

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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April 16, 2015  
Start: 1:22 p.m.  
Recess: 3:30 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: VINCENT GENTILE  
Deputy Leader

MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO  
Speaker for the Council

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

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

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

Megan Waldron  
Member  
District 3 Green Schools Group

Lisa Maller  
Member  
District 3 Green Schools Group

Jennifer Freeman  
Member  
District 3 Green Schools Group

Pamela French  
Member  
District 3 Green Schools Group

Laura Sametz  
Member  
District 3 Green Schools Group

Jennifer Prescott  
Member  
District 3 Green Schools Group

Emily Fanno  
Member  
District 3 Green Schools Group

Jennifer King-Layla  
Member  
District 3 Green Schools Group

Daniel Quintero  
Executive Director  
Kips Bay Boys and Girls Club

Kathy Gruber  
Executive Director  
Ryan-NENA Community Health Center

Meenakshi Srinivasan  
Commissioner and Chair  
Landmarks Preservation Commission

Reverend Dr. James Alexander Forbes, Jr.  
Union Theological Seminary in Manhattan

2 [background noise, sound check]

3 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: We're--we're  
4 going to get started. We have four ceremonials  
5 today. I took a point of privilege adding a fourth  
6 one. So, sorry about that. We're going to start off  
7 with Council Member Rosenthal who is going to be  
8 recognizing District 3 Green School's Parents  
9 Association. That's all I got. So, I know that  
10 Helen's got more. So I'm going to pass it onto Helen  
11 Rosenthal.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you very  
13 much. In fact, one of my colleagues called me a  
14 chatterbox this morning, and I'll be chastising him  
15 later about that. So, I am so proud to stand here  
16 with Council Members Donovan and Reynoso and you and  
17 also Cabrera, and to Council Member Rodriguez.

18 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: It's Council  
19 Member's Cabrera's birthday. Happy birthday, Council  
20 Member. [cheers/applause]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [foreign  
22 language] To honor the District 3 Green School group  
23 founded in 2009, and composed entirely of parent  
24 volunteers, which have been meeting voluntarily--  
25 monthly to organize sustainability programs in

2 schools throughout our district. In 2011, five  
3 parent volunteers began the D3 Composting Pilot  
4 Program. The Pilot Composting Program in School  
5 District 3 became a model for New York City, and the  
6 Department of Sanitation has extended this program  
7 dramatically now throughout the City. [cheers]  
8 Applause here. [applause] The D3 Green Schools  
9 Group continues to work closely with the Department  
10 of Education and the Department of Sanitation to  
11 refine the program for its success as it expands  
12 throughout the city. And the one thing I really want  
13 to note because I just can't get this fact out of my  
14 head, these women went into eight schools buildings,  
15 all right. There were--no it was eight buildings--  
16 four buildings, eight schools, and got all the kids  
17 involved. Called them Trash Troopers. Got the  
18 custodians involved and the school cafeteria staff  
19 involved, and made it so that instead of having the  
20 usual 54 bags of garbage a week--are you hearing this  
21 Antonio--54 bags of garbage a week, they got it down  
22 to eight. Snap. So I just want to especially--

23 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: [off mic] Very  
24 good. [sic]

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Yes, well  
3 done--thank Megan Waldron, Lisa Maller, Jennifer  
4 Freeman, one of the founders, Pamela French, Laura  
5 Sametz, and if I, sorry about that. Jennifer  
6 Prescott, Emily Fanno, and Jennifer King-Layla [sp?],  
7 and also the PS199 custodian engineer. And this is  
8 the heart of the whole matter. So thank you for  
9 being here. This is Teresa De Cristy. [applause]  
10 Well done.

11 [background comment]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Oh, could the  
13 clerk please read the proclamation?

14 CLERK: Council City of New York  
15 Proclamation.

16 Whereas, the Council of the City of New  
17 York is proud to honor the District 3 Green Schools  
18 Group for its outstanding service and contributions  
19 to the community; and

20 Whereas, New York School District 3 and  
21 public schools citywide have been strengthened by the  
22 tireless dedication of District 3 Green Schools Group  
23 members, who have championed an array of waste  
24 reduction, recycling, energy conservation, and

25

2 educational initiatives. Many of these programs have  
3 become a model for public schools citywide; and

4           Whereas, founded in 2009, parent  
5 volunteers meet monthly, and have advocated for and  
6 organize sustainability programs throughout the  
7 district. The long and impressive list of programs  
8 include: Classroom and cafeteria recycling;  
9 classroom composting room bins; energy conservation  
10 and climate change education programs; Earth Day  
11 programming; rooftop greenhouses; school gardens;  
12 solar roof panels on Grand Ice [sic] High School;  
13 Nike sneaker recycling collections; text tile  
14 recycling collections; sports equipment swaps;  
15 rainwater harvesting programs; hydroponics and  
16 aquaponics; replacing styrofoam cafeteria trays with  
17 compost--compostable trays; eliminating packaged  
18 forks; creating a monarch way station; waste-free  
19 school fairs using only recycled crafts; and green  
20 fundraising sell reusable water bottles, and reusable  
21 lunch containers; and

22           Whereas, in 2011, five parent volunteers  
23 began the DC3 Composting Pilot Program: Lisa Maller,  
24 Pamela French, Laura Sametz, Jennifer Prescott, and  
25 Emily Fanno conceived, organized, and propelled the



2 pilot in its first year. Due to their efforts, the  
3 pilot was a huge success eliminating more than 1,900  
4 styrofoam trays from the waste stream daily, and  
5 achieving an 85% overall reduction of garbage by  
6 volume. Due to intensive education, the school also  
7 dramatically increased the captured of recyclables in  
8 the cafeteria. By 2012, the program expanded to  
9 eight DC schools and has been embraced by the entire  
10 district each year since; and

11           Whereas, the Pilot Composting Program in  
12 School District 3 became a model for New York City  
13 and the Department of Sanitation has expanded the  
14 program dramatically throughout the city. The DC  
15 Schools group continues to work closely with the  
16 Department of Education and the Department of  
17 Sanitation to refine the program for success as it  
18 expands throughout the City.

19           Now, therefore, be it known that the  
20 Council of the City of New York gratefully honors the  
21 DC3 Greens--Green Schools Group for their work and  
22 dedication to sustainability in New York City Public  
23 Schools. Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the  
24 Entire Council; Helen Rosenthal, Council Member 6th  
25 District, Manhattan; Donovan Richards, Chair,

2 Committee on Environmental Protection; Antonio  
3 Reynoso, Chair, Committee on Sanitation and Solid  
4 Waste Management.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right.

6 [applause] Well, thank you. I know there is--one of  
7 the parents will speak on behalf of the group, but  
8 obviously, this is very appropriate on the eve of  
9 Earth Day coming up, and we will be passing some  
10 legislation also to that effect. So, thank you for  
11 you're doing and serving as an inspiration hopefully  
12 to other parents to think about doing the same thing.  
13 Who is going to speak on behalf of the group.

14 GREEN SCHOOLS GROUP MEMBER: I will.

15 Thank you, Helen Rosenthal and the Speaker and the  
16 City Council for honoring us today for doing what we  
17 feel passionate about, making our children's schools  
18 more environmentally sustainable. We look forward to  
19 continuing to work with the Departments of Education  
20 and Sanitation to continue share ideas about how to  
21 expand the program successfully. And we would be  
22 happy to be a resource to parents and other districts  
23 throughout the city. But there is no shortcut for  
24 outreach and education. When the current recycling  
25 program was expanded from a small pilot to a citywide

2 program in the late 1980s, there was a large  
3 allocation of funding for outreach of education for  
4 staff and materials. A similar investment needs to  
5 be made now to ensure the expansion of the Food Waste  
6 Composting Program to be a success. We support the  
7 Department of Education and Sanitation's request for  
8 intensive outreach and education of all schools, and  
9 urge the City Council to fund it in the next budget  
10 cycle. We also support increased training of  
11 custodial staff, and support for principals to  
12 oversee and implement recycling programs in their  
13 schools. But, no matter how good education is, there  
14 will always be a need for front-end processing. And  
15 so, we also request that the City Council work with  
16 the Department of Sanitation to investigate  
17 opportunities to site processing and composting  
18 facilities here in New York City. Thank you so much  
19 for this honor. [applause]

20 [background comment]

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay. Thank you.  
22 Nice to meet you. The next one will be Council  
23 Member Cabrera.

24 [background comments]

25

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay, and Palma.

3 And as I mentioned it's Council Member Cabrera's  
4 birthday so happy birthday to him. So, both Cabrera  
5 and Palma, Council Members are going to honoring Kips  
6 Bay Boys and Girls Club on their 100th Anniversary.

7 [cheers/applause] All right. Hand it off to them.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you so  
9 much, Madam Speaker. It's truly an honor and a  
10 pleasure to talk about Kips Bay Boys and Girls Club  
11 100 Year Anniversary. They started in 1915 in  
12 Midtown, and then they came all the way to the  
13 promise land to the Bronx. And so, one of the  
14 centers are actually located-- It used to be in your  
15 district. But we're so glad they're in the Bronx  
16 because the need is great. And I could tell you  
17 first hand one of the clubhouses where we have over  
18 800 young people being serviced they're literally  
19 saving lives. Literally saving lives. We see the  
20 young people. Some of them who used to be in gangs,  
21 another one in gangs. Some of the young people--  
22 preventive work that is being done with young--little  
23 children who go immediately after school into the  
24 center, Saturday events. It's just simply amazing,  
25 and I want to thank Daniel Quintero for the

2 leadership that he has provided. And I'm going to  
3 turn it over to Council Member Palma because she has  
4 the bigger center.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Thank--thank you,  
6 Madam Speaker, for allowing us to talk and Council  
7 Member Cabrera approached me about celebrating and  
8 giving kids their proclamation. Thank you then for  
9 being here. Although I have a physical center in my  
10 district, and so does Council Member Cabrera, this--  
11 Kips Bay is not, you know, it reaches far beyond the  
12 trenches of the Bronx. This is my--you know, Council  
13 Member Cabrera said it. It saves lives. This is an  
14 organization that is the village that we often talk  
15 about, about raising our children. And it's not an--  
16 you know, it's not just an after school program.  
17 This is a life saving program. This program is a  
18 holistic approach on how we need to make sure that  
19 our children are not only saved, but well educated.  
20 And the dollars that we put into programs like Kips  
21 Bay are investments that we're making way into our  
22 future. So, I am excited to be celebrating the 100  
23 years of Kips Bay, although of us appear 100 years  
24 old, but [laughs] it--it--it just--it just proves  
25 that, you know, the investments that we make early on

2 will continue for generations to come. So thank you  
3 Dan for your leadership, and the board for all that  
4 they do. And if the clerk can read the proclamation.

5 CLERK: Council City of New York  
6 Proclamation.

7 Whereas, the Council of the City of New  
8 York is proud to honor the Kips Bay Boys and Girls  
9 Club for its century of support to young people and  
10 its outstanding commitment to general health,  
11 education and advancement, character development and  
12 leadership potential of its members; and

13 Whereas, since 1915, the Kips Bay Boys  
14 and Girls Club has been helping put young people on  
15 the path to great futures. In 1969, the club moved  
16 from Mid-Manhattan to its present location in the  
17 Bronx. Within 15 years, a swimming pool, two  
18 classrooms, an auditorium and outdoor recreation  
19 space were added to accommodate a rapidly expanding  
20 membership. In the early 1990s, the club's operation  
21 extended to six days and satellite clubs were  
22 established at three public schools in 1994.  
23 Participation of children with disabilities also  
24 increased; and

2           Whereas, in 1996, Daniel Quintero, a  
3 Bronx native, became the first Kips Bay alumnus to  
4 lead the organization. Mr. Quintero oversaw the  
5 completion of comprehensive renovations including a  
6 new dance studio, lighted outdoor basketball courts,  
7 and the refurbished educational center; and

8           Whereas, the club continued to grow in  
9 the late 1990s as it partnered with. Housing  
10 Enterprise for the Less Privileged to provide  
11 services in Bronx homeless shelters. Within seven  
12 years, direct service sites at NYCHA community  
13 centers, a Castle Hill and Throggs Neck--Throggs Neck  
14 Houses were established. Until 2002, Sports Complex  
15 was completed offering the area's only ice skating  
16 rink. In 2006 and 2007 the club initiated day and  
17 residential camping programs at Camp Sebago and  
18 Harriman State Park, and

19           Whereas, for generations the Kips Bay  
20 Boys and Girls Club has been a place for boys and  
21 girls 6 to 18 years of age to challenge themselves  
22 physically and intellectually, and be recognized for  
23 accomplishments. Last year, the club served more  
24 than 13,000 young people, and with half of the  
25 members living under the poverty level and in single-

2 parent households, its importance to our city is as  
3 great as ever before. By participating in the club's  
4 programs and activities, young people are instilled a  
5 sense of competence, a sense of belonging, and a  
6 sense of power of influence that can nourish them and  
7 help them discover their limitless potential as  
8 adults.

9           Now, therefore, be it known that the  
10 Council of the City of New York including all members  
11 of its Bronx delegation proudly honors the Kips Bay  
12 Boys and Girls Club in celebrate--in celebration of  
13 its 100th Anniversary.

14           Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the  
15 Entire Council; Fernando Cabrera, Council Member,  
16 14th District, Bronx; Annabel Palma, Council Member,  
17 18th District, Bronx; and the rest of the Bronx  
18 Delegation.

19           SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Well, thank you  
20 so much, and I'm to--to Dan, thank you for all that  
21 you do on behalf of Kips Bay, but also that Kips Bay  
22 does on behalf of our children, and on behalf of the  
23 City of New York. Congratulations on a 100th  
24 Anniversary. That's not easy to achieve in terms of  
25 a non-profit organization. So that definitely is a



2 signal of its strength and vibrancy. So with that if  
3 you want to say a few words, we welcome that  
4 opportunity.

5 DAN QUINTERO: I will be brief because so  
6 much was said already, and I'm a little exhausted in  
7 hearing about all those accomplishments. But I want  
8 to thank Speaker Viverito and obviously Anna Palma  
9 and Councilman Al Cabrera, and the rest of the City  
10 Council. We've been around 100 years not in the  
11 least because of our great City Council. They have  
12 empowered us. They have poured into the  
13 administration of this organization, which in turn  
14 we've been able to pour into tens of thousands of  
15 children over the last 100 years. And I would just  
16 encourage you to help us pour into tens of thousands  
17 of children in the next 100 years. So thank you so  
18 much.

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Very nice. Thank  
20 you so much. Very much appreciated.

21 [cheer/applause, background comments] All right,  
22 next ceremonial is from our colleague Council Member  
23 Rosie Mendez, but we'll be honoring Kathy Gruber,  
24 Executive Director of the Ryan-NENA Community Health  
25 Center. I don't have Ryan-NENA. I had Ryan-NENA in

2 my district. So I know the great centers that they  
3 run, health centers, and I think that she was coming  
4 up. All right, she is coming up. It's 25 years. So  
5 it's great to be able to recognize your effort, you  
6 work. Here Council Member Mendez.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you. So  
8 there's a couple of things I want to mention because  
9 it's not in the Proclamation, and it's the life that  
10 we've led for the last several decades. I'm lucky  
11 enough to have Kathy Gruber at Ryan-NENA. I know  
12 that in times of emergencies in our district, Ryan-  
13 NENA Ryan-NENA is who we go to. And, I remember  
14 after 9/11 when I was the Chief of Staff, and I  
15 remember during a couple of Con Ed transformer fires,  
16 and then during Super Storm Sandy that it was Ryan-  
17 NENA who we worked with to make sure we can get into  
18 buildings, and get people the medications they needed  
19 when they couldn't come out. You know, during 9/11,  
20 we had all these frozen zones, and people were not  
21 allowed to walk past a certain point. And we weren't  
22 getting any deliveries, and it was those boots on the  
23 ground under your leadership that helped save lives  
24 then and more recently during Sandy. So thank you  
25 for your commitment. You will be missed, but you

2 deserve to enjoy the rest of your life without having  
3 to deal with the day-to-day problems that we work  
4 with in the Lower East Side, and you've left a great  
5 team behind. So, thank you for all that you have  
6 done. If the Clerk can read the proclamation please?

7 CLERK: Council City of New York  
8 Proclamation.

9 Whereas, the City of New York is proud to  
10 honor Kathy Gruber upon her retirement in recognition  
11 of her 25 years of transformative--transformative  
12 leadership as Executive Director of the Ryan-NENA  
13 Community Health Center, a major provider of  
14 comprehensive primary healthcare in Manhattan's Lower  
15 East Side; and

16 Whereas, Ms. Gruber exemplifies the  
17 enduring spirit of social activism--activism with  
18 deep roots in the Lower East Side. Although her  
19 incredible contributions have not been widely  
20 celebrated before today, she has played a major role  
21 in shaping our community, and preparing it for future  
22 generations. Before joining the Ryan-NENA Center,  
23 she was instrumental in forming the Committee--  
24 Committee for Community Controlled Day Care, an  
25 advocacy group that helped community-based day care

2 centers secure funding from the City of New York  
3 through the Agency for Child Development; and

4           Whereas, when she began working at the  
5 Ryan Center in 1981, it was an ailing healthcare  
6 agency ill equipped to serve its neighborhood. But  
7 she remained--she remained committed, and her  
8 skillful management and fierce passion began to  
9 strengthen the organization. In 1989, she became the  
10 center's Project Director and in 2001, she was  
11 promoted to Executive Director to more accurately  
12 reflect her level of responsibilities while the  
13 agency grew to become the thriving innovative center  
14 it is today; and

15           Whereas, Ms. Gruber is deeply committed--  
16 is a deeply committed activist for those in need, and  
17 those discounted in today's society, as her legacy  
18 makes clear, each year the Ryan Center serves more  
19 than 11,000 uninsured or underinsured patients. And  
20 70 to 80% of the clinic's population lives at or  
21 below the 200% of the Federal Poverty Line of \$23,000  
22 a year for a family of four; and

23           Whereas, over the course of her 25-year--  
24 year tenure, Ms. Gruber was also active with numerous  
25 organizations to help improve the ability of the

2 center and staff to care for the most vulnerable  
3 patients of the community. She served as a member of  
4 the Advisory Committee of the Center's school-based  
5 health programs, and as a member of both the finance  
6 and nominating committees of the Community Health  
7 Care Association of New York State. As well as a  
8 member of the Health Advisory Committee of University  
9 Settlement and the Lower Manhattan Health Care  
10 Coalition; and

11           Whereas, in October 2012, when Hurricane  
12 Sandy began hammering our city, Ms. Gruber kept the  
13 center open for as long as possible because she knew  
14 the community turned to it not just for medical care,  
15 but for all kinds of support. In 2013, she was  
16 elected the Executive Committee of Lower East Side  
17 Ready, a coalition of 26 community groups and  
18 organizations formed in response to the super storm.  
19 She also served on the Executive Committee of the  
20 Lower Manhattan Health Care Coalition, and co-chaired  
21 its Emergency Preparedness Committee; and

22           Whereas, upon her retirement, Ms. Gruber  
23 can be proud knowing that her legacy of service will  
24 continue to have a very positive impact at the  
25 center, and in the lives of those it serves. May all

2 New Yorkers find inspiration in her generosity and  
3 spirit of service.

4 Now, therefore, be it known that the  
5 Council of the City of New York gratefully honors  
6 Kathy Gruber for her outstanding service and enduring  
7 contribution to our community.

8 Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the  
9 Entire Council; Rosie Mendez, Council Member, 2nd  
10 District, Manhattan.

11 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right.  
12 [cheers/applause]. Congratulations, Ms. Gruber and  
13 if you could say a few words.

14 KATHY GRUBER: Yeah.

15 [background comment]

16 KATHY GRUBER: So, first of all, I want  
17 to thank Rosie for this incredible honor. It's just  
18 amazing to me, and Rosie has been such a supporter of  
19 me as well as the Ryan-NENA Community Health Center.  
20 And I really want to thank her and the other council  
21 members for this incredible honor. I want to say  
22 that this honor also belongs to the staff of the Ryan  
23 Center and Ryan-NENA because I could not do the job  
24 that I did without them. And I just want to say  
25 Ryan-NENA has served this community, and the

2 proclamation said, since 19--well, under the rock--  
3 the egis of the Ryan Center since 1988. We provide  
4 healthcare--high quality comprehensive healthcare to  
5 any-- See, I'm still say we, because even though I'm  
6 retired--

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] It's  
8 in your heart.

9 KATHY GRUBER: It's in my heart, yes, and  
10 I feel very confident that we will continue to do  
11 this, and make sure that the Lower East Side  
12 continues to receive health care, which is a right,  
13 not a privilege.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Right.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Yay.

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Yes.

17 [cheers/applause] Thank you so much. Thank you.  
18 Very inspiring. Thank you so much for your  
19 commitment.

20 [background comments, pause]

21 KATHY GRUBER: [off mic] Can I just--

22 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay, hold on a  
23 minute.

24 [applause]

2 KATHY GRUBER: I'm sorry, everybody, I  
3 forgot to thank my family who's here today.  
4 [cheers/applause] And I definitely couldn't have  
5 done it without them. So, thank you very much for  
6 letting me do that.

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Of course. Okay.  
8 thank you so much. We have one more proclamation,  
9 which will be presented by myself and Council Members  
10 Koo and Greenfield.

11 [background comments, pause]

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: And Council  
13 Member Weprin, all the Land Use Chairs. This is the-  
14 -we did a proc. It's somewhat unusual. We decided  
15 obviously that we wanted to recognize we have, I  
16 think, the Chair of the Landmarks Preservation  
17 Commission here. Nice to see you. We wanted to do a  
18 proclamation recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the  
19 Landmarks Law. Excuse me one second. One thing, I  
20 don't have my glasses on. That's important. It is  
21 the 50th Anniversary of the Landmarks Law. Which was  
22 established in 1965 under Mayor Robert Wagner Who  
23 signed the New York City Landmarks Law granting the  
24 New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission  
25 authority to preserve significant historic buildings



2 and neighborhoods in the city. So obviously, we know  
3 the importance of this law. We wanted to recognize  
4 the contributions of this commission over the years,  
5 and I would ask if--before I say anything else of any  
6 of the chairs would have a few words, Council Members  
7 Weprin, Greenfield or Koo? [off mic] Do you want to  
8 say anything.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Yes.

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Council Member  
11 Koo.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Good afternoon, my  
13 colleagues in government and other visitors. Today,  
14 we are very happy to celebrate the commemoration of  
15 50th Anniversary of the New York Landmarks Law. It  
16 was on April 19, 1965 that Mayor Robert Wagner passed  
17 legislation to create this Commission. And right  
18 now, the Commission is doing a fantastic job  
19 preserving over a thousand landmarks in our city.  
20 And the LPC is not only a standard in our city, it's  
21 also a pioneer nationwide, and also internationally.  
22 Once I was in Hong Kong reading the local paper, and  
23 they mentioned about New York LPC because they were  
24 going to destroy a whole village. Demolish the whole  
25 village to do some commercial buildings,

2 developments. So to stop it they asked the local  
3 government to follow New York City's example to  
4 create a local LPC. So this is why our Landmark  
5 Commission is really important to preserve historic  
6 buildings. Because we are a relatively young  
7 country. So we have a lot of things that we want to  
8 be sure to show--to show our next generation, our  
9 future generation, things that we have a lot of  
10 beautiful buildings and historically, and another  
11 area that's really important.

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] Yes,  
13 it is.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: So, yeah. So thank  
15 you very much. I want to thank our Speaker and our  
16 Chairman and all the council members who are here,  
17 and also all the landmark advocates here. Thank you  
18 very much. [applause]

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Yes, I think  
20 we're also dedicating this historic preservation  
21 community in general. If nothing else, I'll ask the  
22 Clerk to read the proc. Okay, Council Member  
23 Greenfield has a few words.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you  
25 Madam Speaker. You know, today is actually a very

2 exciting day for us. This legislation when it was  
3 passed was really landmark legislation in this  
4 country, no pun intended.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: [off mic] I get  
6 it. [sic]

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Okay, thank  
8 you Mark Weprin.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: [off mic]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you.  
11 Because we recognize that despite being a relatively  
12 young country in the grand scheme of countries  
13 throughout the world, that we have an incredible  
14 amount of history and culture and architecture that's  
15 important to protect. But I would tell you that this  
16 work could not be done without the fine men and women  
17 who both serve as commissioners and as chairs and  
18 staff of the Landmarks Preservation Commission. They  
19 have the wisdom of Solomon. They have to decide  
20 which buildings to landmark, which districts to  
21 landmark, which districts not to, what do to and how  
22 to do it. I especially want to thank Meenakshi, the  
23 new Chair who is standing right next to me and, of  
24 course, I see Bob, the old chair. The young chair.  
25 I'm sorry. The former chair. Thank you, Speaker for

2 correcting me over there, and for the work that  
3 you've done. And all the commissioners and the staff  
4 and members of the preservation community who are  
5 here as well. It's incredibly important work. It  
6 tends to go unrecognized in the city, and I'm really  
7 thrilled that we can commemorate it. And the Chair  
8 promises me that there's going to be a wild party to  
9 celebrate the 50th Anniversary as well. We're hoping  
10 for those details. And, of course, I just want to  
11 thank as well the Land Use staff that works very  
12 diligently together with the Commissioner, with  
13 Council Members to look at each and every  
14 application. And finally, I just want to say it's a  
15 great day when our most senior member, Vincent  
16 Gentile, is sitting in the Captain America chair. So  
17 thank you for that. [applause]

18 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right, and  
19 with that, we'll ask the clerk to read the  
20 proclamation.

21 CLERK: Council City of New York  
22 Proclamation.

23 Whereas, the Council of the City of New  
24 York is proud to honor the Landmarks Preservation  
25 Commission and the historic preservation community in

2 celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Landmarks  
3 Law; and

4           Whereas, on April 19, 1965, after much  
5 public effort by grassroots organizations and civic  
6 leaders, Mayor Robert Wagner signed the New York City  
7 Landmarks Law granting the Landmarks Preservation  
8 Commission authority to preserve significant historic  
9 buildings in neighborhoods throughout the five  
10 boroughs. The Landmarks Law and the Commission were  
11 a response to the outcry over the loss of the  
12 architecturally and historical--historically  
13 significant buildings across the city; and

14           Whereas, historically and architecturally  
15 significant buildings often serve as symbols that  
16 identify a place and the cultural beliefs or values  
17 of its people, New York is a unique world class  
18 international city composed of people from around the  
19 globe, and its architecture and historic structures  
20 and landscapes reflect the beauty, power and  
21 diversity of its people; and

22           Whereas, the Mandate of the New York City  
23 Landmarks Preservation Commission established by the  
24 passage of the Landmarks Law is to identify and  
25 designate improvements, districts and landscape

2 features within the city that must be preserved  
3 because of their special character or special  
4 historical or aesthetic value' and

5           Whereas, to date the New York City  
6 Landmarks Preservation Commission has preserved more  
7 than 33,000 properties through designation of 1,347  
8 landmarks; 117 interior landmarks; 10 scenic  
9 landmarks; and 114 historic districts with 21  
10 extensions. The Landmarks Preservation Commission  
11 has reviewed countless applications for development,  
12 construction and improvement of landmark buildings,  
13 and on property within historic districts to preserve  
14 the character of these buildings and districts. The  
15 preservation of these buildings' interiors and  
16 districts has greatly enriched New York City for the  
17 past 50 years, and will continue to protect its  
18 unique identity in the future; and

19           Whereas, the New York City Landmarks Law,  
20 the Landmarks Preservation Commission, and New York  
21 City's historic preservation movement helped to usher  
22 in an era of landmarks preservation nationwide.

23           Now, therefore, be it known that the  
24 Council of the City of New York gratefully honors the  
25 Landmarks Preservation Commission and the Historic

2 preservation community for their outstanding service,  
3 and enduring contributions to New York City.

4 Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the  
5 Entire Council; David G. Greenfield, Chair of Land  
6 Use Committee; Peter Koo, Chair, Subcommittee on  
7 Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime Uses.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right, land  
9 you so much. And again, [applause] also recognizing  
10 the partnership with the Historic Preservation  
11 Committee that is the community that is here  
12 represented. I know I see some of the members in the  
13 back. Thank you for your advocacy as well in making  
14 sure that we stand strong and continue to persevere.  
15 I think before I hang it up, Madam Chair, I know that  
16 I--I think that we've been joined Otis Pearsall, who  
17 my understanding is that you were one of the ones  
18 responsible for the '65 legislation. [applause] So,  
19 nice to have you join us, and with that, we'll hear  
20 from Madam Chair.

21 [pause]

22 COMMISSIONER/CHAIR MEENAKSHI SRINIVASAN:  
23 Thank you so much. I'd like to thank Speaker Melissa  
24 Mark-Viverito, Council Member Koo, Council Member  
25 Greenfield and all the other council members here

2 today for recognizing how important historic  
3 preservation is to the quality of life for countless  
4 people and communities. We couldn't have done this  
5 without the City Council's support or its commission  
6 or its work. The City's success in protecting and  
7 preserving the 33,000 buildings and sites will let--  
8 reflects a longstanding collaboration between this  
9 legislative body, and the Commission. The diligent  
10 and committed preservation advocacy in neighborhood  
11 group--I see many of them here today--who led the  
12 charge five decades ago to protect our city's most  
13 precious historic resources should be applauded for  
14 their central contribution. [applause]

15           Finally, I'd like to thank our dedicated  
16 Commissioners, our wonderful Commissioners who are  
17 all standing here today, former chairs, Commissioners  
18 who volunteered endless hours of their time and  
19 expertise to this critical public service. And the  
20 betterment of the city, and the Commission's  
21 extremely hard-working staff without which we could  
22 never fulfill our mission to make New York one of the  
23 most visited and dynamic places in the world.

24           Fifty years ago on April 11, 1965, the  
25 City Council unanimously approved the Landmarks Law,



2 which was later signed by Mayor Wagner on April 19th.  
3 This paved the way for the protection of thousands of  
4 historic buildings and places in New York, and  
5 created a model for municipalities throughout this  
6 nation, and in the world, right?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Yes.

8 COMMISSIONER/CHAIR MEENAKSHI SRINIVASAN:

9 As we celebrate together today, it is important to  
10 reflect that this body played an integral role in  
11 shaping the future of our city by ensuring the best  
12 of our past is preserved for future generations. The  
13 Landmarks Preservation Commission in our next chapter  
14 looks forward to continuing to work with all of you  
15 to protect our architectural and cultural heritage in  
16 every corner of New York. Thank you.

17 [applause]

18 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right, thank  
19 you to all.

20 [background noise and comments]

21 [pause]

22 [background noise and comments]

23 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: Ladies, and gentlemen,  
24 we ask for all non-Council staff to make their way up

25

2 to the balcony. All non-Council staff, please make  
3 your way up to the balcony.

4 [pause]

5 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: Could I have your  
6 attention, please? Could I have your attention,  
7 please? May I please have your attention, please?  
8 Quiet on the floor, please. Quiet on the floor. At  
9 this time, can you please place all electronic  
10 devices, all electronic devices to vibrate. Will all  
11 non-Council employees, non-Council employees please  
12 leave the main floor of the chambers.

13 [background noise]

14 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: Thank you. All right.

15 [gavel]

16 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: The New York City  
17 Council Stated Meeting of April 16, 2015 is now in  
18 session. Will all my colleagues please stand for the  
19 Pledge of Allegiance?

20 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: All rise.

21 [Pledge of Allegiance]

22 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Roll call.

23 CLERK: I'm sorry. Arroyo.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [off mic] Here.

25 CLERK: Barron. Cabrera.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

3 CLERK: Chin.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

5 CLERK: Cohen.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.

7 CLERK: Constantinides.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: [off mic]

9 Here.

10 CLERK: Cornegy.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: [off mic] Here.

12 CLERK: Thank you. Crowley.

13 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: Can we have it quiet on  
14 the floor, please?

15 CLERK: Cumbo. Deutsch.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Yes.

17 CLERK: Dickens.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [off mic] Here.

19 CLERK: Dromm.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

21 CLERK: Espinal. Eugene. Ferreras.

22 Garodnick.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: [off mic]

24 Here.

25 CLERK: Barron.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [off mic] Here.

3 Present.

4 CLERK: Thank you. Gentile.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

6 CLERK: Gibson. Greenfield. Johnson.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Present.

8 CLERK: Kallos.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.

10 CLERK: King.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Present.

12 CLERK: Koo.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

14 CLERK: Koslowitz.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off mic]

16 Here.

17 CLERK: Lancman. Lander.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

19 CLERK: Levin.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

21 CLERK: Levine.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

23 CLERK: Maisel. Matteo.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.

25 CLERK: Mealy. Menchaca.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.

3 CLERK: Mendez. Miller.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Present.

5 CLERK: Palma.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

7 CLERK: Reynoso.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Here.

9 CLERK: Richards.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

11 CLERK: Rodriguez.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: [off mic]

13 Here.

14 CLERK: Rose. Rosenthal.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

16 CLERK: Torres. Treyger.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

18 CLERK: Ulrich.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Present.

20 CLERK: Vacca.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

22 CLERK: Vallone.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

24 CLERK: Mealy.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.

2 CLERK: Weprin.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Present.

4 CLERK: Williams.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

6 CLERK: Wills. Ignizio. Van Bramer.

7 Speaker Mark-Viverito.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Here.

9 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: We have a quorum.

10 Our invocation today will be delivered by the  
11 Reverend Dr. James Alexander Forbes, Jr., Union  
12 Theological Seminary in Manhattan. Please stand.

13 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: All rise.

14 REVEREND DR. FORBES: Speaker Viverito,  
15 it is my joy to be here with you and the other  
16 council members. As a minister, I am aware that we  
17 are partners because we all seek to build the beloved  
18 community. So I am happy to pray with you today, but  
19 the way in which I will pray will not require you to  
20 close your eyes. I want to pray the prayer that  
21 began with me the week after 2001, 9/11. During that  
22 time, the work was so difficult as such overwhelming  
23 moments of responsibility until I thought I couldn't  
24 make it by myself. During that time, this was my  
25 ritual for getting up to do the work, which we still

2 have to do today. I would rise and I would say, Holy  
3 Spirit, lead me, guide me as I move throughout this  
4 day. May your promptings deep inside me show me what  
5 to do and say in the power of your presence strength  
6 and courage will increase. In the wisdom of your  
7 guidance is the path that leads to peace. And then, I  
8 would go into my shower, and I had a little shower  
9 song that was also getting me ready for this work.  
10 And it goes something like this: [Sings] I'm going  
11 to brake hard and risk living though the clouds hang  
12 heavy and gray. If I wait for blue-sky perfection,  
13 I'll be waiting 'til judgment day. Why let myself to  
14 be held hostage trapped and blocked by who knows  
15 what? While standing still and seeking sound reverse  
16 my faith certainly not. I'm going to break out and  
17 risk living though the reasons to wait still abound.  
18 I will do what I can in the climate of now 'til  
19 brighter days roll around. So take heart my sisters  
20 and brothers. Give your spirit a holiday. Away with  
21 the reasons delaying the season. Celebration is the  
22 order of the day.

23                   And so, here we are having to get out  
24 there and do work sometimes, which we cannot do by  
25 ourselves. Dr. Martin Luther King told us some years

2 ago that in the work of building up the beloved  
3 community we have cosmic companionship. So I'd like  
4 to remind you that as you do your work day by day,  
5 because you are servants of the Most High God, you  
6 are entitled to be serviced by the power of God. And  
7 so, my closing prayer for you would be: Lord, look  
8 upon each member of this Council and our fellow  
9 citizens. And whatever our needs are as we seek to  
10 be servants of your love and of your justice, service  
11 us; our bodies, our minds, our spirit and emotions,  
12 our relationship, and our responsibility. And if you  
13 do that for us, we will be happy to offer you this  
14 praise. And with this, I close. Every day when I  
15 get up, this is what my pledge is unto the God who  
16 has called me. I say, In the way that I walk, in the  
17 way that I talk, in the way that I think, and in the  
18 way that I pray, in everything I do, I want to honor  
19 you by the way I live each day. Amen.

20 COUNSEL MEMBERS: [in unison] Amen.

21 [applause]

22 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Motion to--motion  
23 to spread the invocation, Council Member Levine.

24 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: Quiet please.

25



2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank--thank you.  
3 It is--it is my honor to make a motion to spread the  
4 Invocation--

5 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: [interposing] Quiet  
6 please.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: --for Reverend Dr.  
8 Forbes. It's my honor to represent his home church  
9 of Riverside. You've gotten a flavor of the power of  
10 Dr. Forbes. He is one of our city's most eloquent,  
11 inspiring, and important voices on civil rights, on  
12 equality for all people of all faiths, of all  
13 backgrounds. He has been for decades. He presided  
14 as the senior pastor at Riverside from 1989 to 2007.  
15 It is one of the most storied churches in our city  
16 where none other than Dr. Martin Luther King and  
17 other luminaries have preached and visited. He, for  
18 the last two decades has been co-chair of the  
19 Partnership for Faith, an interfaith organization of  
20 clergy among New York's Protestant, Catholic, Jewish  
21 and Muslim communities. He is on the board of  
22 Manhattanville College, the Interfaith Alliance,  
23 Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement, and  
24 the United Way. He's a consultant to the Congress of  
25 National Black Churches, and past president of the

2 Martin Luther King Fellows. And I'm really thrilled  
3 that he was able to share with us some inspiring  
4 words this morning--today. Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you. Thank  
6 you Council Member. [applause] And thank you again.  
7 I move that the Minutes of the Stated Meeting of  
8 March 11, 2015 be adopted as printed--as printed.  
9 Messages and Papers from the Mayor.

10 CLERK: None.

11 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Communication from  
12 City, county and borough offices.

13 CLERK: Communication from the Manhattan  
14 Borough President's proposed budget modifications for  
15 Fiscal Year 2016.

16 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Petitions and  
17 communications.

18 [background comment]

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Go back and  
20 repeat that please.

21 CLERK: Well, petitions.

22 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Communication from  
23 city, county and borough offices.

24 CLERK: Manhattan Borough President  
25 proposed budget modifications.

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Received order,  
3 printed and filed.

4 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Petitions and  
5 communications.

6 CLERK: None.

7 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Land Use Call-Ups.

8 CLERK: M 272 through M 276.

9 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on call-  
10 up vote and I ask for roll call.

11 CLERK: Reynoso.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I vote aye on  
13 all call-ups, and with permission, I vote aye on all  
14 coupled general orders and resolutions.

15 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: So granted.

16 CLERK: I'm sorry. Arroyo.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [off mic] I vote  
18 aye. [sic]

19 CLERK: Barron.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

21 Cabrera.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

23 CLERK: Chin.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

25 CLERK: Cohen.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: aye.

3 CLERK: Constantinides.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

5 CLERK: Cornegy.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

7 CLERK: Crowley. Cumbo.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.

9 CLERK: Deutsch.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Yes.

11 CLERK: Dickens. Dromm.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

13 CLERK: Espinal. Eugene. Ferreras.

14 Garodnick.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: [off mic] Aye.

16 CLERK: Gentile.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

18 CLERK: Gibson. Greenfield.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

20 CLERK: Johnson.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Permission to  
22 explain my vote. Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair.

23 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Go ahead. Go  
24 ahead. Please explain.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you. I  
3 just want to thank the Land Use staff and Chair  
4 Greenfield and Chair Weprin. That's fine. A project  
5 in my district on West 43rd Street that the committee  
6 spent a significant amount of time on to create  
7 affordable housing over a rail cut. It's been a long  
8 difficult, complicated process with a lot of  
9 negotiations and compromise involved. In the end of  
10 the day, I am not happy with off-site--

11 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: [interposing]  
12 Quiet, please. Quiet.

13 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: Sit down, please. Sit  
14 down.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: --I am not happy  
16 with off-site affordable housing through this  
17 project. But because the community board and the  
18 developer came up with an agreement for this site, I  
19 will support this and I ask my colleagues to support  
20 it as well. Thank you very much.

21 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Did you vote?  
22 Council Member Johnson?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: I vote aye.

24 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Okay.

25 CLERK: Kallos.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

3 CLERK: King.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye.

5 CLERK: Koo.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

7 CLERK: Koslowitz.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off mic] Aye.

9 CLERK: Lancman.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

11 CLERK: Lander.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [off mic] Aye.

13 CLERK: Levin.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

15 CLERK: Levine.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

17 CLERK: Maisel. Matteo. Mealy.

18 Menchaca.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.

20 CLERK: Mendez.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I vote aye on all

22 call-ups, and with permission, I vote aye on all

23 coupled general orders and resolutions.

24 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Permission granted.

25 CLERK: Matteo. Maisel.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Aye.

3 CLERK: Miller.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I vote aye.

5 CLERK: Palma.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: [off mic] Aye.

7 CLERK: Richards.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.

9 CLERK: Rodriguez.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye. I would  
11 like to vote aye on all general orders.

12 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Permission granted.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

14 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Did you vote aye?

15 CLERK: Rose. Rosenthal.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [off mic]

17 Aye.

18 CLERK: Torres. Treyger.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.

20 CLERK: Ulrich.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Yes.

22 CLERK: Vacca.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I'd like to vote  
24 aye, and also I vote aye on all coupled orders and  
25 resolutions as well.

2 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Permission granted.

3 CLERK: Vallone.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye, and I would  
5 also like to seek permission to vote aye on all  
6 matters on today's calendar.

7 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: So granted.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you.

9 CLERK: Weprin.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

11 CLERK: Williams.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [off mic] Aye.

13 CLERK: Wills. Ignizio. Van Bramer.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

15 Speaker Mark-Viverito.

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I vote aye.

17 CLERK: Ferreras.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: I vote aye.

19 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Today's Land Use

20 Call-Ups were adopted by a vote of 44 in the  
21 affirmative 0 in the negative. Communication from  
22 the speaker.

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Deputy  
24 Leader. I want to begin by acknowledging, and I  
25 would hope everyone acknowledges with me the recent



2 passing of Victor Gotbaum. Victor Gotbaum was a  
3 great labor leader for the City of New York, and  
4 instrumental through getting us through the fiscal  
5 crisis of the 1970s. We definitely want to extend  
6 our condolences to his wife Betsy Gotbaum, who has  
7 presided in these chambers for many years, and who  
8 served this great city over time. And all the  
9 extended family. I know that Council Member Daneek  
10 Miller has some comments that he wanted to say in  
11 remembrance of Victor Gotbaum.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you, Madam  
13 Speaker. I rise today with a lot of talk about the  
14 remarks that have come forth here of the great work  
15 that has been done by a great labor leader here in  
16 our city. First, thank you Madam Speaker for your  
17 important words about a true hero to our city. I,  
18 like my colleagues today and indeed people throughout  
19 the city, mourn the passing of Victor Gotbaum, one of  
20 the most respected leaders at a time of near disaster  
21 to the City of New York. As a former labor leader  
22 myself, I personally recognize and honor Victor's  
23 brilliance as Executive Director of District Council  
24 37, American Federations of State, County and  
25 Municipal Employees. He's increased his membership

2 from 36,000 to 110, knowing that a strong union means  
3 a strong city. As a statesman, he was instrumental  
4 in having DC37 become a crucial partner in 1975 with  
5 other labor unions to save the City of New York from  
6 bankruptcy and further layoffs and wage reductions.  
7 Victor Gotbaum will always be remembered for his  
8 dignity, his courage and the concern of all New  
9 Yorkers. To his family, his wife Betsy, his  
10 children, Joshua, Irvin and Noah, Rachel and  
11 Kathleen, I send my deepest condolences. Thank you  
12 again.

13                   SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,  
14 Council Member. I also want to mention that today is  
15 Yam HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. We have  
16 Holocaust survivors living among us in this city, and  
17 the unimagined horror that they experienced is  
18 something that can never be forgotten. Today, we  
19 remember the millions who lost their lives, and  
20 commit to ensure that history never repeats itself.  
21 And on these two items, I would ask for a moment of  
22 silence.

23                   CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Please rise.

24                   [City Council observes a moment of  
25 silence]

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you. As  
3 many of us know, Earth Day is next week. So it's  
4 fitting that today, the Council is passing a number  
5 of bills from the Council's Climate Agenda, which was  
6 announced last September. Today, the Council will be  
7 voting on legislation that requires the Department of  
8 Transportation to work with the MTA to develop a  
9 citywide bus rapid plan. Transportation is part of  
10 daily life for nearly all of us. But it's low-income  
11 New Yorkers that spend the most time commuting to and  
12 from work. New York City's Bus Rapid Transit  
13 program, Select Bus Service cuts travel time and  
14 provides a better experience for riders. Every  
15 minute saved on your way to and from work or school  
16 is time that can be spent with family, out in the  
17 community or earning a living. The landscape of our  
18 city is ever-changing, and we're seeing major shifts  
19 to the outer boroughs and areas not well served by  
20 the subway. So today the Council is requiring a  
21 strategic citywide bus rapid transit plan that will  
22 lay out how we can better serve these communities  
23 over the next ten years.

24 Improving transportation options is not  
25 just an issue of efficiency, and reducing our impact

2 on the environment, it's about equality. Those who  
3 cannot afford to leave near established transit  
4 networks should not be burdened with commutes that  
5 leave them spending hours each day just getting  
6 around. As New York continues to grow, we need to  
7 continue to innovate and improve our public transit  
8 systems.

9 I want to thank the staff that worked on  
10 this Jeffrey Baker, Samara Swanston, Bill Murray, and  
11 Jonathan Seltzer. Council Member Lander is the  
12 sponsor of this bill, and I'll ask him to say a few  
13 words towards the end when he speaks on the Credit  
14 Check Bill as well. Council is also voting on a bill  
15 updating the New York City Air Pollution Control  
16 Code, which will result in boilers operating more  
17 efficiently--

18 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: [interposing] Quiet,  
19 please.

20 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: --engines and  
21 generators operating more cleanly, less fuel  
22 consumption citywide. And reduction of thousands of  
23 tons of particular matter per year. Intro No. 271-A  
24 will bring New York City's Air Code into compliance  
25 with the current state and federal laws and

2 regulations. And will give the Commission or  
3 Environmental Protection the flexibility to  
4 continually improve the city's air quality by  
5 adopting new beneficial technologies through rule  
6 making. This law will simplify compliance,  
7 streamline the permitting process, increase emissions  
8 standards, and regulate emissions with several  
9 sources that are currently uncontrolled, including  
10 commercial charbroilers and cook stoves. And with  
11 that, the lead sponsor of the bill, Council Member  
12 Richards, you can say a few words.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Okay. Good  
14 afternoon. Today, marks a major step in our  
15 continued fight to ensure that all New Yorkers are  
16 closer to having their natural born right of access  
17 to clean air. For the first time since 1970, we are  
18 updating New York City's Air Pollution Code today.  
19 Poor air quality alone is still contributing to  
20 nearly 2,000 deaths a year right here in the Big  
21 Apple. And, according to the New York City Community  
22 Air Survey, ozone and asthma hospitalizations among  
23 children under 18 years old continue to drastically  
24 rise especially in Environmental Justice communities.  
25 Part of the problem is that have allowed certain

2 sources of pollution to go unregulated for far too  
3 long at the peril of the most vulnerable communities  
4 in New York where our children and seniors reside.

5           Today, with the passage of Intro No. 271-  
6 A, we are giving all New Yorkers an opportunity to  
7 have access to clean air, which shouldn't be mutually  
8 exclusive based on a person's zip code. I'd like to  
9 highlight a few updates that were made to the Air  
10 Code that will give New Yorkers better access to  
11 clean air. First is more regulation around emergency  
12 and stationary generators, which are used at  
13 construction sites. They will now be required to  
14 pass smoke tests, and meet EPA Standards at the time  
15 of registration starting in 2018. Restaurants that  
16 use--utilize charbroilers, which cook more than 875  
17 pounds of meat and fish will now be required to have  
18 special filters that cut emissions by 2018. And they  
19 will also be required to keep records to present to  
20 inspectors as well.

21           And no new fireplaces and wood burning  
22 stoves will be able to use wood as a primary heating  
23 source any more except if there's an emergency. And  
24 all new fireplaces constructed after the passage of  
25 this bill will be required to burn renewable fuels or

2 natural gas. And one of my favorite highlights of  
3 this bill is the phase out of school buses that  
4 continue to burn dirty fuel, subjecting our children  
5 to the worst of particulate matter. And they will  
6 now be phased out by 2020. Mobile--mobile vending  
7 units will now have their fees waived at the time of  
8 registration if their engines meet Tier 4 Emission  
9 Standards. And lastly, this bill will also establish  
10 a task force comprised of real estate industry and  
11 environmental advocacy sectors that will continue to  
12 work towards improving air quality across the city.

13 In closing, as Earth Week approaches I  
14 would like to leave you with this quote I once heard:  
15 "Sooner or later, we will have to recognize that the  
16 earth has rights, too, to live without pollution.  
17 What mankind must know is that human beings cannot  
18 live without Mother Nature, but the planet can live  
19 without humans." I want to thank a dynamic team of  
20 earthlings today as we move towards Earth Week, and  
21 that is our great Speaker who has been a phenomenal  
22 leader on the environmental front, Melissa Mark-  
23 Viverito, Mayor de Blasio, Samara Swanston, Bill  
24 Murray and Matthew Gewolb, Laura Popa, and a huge  
25 shout out to Jeff Baker, who worked very hard on this

2 day and night. And also, Reggie Thomas from the  
3 Mayor's Office and my staff Jerrel Burney and  
4 Mercedes Buchanan. Thank you all, and just lastly  
5 REBNY, the Hospitality Alliance and the New York  
6 League of Conservation Voters who also were very  
7 active in talks and negotiations. Thank you all.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,  
9 Council member. And as we look to a cleaner and more  
10 environmentally friendly city, we can also make  
11 changes within the operations of city government to  
12 help out.

13 [background comments]

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: That's why we're  
15 voting on a bill today to reduce the size of our  
16 city's non-emergency vehicle fleet by at least 9% by  
17 the end of 2020. We'll do this by establishing a car  
18 sharing program within the city's fleet that  
19 maximizes efficiency, and limits redundant use of  
20 resources. I want to thank the lead sponsor, Council  
21 Member Torres, for sponsoring this legislation. I  
22 also want to staff--thank the staff for both the air  
23 code and car share bills, Matt Gewolb, Terzah Nasser,  
24 Kelly Taylor, Gafar Zaalof, Jonathan Masserano,  
25 Russell Murphy, and Lyle Frank. And I think Council



2 Member Torres is not going to say a few words on his  
3 bill.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: [off mic]

5 Laughs. Yes, I am.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay. He will  
7 say a few words on his bill.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Correct.

9 [laughter] Except to say that I'm proud that we're  
10 reducing the number of automobiles on our streets,  
11 and reducing the amount of environmental degradation.  
12 And bringing our city closer to building a greener  
13 New York. So, that's what I will say.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,  
15 Council Member, and today also the Council will be  
16 voting on legislation requiring tamper resistant  
17 outlets to be equipped in public areas of multiple-  
18 dwelling buildings. Annually, nearly 2,400 children  
19 suffer severe burns or shocks from inserting objects  
20 into unprotected outlets. This bill will mandate  
21 that new construction include tamper-resistant  
22 outlets in existing buildings, use protective caps or  
23 other obstruction devices to prevent outlets from  
24 being exposed. This legislation will keep children  
25 in our cities safe, and prevent serious injury. With

2 that, I'd like to thank Earnest Stephen [sic], Ed  
3 Atkins, Shijuade Kadree, Jennifer Wilcox, Guillermo  
4 Patino, Jose Conde and Sarah Gastelum. And I would  
5 ask the least sponsor of the bill to say a few words.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Thank you Madam  
7 Speaker. I think you explained the bill perfectly.  
8 I just really do want to take an opportunity to thank  
9 the staff particularly Shijuade Kadree for a lot of  
10 work in trying to get this bill to the place where it  
11 is now, which I think is really good. I want to  
12 thank the DOB for making it a collaboratively effort,  
13 and my Legislative Counsel Kate DeBolt [sic]for also  
14 helping get us to this point. Thank you very much.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay, thank you.  
16 We're also voting on a bill today to protect New York  
17 homeowners impacted by Hurricane Sandy from facing  
18 unfair increases in their property tax to rebuilding  
19 their homes. This bill would allow the City to cap  
20 increases in assessment value on these homes so they  
21 cannot exceed what the value would have been had the  
22 storm never occurred. Victims of natural disaster  
23 who have the perseverance to rebuild their lives  
24 shouldn't face increased taxes as a result. Council  
25 Member Ignizio is the lead sponsor of that bill. On

2 the staff side, I'd like to thank Tanisha Edwards,  
3 Ray Majewski, Emora Etta [sp?], Rebecca Chasan, and  
4 Chima Obichere [sic]. And with that, Council Member  
5 Ignizio.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Thank you,  
7 Madam--Madam Speaker. As I said I said in the pre-  
8 stated, it's a rare occasion when all elected  
9 officials of all bodies in the city, in the state  
10 come together in a non-partisan way to just out and  
11 help the people of the city and state of New York,  
12 and that's what happened here. Effectively, what  
13 occurred is there is a Sandy tax implemented on folks  
14 that rebuilt their homes in the form of if you built  
15 your home to even where it was before, because it  
16 used new--new materials, and because you built it up,  
17 it would be worth more. So you would be taxed on the  
18 full amount of the value of the new home, and not the  
19 previous home, which you lived in. So in essence,  
20 government was partnering not having you rebuild to  
21 the proper specs. That has been fixed. It's been  
22 fixed permanently, and it's because of a joint  
23 coordination of this Council of the Mayor's Office,  
24 of Governor Cuomo, of Senator Lanza and Assemblyman  
25 Goldfeder. And I'm appreciative to the Speaker for

2 her efforts in ensuring this Council, and as you  
3 mentioned the staff members Emora and Tanisha who  
4 have been so supportive throughout. And I'm proud to  
5 be in the Council today.

6           SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,  
7 Council Member, and thank you for your leadership on  
8 this issues. Finally, today, we're voting on a law  
9 to prohibit using an employee's or a job applicant's  
10 consumer credit history in making hiring decisions.  
11 Just because you've struggled with medical bills or  
12 student loans does not make you any less hardworking,  
13 qualified or trustworthy than anyone else.  
14 Furthermore, the use of credit checks in employment  
15 decisions has disproportionately negative effects on  
16 low-income communities and communities of color, as  
17 well as women and survivors of domestic violence. So  
18 it is very much a discriminatory practice. This bill  
19 is about opportunity. When employers use credit  
20 history prevent those--

21           SERGEANT-A-ARMS: [interposing] Quiet  
22 please. Quiet place.

23           SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: When employers  
24 use credit history to prevent those who have  
25 struggled financially in the past from succeeding in

2 the future, there is no opportunity. All New Yorkers  
3 deserve a chance to compete for a job based on their  
4 skills and qualifications, not three digits on a  
5 financial report. This is also a bill that I  
6 mentioned during the State of the City Address in the  
7 larger context of human rights. We've already passed  
8 some bills that will allow the Human Rights  
9 Commission to start cracking down on discriminatory  
10 practices. And we're taking the next step today with  
11 this bill, but we're clearly not done. There is no  
12 place for discrimination in New York City. There is  
13 no place for anyone's human rights being violated or  
14 denied here. And respecting the rights of all people  
15 is fundamental to New York City's character, and it's  
16 fundamental to the character of who we are as a  
17 diverse and inclusive legislative body. So I'm proud  
18 to be here today voting for this bill. I want to  
19 thank all of you in this Council who are committed to  
20 fairness and equality. I want to thank Council  
21 Member Lander, who has been an incredibly strong  
22 advocate and lead sponsor of this bill. And on the  
23 staff side I just want to thank Alesha Brown, Mozna  
24 Ansari [sp?] and a big, big thanks to Rachel  
25 Cordero. And with that, Council Member Lander.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you, Madam  
3 Speaker, and thank you for being a champion of this  
4 bill now, and in years past as well. I want to share  
5 with my colleagues an email we received this week  
6 from a single mother named Phoebe. As a single mom  
7 recently laid off I truly felt fear I wouldn't be  
8 able to get another job due to my daughter's college  
9 loans on my credit report. I saw yesterday's article  
10 in the Daily News, *Credit Reports to be History*. I'm  
11 ecstatic and I want to thank you from the bottom of  
12 my heart. And we have similar testimonies from Ramon  
13 from Manhattan; Angel from the Bronx; Shelley from  
14 Harlem; Lisa from Washington Heights; Gestavo from  
15 Elmhurst; Alfred from Brooklyn, and the list goes on  
16 and on. New Yorkers who have been locked out of  
17 getting a fair shot at a job due to poor credit  
18 history due to healthcare debts, student loans,  
19 identity theft or fraud, errors on their credit  
20 reports. Or, simply that they got laid off and had  
21 to put the groceries on a credit card in order to  
22 feed the kids.

23 As the Speaker said, it's amplified in  
24 communities of color and low-income neighborhoods  
25 where predatory lending and the simple lack of

2 wealth. I mean people are far less likely to be able  
3 to pay for their kids to go to college. So they have  
4 to take out student debit, and you wind up in a  
5 vicious, unfair, discriminatory cycle in which the  
6 people who need jobs the most are the most unable to  
7 get them. It's not fair. I'm so proud that we're  
8 ending that today in New York City by passing Intro  
9 261-A, which will be the strongest bill of its type  
10 in the country prohibiting discriminatory employment  
11 credit checks. And so there's a lot of people to  
12 thank for helping us to get here; the Speaker, the  
13 co-sponsor Debbie Rose, and all of the other  
14 colleagues in the Council who are signed on. Chair  
15 Mealy thanks to you. As the Speaker said, we've had  
16 great work from the staff on this in addition to  
17 Rachel, Alesha and Juleen. Matt Gewold and Rachel  
18 worked down to the wire, and Muzna, Ben Smith and  
19 Michael Freedman-Schnapp from my office.

20           And then we had an extraordinarily  
21 coalition of advocates from the New York City  
22 Coalition to Stop Credit Checks in employment who are  
23 up in the balcony today. So, it's a new economy  
24 project, DMOS [sic] for DC37, RWDSU, MFY Legal  
25 Services and the other 70 plus organizations. And

2 especially to the affected individuals, who despite  
3 the prejudice that we have against some cases look  
4 for credit, were willing to stand up and tell their  
5 stories to help us right this wrong. We've had very  
6 productive conversations with the Administration to  
7 craft a bill, which is not only the strongest in the  
8 country, but which is also smart, effective, and well  
9 drafted legislation. I really appreciate everyone's  
10 support on this, and I'm so, so proud to be able to  
11 bring it to the floor today.

12           And then I'm just say a very, very short  
13 word about Bus Rapid Transit, the bill we're passing  
14 today will require the City to establish a 10-year  
15 plan for Bus Rapid Transit, for BRT for New York City  
16 as we've seen in so many places especially outer  
17 borough starved neighborhoods. They lack the  
18 opportunity for people to be able to get to jobs, to  
19 get to school. It would be wonderful if we could  
20 build a whole lot of new subway lines. But if we  
21 want something soon, and we want it affordably, full  
22 features Bus Rapid Transit like we're seeing on  
23 Woodhaven Boulevard in Council Richard's district is  
24 a real bright spot way forward. And this bill will  
25 help make sure we set a plan that helps us move



2 forward on Bus Rapid Transit for the year to come.  
3 On that, I want to thank Kelly Taylor and Lyle Frank  
4 for their good work of drafting. And we look forward  
5 to seeing BRT get built out in the city in the year  
6 to come. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you. And  
8 finally, I want to welcome some special guests to the  
9 Council. Yesterday was a National Day of Action.  
10 Many in this room joined some of those actions across  
11 the city. It was a National Day of Action with low-  
12 wage workers across the country staging  
13 demonstrations in the fight for a fair minimum wage.  
14 And today, we're joined by leaders on the front line  
15 of this fight. I would hope my colleagues would just  
16 give us a couple of seconds to recognize--

17 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: [interposing] Keep it  
18 down, please.

19 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Keep it down,  
20 please.

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: --these workers  
22 that have joined us. So, again, as I said, we are  
23 joined by leaders on the front line of this fight.  
24 I'm proud to welcome you all to this Chamber. I  
25 commend you for the work you are doing. We see

2 municipalities across the country from Pittsburgh to  
3 Seattle pass resolutions in solidarity with workers  
4 fighting for fair pay. And New York is most  
5 definitely in solidarity with you as well. This is  
6 an uphill battle, and there will always be doubters  
7 and naysayers along the way. But yesterday we saw  
8 that over the past few years, this has become a real  
9 part of our national dialogue. We're moving in the  
10 right direction, and it's because of leaders like you  
11 and the consistency of your efforts who are not  
12 afraid to stand up and demand fairness not only for  
13 yourselves but for everyone. I think that we've seen  
14 how some of this pressure, although we are no way  
15 near, we've seen some of the major companies starting  
16 to react in one way or another saying that they're  
17 going to raise wages. We know that as not being  
18 true, but based on that pressure, there is some  
19 movement, and it will just continue to grow. So I  
20 want to thank you for everything that you're doing  
21 with these workers, and this Council will stand with  
22 you until everyone who works is ensured a living  
23 wage. You are and I want to introduce--share Jose  
24 Sanchez. And you guys could stand as I--Jose Sanchez  
25 [applause] Shaltel [sp?] Walker, Martine Batallia

2 [sp?], Halstino [sp?] Garcia, Marcellino La Rosa.  
3 Thank you guys very, very much. [applause] Thank  
4 you. You know the work we do each and every day in  
5 this Council is work that impacts New Yorkers and all  
6 New Yorkers. And it is us being able to have a pulse  
7 on what is happening, being able to be accessible.  
8 And be able to understand. And it is only through  
9 joining and being open and working alongside our  
10 workers and those who live in New York City and hear  
11 their concerns. And we want to continue to work and  
12 be allies with all of you. So thank you for being  
13 here. And with that, I end the communication from  
14 the Speaker.

15 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you, Madam  
16 Speaker. Before discussion of General Order, the  
17 Chair recognizes Council Member Espinal for a vote.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I just want to  
19 vote aye on all call-ups. Thank you. Is that what  
20 you want to do? Okay.

21 [background comments]

22 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Discussion of  
23 General Orders. First up is Council Member Weprin.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Thank you, Mr.  
25 Leader. I rise to speak on Intro 261 by Council

2 Member Lander, the credit check bill. Firstly, I've  
3 got to congratulate Council Member Lander for his  
4 tenaciousness on this bill. He's been working on it  
5 for many years, and I congratulate him on that. And  
6 he knows that since the beginning I've had an  
7 uncomfortable feeling about this bill. I agree with  
8 the premise of this bill, which is that employers  
9 should not assume a bad credit rating is any--any  
10 explanation to whether someone will be a good  
11 employee. So, I'm all for educating the public on  
12 that fact. Don't use a credit score in order to  
13 screen candidates. However, if we do this properly,  
14 there'll come a point where someone can say this  
15 person has a bad credit score. They have a good  
16 application. Let me bring them in and ask them what  
17 went wrong. And I find it hard to believe that any  
18 employer would discriminate at that point against  
19 anyone who had a student loan they didn't pay, or  
20 were laid off, or had identity fraud. Those are  
21 reasonable explanations. But if someone had an  
22 explanation that they didn't trust doctors, or they  
23 had an explanation they don't trust government or  
24 they didn't think they had to pay that bill, there  
25 could be concerns there. And I wouldn't use that

2 myself, but I just am not comfortable as a member of  
3 the New York City Council telling employers who they  
4 can hire as long as they're not violating state and  
5 federal law and discriminating. So I just feel that  
6 this is a--a little bit too much of a nanny state.  
7 And so, I think we could tell employers what they  
8 should do, but we can't tell them what--we should not  
9 be telling the employers what they must do. So I'm  
10 going to vote no on that bill. Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Council Member  
12 Lander on General Orders.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you very  
14 much, Mr. Deputy Leader. I know I have lots of  
15 respect for my--for my colleague from Queens and I  
16 appreciate his words, which he had shared with me  
17 before as well. I will add we asked some people  
18 about this. We asked employers about this question  
19 of the opportunity to explain. And I will just say  
20 two things: First, in a lot of cases, we found  
21 employers using this at the front end of the process  
22 where people were screened out essentially before  
23 they ever really got a chance to looked at.  
24 Especially for jobs in which there were a lot of  
25 people applying like retail store clerks. And then

2 we also talked to some people. You know, part of the  
3 reason people had bad credit are issues of domestic  
4 violence or divorce. And that there are real privacy  
5 concerns even in some cases where you might have the  
6 opportunity to explain. Obviously, there are many,  
7 many wonderful employers who wouldn't do anything  
8 like this on purpose. But it added up to people  
9 being locked out and being discriminated against. So  
10 with full and due respect. And I guess the other  
11 thing I'll just add is there are substantial numbers  
12 of studies, peer reviews people have looked for, and  
13 the credit industry has paid for and tried to find  
14 connections between bad credit and either fraud,  
15 theft or poor performance of employment. None of  
16 them have demonstrated that correlation. So, I  
17 appreciate your remarks, but I just wanted to apply  
18 that additional information. Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Yes, Council Member  
20 Constantinides for a vote.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES. Thank  
22 you, Mr. Leader, I'd like permission to vote aye on  
23 other things--all intros and resolutions on today's  
24 general order calendar.

25

2 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: So granted. Any  
3 other members on General Orders only? Oh, she needs  
4 to vote? Okay, Council Member Rose for a vote.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you, Chair.  
6 I'd like to vote aye on all Land Use Call-Ups and  
7 intros and resos.

8 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: So granted. Any  
9 other members on General Orders only? Okay, Reports  
10 of Special Committees.

11 CLERK: None.

12 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Reports of Standing  
13 Committees?

14 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Civil  
15 Rights, Intro 261-A, prohibiting discrimination based  
16 on credit history.

17 [pause]

18 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Oh, Madam Speaker  
19 on Standing Committees, Reports on Standing  
20 Committees.

21 CLERK: Intro 261-A prohibiting  
22 discrimination based on credit history.

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

25

2 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
3 Environmental Protection Intro 271-A air pollution  
4 control.

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

7 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
8 Finance, Intro 555-A, rent increase exemption  
9 programs.

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

12 CLERK: Intro 681, Meatpacking area  
13 business improvement district.

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

16 CLERK: Intro 727, Sandy related property  
17 assessments.

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

20 CLERK: Preconsidered Intro 747 various  
21 budget items.

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

24 CLERK: Preconsidered LU 206 and Reso 657  
25 Lands End I.



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

4 CLERK: Preconsidered LU 207 and Reso 658  
5 Penn South.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
7 General Orders.

8 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
9 Housing and Buildings Intro 433-A, tamper-resistant  
10 outlets.

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

13 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land  
14 Use, LU 189 through LU 191 zoning amendments.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Approved and  
16 modifications and referred to the City Planning  
17 Commission pursuant to Rule 1147-B of the Rules of  
18 the Council and Section 197-D of the New York City  
19 Charter.

20 CLERK: [coughs] Excuse me. LU 195 and  
21 Reso 659 and LU 196 and Reso 660 sidewalk cafes.

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

24 CLERK: LU 202 and Reso 661 Coney Island  
25 mixed-use district.

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

4 CLERK: LU 203 and Reso 662 and LU 204  
5 and Reso 663 tax exemptions.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
7 General Orders.

8 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
9 Transportation, Intro 211-A, Bus Rapid Transit.

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

12 CLERK: Intro 597-A City fleet care  
13 sharing.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
15 coupled on General Orders.

16 CLERK: On the General Order--

17 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: [interposing]  
18 General Order Calendar.

19 CLERK: Thank you. Resolution appointing  
20 various persons commissioners or deeds.

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
22 General Orders, and at this time I ask for a roll  
23 call vote on all items on the Coupled General Order  
24 Calendar.

25 CLERK: Arroyo.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye on all.

3 CLERK: Barron.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

5 CLERK: Cabrera.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

7 CLERK: Chin.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye on all.

9 CLERK: Cohen.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

11 CLERK: Cornegy.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

13 CLERK: Crowley.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

15 CLERK: Cumbo.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.

17 CLERK: Deutsch.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Yes.

19 CLERK: Dickens.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

21 CLERK: Dromm.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

23 CLERK: Espinal.

24

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye and--aye on  
3 all, and I want to congratulate my colleague Brad  
4 Lander on Intro No. 261, it's a common piece of--

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [off mic]  
6 [interposing] It's a resolution.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: --a common sense  
8 piece of legislation. Congratulations. I proudly  
9 vote aye.

10 [pause]

11 CLERK: Eugene.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye on all  
13 Land Use Call-Ups and all items on today's agenda. I  
14 vote aye.

15 CLERK: Ferreras.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: I vote aye and  
17 congratulations to all my colleagues who passed and  
18 worked very diligently on today's legislations.  
19 Thank you.

20 CLERK: Garodnick.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

22 CLERK: Gentile.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: I vote aye on  
24 all.

25 CLERK: Gibson.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Permission to  
3 explain my vote. So ordered? Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: So ordered. I'm  
5 sorry.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: It's okay.

7 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: I'm sorry.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: That's okay. So  
9 I, too, just want to thank all of my colleagues for  
10 passing really important legislation today. I  
11 especially want to recognize Council Member Lander on  
12 Intro 261. Certainly prohibiting discrimination  
13 based on consumer credit history is very important  
14 because we know that in the workforce many of our  
15 young adults are faced with many financial challenges  
16 including college debt and other things that are on  
17 their record. And as we're looking to build and  
18 increase opportunities for young people to enter the  
19 workforce, we want to make sure that any of those  
20 scars are healed. And by doing that, we can reduce a  
21 lot of efforts that are made to discriminate on young  
22 people, and predominantly communities of color. I'm  
23 sorry. I appreciate the work that was done to this  
24 bill to make it a reality for many New Yorkers. And  
25 I want to congratulate all of my other colleagues,

2 Council Member Cohen, Council Member Ferreras,  
3 Council Member Johnson, Council Member Richards for  
4 all of the bills today. And I will vote aye in the  
5 affirmative on all. Thank you.

6 CLERK: Greenfield.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: May I explain  
8 my vote?

9 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Yes, you may.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you,  
11 Mr. Senior Leader. I appreciate it. I don't know  
12 why that was funny. He's the senior ranking member  
13 of the New York City Council. So, first I wanted to  
14 congratulate my colleagues Council Member Richards  
15 for his leadership in general in the environmental  
16 world. I think it's a significant piece of  
17 legislation. I want to point out that relating it to  
18 the topic rather than printing paper, we actually  
19 have it all on a CD Rom. So I applaud you Council  
20 Member Richards and your staff for that as well, and  
21 I thank you. I want to congratulate Council Member  
22 Torres for his legislation that will also help the  
23 environment. Of course, Council Member Cohen for his  
24 legislation as well. And Council Member Lander for  
25 his transportation legislation. But also I do

2 believe that the legislation that he's in--that he  
3 has advocated for, for quite a few years I would add,  
4 is very significant in that it protects individuals  
5 who are seeking to find employment when the reality  
6 is that in this world that we live in, people make an  
7 instant judgment call about you. In order to even  
8 get past the first round, if it's acceptable for  
9 people to screen for credit, you can be sure that  
10 they will. And I would just add that I am certain  
11 cognizant of the concerns, but we have a precedent  
12 for this. We don't allow you to ask people's age or  
13 religion or pregnancy status for example when you are  
14 engaging in an interview and for good reason. And  
15 there are many good reasons why people could have  
16 messed up on their credit. Anything from somebody  
17 who got into an accident and went to the emergency  
18 room, and didn't have health insurance. To someone  
19 who was subject to fraud or someone who was a victim  
20 of domestic violence. And so, I think that what's  
21 significant is that this is legislation that will  
22 truly level the playing field. And as Council Member  
23 Lander pointed out, we see no correlation between  
24 good credit and good employees. There are many great  
25 employees who messed up on their credit. Someone

2 loses their job, and they can't pay their bills. It  
3 happens. It's human and that's why we have laws like  
4 bankruptcy that allow people to start again. And  
5 there is no correlation, and we really are going to  
6 be helping so many New Yorkers by leveling the  
7 playing fields. So I thank Council Member Lander and  
8 I thank all the advocates, and I vote aye on all.

9 CLERK: Johnson.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Permission to  
11 explain my vote.

12 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Yes, go ahead.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr.  
14 Chair. I want to thank Councilwoman and Chair of the  
15 Finance Committee Julissa Ferreras. Today, the  
16 Council is adopting two important measures for my  
17 district. The first is continuing tax abatement and  
18 exemption for Penn South, which is located in the  
19 heart of Chelsea, 28,020 apartments constructed in  
20 1962 by the International Ladies' Garment Workers  
21 Union. JFK was there to cut the ribbon. It has been  
22 a place for middle-class, working class, union  
23 families since its inception. And the Council--the  
24 New York City Council has supported Penn South since  
25 the 1960s, '70s and '80s. We've always tried to help



2 this important that has on their own voted year in  
3 and year out to remain affordable and not go private.

4           They're the last remaining Article 5 Co-  
5 Op in New York City by their own choice. And one of  
6 the reasons why they have made that choice is because  
7 the City and the City's Council support in helping  
8 them remain affordable. Tanisha Edwards and Rebecca  
9 Chasan from the Finance Division were very key in all  
10 of this under Chair Ferreras. I'm very grateful that  
11 she had a hearing on this by itself to see this  
12 through. It's very important for my community, and  
13 I'm really grateful. And I'll finish with she also  
14 help shepherd through the meatpacking BID, which is a  
15 new BID. Three plus years of community conversations  
16 with the local community board and stakeholders. A  
17 long arduous difficult process. We got to a good  
18 product in the end, and the Council is voting on that  
19 today, as well. So I wanted to thank the Chair for  
20 her continued support, and hard work on behalf of my  
21 community. Thank you very much.

22           [pause]

23           COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: And I vote aye  
24 on all.

25

2 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: [interposing] Did  
3 you vote.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye on all.

5 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Uh-huh.

6 CLERK: Kallos.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Permission to  
8 explain my vote.

9 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Granted.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I just wanted to  
11 congratulate Council Member Lander, the progressive  
12 caucus for the City Council of New York, and New  
13 Yorkers everywhere who will not be able to apply for  
14 jobs regardless of their credit history not paying  
15 one bill or whatever. And anything happening in a  
16 non-judicial or actually extra-judicial system that  
17 is privately administered will no longer be a block  
18 to people's right to the pursuit of happiness. I  
19 vote aye on all.

20 CLERK: King.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Congratulations to  
22 all my colleagues today on the passing of your  
23 legislation, and I vote aye on all.

24 CLERK: Koo.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

2 CLERK: Koslowitz.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye..

4 CLERK: Lancman.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

6 CLERK: Lander.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: With gratitude to  
8 my colleagues for their support and their kind words  
9 I vote aye on all.

10 CLERK: Levin.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Permission to  
12 explain my vote.

13 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Yes.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you very  
15 much, Mr. Leader. I wanted to acknowledge the  
16 diligent work of members Cohen and Torres, Ferreras,  
17 and especially Council Member Brad Lander and Council  
18 Member Donovan Richards for their work on these  
19 bills. Which are going to have a major impact on the  
20 City of New York and our everyday lives. I know how  
21 much work they've put into it, and the passage of  
22 these bills today is a testament to their diligent  
23 work and for their inclusive process as it moves  
24 through forward through the legislative process.

25

2           You know with--with regard to Intro 261,  
3 this is a very important thing that we're doing today  
4 to say to everyday New Yorkers that--that their--  
5 their value, their accomplishments will be measured  
6 not by an arbitrary number, but by their  
7 qualifications. And that this is not something that  
8 should ever be used against people as they're  
9 applying for--for employment. And this is a great  
10 day for a civil rights here in New York City. I'm  
11 proudly going to vote aye on Intro 261 and all of the  
12 other items on today's General Order Calendar. Thank  
13 you.

14           CLERK: Levine.

15           COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: With profound  
16 congratulations to Council Members Lander and  
17 Richards, Cohen, Torres for this incredible package  
18 of laws today. I'll be voting aye on all. Thank  
19 you.

20           CLERK: Maisel.

21           COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: [off mic} Aye on  
22 all.

23           CLERK: Matteo.

24           COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Permission to  
25 explain my vote.

2 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: yes.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: In regards to  
4 261, I believe the bill is well intentioned. I  
5 believe the decision to determine whether one's  
6 credit history is relevant in the hiring process  
7 shouldn't be made by government. So with that, I'm  
8 going to vote no on 261-A. On 271-A I'm also going  
9 to vote no. In regard to the expanded property tax  
10 exemption for Sandy, I want to congratulate Council  
11 Member Ignizio and his leadership. The bill  
12 certainly rights a potential wrong, and with that I  
13 vote aye on the rest.

14 [pause]

15 CLERK: Mealy.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Could I explain my  
17 vote?

18 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: You may.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I would like to  
20 congratulate my colleagues Debbie Rose and Brad  
21 Lander. Also she had tried, as she was the Civil  
22 Rights Chair years ago to pass this legislation also.  
23 And I want to thank Brad Lander for doing a great job  
24 to bring this item to the Civil Rights to make sure  
25 that all people should not be discriminated against

2 in credit history and in employment. I just want to  
3 make sure that the study shows that the U.S. credit  
4 history in employment decisions has an inappropriate-  
5 -how can I say it? Only on communities of color, and  
6 it's discriminating. So I just hope that we pass  
7 this legislation, this common sense legislation, and  
8 I thank you Brad for bringing this forward and Debbie  
9 Rose, and I vote aye on all. Thank you.

10 CLERK: Menchaca.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you to  
12 Lander to Torres to Richards. In today's session we  
13 are protecting New Yorkers. Thank you. I vote aye  
14 on all.

15 CLERK: Miller.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Permission to  
17 explain my vote.

18 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: You may.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: So as a long-time  
20 transportation advocate who has spent time abroad  
21 studying the merits of BRT, I truly believe that when  
22 this is used properly, it could be a very valuable  
23 tool. And I would submit that in Southern Queens  
24 that I represent, and we have the displeasure of  
25 having some of the longest travel times into the

2 city. For myself an hour and 40 minutes one way each  
3 day. BRT does nothing. I would also say--to address  
4 the quality of my travels and of my constituents. I  
5 would also like to say to resource, yesterday's  
6 Transportation hearing in which DOT testified upon  
7 oath and upon questioning that the proposed BRT from  
8 Jamaica to Flushing in my district was still being  
9 evaluated, and they were holding town hall--held town  
10 hall meetings to that effect. When, in fact, it was  
11 introduced in the Mayor's Plan, Action Plan for  
12 Jamaica yesterday when, in fact, it is in the MTA's  
13 full schedules. So I find that there is a real  
14 attempt to input in some places--put a square peg  
15 into a round hole, and it does not work for everyone.  
16 Again, I would say that when it is used  
17 appropriately, it is a valuable tool. I would ask  
18 that we do a real study and evaluate--a comprehensive  
19 study and evaluation on transport--transportation  
20 particularly in the outer boroughs before we commit  
21 such resources to this. For that, I vote no on 211-  
22 A, and vote aye on all the rest. Thank you.

23 [pause]

24 CLERK: Palma. Richards.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I vote aye.

2 CLERK: Rosenthal:

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye on all.

4 CLERK: Torres.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: [off mic] Aye on  
6 all.

7 CLERK: Treyger.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Permission to  
9 explain my vote.

10 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Granted.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I'd like to  
12 first commend my colleague, Council Member Donovan  
13 Richards who has really championed the cause of--from  
14 this Council of winning the fight with regards to  
15 climate change. I also want to commend my colleague  
16 Ritchie Torres, Andrew Cohen, Council Member Julissa  
17 Ferreras. I want to thank the Chair of the  
18 Subcommittee on Zoning and the Chair of Land Use both  
19 Mark Weprin and David Greenfield for their--and their  
20 Land Use staff for supporting land use projects in my  
21 district where we're able to require the developer to  
22 install bioswales, and for local hiring in Coney  
23 Island. I want to commend Council Member Vincent  
24 Ignizio with regards to his issue of pushing for tax  
25 abatements for Sandy victims. And with regards to



2 Intro 261, I want to be very clear. Some of the same  
3 financial firms that devised the deceptive debt  
4 schemes that led this nation into financial crisis,  
5 should not be lecturing anyone about credit checks.  
6 So I commend Councilman Brad Lander for championing--  
7 championing this bill, and with that, I vote aye on  
8 all.

9 CLERK: Van Bramer.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye on all.

11 CLERK: Ulrich.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye on all  
13 with the exception of Intro 261-A. I vote no on 261-  
14 A.

15 CLERK: Weprin.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: I vote no on 261-  
17 A and aye on the rest.

18 CLERK: Williams.

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

21 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: You may.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I just want to  
23 say congratulations to Council Member Richards. I  
24 thank him and for his leadership on the environmental  
25 bills. I vote aye on all including 211, but I do

2 have a lot of issues with the way the Bus Rapid  
3 Transit has been laid out, and the affect it's had on  
4 communities. And I'm not 100% sure that the benefits  
5 are worth it. I'm still waiting to see what the  
6 results of the tests are. How fast are the buses  
7 actually going, and if that makes up for loss of time  
8 for drivers. And the time that drivers are now  
9 stalled along some of the areas that they can't move.  
10 But I understand that this bill does not allow  
11 further BRTs and it doesn't permit BRTs. What it  
12 does is make sure there's a study to hopefully get  
13 some of the answers that I'm asking. And make sure  
14 that there are more community engagement when these  
15 BRTs are being laid out. And I want to congratulate  
16 Council Member Lander for that, and also for Intro  
17 261, the credit check. I think it is a  
18 groundbreaking bill. Very often we--people--we put  
19 people who need the help the most in the least  
20 possible position that they would want to be. I  
21 believe that if you have some issues that have made  
22 your credit bad, you probably would want to get some  
23 employment so that you can correct it. And these  
24 barriers have no bearings at all on whether or not  
25 someone would be a good employee. So I congratulate

2 him and congratulate the City Council, and I vote aye  
3 on all.

4 CLERK: Ignizio. Speaker Mark-Viverito.

5 [pause]

6 CLERK: Council Member Ignizio.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: I vote no on  
8 Intro 271 and aye on all others. I just wanted to  
9 say that--

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] Which  
11 one are you voting no on?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: 271.

13 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] Okay.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yeah, I just  
15 wanted to say with regards to the 261--

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: No, I'm not  
18 voting no on that. I'm voting aye because in my view  
19 it is a pro-work bill. It is a bill, which will  
20 ultimately encourage people to get back into the  
21 workforce, to not have their past issues, their past  
22 financial problems count against their future. So  
23 that's the reason why I'm voting yes on that. No, on  
24 271 and aye on all others. Thank you.

25 [pause]

2 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: All items on  
3 today's General Order Calendar were adopted by a vote  
4 of 50 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and 0  
5 abstentions with the exception of Intro 261-A, which  
6 was adopted by a vote of 47 in the affirmative, 3 in  
7 the negative, and 0 abstentions. And Intro 271-A,  
8 which was adopted by a vote of 48 in the affirmative,  
9 2 in the negative and 0 abstentions. And Intro 211-  
10 A, which was adopted by a vote of 49 in the  
11 affirmative, 1 in the negative, and 0 abstentions.  
12 And the Revised Land Use Call-Up votes is 50 in the  
13 affirmative, 0 in the negative. Introduction and  
14 Reading of Bills.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [coughs] All  
16 bills are referred to committees, as indicated on the  
17 agenda. Let me just say this is--this--

18 [applause]

19 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: [interposing] Quiet  
20 down, please.

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Yes, everything  
22 passed so I think the advocates are very happy. I  
23 want to apologize to Council Member Ignizio because I  
24 made an assumption that because his other colleagues  
25 were--were voting no 261, he was voting on 261--

2 voting no on 261. I got confused. So I'm very happy  
3 that--that he voted for that one, and for the reasons  
4 he cited. I know surprise, surprise. We get  
5 surprised everyday on this job. So thank you for  
6 that, and again, all bills are referred to committees  
7 as indicated on the agenda.

8 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you.

9 Discussion of Resolutions. Resolutions first 533-A,  
10 an amended resolution calling upon the United States  
11 Congress to pass and the President to sign the James  
12 Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization  
13 Act. First up is the sponsor, Council Member Chin.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. Good  
15 afternoon. I'm happy to be voting today on  
16 Resolution 533-A, which I sponsored with our Speaker,  
17 also with Council Member Miller and Council Member  
18 Vallone. In October, the Zadroga Act is threatened  
19 to end unless Congress votes to reauthorize--

20 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Hold it down  
21 please. Please hold it down.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: In October the  
23 Zadroga Act is threatened to end unless Congress  
24 votes to reauthorize it before then. The Zadroga Act  
25 created, among other things, the World Trade Center

2 Health Program, which provides health treatment to  
3 people who work or reside in the vicinity of the  
4 World Trade Center on and after the September 11  
5 terrorist attack. We in New York know how critical  
6 this health program is for those New Yorkers who are  
7 sick, who have already died, or who will get sick in  
8 the years to come from our exposure to toxic  
9 chemicals. We need to make sure Congress knows, too.  
10 Our colleague in Congress, Congressman Nadler and  
11 Congresswoman Maloney have introduced this critical  
12 legislation. Now we have to make sure that Congress  
13 passes it. I'd like thank all the tireless advocates  
14 and also our great central staff Gafar--Gafar--

15 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: [interposing] Sit  
16 down, please. Sit down. [sic]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: --Zaaloff for his  
18 work on this resolution, and I hope all my colleagues  
19 will join us in voting for it. Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you, Council  
21 Member Chin. Council Member Rose.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you. I stand  
23 today in support of Resolution 533-A calling for the  
24 reauthorization of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and  
25 Compensation Reauthorization Act. The heroic actions

2 of September 11th first responders, many of whom hail  
3 from Staten Island and from my district in  
4 particular, were a beacon of courage, selflessness,  
5 and patriotism for our city and a country in shock  
6 and mourning. Illuminating the strength and  
7 resiliency that would carry us through that time of  
8 crisis. It is our obligation as a nation to do  
9 whatever we can to honor the bravery of first  
10 responders, and the sacrifices they made. The  
11 Zadroga Act ensures that those whose health and  
12 wellbeing were impacted have access to the care they  
13 need and appropriate--and be appropriately  
14 compensated, and they also earned. Its  
15 reauthorization is necessary to reaffirm or  
16 commitment to care for those who did what was needed  
17 at that time to be done without regard for danger to  
18 help us recover and rebuild. Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you, Council  
20 Member. Seeing no other council members speaking on  
21 this resolution, we'll take a voice vote. All those  
22 in favor of Resolution 533-A say aye.

23 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye. [in unison]

24 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: All those opposed.  
25 Okay. It passes unanimously. The next resolution,

2 Resolution 637, a resolution commemorating the 50th  
3 Anniversary of the signing of the New York City  
4 Landmarks Law. Is there any member who would like to  
5 speak on that resolution? Okay, seeing none-- Oh,  
6 I'm sorry. My apologies. Your name was on there and  
7 then it was taken off and put on. I'm sorry.  
8 Council Member Koo.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I will make it very  
10 brief. Today, we are very happy to celebrate in  
11 commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the signing  
12 of the Land--Landmark Law. It was on April 19, 1965  
13 Mayor Robert Wagner signed the law, and created the  
14 NY City Landmarks Preservation Commission Authority.  
15 And today, the Landmark Commission already has  
16 preserved more than 31,000 properties. So they are  
17 very happy, and we were a little grateful for the  
18 Commission and the staff who are doing a wonderful  
19 job. And I want to thank the Speaker and the Land  
20 Use staff for writing this resolution, and I am  
21 hoping all my colleagues will support this  
22 resolution. Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you, Council  
24 Member. Seeing no others, we will take a voice vote.  
25 All those in favor of Resolution 637, please say aye.



2 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye. [in unison]

3 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: All those opposed?  
4 Okay, Resolution 637 passes, and we'll go to General  
5 Discussion. First up is Council Member Kallos.  
6 Council Member Kallos are you here? Oh, there you  
7 are. Okay.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Good afternoon.  
9 I rise for Introduction 750, which would ensure that  
10 New Yorkers who move will get a voter registration  
11 with their new lease. We all know this is a city of  
12 renters, and two-thirds of New Yorkers are renters.  
13 The bill encourages more New Yorkers to participate  
14 by meeting them where they are, in their apartments.  
15 Only about two-thirds of eligible New Yorkers are  
16 registered with up-to-date information. And only 24%  
17 voted in the last election. Moving actually  
18 decreases participation, according to New York  
19 Campaign Finance Report of 2012, who both report in  
20 part because they needed to re-register in a new  
21 location. This bill would make it simple and  
22 convenient for more New Yorkers to participate.  
23 Thank you to my Legislative Director Paul Westrick  
24 and all who worked on this bill. I hope you'll  
25 consider signing onto Introduction 750.

2 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you, Council  
3 Member and next up is Council Member Corey Johnson.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Good afternoon.  
5 Today, I am proud to sponsor two important pieces of  
6 legislation. The first, introduced by myself and  
7 Public Advocate James will address an issue of  
8 critical importance to New Yorkers with physical  
9 disabilities. Our city, frankly, has long way to go  
10 in terms of bringing its public transportation into  
11 the 21st Century up to acceptable ADA compliance  
12 standards. My local law will change that in  
13 requiring all taxi cabs and for-hire vehicles to be  
14 fully accessible. 100% accessibility. That means  
15 that every vehicle has to be equipped with a side  
16 entry lift or ramp so that those wheelchairs,  
17 scooters and similar devices can remain comfortably  
18 seated while safely accessing the car. Side entry is  
19 important as many vehicles presently only have rear  
20 entry for those with disabilities. Meaning that the  
21 back bumper of a car has to be removed in order to  
22 utilize the passenger ramp, which severely  
23 compromises the safety of that person. After a  
24 series of phase-ins, all of the vehicles in the city  
25 will be fully accessible by 2020. This legislation

2 will make a huge difference in the everyday lives of  
3 those both with--both struggling with temporary  
4 injuries or lifelong disabilities alike. I urge my  
5 colleagues to support it.

6 My second bill would create an office of  
7 drug strategy to most effectively combat problems  
8 associated with illicit and non-medical drug use here  
9 in New York City in attempts to reduce mortality  
10 crime and inequity that results from such usage  
11 coupled with past and present ineffective drug  
12 policy. The office would be charged with creating an  
13 annual plan for drug policy to be revamped each year  
14 in order to stay up-to-date and effective as  
15 possible. This annual plan will be presented here at  
16 the Council, and would include recommendations for  
17 city action to close gaps left with ineffective drug  
18 policy. Additionally, it would spearhead evidence-  
19 based drug education and public health intervention  
20 efforts. Enhance the availability of medical,  
21 psychological and social services to those struggling  
22 with drug use as well as analyze social and economic  
23 problems related to drug policy. Too many New  
24 Yorkers' lives have been lost or harmed by drug use--

2 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: [interposing]

3 Council Member--

4 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: --and it is time  
5 that we proactively--

6 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: --please finish.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: --set out to  
8 change this. So I ask my colleagues to sign onto--

9 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: [interposing] Thank  
10 you.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: --both of these  
12 important piece of legislation. Thank you very much.

13 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you, Council  
14 Member Johnson and now Council Member Levine.

15 [pause]

16 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Council Member  
17 Levine.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you, Mr.  
19 Chairman. I would like to speak to my colleagues  
20 about Intro 751, which I am pleased to be introducing  
21 today. Colleagues, there has been an explosion in  
22 the scale of housing lotteries in our city for the  
23 housing developments as HPD has thankfully taken the  
24 application process online. It's now not uncommon  
25 for there to be more than 1,000 applications per unit

2 available in some affordable housing projects in New  
3 York City. This has exposed manifold flaws in our  
4 lottery system, which have inconsistencies and which  
5 I believe are unfair. For example, penalizing  
6 people with inconsistent income even if they meet  
7 the--the numerical guidelines for income requirements  
8 and many others. I believes it's time for us, as a  
9 city, to look closely at the lottery system now as we  
10 being what will be the largest period of new housing,  
11 affordable housing development in our history. And  
12 so, I propose this intro, which would create a task  
13 force with five members appointed by the Mayor, the  
14 HPD Commissioner, and this body consisting of both  
15 representatives of tenant advocacy community and  
16 affordable housing developers. To examine the  
17 lottery process and determine what, if anything, we  
18 can do to improve it. So we have the fairest  
19 possible system as this incredibly fast growing  
20 lottery system advances in the years ahead. thank  
21 you.

22 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you, Con--  
23 Council Member Levine and Council Member Crowley.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Uh--

2 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: [interposing] Sit down,  
3 please.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Good afternoon,  
5 and thank you Leader Gentile. I am asking my  
6 colleagues to sign onto the prevailing wage bill that  
7 I'm introducing today. As many of us know, big  
8 development projects are happening in New York City  
9 receiving financial assistance from the City. And as  
10 elected leaders, we need to be assured that our tax  
11 dollars are not supporting substandard development.  
12 As a city, we must deny tax dollars and city  
13 resources to developers who break the rules,  
14 contractors that cheat their workers, who don't work  
15 pay overtime, Workers Compensation or even  
16 unemployment insurance, and sometimes not even the  
17 basic minimum wage on job sites that are sometimes so  
18 often dangerous. In 2012, we in the City Council  
19 overrode Mayor Bloomberg's veto and creating sweeping  
20 new living wage and more recently prevailing wages  
21 laws for building service workers on projects  
22 receiving financial assistance. And while these  
23 steps were very helpful, a living wage bill and a  
24 prevailing wage bill that we passed in the Council,  
25 these bills did not go far enough.

2           The prevailing wage bill I'm introducing  
3 today, Intro 744, will ensure that projects with  
4 financial assistance will have either a project labor  
5 agreement or projects they must pay prevailing wages.  
6 When passed, this law will require prevailing wages  
7 to be paid for in the construction phase of any  
8 development project where developers receive \$1  
9 million in financial assistance from the City. Any  
10 project that receives money from HPD, HCC, EDC or any  
11 City agency with a capital project will have to pay  
12 prevailing wages. This is an opportunity to expand  
13 fair wages not just on housing projects, but also for  
14 our parks, our libraries, and transportation where  
15 too many workers are still being shut out. I urge my  
16 colleagues to sign onto this prevailing wage bill.  
17 Thank you.

18           CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you, Council  
19 member. Council Member Miller followed by Council  
20 Member Barron. Council Member.

21           [background comments]

22           CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: You passing? Okay.  
23 Council Member Barron.

24           COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Mr.  
25 Deputy Leader. To my colleagues, I want to remind us

2 that yesterday was one year since the kidnapping of  
3 the--of more than 200 young ladies in Nigeria,  
4 students there. And I would ask that we remember  
5 that we still have to bring our girls back and not  
6 let them be forgotten, and not lose the emphasis on  
7 that very important issue. Additionally, I am  
8 introducing a Reso today, which would call on CUNY to  
9 in its FY16 Budget provide for Metro Cards free of  
10 charge to all CUNY students. We know that CUNY  
11 students, as all students, face a lot of financial  
12 stress, the debts that they incur, childcare costs,  
13 rent, food. And we are thinking that just as ASAP--  
14 ASAP students have the ability to have support for  
15 their tuition gaps, and support for traveler  
16 vouchers, that that would be beneficial as well for  
17 all students in CUNY. So we're calling on the  
18 legislature and the Governor and the State officials  
19 to adopt a policy that would all for CUNY students to  
20 have free Metro cards.

21                   Additionally-- Oh, I want to thank  
22 Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez for his support on  
23 this. The former Chair of the Committee on Higher  
24 Education and recognizing this is a great need, and  
25 Russell Murphy, who drafted the bill; Lucas Acosta



2 from the Council Member Rodriguez's office; and my  
3 Legislative Director Indigo Washington. And in my  
4 last 25 seconds, I want to say we're also introducing  
5 a resolution that would require that there be posted  
6 in a visible public area in all shelters a bill of  
7 rights. So that all the residents of shelters would  
8 know what it is that they are entitled to. So that  
9 they would not be submitted--subjected to undue  
10 intimidation, misinterpretation of what their rights  
11 are. And that they know that they have the right to  
12 receive visitors. They have the right to privacy  
13 area, and the right to confidentiality. Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you, Council  
15 Member. Council Member Miller, last chance. Do you  
16 want to say something?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [interposing]  
18 Can I just recognize the persons who worked on that,  
19 please?

20 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: I'm sorry.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Can I just  
22 recognize those who worked on that?

23 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Yes, please.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I want to thank  
25 Council Member Jumaane Williams for his support on

2 this issue. Andrea Vasquez for drafting the bill.  
3 Nick Smith from Council Member Williams' Office, and  
4 my Legislative Director Indigo Washington and Anita  
5 Fisher. Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Okay. Thank you.  
7 Council Member Miller.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you, Deputy  
9 Leader. I'd like to speak on Intro 473, and I'd like  
10 to acknowledge and thank the Speaker for her  
11 leadership on this--this intro regarding the Office  
12 of Labor Standards. It is vital exer--that we  
13 exercise maximum efforts in providing that working  
14 people are treated with dignity and respect befitting  
15 to their labor. With that in mind, I'm looking  
16 forward to this hearing, hearing this legislation  
17 along with a few other labor related items on  
18 Monday's hearing at 1:00 p.m. in these chambers along  
19 with Council Member Cumbo. So I look forward to  
20 having all day joined by all our colleagues here on  
21 Monday as we discuss these important issues. Thank  
22 you.

23 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you, Council  
24 Member, and next up is Council Member Andy King.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Good afternoon. I  
3 just rise just to remind that BLA member staff  
4 today's general meeting will be held downstairs in  
5 the committee room-the conference room downstairs.  
6 Also I would like to wish Council Member Fernando  
7 Cabrera a happy 27th birthday to day as he grows a  
8 year wiser and moving forth with his legislations. I  
9 don't know where he disappeared to. He's probably--  
10 there he goes. He's outside, but when he comes in,  
11 we all should wish him a happy birthday when he  
12 returns back in. Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you, Council  
14 Member. Council Member Williams.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you.  
16 Earlier today, Council Member Gibson and I sent out  
17 an email asking for our colleagues' support for Intro  
18 607, a bill that would create a body camera task  
19 force to evaluate the cost, best practices, and  
20 privacy in locations around surround body cameras.  
21 I'm sure we're all aware of the tragedy in South  
22 Charleston with Officer Michael Slager and Mr. Walter  
23 Scott. We're asking you to sign these legislations  
24 we co-sponsored with Public Advocate James and  
25 several other colleagues in the Council. I think

2 based on what's going on today that is a--body  
3 cameras is the essential way to go. Something that  
4 we can do right now, but it won't solve the problems.  
5 And the task force will help solve some of the  
6 questions, legitimate questions that are being asked.  
7 I'd also like my colleagues to sign onto several  
8 bills, Intro 755. That will do more to protect the  
9 rights of disabled tenants. This bill would require  
10 owners to notify HPD if they plan to evict a disabled  
11 tenant. Additionally, it would require owners to  
12 provide disabled tenants with information about legal  
13 services that they would be entitled to.

14           Reso 665 co-sponsored by Council Member  
15 Barron who spoke on it. Since we cannot post the  
16 Homeless Bill of Rights as a city, we're calling on  
17 the State to do so. The resolution will require the  
18 State Office of Temporary Disability Assistance to  
19 promulgate a rule, which will require family shelters  
20 facilities to post a list of residents' rights and  
21 protections in a public area.

22           Lastly, Intro 756, as an extension of the  
23 work done on Vision Zero. This bill would require  
24 the DOT, the Department of Transportation, to inspect  
25 locations where four or more serious injuries or

2 fatalities of cyclists or pedestrians occurred. And  
3 to make results of such inspections available to the  
4 public upon request. The bill additionally speeds up  
5 the amount of time in which it conducts comprehensive  
6 studies of pedestrian fatalities and serious injuries  
7 from every five years to every three years. I ask  
8 for my colleagues' support. Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you,  
10 Councilman. Next up, Council Member Helen Rosenthal.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you so  
12 much, Leader Gentile. I rise today to talk about a  
13 DOC Bail Reporting Bill No. 753. You know, many New  
14 Yorkers are accused of minor offenses, and they're  
15 required to post a monetary bail, but they're unable  
16 to pay. They're then forced to sit in jail even  
17 before they've been convicted of a crime awaiting  
18 trial. This is true even when bail is set for a  
19 seemingly minimal amount. In addition, one in five  
20 non--non-felony defendants will ultimately not be  
21 convicted. And 8 in 10 misdemeanor arrestees receive  
22 sentences that do not include jail time. The point  
23 of this bill is to make public the reasons why people  
24 are being held in jail, and how long people are being  
25 held in jail for. With this information, we hope to

2 identify where the criminal justice system can be  
3 improved to ensure that justice is truly being  
4 served, and that people are not being held in jail  
5 for unacceptably long periods of time. To that end,  
6 this bill would require DOITT to post a quarterly  
7 report on the department's website regarding the bail  
8 status of persons incarcerated in New York City.  
9 This issue came to our office's attention, and I'm  
10 sure all of you as well, from the New Yorker article  
11 published in October 2014 about a 17-year-old who was  
12 accused of stealing a backpack. And then he spent  
13 three years in jail on Rikers Island. He was never  
14 charged with a crime, and he was released after the  
15 charges against him were dismissed. This bill is  
16 consistent in purpose with Mayor de Blasio's recent  
17 announcement to work with state judges to reduce  
18 back--backlogs in state courts. And I urge my  
19 colleagues to sign on in support. Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you, Council  
21 Member, and next up Council Member Koo.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you, Mr.  
23 Majority Leader. I saved the best for the last.  
24 [laughter] I want to use this opportunity to welcome

2 and introduce you to my new Chief of Staff, Elaine  
3 Chong. She's right there. [applause]

4 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Nice to see you.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Elaine is very  
6 diligent and really smart and really public minded.  
7 So I want all of you to welcome her to our office.  
8 And my former Chief of Staff Jonathan Chong has moved  
9 to become in the government a Liaison for the Queens  
10 Library. Thank you very much.

11 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Very good. Thank--  
12 thank you, Council Member Koo. Council Member  
13 Vanessa Gibson.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you very  
15 much, Mr. Leader. I appreciate it. I want to ask  
16 all of my colleagues in addition to two sponsors,  
17 Council Member Johnson, Chair of Health, and Council  
18 Member Cohen, Chair of Mental Health to sign onto  
19 Intro 748, which would create an Office of Drug  
20 Strategy, which is truly an effort to develop a  
21 unified drug strategy that can provide New York with  
22 a coordinated effort to develop many of the best  
23 practices that are necessary for many New Yorkers who  
24 unfortunately cycle in and out of drug use and drug  
25 addiction. Truly by joining on a lot of expertise

2 and knowledge by agencies, community groups, medical  
3 professionals we will build safer, healthier  
4 communities that will stabilize many of our New  
5 Yorkers. So I urge all of my colleagues to join in  
6 support of Intro 748. And as Council Member Williams  
7 alluded to earlier this afternoon, we share with all  
8 of you that joining with Public Advocate James we  
9 have introduced 607, which will create a body camera  
10 task force. Which we believe is an important and  
11 integral part of the conversation around policing and  
12 building relationships in the city. Body cameras can  
13 serve as neutral observers for both our officers as  
14 well as our New Yorkers. And truly, we want all  
15 stakeholders to be involved in this conversation, as  
16 we move forward beyond a pilot, and look at a full  
17 implementation in the Police Department. So we ask  
18 your support on Intro 607 and Intro 748. Thank you  
19 again, Mr. Leader.

20 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you, Council  
21 Member Gibson. Next up, Council Member Steve Levin.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you very  
23 much, my colleagues. Today, I want to call your  
24 attention to Resolution 656, which is being  
25 introduced by Council Member Ruben Wills, who asked



2 me to speak on it. This would increase the income  
3 eligibility for families to receive subsidized  
4 childcare. During my committee's preliminary budget  
5 hearing last month, I saw that the city's contracted  
6 childcare providers are crying out for help. Because  
7 they can no longer bear the flawed Early Learn NYC's  
8 pay for 100% enrollment system that the--that the  
9 system has imposed on them. And as a result,  
10 providers throughout the city are facing terrible  
11 budget shortfalls. One way to address this issue,  
12 and to also ensure that more children and more  
13 families receive adequate child care is to increase  
14 the income eligibility above the current threshold to  
15 375% of the federal poverty line. This would make  
16 more families eligible, more children eligible for  
17 childcare, and ensure that the system itself can  
18 remain fluid and stay above water. All too many of  
19 the programs are suffering major, major setbacks in  
20 terms of their budgets. And I also want to  
21 acknowledge Council Member Rose and Council Member  
22 Ignizio for their work on legislation passed today.

23           And with regard to Intro 261, I was  
24 debating bringing something forward. I myself have  
25 had bad credit in the past, and like many New

2 Yorkers, it's something that is all too easy to fall  
3 behind on. And it takes a long time to get your  
4 credit back up. It takes a number of years, and it'  
5 not--it's not an easy thing, and all too often people  
6 are penalized for indiscretions in their past. And  
7 so, that's one other reason why I'm supporting it  
8 [bell] personal experience. But, all those that are-  
9 -that have bad credit out there, you know, I  
10 understand. I've been there myself. Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you, Council  
12 Member. Next up, Council Member Danny Dromm.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you very  
14 much. Today, I'm introducing a bill to strengthen  
15 protections for our city's most vulnerable consumers,  
16 recent immigrants. Throughout the city unscrupulous  
17 immigration service providers prey on our  
18 constituents by promising green cards and other  
19 benefits when they have no qualifications to do so.  
20 From the notario publicos [sic] in Sunset Park to  
21 highly organized rackets in Jackson Heights, no  
22 community is immune to these scam artists. The  
23 consequences of receiving bad advice can be  
24 devastating. My office has dealt with cases where  
25 constituents not only lost thousands of dollars, but

2 also lost family members to deportation. Under the  
3 leadership of Speaker Mark-Viverito, this Council has  
4 worked to ensure a growing number of immigrants have  
5 access to high quality legal representation. With  
6 the expansion of President Obama's Executive Action  
7 around immigration, we need to redouble our efforts  
8 to guide individuals and families to an ethical and  
9 competent legal representation. That State has  
10 recently strengthened protection, and it is now time  
11 for the City to update its own laws. I encourage my  
12 colleagues to sign onto Intro 746. Thank you very  
13 much.

14 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you, Council  
15 Member Dromm, and I just want to cite the presence of  
16 our former colleague, and now New York State Senator  
17 Leroy Comrie. [cheers/applause] Next up is Council  
18 Member Darlene Mealy.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Thank you,  
20 Congressman Gen--I mean Colleague Gentile.

21 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Give it a couple of  
22 weeks. Give it a couple of weeks, okay. [laughter]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Today, I'm  
24 introducing a resolution that supports the federal  
25 legislation that will reinvigorate the Voting Rights

2 Act. That devastating 2013 Supreme Court decision in  
3 *Shelby v. Holder*, which struck down the pre-clearance  
4 caution of the law. I ask my colleagues to support  
5 this Resolution 650. This resolution supports the  
6 Voting Rights Act Amendment Right--Amendment Act of  
7 2015 sponsored by the U.S. Representative Brenner. It  
8 requires public notification of certain voting  
9 process changing, and extends this requirement  
10 nationwide. Beyond only the jurisdiction of meeting  
11 pre-clearance to provide greater transparency,  
12 potentially discriminate--discriminatory changes.  
13 The right to vote is a free and fair election. It is  
14 the foundation of this democracy. For 48 years, that  
15 right was protected at the federal level. It is time  
16 to revise those protections.

17           And I believe that this 50th Anniversary  
18 of the landmark Voting Rights Act is a great time to  
19 do this. I ask all my colleagues to sign onto this  
20 legislation 650. And I would just like to ask all my  
21 colleagues to--and Mark-Viverito and the Caucus,  
22 Elizabeth Crowley and myself, and the Jewish Chair  
23 Mark Levine to come to the Simon Wiesenthal Center  
24 Museum of Tolerance of New York. Stories of  
25 Genocide, Lessons of Tolerance. That's on Wednesday,

2 April 22nd at the museum. So I hope that all my  
3 colleagues to come to this just as we're sponsoring  
4 it with the Women's Caucus and the Jewish Caucus.  
5 And I hope you sign onto my legislation.

6 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you. Thank  
7 you, Council Member. Seeing no other members, we'll  
8 go to the Extension of Remarks by Speaker Mark-  
9 Viverito.

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I have no  
11 additional comments. I want to again thank all my  
12 colleagues. I hope everyone has a great next couple  
13 of days. And with that, I think we're adjourned,  
14 right?

15 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: We're adjourned.

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right.

17 [gavel]

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1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

Date April 29, 2015