

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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March 31, 2015
Start: 1:32 p.m.
Recess: 3:17 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E:

MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO
Speaker of the Council
LETITIA JAMES
Public Advocate

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS: (CONTINUED)

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

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

Cora Cahan
President
The New Victory Theater

[background comments]

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: So good afternoon everybody, we're gonna get started, we have one ceremonial today that we are going to do. One of the things -- the Women's Caucus is facilitating today, we're doing the Council Member for a Day and I have Kadesha [sp?] Benoit [sp?] from my district as me -- we all have doppelgangers; she's my doppelganger today, Kadesha, who's here with me as well from one of my schools in the Bronx part of the district.

So the one ceremonial we have today is from Council Member Corey Johnson, to The New 42nd Street Victory Theater, so whoever is here to receive this Proclamation can please step up. The New 42nd Street Victory Theater, in recognition of their Usher Corps, it's a program which recently received the National Arts and Humanities Youth Award, which is the highest national honor that a youth program can achieve, so we wanna thank [cheers, applause] The New 42nd Street Victory Theater. And with that I will pass -- everybody come on over here, join us. I'm gonna pass the mic over -- hi, nice to see you again.

[background comments] So with that I'm gonna ask

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2 Council Member Johnson to say a few words before we
3 hear the Clerk read the Proclamation.

4 [background comments]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you...

6 [background comments] Thank you, Madame Speaker; I
7 just wanna recognize the folks that have joined us
8 here today, Cora Cahan, who is the President of The
9 New 42nd -- it's good to see you -- Anthony Pound,
10 the Youth Corps Manager; Sendie Brunard, an usher --
11 good to see you -- Manny Delgado, another usher --
12 good to have you with us -- Melania [sp?] Wozniak;
13 did I say it right? [background comment] Good,
14 Gabriela Sasas [sic] [background comment] Casas;
15 Maritza Ramos, [background comment] yes, Maritza
16 Ramos and Rory Nooks. Great. Well thank you all for
17 being here. This incredible, incredible theater and
18 this Usher Corps has a deep and rich history; The New
19 Victory moved to Times Square, 42nd Street, in 1995
20 is when they opened their doors and Times Square was
21 a much different place in 1995; it's not the Times
22 Square and 42nd Street that we know today, and the
23 first day they opened their doors they started this
24 incredible program, this usher program, this corps,
25 which has provided, I believe, over the course of

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2 time, over the last 20 years, over 500 jobs for young
3 people in New York City to be able to participate in
4 a real way and get some experience and gets some
5 money too. So I believe last year in the fall Sendie
6 was invited, along with Anthony, to the White House
7 to meet The First Lady and they were only one of 12
8 programs recognized nationally by the White House for
9 the important work that they do, so I am incredibly
10 proud that this program is in my district, but as
11 many Council Members know, this theater and this
12 program serves young people, children all over the
13 city, in every district across the city and..

14 [interpose, background comment] you're from Council
15 Member King's [laughter] district? Very good. So we
16 are so grateful that you're here; we congratulate
17 you; you are a gem and a treasure and an asset for
18 the City of New York and before we read the
19 Proclamation, the Clerk reads it, I wanna hand it
20 over to Cora, if you wanted to say something.

21 CORA CAHAN: I'll say this very quickly.
22 I grew up in New York, I actually grew up in
23 Brooklyn, as we were just discussing and -- public
24 school, public college, CUNY graduate from Brooklyn
25 College -- and we found out... [background comment]

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2 yes, whoever said that, yes, yes. We found out that
3 the thing we could do in opening the first theater on
4 42nd Street almost 20 years ago was provide jobs,
5 year-round jobs for young people in the city who are
6 not gonna be our audience, but they are the front of
7 house staff and I have said that the street went from
8 people pushing drugs to people pushing strollers. So
9 thank you very much, City Council, for this
10 Proclamation; we are very, very proud of it.

11 [background comment, applause]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: And if the Clerk
13 could please read the Proc.

14 CITY CLERK: Council, City of New York
15 Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of
16 New York honors and congratulates the distinguished
17 members of The New Victory Theater Usher Corps upon
18 receiving the 2014 National Arts and Humanities Youth
19 Program Award.

20 And whereas, The New Victory Theater
21 introduces extraordinary performing artists from
22 around the world to extraordinary audiences in New
23 York City, bringing kids to the arts and arts to
24 kids. Created in 1995 for young New Yorkers, their
25 families and schoolmates, The New Victory Theater

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2 presents a diverse season of international companies
3 at low ticket prices year after year through award-
4 winning education programs. The New Victory
5 continues to provide access to schools and
6 communities of our city seeking to experience
7 excellent theater, often for the very first time.

8 And whereas, The New Victory Usher
9 Corps provides paid employment, job training,
10 academic support, mentorship and an introduction to
11 the performing arts for 50 young New Yorkers each
12 year. Created to address the urgent need for youth
13 employment in New York City, the rigorous three-year
14 program offers an opportunity for teens to invest in
15 their future while earning a paycheck. At every
16 performance these hard-working and enthusiastic young
17 people assist audience members, ensure public safety
18 and work as teaching assistants in arts-based
19 workshops for families. Between shows, New Victory
20 Ushers interact with professional artists from all
21 over the world, participate in job and life skills
22 workshops, like time management, resume writing and
23 personal finance and discover how a theater runs, all
24 while experiencing new cultures and art forms.

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2 And whereas, The New Victory Usher Corps
3 was launched the day the theater opened nearly 20
4 years ago and has provided over 400,000 hours of paid
5 employment to more than 500 New York City teens from
6 across the city. While some New Victory Ushers are
7 recruited from social service agencies, some are
8 recent immigrants and others are from families who
9 have called the city home for generations. For most
10 participants, however, The New Victory marks their
11 first introduction to the rich world of the
12 performing arts; the majority go on either to college
13 or to full-time jobs, with some participants entering
14 the entertainment industry.

15 And whereas, this year The New Victory
16 Usher Corps was one of just 12 programs in the United
17 States recognized with the prestigious National Arts
18 and Humanities Youth Program Award, our nation's
19 highest honor for after-school arts and humanities
20 programs. The awards recognize and support
21 outstanding programs that lay new pathways to
22 creativity, expression and achievement outside of the
23 regular school day. On November 10th, The New
24 Victory Usher Corps representative, Sendie Brunard
25 and New Victory Usher Corps Manager, Anthony Pound

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2 visited the White House to accept the award, which
3 includes a \$10,000 grant from First Lady Michelle
4 Obama.

5 And whereas, The New Victory Usher Corps
6 has truly excelled in its mission and its dedicated
7 members have truly earned the esteem of all New
8 Yorkers.

9 Now therefore be it known, that the
10 Council of the City of New York honors and
11 congratulates The New Victory Usher Corps upon
12 receiving the 2014 National Arts and Humanities Youth
13 Program Award. Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for
14 the Entire Council; Corey Johnson, Council Member 3rd
15 District, Manhattan; Mathieu Eugene, Council Member
16 40th District, Brooklyn.

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay; give me one
18 second; Speaker Benoit wants to say one quick thing.

19 SPEAKER BENOIT: Congratulations New
20 Victory Theater.

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Alright.
22 [cheers, applause] Well thank you very much. This
23 is a really beautiful partnership; you know to really
24 provide opportunities to our young people. I was
25 just talking to this young woman here and you must

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2 have watched some wonderful performances over the
3 years as well and we all know the importance that
4 culture plays here in New York City and the life of
5 New York City, but also independently what it brings
6 and the value it brings to expanding the educational
7 opportunities for young people, so thank you so much
8 for that partnership; it's appreciated. And with
9 that we end the ceremonial, this is the only
10 ceremonial we have today, so all eyes are you. [sic]

11 [applause, background comments]

12 [pause]

13 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Ladies and gentleman,
14 Letitia James.

15 [pause]

16 [background comments]

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please take your
18 seats everyone. Members, please take your seats.
19 Visitors, please take your seats. Council Members
20 for a Day, please follow your members to the seats.
21 [background comments] All Council Members for a Day,
22 please come to the front for a picture. Please come
23 to the front desk for a picture.

24 [pause]

25 [gavel]

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2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Ladies and gentlemen,
3 can I have your attention, please? At this time,
4 please place all electronic devices to vibrate, all
5 electronic devices to vibrate. Will all... [crosstalk]

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
7 chambers.

8 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Will all non-Council,
9 non-Council employees please leave the main floor of
10 the chambers; there's additional seating upstairs in
11 the balcony [background comment]. Thank you.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Everyone please
13 take their seats. [background comment] Thank you.

14 [laugh] Please rise for the pledge of allegiance.

15 [pause]

16 CITY CLERK: Arroyo.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

18 CITY CLERK: Barron... [crosstalk]

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
20 chambers, please, quiet in the chambers.

21 [background comments]

22 CITY CLERK: Cabrera.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

24 CITY CLERK: Chin.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

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CITY CLERK: Cohen.

[background comments]

CITY CLERK: Constantinides.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Here.

CITY CLERK: Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Here.

CITY CLERK: Crowley.

[background comments]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member

Crowley.

FEMALE VOICE: Present.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

CITY CLERK: Cumbo.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
chambers, please.

CITY CLERK: Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.

CITY CLERK: Dickens. Dromm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

CITY CLERK: Espinal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Here.

CITY CLERK: Eugene. Ferreras.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.

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[background comment]

CITY CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

CITY CLERK: Gentile. Gibson.

Greenfield. Cohen.

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.

CITY CLERK: Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

CITY CLERK: Johnson. Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

CITY CLERK: Kallos.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.

CITY CLERK: King.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Present.

CITY CLERK: Koo. Koslowitz.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

CITY CLERK: Lancman.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Here.

CITY CLERK: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

[background comment]

CITY CLERK: Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

CITY CLERK: Levine.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

CITY CLERK: Maisel. Matteo.

COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.

CITY CLERK: Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Yes.

CITY CLERK: Menchaca.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.

CITY CLERK: Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Present.

CITY CLERK: Miller.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Present.

CITY CLERK: Palma.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

CITY CLERK: Reynoso.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Present.

CITY CLERK: Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

CITY CLERK: Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

CITY CLERK: Rosenthal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

CITY CLERK: Torres.

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Torres.

CITY CLERK: Treyger.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

CITY CLERK: Ulrich. Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

CITY CLERK: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

CITY CLERK: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

CITY CLERK: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
chambers, please.

CITY CLERK: Gibson.

[background comment]

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Present.

CITY CLERK: Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Present.

CITY CLERK: Ignizio. Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

CITY CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Present.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please rise for
the invocation. [background comments] Please rise.

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2 The invocation will be delivered by Sister Julia
3 Suarez from Saint Jerome's Hands Community Center,
4 230 Alexander Avenue in the Borough of the Bronx.
5 Please rise.

6 SISTER JULIA SUAREZ: **00:22:30 [Spanish]**

7 God, give me faith today to continue
8 forward, grant me speed to fortitude [sic] to
9 forgive, give me patience to understand and help,
10 grant me strength to not fall, give me strength to
11 rise if I have fallen, grant me love to provide, give
12 me what I need and know what I want, grant me
13 eloquence to speak what I should speak, make me the
14 best example for my children, let me be the best
15 friend to my friends, make me an instrument of your
16 will, give me the strength to withstand adversity.
17 Let me know what you want from me. Grant me your
18 peace so I can share it with those who don't have it.
19 Finally, walk with me and let me know that it is so.
20 Amen.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Amen. Please be
22 seated. Motion to spread the invocation. Speaker
23 Melissa Mark-Viverito. Quiet in the chambers,
24 please... [crosstalk]

25 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Would...

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: quiet in the
3 chambers.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: **00:24:30**

5 **[Spanish]** to Sister Julia Suarez for being here with
6 us today. Saint Jerome's Hands Community Center is
7 in my district and... [interpose]

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Excuse me,
9 Speaker. Quiet in the chamber please for the
10 speaker. [background comment] Quiet in the
11 chambers. Everyone have their seats, please.
12 Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito.

13 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I make a motion
14 to spread the invocation in full upon the record.

15 [background comment]

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Adoption of the
17 Minutes. Council Member Vacca.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I move that the
19 Minutes of the Stated Meeting of February 26 be
20 adopted.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Messages and
22 Papers from the Mayor.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Communication
25 from City, County and Borough Offices.

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: M 0254 through M 0261,
3 Base Station Licenses.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
5 chambers, please.

6 [background comments]

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please keep it
8 down. Petitions and Communications.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Land Use Call-
11 Ups.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: M 0262 through M 0268,
13 various applications.

14 SPEAKER BENOIT: Coupled on Call-Up Vote.
15 Roll call.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Roll Call.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I vote aye on
19 all Call-Ups and with permission, I vote aye on all
20 General Orders and Resolutions. Thank you.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: You're welcome.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Arroyo.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Land Use Call-Ups.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen.

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Constantinides.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: I vote aye on
all Call-Ups and with permission, vote aye on all
General Orders and Resolutions.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Crowley.

FEMALE VOICE: Aye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Was that an aye?

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Yes, aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cumbo. Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dickens. Dromm.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
chambers, please.

[background comments]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Espinal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ferreras.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gibson.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Greenfield. Johnson.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Johnson.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: King.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo. Koslowitz.

FEMALE VOICE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lancman.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel.

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo.

COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy.

MISS EDWARDS: Aye. [background comment]

Council Member Edwards and Mealy says aye.

[background comments]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Menchaca.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Permission to
vote on all Call-Ups and.. [crosstalk]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: items of the
General Order Calendar.. [crosstalk]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: I vote aye on
all.

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[background comments]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Excuse me,
Council Member. May we have quiet in the chambers,
please. [background comment] Quiet in the chambers.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: I vote aye on
all and want to say **00:28:30 [Spanish]** to Cesar
Chavez today. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
Gracias.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cumbo.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Mendez.

FEMALE VOICE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Miller.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Palma.

FEMALE VOICE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reynoso.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.
3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rosenthal.
4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.
5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres. Treyger.
6 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.
7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich. Vacca.
8 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.
9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone.
10 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.
11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Weprin.
12 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.
13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams.
14 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.
15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Wills.
16 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Permission to vote
17 on all Land Use Call..
18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.
19 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Thank you. I vote
20 aye.
21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ignizio.
22 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.
23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.
24 SPEAKER BENOIT: Speaker Melissa votes
25 aye.

[laughter]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Today's Land Use Call-Ups were adopted by a vote of 44 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative... quiet in the chambers. [background comments] Communication from the Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Madame Public Advocate.

I wanna open my remarks today by acknowledging two recent tragedies here in New York City. On March 21st, as we all know, a fire in Midwood, Brooklyn claimed the lives of seven children in the Sassoon family. And on March 26th, an explosion in an East Village restaurant took the lives of two young men; this happened in Council Member Mendez's district. The one individual who has been officially identified, Nicholas Figueroa, was a constituent.

I wanna make mention of one staffer here at the Council, Walter Aguirin [sp?], who has gone above and beyond in assisting the community in the wake of the explosion. Walter, along with the rest of the Community Engagement Division, UCEF [sp?] and all others, has stepped up and answered the call in

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2 this extremely difficult time; we're all extremely
3 grateful. Having just unfortunately celebrated the
4 one-year anniversary of the East Harlem explosion,
5 the amount of devastation here is overwhelming and
6 obviously our hearts and prayers are with all three
7 of these families as they mourn the loss of their
8 loved ones and I would like to ask everyone to join
9 me in a moment of silence.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet down; a
11 moment of silence, please. Please rise.

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you my
13 colleagues.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please be seated.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Today we have a
16 package of bills from the Civil Rights Committee that
17 will serve as vital first steps in revamping the
18 City's Human Rights Commission. We're gonna be
19 requiring that the Commission's annual report to the
20 Council includes information regarding the number of
21 investigations conducted each year. Additionally, we
22 have two bills that require the Commission to begin
23 proactive testing programs to investigate housing and
24 employment discrimination. These bills will require
25 the HRC, the Commission, to conduct investigations in

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2 which pairs of testers who differ based on one or
3 more protected classes, such as age, race, national
4 origin or gender, but have otherwise similar
5 qualifications and credentials apply for the same
6 housing or employment. Through these tests HRC will
7 be able to proactively investigate where
8 discrimination may be occurring in New York City.
9 The bills require that at least five housing
10 discrimination investigations and five employment
11 discrimination investigations take place over a one-
12 year period beginning this October. Further, upon
13 conclusion of the investigations, the Commission will
14 be required to report the details to the Council in
15 its annual report. In February, at the State of the
16 City Address, I presented a vision of a reinvigorated
17 Human Rights Commission as part of the Council's
18 agenda for 2015. I said that it's time for us to put
19 teeth into a Commission that has been ineffective for
20 far too long, because our city's commitment to human
21 rights is essential to ensuring fairness for all New
22 Yorkers. The City Council has stepped up to this
23 challenge and today's bills represent the first step
24 in this process.

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2 I would like to thank staff members
3 Rachel Cordero, Alicia Brown; Muzna Ansari for all of
4 their work and I'm gonna ask Council Members Darlene
5 Mealy and Brad Lander to speak on both of these
6 bills. Council Member Mealy.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I wanna thank you,
8 Council Speaker for putting teeth into this bill and
9 to this legislation and committee. And I wanna thank
10 my City Council Member Miss Edwards here today also,
11 for Council Member for a Day.

12 I'm proud to sponsor these two Intros,
13 0421-A and 0690-A. [cough] Excuse me.

14 Intro 0421-A will shed more needed light
15 on the investigations the Human Rights Commission
16 initiates by requiring the Commission to include
17 those investigations in the annual report to the
18 Mayor and to this City Council body.

19 Intro 60 [sic] will go a long way towards
20 making the Commission a more proactive agency that is
21 able to root out discrimination in the area that
22 affects almost all New Yorkers and that's employment.
23 [cough] Excuse me. I congratulate my colleague,
24 Council Member Brad Lander on his Introduction 0689,
25 which creates a housing testing program just like the

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2 program for 0690, that two people of different ethnic
3 backgrounds with the same employment and same
4 education will go for the same job and we pray that
5 they treat them right and if they do not, that is
6 discrimination and we will be rooting that out.

7 I'm grateful to Speaker Mark-Viverito for
8 her support for this legislation and her commitment
9 to civil rights of all New Yorkers. And just to let
10 you know the effect that Intro 0423 and 0690, how far
11 will go, it would be strengthening our Human Rights
12 Commission. Right now we have a strong Human Rights
13 Law and a Commission with the reputation for
14 weakness; we have to change that; we need a proactive
15 Commission that uses the power granted by law to get
16 rid of our city of effects of discrimination. Right
17 now I must say in this city we have a budget of 298;
18 only 194,000 summonses were signed out four
19 discrimination in this big city and we know for sure
20 that we have a whole lot more discrimination. So I
21 hope now that having the teeth in this legislation,
22 if one employer or housing person gets caught, it'll
23 be a \$250,000 fine and if they do not abide by that
24 law, guess what, it'll be \$50,000 for the first fine
25 and then \$150 a day after that. So I know we have

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2 teeth in this legislation now and I thank my
3 colleagues and I hope and pray that you sign on to
4 this great legislation. Thank you, Madame Speaker.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
6 Council Member Mealy. Council Member Lander.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you, Madame
8 Speaker. Earlier [background comments] this month we
9 observed the 50th anniversary of the march from Selma
10 to Montgomery and while luckily we are not called on
11 to show the courage of those marchers who risked
12 their very lives, we are called upon to do all we can
13 to root out discrimination and advance human rights,
14 as Congressman Lewis and President Obama so
15 powerfully reminded us. We know that even now, and
16 even here in New York City discrimination continues
17 to exist and that despite having one of the best
18 human rights laws in the country, for the past 20
19 years we have woefully failed to enforce it and
20 therefore we have as a city stood by and allowed
21 discrimination in the job market, as Chair Mealy just
22 spoke to, and in the housing market continues to
23 fester. Landlords who discriminate against people of
24 color, against the LGBTQ community, against people
25 with disabilities, against people with housing

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2 vouchers, they violate our fundamental sense of right
3 and wrong, worsen our affordable housing crisis,
4 segregate our city and indeed violate our laws.
5 Along with the bills that Chair Mealy spoke about,
6 Intro 0689 will help us do more to address
7 discrimination by landlords. Matched Pair Testing
8 sends out two testers otherwise similar; one black
9 and one white or Latino; one straight and one gay;
10 one with a disability, one without, and/or one with a
11 housing voucher and one without a housing voucher and
12 you see what happens. You focus this proactive
13 discrimination against the worse offenders, people
14 who you suspect are discriminating but you haven't
15 yet been able to prove it and with Matched Pair
16 testing you're able to build a case, prove
17 discrimination, get real accountability of the kind
18 the Chair spoke to and bring about systemic change,
19 so I'm proud to be part of the package today.

20 I also wanna salute both Chair Mealy and
21 especially Speaker Mark-Viverito; the leadership that
22 you've taken, that you announced in the State of the
23 City is moving the city forward to where it needs to
24 be and advancing human rights and upholding the human
25 rights law with the resources the Commission needs,

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2 with real transparency, with proactive testing and
3 with updating the human rights law with the agenda
4 that you've outlined and now under the new leadership
5 of Carmelyn Malalis as the Chair of the Commission on
6 Human Rights, we are going to return New York City to
7 its human rights best self and truly be able to say
8 not only do we have the best law in the country, but
9 we're doing the most we possibly can to do the best
10 in the country on issues of discrimination; I'm very
11 proud to work with you and with Chair Mealy.

12 I also wanna briefly say thank you to
13 Beth Golub, Muzna Ansari, Alicia Brown and also to
14 Rachel Cordero, Matt Gewolb and Laura Popa for their
15 work on this legislation, as well as Ben Smith from
16 my office; I look forward to joining my colleagues
17 and voting for these bills. Thank you.

18 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
19 Council Member Lander. And you know this City
20 Council has stepped up to this challenge; today's
21 bills on the Human Rights Commission is a step in the
22 right process. We don't need to look very far to see
23 how disastrous and appalling a disregard for human
24 rights can be. For the past week the whole country
25 has watched at Indiana has adopted pro-discrimination

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2 policies, policies which will negatively impact the
3 LGBTQ community. What Indiana has done is an
4 absolute disgrace and Governor Pence and the State
5 Legislature should be ashamed. These laws are mean-
6 spirited and run counter against our country's
7 values, the values of inclusion and the values of
8 progress, and so what we're doing here today with
9 these bills and stepping up to fortify the Human
10 Rights Commission is the opposite of what Indiana has
11 done; what we are doing is standing up for human
12 dignity and standing up for basic human rights. What
13 Indiana has done should serve as a reminder that
14 without diligence and a constant push for progress,
15 our basic rights are never more than a stroke of the
16 pen away from being taken and that will never happen
17 here in New York City.

18 And before we end today, we have a few
19 people that we need to send off today. After more
20 than 10 years with the Council, our Senior
21 Legislative Financial Analyst, Kate Seely-Kirk, is
22 headed to the New York City Housing Authority.
23 [applause, cheers] It's good to know that we're
24 gonna have a partner in NYCHA who's gonna work hand
25 in hand with Nathan and everyone else in the Finance

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2 Division; very excited about that. Everyone at the
3 Council will miss Kate's contributions this budget
4 season, but perhaps more so we'll miss her
5 contributions on the field this softball season,
6 sorry about that. She helped propel the Council team
7 to its 17-13 win against the Mayor's Office last
8 year; do not join the Mayor's team. [laughter] No,
9 that's gonna be a term of agreement between us.
10 Okay. [laugh]

11 Additionally, John Waldman is heading to
12 the Buildings Department to work in their Government
13 and Community Relations Division. [applause, cheers]
14 John has worked in the Speaker's Office for the last
15 15 years; most of those assigned to the Legislative
16 Counsel assisting all the Council Members, their
17 staff and central staff. We wish him much success
18 and thank him for so ably working half of his life
19 here at the Council.

20 And finally, my First Deputy Chief of
21 Staff, Elizabeth de Leon Bhargava, is leaving the
22 Council to serve as a Deputy Secretary for Labor in
23 the Cuomo Administration. [background comment,
24 cheers, applause] Elizabeth played... [applause]
25 Elizabeth played an invaluable role in my transition

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2 into the Speaker's Office and was instrumental in the
3 formulation of the Council's Unaccompanied Minors
4 Initiative, which has already taken on 424 cases and
5 halted 13 deportations, among other responsibilities
6 as well. We wish her the best, thank her for all her
7 hard work over the past year and to all of those that
8 are moving and transitioning on; we obviously wish
9 you the best. And with that I end Communications
10 from the Speaker.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you, Madame
12 Speaker and congratulations to all the staff members.
13 Discussion of General Orders. Council Member Julissa
14 Ferreras, the blushing bride.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aw. Thank you,
16 Madame Public Advocate. I just wanted to say to you,
17 Madame Speaker, we know tomorrow is your birthday and
18 this Council body would like to wish you a happy
19 birthday, so we've imported a cake all the way from
20 Corona, [background comments] a great Dominican
21 bakery, it's diet, **00:43:30 [Spanish]**, diet,
22 [background comments, applause, cheers] and it made
23 it through the BQE, which we were really worried
24 about; we need to get those BQE roads fixed, but we

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2 wish you a very happy birthday, so colleagues, let's
3 sing happy birthday.

4 [singing, clapping]

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: So most people...
6 Julissa. Julissa [laughter]. Julissa, they don't
7 know the Stevie Wonder version. No.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: I see, I see;
9 I'm sorry. [laugh]

10 [singing, clapping]

11 [pause]

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I can't believe
13 they actually put 46 candles on the cake. [laughter]
14 My secret is out.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: So there'll be
16 cake in the Committee Room after... [interpose]

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank...

18 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: the hearing for
19 everyone.

20 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
21 Julissa; that means a lot; I appreciate -- to all my
22 colleagues, thank you for your support. And the last
23 thing [background comments] I forgot to mention,
24 Madame Public Advocate, if I may, just an extension
25 of my remarks, I wanna thank the Women's Caucus for

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2 doing the Council Member for a Day; I think this is
3 an incredible initiative, especially in Women's
4 History Month, every day is Women's History Month,
5 but this month we really highlighted and celebrated,
6 and having these young women here with us I think can
7 serve as an inspiration for their future in terms of
8 what they may be looking to do and I wanna thank
9 Kadesha Benoit, who is a young woman from my district
10 that is here today and salute all the young women
11 that have received certificates and are here as
12 Council Members for a day. Thank you very much.

13 [applause, cheers]

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Happy birth
15 again, Madame Speaker. Report of Special Committees.

16 CITY CLERK: None.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reports of
18 Standing Committees.

19 CITY CLERK: Report of the Committee on
20 Civil Rights, Intro 0421-A, Human Rights Commission.

21 [background comments]

22 KADESHA BENOIT: Amended and Coupled on
23 General Orders.

24 CITY CLERK: Intro 0689-A, Housing
25 Discrimination Program.

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2 KADESHA BENOIT: Amended and Coupled on
3 General Orders.

4 CITY CLERK: Intro 0690-A, Employment
5 Discrimination Program.

6 KADESHA BENOIT: Amended and Coupled on
7 General Orders.

8 CITY CLERK: Report of the Committee on
9 Finance, Intro 0497-B, Interest and Discount Rate.

10 KADESHA BENOIT: Amended and Coupled on
11 General Orders.

12 CITY CLERK: Intro 0656, South Shore BID.

13 KADESHA BENOIT: Coupled on General
14 Orders.

15 CITY CLERK: Preconsidered Reso 0636,
16 Organization Funding.

17 KADESHA BENOIT: Coupled on General
18 Orders.

19 CITY CLERK: Preconsidered M 0269 and
20 Reso 0641 and M 0270 and Reso 0642, various budget
21 items.

22 KADESHA BENOIT: Coupled on General
23 Orders.

24 CITY CLERK: Preconsidered LU 0193 and
25 Reso 0643 and LU 0194 and Reso 0644, HDFCs.

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KADESHA BENOIT: Coupled on General
Orders.

CITY CLERK: Report of the Committee on
Land Use, LU 0188 and Reso 0645, Zoning Amendment.

KADESHA BENOIT: Coupled on General
Orders.

CITY CLERK: LU 0192 and Reso 0646, Tax
Exemption.

KADESHA BENOIT: Coupled on General
Orders.

CITY CLERK: On the General Order
Calendar, LU 0174 and Reso 0647, Zoning Amendment.

KADESHA BENOIT: Coupled on General
Orders.

CITY CLERK: Resolution appointing
various persons. Commissioner of Deeds.

KADESHA BENOIT: Coupled on General
Orders. [background comment] At this time I ask for
a Roll Call on all items on the General Order
Calendar.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Roll Call.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.
3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera.
4 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.
5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.
6 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.
7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen.
8 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.
9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Constantinides.
10 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.
11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy.
12 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.
13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Crowley.
14 [background comment]
15 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: You hear that?
16 I said aye.
17 [laughter, background comments]
18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cumbo.
19 FEMALE VOICE: On behalf of Council
20 Cumbo, aye.
21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch.
22 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.
23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Dromm.
24 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.
25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Espinal.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I want to
congratulate everyone on the new positions and I vote
aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ferreras.

FEMALE VOICE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gibson.

FEMALE VOICE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Greenfield.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Pass.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Johnson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: King.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz.

FEMALE VOICE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lancman.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin.
COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine.
COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel.
COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo. Mealy.
FEMALE VOICE: On behalf of Council
Member Edwards and Mealy, aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Mendez.
FEMALE VOICE: Aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Miller.
COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Palma.
FEMALE VOICE: Aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso.
COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards.
COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Congrats Kate
Seely. I vote aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez. Rose.
FEMALE VOICE: Aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Rosenthal.

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FEMALE VOICE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo.

COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: No on 0689 and 0690 and aye on the rest, with congratulations to Council Member Ignizio on the passage of the South Shore BID.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres.

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Treyger.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Permission to briefly explain my vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Just wanna -- it's very fitting that we're paying tribute to Kate Seely-Kirk when we've just learned that the Federal Government, FEMA, is allocating over \$3 billion to NYCHA for all the Sandy impacted buildings where the people are still going through a lot, [cheers, applause] and it was this Council and this Speaker, with my great colleague, Chair of the Public Housing Committee, Ritchie Torres, that had an historic hearing a year ago, and Kate and other staff were very instrumental in making that happen, so that historic hearing has produced an historic result.

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2 Kate, we wish you nothing but the best; make sure
3 NYCHA gets to work. And with that I vote aye. Thank
4 you.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vacca.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Congratulations
11 to all of our junior Council Members and aye on all.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Weprin.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Greenfield.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I vote aye on
18 all the General Land Use Call-Ups and aye on all the
19 items currently under consideration.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ignizio.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: I'm sorry, my
22 colleagues. I vote no on Intro 0689-A and 0690-A and
23 I wanted to thank my colleagues for their support of
24 the South Shore BID, Intro 0656 and I appreciate the
25 fine work of both the SBS Commissioner, who is

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2 wonderful and my good friend Julissa Ferreras, who
3 spear-headed it through the Finance Committee. Thank
4 you all very much. I vote aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

6 KADESHA BENOIT: Speaker Mark-Viverito
7 votes aye.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Congratulations
9 Council Member Ignizio. All items on today's General
10 Order Calendar were adopted by a vote of 48 in the
11 affirmative, 0 in the negative and 0 abstentions,
12 with the exception of Intro 0689-A, which was adopted
13 by a vote of 46 in the affirmative, 2 in the negative
14 and 0 abstentions and Intro 0690-A, which was adopted
15 by a vote of 46 in the affirmative, 2 negative and 0
16 abstentions and Revised Land Use Call-Ups were
17 adopted by a vote of 48 in the affirmative, 0 in the
18 negative. Introduction and Reading of Bills.

19 KADESHA BENOIT: All bills are referred
20 to committees as indicated on the agenda.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
22 Discussion of Resolutions, beginning with Intro 0520-
23 A. Council Member Steve Levin.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you very
25 much, Madame Public Advocate. My colleagues, I wanna

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2 call your attention [background comment] and ask for
3 your support on proposed... [crosstalk]

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
5 chambers, please.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: proposed
7 Resolution 0520-A. I wanna thank the Speaker and
8 Finance Chair, Julissa Ferreras and the Finance staff
9 for their support of this Resolution calling on the
10 State Assembly to pass Assembly Bill 6272 and the
11 Senate to pass Bill 4490. This would call on the
12 Assembly and Senate and the Governor to sign
13 legislation that would provide a property tax
14 exemption for privately-owned vacant land while such
15 property is being used for the public benefit. As
16 all New Yorkers know, there are many pieces of vacant
17 land throughout our city that is privately owned; not
18 being currently used and that land could be...

19 [background comment] [interpose]

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Excuse me Council
21 Member. May we have quiet in the chambers, please;
22 we're still in session. [background comment]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: that land could be
24 effectively used for such public uses as a pop-up
25 park or a community garden or an urban farm, allowing

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2 public access to that private land that is
3 underutilized. [bell] Often that can be
4 incentivized with a property tax exemption; we are
5 calling on the State Legislature and Governor to
6 enact that legislation forthwith so that there could
7 be public access in our neighborhoods. Thank you.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you,
9 Council Member. Resolution 0563 and Resolution 0635.
10 Council Member Dromm.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you very
12 much. Today the Council will be voting on a package
13 of four Resolutions aimed at protecting and
14 strengthening public education. I am the chief
15 sponsor of two of these Resolutions. Recently
16 Governor Cuomo proposed that so-called failing
17 schools be placed into receivership. By allowing
18 private enterprises to step in and take over, this
19 proposal essentially gives up on our public schools
20 [background comments] at a time when the de Blasio
21 Administration's Renewal Schools Program has barely
22 had a chance to take root. In addition, Governor
23 Cuomo proposed that the cap on the number of charter
24 schools be raised. New York City has not even
25 reached the current charter cap, so without more

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2 information as to the reason behind and the impact of
3 this proposal we cannot sanction the raising of the
4 cap. Next, Council Member Rosenthal's Resolution
5 calls on the Department of Education to ensure that
6 parents are informed about their right vis-à-vis
7 opting out of high-stakes testing. Council Member
8 Levine's Resolution addresses the biggest impediment
9 to the success of our public schools, equitable
10 funding. New York City students are owed \$2.6
11 billion [bell] in funding and I urge my colleagues to
12 support these Resolutions. Thank you very much.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. On
14 Reso 0563, Council Member Williams.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you. I
16 actually support the rest of these resolutions; I
17 wanted to speak on this one, 'cause I plan on
18 abstaining because I feel -- I felt like voting for
19 this resolution made it seem as if I was opposed to
20 charter schools as of right, which I am not, I am
21 opposed to the way the charter schools have been used
22 in the New York City educational system; I feel that
23 four school locations were problematic; there is not
24 enough transparency in the budget, particularly with
25 the charter schools that exist now and in addition,

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2 I've been waiting and trying to get an answer to how
3 we're learning from the charter schools and how it's
4 being brought back to the population in general, and
5 I don't believe that any of those questions have been
6 answered, but the position of voting for this right
7 now was a little disconcerting for me and I'm gonna
8 abstain, but I wanted to make sure that why I'm
9 abstaining was on the record. Thank you.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. On
11 Resolution 0577, Council Member Rosenthal.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you
13 Public Advocate James. As all public school parents
14 know, the week after spring break is the week of
15 testing and whether you like the testing or don't
16 like the testing, you might not know and many parents
17 don't know that there is an option now to opt out of
18 those tests. Information about what the
19 repercussions of opting out of the tests are buried
20 on the Department of Education website. This
21 resolution asks the Department of Education to
22 include in the Parents Bill of Rights and
23 Responsibilities information about opting out. This
24 coming Friday is the last day that parents have to
25 inform their principal that their children will be

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2 opting out. I would hazard to guess that very few of
3 the, what is it, 2.5 million -- no, that's too high,
4 one million? [background comment] Thank you, one
5 million public school children in New York City, that
6 very few of them know that they have that right.
7 [bell] So I encourage my colleagues to support this
8 resolution and I thank Council Member Dromm for
9 bringing it to the floor.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
11 Resolution 0592, Council Member Mark Levine.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you Madame
13 Public Advocate. Pleased to be sponsoring Reso 0592
14 which calls on the State to implement its
15 constitutionally mandated and court ordered
16 obligation to fully fund our school system here in
17 New York City and I am deeply disappointed that in a
18 year in which our state budget was in surplus, is in
19 surplus, in a year in which we had a \$5 billion
20 windfall from a bank settlement, preliminary reports
21 coming out of Albany indicate that while they found
22 the money to give a tax exemption to people buying
23 yachts in New York State they did not find the money
24 to fully fund our schools to live up to the court
25 mandated obligation which is short changing our

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2 students \$2.6 billion a year. So I will be hoping
3 for a last-minute miracle as the budget approaches
4 final agreement tonight, but either way I know that
5 colleagues will join me in continuing to fight as
6 long it takes to win our city's fair share of
7 resources. Thank you.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Speaking on
9 Resolution 0563, Council Member Cornegy.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Thank you Madame
11 Public Advocate. I've often mentioned my family here
12 on the floor and my vote on 0563 is anchored in my
13 experience as a father of six unique children who
14 demonstrate the importance of giving families access
15 to a wide range of educational options. My eldest
16 daughter is in a gifted and talented program outside
17 of my home district, my son who has an IEP attends K-
18 12 public school in South Brooklyn and my three
19 youngest children attend charter school in Bedford-
20 Stuyvesant. Choice has been critical to us as a
21 family and so my goal as an elected official is to
22 increase the high quality options available to
23 families in my district. Charters may be less
24 necessary in Central Brooklyn if there was parity in
25 the distribution of gifted and talented programs

1
2 across the city; sadly this is far from the case.
3 Today there are no gifted and talented programs in
4 District 16 and a dozen in District 21; this lack of
5 equity contributes to the concentration of poverty in
6 our local public schools as parents who have means
7 and knowledge send their children to private schools
8 or gifted and talented programs in other
9 neighborhoods. Charters aren't perfect, they must be
10 held to high educational standards and work to
11 improve their services to... [crosstalk]

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member,
13 please bring your comments to a close.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: children with
15 limited English proficiency, they're a proven route
16 to increasing educational opportunity and quality in
17 my district... [crosstalk]

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member,
19 please...

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: therefore my
21 vote on the resolution is to maintain the charter is
22 no.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Any
24 other members seeking to speak on any other
25 resolutions before the vote? And now to the vote.

1
2 Resolution 0521-A, an amended resolution calling on
3 the New York State Assembly to pass Assembly 6272,
4 the New York State Senate to pass Senate 4490 and the
5 Governor to sign such legislation which would provide
6 property tax exemption for privately-owned vacant
7 land while such property is being used for the public
8 benefit. All of those in favor say aye.

9 [collective aye]

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All of those
11 opposed? Any abstentions? The ayes have it.

12 Resolution 0653, a resolution calling up
13 on the New York State Legislature to reject any
14 attempt to raise the cap on the number of charter
15 schools. All those in favor say aye.

16 [collective aye]

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All of those
18 opposed?

19 [collective no]

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Any abstentions?
21 [background comment] The ayes have it. Those
22 members who wish to record their votes, please
23 approach the desk.

24 Resolution 0577, a resolution calling
25 upon the Department of Education to amend its Parents

1
2 Bill of Rights and Responsibilities to include
3 information about opting out of high school testing
4 and distribute this document at the beginning of
5 every school year to every family in every grade.

6 All of those in favor say aye.

7 [collective aye]

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All of those
9 opposed? Any abstentions? The ayes have it.

10 Resolution 0592, a resolution calling
11 upon the New York State Legislature to fully
12 implement the education funding requirements for New
13 York City resulting from the Campaign for Fiscal
14 Equity v the State of New York case. All of those in
15 favor say aye.

16 [collective aye]

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All of those
18 opposed? Any abstentions?

19 And Preconsidered Resolution 0635, a
20 resolution calling upon the New York State
21 Legislature to eliminate the Governor's receivership
22 proposal in the Executive Budget for New York City.

23 All of those in favor say aye.

24 [collective aye]

1
2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All of those
3 opposed? Any abstentions? The ayes have it.
4 [background comment] Please keep it down. And now
5 General Discussion. And members, please be mindful
6 that the Speaker's birthday cake awaits us.

7 [laughter]

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
9 Johnson.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you Madame
11 Public Advocate. I rise today to discuss
12 Introduction 0731. Following instances of buildings
13 prohibiting rent stabilized tenants from accessing
14 gyms, playrooms, pools and other building amenities,
15 today I'm introducing legislation that would require
16 developers and building managers to provide equal
17 access to such facilities for all residents. All New
18 Yorkers should be treated with dignity and respect;
19 discriminating against tenants because they occupy
20 rent-stabilized units is contrary to the values of
21 New York City. Developers cannot deny equal access
22 to an amenity on the basis of race, gender, national
23 origin or sexual orientation and they should not be
24 able to deny access to a person simply because he or
25 she occupies a rent-stabilized apartment. This

1
2 legislation would address this critical issue and
3 prevent New Yorkers from being discriminated against
4 within their own homes. I thank you, Madame Public
5 Advocate and Council Members Mark Levine, Helen
6 Rosenthal, Ritchie Torres and Antonio Reynoso for co-
7 sponsoring this important legislation and I urge my
8 colleagues to support it today.

9 I also wanna discuss Introduction 0730.
10 As we know, it's about school safety; as we know,
11 African-American, Latino, LGBT and special education
12 students are significantly more likely to face
13 discipline than their peers, these increased out of
14 class time and in-school arrest rates in turn
15 severely decrease their likelihood of graduating high
16 school. Last month's announced changes to the DOE's...
17 [background comments]

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Last month's
20 announced changes to the DOE's Disciplinary Code are
21 a good step in the right direction, aimed at
22 decreasing unnecessary suspensions, recognizing the
23 adverse effects of such punishments and fairly
24 enhancing safety at schools citywide. And I'd like
25 to thank Chancellor Farina, the NYPD, Mayor de Blasio

1
2 and his Office of Criminal Justice, as well as my
3 colleagues on the Council, particular Danny Dromm,
4 for their hard work and dedication to achieve these
5 reforms, but there is more to do; we must not rest
6 until we bring an end to suspensions for extremely
7 minor infractions [background comment] and we should
8 focus on positive interventions; this is why my
9 colleague, Public Safety Committee Chair Vanessa
10 Gibson and I [background comment] have been working
11 closely on legislation that would address many of
12 these issues. [background comment] This bill seeks
13 to have multiple suspensions of same student use of
14 restraints, introduction of metal detectors and metal
15 [bell] protectors left in place after requests to
16 remove them..

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member,
18 please bring your comments to a close.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: we need
20 statistics. I look forward to working with everyone
21 here to ensure that all of our students have a safe,
22 supportive environment in which to learn. Thank you
23 Madame Public Advocated.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
25 Council Member Eric Ulrich to vote.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Thank you Madame
3 Public Advocate. I ask for unanimous consent to vote
4 on all items on the Land Use Calendar and all General
5 Orders.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye on all
8 with the exception of Intro 0689-A and 0690-A in
9 which I abstain.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Any resolutions...
11 [interpose]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye on
13 all, with the exception of five... what is it, the...
14 [background comments] the charter school one. I
15 wanna raise the cap, so [laughter] surprise. Anyway,
16 so I'm voting against that, but on the rest of them I
17 vote in favor. Thank you.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you Council
19 Member. Council Member Deutsch.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Thank you Public
21 Advocate. Ten days ago our city suffered an
22 unspeakable loss; seven young children, seven
23 brothers and sisters perished in a tragic fire in my
24 district. Two survivors, a mother and 15-year-old
25 daughter remain hospitalized after escaping from

1
2 their burning home. I wanna take this opportunity to
3 express my gratitude to our Speaker, Melissa Mark-
4 Viverito and to the Public Advocate, as well as to my
5 fellow Council Members for your unwavering support
6 and offers of assistance. This heartbreaking tragedy
7 has left a community in shock and in grief as well as
8 our city. Thank you all for standing together with
9 us as we continue to pray for the recovery of the two
10 surviving victims. As we begin to heal from this
11 painful loss and attempting to turn our pain into
12 purpose, I would also like to express my condolences
13 for the two people that died in the East Village fire
14 last week in Council Member Mendez's district and
15 thank the heroic members of the Fire Department and
16 the NYPD for all that they do. Thank you so much.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And we also want
18 to thank Dr. Norman Blumenthal and the OHEL
19 organization. Council Member Williams.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you.
21 First I just want to acknowledge and congratulate
22 Inspector General Uri for releasing his first report
23 yesterday. Of course there is a lot that we are
24 hoping that the IG's office will do; all of that of
25 course is not in this initial report or in the

1
2 initial chokehold report that he did, but it is the
3 first year and we're looking forward to... as we move
4 forward, seeing more and more things happening with
5 that office; I think Council Member Lander and I both
6 said that it wasn't gonna be the answer, it was gonna
7 be a continuing conversation. I am waiting however
8 to see what comes out of the NYPD's response, which
9 is due on April 12th. One of the very good things
10 that are part of that law is that although the IG
11 does not have the power to make any changes, at least
12 in minimum the NYPD has to respond; there were four
13 fairly good recommendations from the chokehold report
14 and I'm looking forward to seeing the NYPD's response
15 to them. I'd like to call attention to, my
16 colleagues to two bills, a resolution honoring the
17 late Horace Morancie, a long-time Caribbean activist
18 who joined the ancestors Wednesday, February 4th; he
19 was 85 years old; he was born in Trinidad and Tobago,
20 served as Director of Central Brooklyn Model Cities,
21 a massive and multi-million dollar 1960-70's anti-
22 poverty program; he also is very well-known in
23 developing the city's first large steel band.

24 I'd also like to call attention to
25 Resolution 0640, a resolution recognizing as Gun

1
2 Violence Awareness Month in New York City. Last June
3 we did it for the first time; we have to do it again
4 every successive June, so I ask all my colleagues to
5 sign up for the resolution for this June to be Gun
6 Violence Awareness Month; we will have a whole host
7 of activities happening throughout the city and we
8 will be providing the orange bands I'm sure again
9 this year. Thank you.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

11 Council Member Kallos.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Today I rise to
13 introduce three pieces of legislation. Introduction
14 0734, the Back to Work bill, with Council Member
15 Cumbo and Cornegy, helps New York City parents
16 seeking to return to the workforce. Twenty-seven
17 percent of women and 10 percent of men leave their
18 jobs to care for their families; of these, 31 percent
19 of the mothers said it hurt their careers, compared
20 with 18 percent of the men. Our bill expands
21 Workforce One training and resources to help bridge
22 this gap. I want to thank Planned Parenthood of New
23 York City, Women's City Club, Lower East Side Girls
24 Club, NARAL Pro-Choice, New York Communities for
25

1
2 Change, NYLAG and A Better Balance for supporting
3 this bill and hope you'll sign on.

4 Introduction 0732, the second bill, is
5 designed to empower our communities by making
6 available urban planning professionals to each of our
7 city's 59 Community Boards and we must do what is in
8 our power to help boards speak for their communities,
9 especially in the age of over-development and luxury
10 superscrapers.

11 Introduction 0733, the third bill, makes
12 New York City construction greener by requiring a
13 percentage of concrete to consist of recycled
14 materials. Each year in New York City miles of
15 concrete sidewalks and roadways are built or replaced
16 using thousands of tons of concrete; we have the
17 capability to divert much of the material from our
18 landfills by reusing it for new construction. Thank
19 you and please sign on.

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

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Thank you Madame
23 Public Advocate. Just over one year ago I stood in
24 these very chambers and I voted for a package of rule
25 reforms. As a Council Member it was one of the

1
2 proudest days that I could remember. We voted for
3 reforms that would ensure this body would be a
4 member-driven body and that not one person could
5 stand in the way of democracy. This past November I
6 introduced Resolution 0474, which calls for parity in
7 pension disability benefits for all New York City
8 police officers and firefighters. Presently there
9 are 36 co-sponsors who joined me in supporting this
10 resolution for a total number of 37 Council Members.
11 This resolution has sustained a super majority for
12 more than 60 days, yet no hearing has been scheduled;
13 there's not reasonable explanation as to why a
14 hearing has not been scheduled. Far too many days
15 have passed during this time; the Council has been
16 failing the democratic process. The complete
17 disregard for the Council's rules impedes the
18 progress of important legislation. Pursuant to
19 Council Super Majority Rule 7110, I call for a public
20 hearing to be scheduled immediately.

21 On a different note, I'd like to thank
22 Council Member, the Co-Chair of the Women's Caucus
23 and all the 15 members who make up the Women's Caucus
24 in inviting a new generation of women leaders to the
25 chambers, [interpose, cheers] I'd like recognize my

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2 two Council Members, [applause] Noor Ismail, who's a
3 12th grader from the Young Women's Leadership School
4 of Astoria and Tiffany Arizaga, who is a 12th grader
5 from Grover Cleveland High School, both live in my
6 districts and both are leaders in their respective
7 schools. Thank you.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you Council
9 Member; congratulations to your leaders. Council
10 Member Espinal.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Thank you Madame
12 Public Advocate. Today I'll be introducing a pro-
13 business bill with Council Member Cornegy and the
14 birthday girl, Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, that
15 would require DCA and the Department of Small
16 Business Services to hold biannual business education
17 events in two different venues throughout the five
18 boroughs. For many years business owners in our city
19 have complained that some of the rules and
20 regulations pertaining to them are confusing and
21 unfair. The business education events require, under
22 Intro 0726, will help clarify some of this confusion
23 by providing businesses with relevant and up-to-date
24 information regarding the laws, rules and regulations
25 enforced by DCA and cover such topics as consumer

1
2 protections, truth in pricing and licensing schemes.
3 I ask my colleagues to please support us in this
4 effort by co-sponsoring the bill. And in spirit of
5 biannual reports, it's six months since Ovarian
6 Cancer Awareness Month; [background comments] just
7 wanna remind everyone to please tell every amazing
8 lady in your life about the signs and symptoms; I'm
9 working closely with this group named Teal and helped
10 on the PSA to do just that. So thank you everyone.
11 Thank you, Public Advocate.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you Council
13 Member. Quiet in the chambers please. Quiet in the
14 chambers. Council Member Gibson.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you very
16 much Madame Public Advocate. I'd like to rise today
17 and call attention to Intro 0730, along with Council
18 Member Johnson, that we are introducing today, which
19 focuses on making the necessary and needed amendments
20 to the Student Safety Act which was passed by this
21 Council in 2011 and truly, this bill would required
22 additional transparency and accountability on the use
23 of metal detectors and restraints in our schools, EMS
24 calls and multiple suspensions of the same students
25 and also requires the number of complaints that are

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2 made against school safety agents. Truly this
3 legislation is a step in the right direction, along
4 with a number of other initiatives that have been
5 announced by the DOE and the NYPD school safety. The
6 conversations must be truly creative and innovative
7 in our approach to focus less on detention and more
8 on prevention. Children as young as 5 years old are
9 handcuffed in our school system and it is
10 unacceptable; we wanna create a safe environment for
11 our children where they do not feel like they're in
12 prison while they're in school, so I ask all of my
13 colleagues to please consider joining us in Intro
14 0730. I wanna thank Council Member Johnson and Chair
15 of Education, Council Member Dromm for their
16 leadership and also today I wanna join with my
17 distinctive women in the Women's Caucus, including
18 our Speaker and introducing my junior Council Members
19 for this afternoon, Miss Vanessa Ochampong [sp?], who
20 is a sophomore at the Beacon School in Manhattan, as
21 well as Alondra Perez, who is a freshman at Bronx
22 Community College; truly proud of these young ladies,
23 they serve as interns right now in my district office
24 in the Bronx and I'm so proud that god has brought
25 them to me because it is my responsibility to open

1
2 doors for other young women as someone has opened a
3 door for me. So I thank them for being here, they
4 will continue to be with me and working in my office
5 because I wanna continue to create opportunities for
6 all of our sisters. Thank you Madame Public
7 Advocate.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you and we
9 welcome the young ladies. Council Member Mark
10 Levine.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you Madame
12 Public Advocate. I am pleased to call my colleagues'
13 attention to Intro No. -- I wanna get this right --
14 0736, which I'm co-sponsoring with our Council
15 Speaker, which will create our city's first ever
16 Office of the Civil Justice Advocate. For years
17 we've had an Office of a Criminal Justice Advocate
18 and of course in criminal court you have the right to
19 an attorney no matter how rich or poor you are. The
20 same can't be said, sadly, about civil court, where
21 people facing life-altering judgments are forced to
22 fend for themselves if they don't have the money to
23 pay for an attorney; this could be a tenant facing
24 eviction, an immigrant facing deportation, a parent
25 facing the loss of custody of their children. I

1 believe it is profoundly unfair for anyone to have to
2 enter through a judicial proceeding of this magnitude
3 without the benefit of an attorney and this Council
4 has been at the forefront of changing that,
5 allocating money for attorneys for unaccompanied
6 minors facing deportation hearings and more than
7 doubling the resources we're allocating towards
8 providing attorneys for tenants in housing court.
9 The creation of this office will help build the
10 infrastructure to take this even further by providing
11 a permanent source of advice for the Mayor,
12 coordinating with the agencies, reporting annually to
13 this body on our progress made towards full
14 representation in housing court and most importantly,
15 creating a five-year plan to serving the full civil
16 justice needs of low-income New Yorkers.

18 I also wanna call your attention to Reso
19 -- excuse me -- 0730... forgive me, forgive me, my time
20 is running -- 0738, which would be believe
21 dramatically improve the safety of those working on
22 gas pipelines. This has been in the works for a
23 year; sadly relevant again after last week's tragedy;
24 I'm pleased to be co-sponsoring this reso with my
25 colleague, Council Member Crowley, which will require

1
2 more robust certification for [bell] plumbers working
3 on gas pipelines. Thank you.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Quiet
5 in the chambers. Council Member Garodnick.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank you. I
7 rise today to speak about the hateful law that we saw
8 passed in Indiana this past week; the law which
9 allows corporations and businesses to discriminate
10 against members of the LGBTQ community under the
11 guise of religious freedom aims to turn back the
12 clock on what we have accomplished in the fight for
13 equality. We have sadly grown used to political
14 leaders fighting against and voting against basic
15 equal rights for gay people, but the aim to do it
16 under the auspices of religious freedom is a new and
17 particularly offensive tactic. We should all be free
18 to worship however we choose and that is a right that
19 we hold dear, but those in Indiana who proposed this
20 bill are not facing persecution. The goal of this
21 bill has been clear from the start, to create a
22 pathway for legal discrimination against the LGBTQ
23 community, and since this law was passed we have seen
24 a number of artists, companies and even other state
25 and local governments speak out and boycott Indiana;

1
2 we have seen the leaders of Connecticut, Portland,
3 San Francisco, Seattle and the State of Washington
4 all ban state- or city-funded travel to Indiana; that
5 is a small, but important step to show where they
6 stand and I am pleased that moments ago New York
7 Governor Cuomo signed an Executive Order doing the
8 same here in New York. We should take stock and use
9 New York City's additional leverage to join New York
10 State and so many others in taking a stand against
11 invidious discrimination in Indiana and wherever we
12 find it. New York has long been a leader in the
13 fight for LGBTQ civil rights; we are the place of
14 Stonewall. In 2011, our state was the first in which
15 a republican-held legislature passed a marriage
16 equality bill; at the same time more than doubling
17 the number of people who lived in a state where the
18 freedom to marry was granted to all, when the kind of
19 outright discrimination we see in Indiana is
20 happening [bell] -- my last line, Madame Public
21 Advocate, and we'll see if it's a good one -- New
22 York is right to join so many other cities and states
23 in the country and remain out front in the fight.
24 Thank you... [crosstalk]

1
2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
3 Council Member Barron.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you Madame
5 Public Advocate. I rise to call attention to the
6 recent passing of one of the greats, in terms of
7 studying African-American history and Dr. Ben-
8 Jochannan, who passed recently.

9 And in recognition of Women's History
10 Month, just wanna give a brief bio of another one of
11 my heroes, Fannie Lou Hamer, born in 1917 in
12 Louisville, Mississippi in an all-black town, the
13 20th of 20 children, was limited to an elementary
14 school education, but left sharecropping, had her own
15 farm, but those who were jealous of her and those who
16 did not want to see her succeed, those other whites
17 in that community poisoned the feed and killed the
18 stock, so she had to return to sharecropping. During
19 the freedom summer she became an outspoken traveler
20 with SNCC, she fought for the right to register to
21 vote and said that she was traveling to unbrainwash
22 people as to the limitations of what was happening.
23 She challenged the seating of the Mississippi
24 delegation on the basis that they did not have a
25 representative democratic body. Her words were so

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2 powerful and so impactful that LBJ, in an attempt to
3 undermine her, called an impromptu conference and all
4 the media rushed to cover what it was that he was
5 saying. He did offer a compromise and said that they
6 could have two seats that would be at large seats
7 with no voting power; that compromise was accepted by
8 many, including Martin Luther King, but Fannie Lou
9 Hamer said, "You mean to tell me..." and Vice President
10 Nominee Humphrey was being nominated and said it was
11 important for him to have that position, that she
12 accept that compromise -- "You mean to tell me that
13 your position is more important than 400 black lives?
14 Senator Humphrey, I know lots of people in
15 Mississippi who lost their jobs trying to register to
16 vote; I had to leave the plantation, so if you lose
17 this job" [bell] "of Vice President because you do
18 what's right, because you help the Mississippi
19 Freedom Democratic Party, then everything will be
20 alright 'cause god will take care of you..."
21 [crosstalk]

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member,
23 could you bring your comments to a close?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yes. "But if you
25 take this nomination this way, then you will never be

1
2 able to do any good for civil rights, for poor
3 people, for peace or any of those things you talk
4 about. We didn't come all this way for just two
5 seats." Thank you.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
7 Cumbo.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you. I just
9 wanna say I am very pleased on this last day of
10 Women's History Month and the new beginning that it
11 will create; I'm just so very pleased of Council
12 Members Mealy and Council Member Crowley, the
13 opportunity to celebrate Women's History Month
14 yesterday was incredible and the women energy that
15 was brought here in the City Council was amazing and
16 I'm so pleased that all of my colleagues, both male
17 and female, were here to celebrate that great day and
18 also we just recently came off of a luncheon today
19 for many of the, as I say, Council Members in
20 training. We had a lovely lunch and I hope that so
21 many of the young women here were inspired because I
22 certainly was by the story of each of my colleagues
23 and how they came to the position to sit in the seats
24 they are in today. So today's been a wonderful day,
25 it's been an incredible month and I'm so pleased that

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2 so many of my colleagues were here for this. And I'm
3 very pleased today that my Council Member in training
4 who's so dynamic, her name is Shanelle [sp?] Daley
5 [sp?]; she is a senior and she's actually finished
6 because she's so brilliant, but she's taking the next
7 six months to actually work; she is a student at WEB
8 Dubois; she wants to go to college and major in hotel
9 management and she's quite personable, quite
10 fantastic and I know that she will be successful in
11 all of her endeavors. I am very excited to bring
12 attention to Intro 0734 with Council Member Ben
13 Kallos and Council Member Robert Cornegy, the Back to
14 Work Bill; this is going to be incredible; with women
15 representing more than half of our city's population,
16 they often find themselves at a greater disadvantage
17 when returning to the workforce after an extended
18 period of absence; we can't just continue to think
19 that women taking a leave of absence that they are
20 automatically welcomed back into the workplace with
21 all the skills that they need and this is an
22 incredible opportunity for us as colleagues to give
23 women and men who have taken family leave an
24 opportunity to get back into the workplace. I'm also
25 very proud to bring to your attention Resolution 0634

1
2 about Jazz Appreciation Month, from Louis Armstrong
3 and Miles Davis to Duke Ellington, [bell] Max Roach
4 and Randy Weston, I am proud to bring to.. [crosstalk]

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member,
6 bring your comments to a close.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: the City Council..
8 I most certainly will..

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: to make April Jazz
11 Appreciation Month in homage to all of these artists
12 who deserve recognition for their invaluable
13 contributions to our cultural identity.. [crosstalk]

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you so very
16 much.

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

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you Madame
20 Public Advocate. I would like to introduce my
21 Council Member for the day, Miss Ashley Stewart;
22 she's an 8th grader at the Castle Middle School where
23 she is a peer leader with the middle school success
24 center and she is gonna be talking about Intro 0724.

1
2 ASHLEY STEWART: Good afternoon. I would
3 like to draw my colleagues' attention to Intro 0724,
4 which I am introducing with Council Member Cornegy
5 and our Speaker. Intro 0724 would create an office
6 within Small Business Services that would be able to
7 take complaints from small businesses about agency
8 inspections, language access and customer service.
9 This office would also be able to advocate on behalf
10 of small businesses to make recommendations regarding
11 policies that effect small businesses. In my office
12 we often work with small businesses to get their
13 cases addressed in a fair manner at hearings; many of
14 them have complained to us about inspections that are
15 unfair and we have been able to get fines dismissed.
16 This office would help small businesses by giving
17 them an office within city government that can speak
18 for them and look into matters on their behalf. I
19 hope my colleagues will join us in supporting this
20 legislation which is just one step to making our city
21 more small business friendly.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you; you
23 were great. Council Member Mealy.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I rise -- I just
25 wanna concur with my colleague, Laurie Cumbo and my

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2 co-leader, Elizabeth Crowley for a wonderful day
3 yesterday with the Her Story event and remember women
4 every day as our Her Story and every second we make
5 history also for doing so many things at one time.
6 And I just wanna let our Council Member and our
7 Speaker, say happy and blessed birthday, wish you
8 many, many more and I just wanna introduce my Council
9 Member, Kim Edwards from Brooklyn School of
10 Technology High School and she wants to be the first
11 African-American Supreme Court Justice and I would
12 like to yield my remaining time to her. Thank you.

13 KIM EDWARDS: Good evening; I am Kim
14 Edwards, the Junior Member [background comments] of
15 Council Member Mealy and I would also like to thank
16 all of the Council and Committee Members of part of
17 the Women's Caucus for providing me with this
18 opportunity to be here and I would also like to
19 comment on the testing of students. I agree with the
20 resolution to give parents the opportunity to speak
21 with their children on opting out of testing, because
22 not many families are aware of this and as a high
23 school student, and I might be speaking on behalf of
24 the other junior committee members as well, that
25 testing is extremely stressful and difficult and as a

1
2 student it shouldn't hold as my representation or any
3 other student's representation in looking for higher
4 learning. Thank you.

5 [background comments]

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you, judge,
7 and when you become a judge you can declare it
8 unconstitutional. [cheers, applause] Council Member
9 Mendez.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you Madame
11 Public Advocate. I wanted to thank you and the
12 Speaker for being in my district last week and Madame
13 Speaker, thank you for spending a couple of days with
14 me, giving me advice, particularly since you went
15 through this a year ago. I can't speak highly enough
16 of your staff and in particular, Walter Algarin, who
17 was incredible [background comments] throughout this
18 whole ordeal and this weekend and still is there in
19 my district doing work.

20 I want to bring to light what has
21 happened because this explosion, which appears,
22 apparently may be the reckless work of a few
23 individuals, has led to 66 families being homeless,
24 18 of which do not have a building to return to and
25 caused the loss of life of two innocent young men who

1
2 were just doing what young men do; one was working
3 and the other one was on a lunch date on his way back
4 to work. It is a real tragedy and I have been very
5 supported by my colleagues, you all have called me,
6 texted me, and even when I didn't ask for help, my
7 colleagues sent some anyway; I showed up to the
8 emergency center to see some of Margaret's staff
9 there in case translation was needed, so Margaret,
10 thank you, and Corey Johnson sent his chief of staff
11 to my district office to help out for a while. So to
12 all of my colleagues, from the bottom of my heart,
13 thank you and we still have a way to go in this
14 recovery and I want you all, when we reopen, to come
15 and join me and my district, 'cause there are about
16 60 businesses that have not been able to do business
17 because of this tragedy. Thank you very much.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you Council
19 Member. Council Member Lander.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you Madame
21 Public Advocate and thank you Council Member Mendez
22 for those words.

23 First I just wanna echo what Council
24 Member Williams said about the first annual report
25 being released today by the Office of the Inspector

1
2 General and urge people to keep your eye out on April
3 12th for when the NYPD's response to the chokehold
4 report is due. As you may recall, that report
5 identified the fact that even those relatively small
6 number of complaints from CCRB of excessive use of
7 force, which CCRB substantiates, when they were
8 referred in the prior administration of the
9 Commissioner in the vast majority of cases were
10 either dismissed or given some lesser sentence and a
11 set of recommendations were made to the NYPD and it
12 will be important to watch how the NYPD Commissioner
13 responds to the Inspector General's report, I'm
14 hopeful that in large part if not in total they will
15 adopt those recommendations, but it's important this
16 Council pass that law; it'll be important for us to
17 watch it.

18 Second, I wanna thank Council Members
19 Gibson and Johnson for the introduction of the School
20 Safety Act; we had a very troubling incident around
21 school safety in my district at Park Slope Collegiate
22 at John Jay High School last Thursday, which some of
23 you may have seen where a young entering the school
24 with simply a paperclip, a safety pin to hold his
25 glasses together set off the metal detector and a

1
2 really deeply troubling incident ensued; I have
3 reached out to the Commissioner's office and been
4 assured that that incident has been referred for
5 investigation to the CCRB, to the Internal Affairs
6 Bureau and to the Investigative Division of the
7 School Safety Division and will be following up to
8 make sure that there's a real thorough investigation.
9 But it shows why we need to get the metal detectors
10 out of John Jay High School; treating our young
11 people, our high school students as though they're
12 headed for prison and not for college too often
13 becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy; that's not
14 something we can do by Local Law, sadly, but I will
15 be advocating at John Jay High School, but I do
16 appreciate what Council Members Gibson and Johnson
17 are doing to help make sure we have more
18 transparency.

19 And finally, I'm modeling the PBNYC tote
20 bag and I just wanna make sure everybody knows that
21 Participatory Budgeting Vote Week in New York City
22 begins prior to our next Stated, April 12-19 in 24
23 districts across the city... [crosstalk]

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you Council
25 Member.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: something like
3 25,000... [crosstalk]

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Can you bring
5 your comments to a close?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: people are gonna
7 come out to vote. If you haven't already...
8 [background comments] exactly, it's also a renewable
9 bag, if you haven't already gone online to the
10 Council's website to figure out whether you're voting
11 in your district and pledge to vote, please do.

12 Thank you very much... [crosstalk]

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member,
14 bring your comments to a close. Thank you so much.
15 Council Member Cornegy.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Thank you Madame
17 Public Advocate. City Council is often described as
18 a collegial body and it's true; we tend to get along
19 very well because we all share a commitment to public
20 service and a passionate love for the specific
21 neighborhoods we represent, we're in close contact
22 with our constituents; sometimes unbelievable close,
23 as they catch us on the block in shops, or for me,
24 when I drop my children off at school. We hear from
25 individuals and also from our local nonprofits,

1 public institutions and of course our small
2 businesses. Like all New Yorkers, we frequent small
3 businesses in our communities and they play a major
4 role in our daily lives. We also deal with them as
5 constituents who approach our offices for help, so it
6 was no surprise that many of my colleagues have ideas
7 for how to assist small businesses that are grounded
8 in their experiences in government and small business
9 supporters. It's a pleasure to chair the Small
10 Business Committee in the Council with this much
11 creativity and dedication. My partners in a
12 legislative package being introduced today include of
13 course my Speaker and birthday girl, Speaker Mark-
14 Viverito, who highlighted several of these ideas in
15 her State of the City Address and also Council
16 Members Margaret Chin, Rafael Espinal and Vincent
17 Gentile. The proposal and summary relate to the
18 creation of a small business advocate within SBS, an
19 analysis of business citations dismissed by the
20 Department of Consumer Affairs Tribunal, an expansion
21 of the Department of Consumer Affairs Business
22 Education events to locations across the five
23 boroughs and finally, a bill I sponsored to ensure
24 that the City customer service training [background
25

1
2 comments] for inspectors is informed by feedback by
3 businesses who of course have the closest and most
4 relevant perspective. I look forward to a robust
5 conversation with the administration about these
6 proposals and to working with all of my colleagues to
7 advance them and future proposals to support the
8 small businesses that make New York City great. I
9 invite small businesses to continue tweeting at
10 #nyccsmallbus and emailing their struggles with
11 landlord tenant issues to Cornegysmallbus@gmail.com
12 and I hope that many of you will join us by signing
13 on a co-sponsors today and/or in the days to come.
14 Thank you.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
16 Council Member Richards.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Good afternoon
18 colleagues. Today I rise to ask you to support Intro
19 No. 0739, being introduced by Council Member Lancman
20 and I. This bill creates the position of a solar
21 ombudsperson within the New York City Department of
22 Buildings to respond to comments, questions and
23 complaints about solar power systems. As New York
24 City fulfills its commitment to ensuring that our
25 buildings operate more efficiently and move into the

1
2 use of renewable emergency sources, such as solar
3 power, it is critical that our agencies be equipped
4 with the right administrative infrastructure to
5 address the challenges that the building owners and
6 operators of today are faced with. I look forward to
7 your support as we transition into an even greener
8 city powered by renewable energies. Thank you.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
10 Council Member Rose.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you Madame
12 Public Advocate. My colleagues, I rise today not to
13 discuss an intro or legislation, but to acknowledge
14 the fantastic and phenomenal young women that we had
15 the pleasure of meeting here today and I would be
16 remiss if I did not discuss my particular and
17 introduce my Council Member for the day, who is
18 Destiny Moe [sp?], who is a young, courageous woman
19 when last year there was a fire, an all-hands fire
20 across the street from her home and the father of a
21 young infant had to throw his children out of the
22 burning building, Destiny and her family went to
23 their aid, provided comfort and warmth and everything
24 for not only the victims of the fire, but the
25 firemen, the police officers and the Council Member

1
2 who came to the area. Destiny is a junior at
3 Tottenville High School and much like her name, she
4 is destined for success and I just wanna say to
5 Destiny and all of the young ladies here that girls
6 rock and that there really is a lot of power in their
7 futures and so I just wanted this Council to meet
8 Destiny Moe.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Thank
10 you Destiny for all you have done. And now Council
11 Member Crowley for an introduction.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Thank you Madame
13 Public Advocate. Noor Ismail will say hello first;
14 she is a young Council Member from Young Women's
15 Leadership School in Astoria.

16 NOOR ISMAIL: Hello, I would like to
17 thank the Women's Caucus and City Council for this
18 inspiring opportunity. I would like to take this
19 time to talk about Resolution 0577, about amending
20 the parents' bill, resolution for opting out high
21 stakes testing. I know that my younger siblings are
22 both in elementary school at Queens and they would
23 really benefit by the passing of this bill because
24 having testing after spring break is just kind of
25 difficult. Again, as the student body president at

1
2 the Young Woman's Leadership School of Astoria, I
3 would like to thank you and I hope that I could
4 continue leading at whichever university I attend, as
5 well as the City Council one day. Thank you.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: And then Tiffany
7 Arizaga, who is from Grover Cleveland High School,
8 young Council Member for a day.

9 TIFFANY ARIZAGA: Hello. I would like to
10 thank the Women's Caucus for having us today and
11 sharing their truly inspiring stories with us. They
12 have helped us learn so much more about government
13 and becoming powerful women, so thank you very much
14 for that. I would love to come back and visit.
15 Thank you.

16 [applause]

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
18 Mendez for introduction.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you. I
20 wanna introduce my Council Member for the day, Jenna
21 Roterio [sp?]; she attends a school in my district and
22 coincidentally happened to live in Margaret's
23 district and Margaret chose a Council Member for a
24 day who lives in my district but goes to a school in
25 her district, so we kind of did a swap of a sort, but

1
2 we're both very proud of our junior Council Members
3 and without further delay, Jenna, if you'd like to
4 say a few words.

5 JENNA ROTERO: Yes, I would just like to
6 thank everyone for this opportunity. I would also
7 like to comment on Resolution 0577. In my school I
8 have the opportunity to take exhibitions, which would
9 be around a 15-page paper rather than take
10 standardized testing and while I also have taken
11 standardized testing and I have to say that taking a
12 project or doing a test is actually a better
13 reflection of a student than a test that you're going
14 to take in four hours rather than a reflection of the
15 entire year. I guess that's it. Thank you.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Thank
17 you. Council Member Greenfield.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you
19 Madame Public Advocate, a very happy birthday to our
20 Speaker; that cake looked rather delicious, I'm happy
21 I'm on a diet. I just want to also wish everyone a
22 very Happy Easter and upcoming Happy Passover
23 holidays and enjoy those holidays. I would also like
24 to yield my time to Shanelle Daley, who is in fact a
25 junior Council Member for the day for Council Member

1
2 Cumbo; in the spirit of friendship I am going to give
3 her the opportunity to say something here on the
4 floor of the City Council, a very bright young woman
5 who, I don't know how she did it, but somehow she
6 actually graduated from high school a few months
7 early, which is certainly incredibly impressive. So
8 Shanelle, take it away.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: What gentleman
10 during Women's History Month; I hope that I can count
11 on this level of chivalry throughout the entire year.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: For you,
13 Laurie, you know that's always there.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: The clock is
15 running.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Chivalry is not
17 dead. We wanna bring your attention to Intro 0742.
18 Today is a momentous day that marks the first
19 legislation introduction to amend New York City
20 Percent for Art Local Law. Since 1982 the Percent
21 for Art has remained unchanged as a city, we have
22 grown and matured around it, in three decades much
23 has changed and now our Percent for Art Program must
24 change too. Hit it.

1
2 SHANELLE DALEY: The amendment reads that
3 reasonable advance notification to the community will
4 be given and the project shall be also posted on the
5 website of the Department of Culture Affairs
6 following notification of the intention to include
7 works of art in any project. The Department of
8 Cultural Affairs shall hold one or more public
9 hearings on such works of art prior to such inclusion
10 and notice of such public hearing shall be published
11 in City Record at least 14 days prior to any such
12 hearings.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Alright. Thank
14 you very much. Thank you very much, Council Member
15 David Greenfield; this was much appreciated. Thank
16 you... [crosstalk]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: That was
18 outstanding. Thank you... [crosstalk]

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Thank
20 you. And congratulations to all of the ladies who
21 have served as members of the day for their
22 leadership and for their commitment to civic
23 engagement. I also would like to invite my
24 colleagues to sign onto Intro No. 0731, a bill that
25 would eliminate discrimination against rent-regulated

1 tenants. I'd like to thank the primary sponsor,
2 Corey Johnson for allowing me to co-sponsor this bill
3 with him. As many of you know in this chamber, last
4 year it came to light the actions of several
5 developers and management companies who were
6 discriminating against rent-regulated tenants in
7 their buildings by now allowing them to use building
8 amenities such as gyms, playrooms and storage areas.
9 My office was involved in litigation on this very
10 issue and I've heard from many of my colleagues,
11 including Council Members Johnson, Rosenthal, Torres
12 and Reynoso, all of whom have been outspoken about
13 this issue and I know will be strong supporters as we
14 move this bill forward; this legislation will ensure
15 that all New Yorkers are able to fairly access their
16 building amenities without discrimination.

17
18 All items on today's General Order
19 Calendar were adopted by a vote of 49 in the
20 affirmative, 0 in the negative and 0 abstentions,
21 with the exception of Intro 0689-A, which was adopted
22 by a vote of 46 in the affirmative, 2 in the negative
23 and 1 abstention, and Intro 0690-A, which was adopted
24 by a vote of 46 in the affirmative, 2 in the negative
25 and 1 abstention and the revised Land Use Call-Ups

1
2 were adopted by a vote of 49 in the affirmative, 0
3 negative. And there is a meeting of the Black,
4 Latino and Asian Caucus in the meeting room next door
5 and to close, the Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you Madame
7 Public Advocate. And again, to all the young women,
8 I wish you the best and to Kadesha, it's been a real
9 pleasure spending some time with you and getting to
10 know you and thank you for helping me with the
11 meeting today. So with that, at 3:20, hope everyone
12 has a great afternoon.

13 And please have cake everybody; it was a
14 big cake.

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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 15, 2015