. And I will be
13 fine [inaudible] in months, years, whatever it takes,
14 I'll be fine. I also wanted to thank Speaker Adams
15 for appointing me to the General Welfare Committee.
16 It's a committee that means a lot to me, as did
17 mental health before, for personal reasons. I think
18 that it's important to have people in committees
19 representing committees that have lived experiences,
20 because I think that we have a story to tell and
21 there's no one better to tell it than us. So thank
22 you all. And with that I vote aye.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Council
25 Member Mealy will be joining us one more time.

1 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 49

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye on all.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you, Council

4 Member. Speaker Adams?

5 SPEAKER ADAMS: I vote aye.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: All items on
7 today's General Order calendar are adopted by a vote
8 of 49 in affirmative and 2 abstentions, and 0 in the
9 negative. We will now move onto the introduction and
10 reading of bills.

11 SERGEANT AT ARMS: All bills have been
12 referred to committee as indicated on today's agenda.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. There
14 are no resolutions on today's calendar, so we'll now
15 move into the general discussion, the section of
16 meeting for any topic that a member would like to
17 speak about. Anybody would like to speak? Okay,
18 I'll now call on Speaker Adrienne Adams to close out
19 today's Stated Meeting.

20 SPEAKER ADAMS: The Stated Meeting of
21 January 20th, 2022 is hereby adjourned.

22 [gavel]

23

24

25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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 February 3, 2022