

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 11, 2015  
Start: 1:15 p.m.  
Recess: 2:57 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)

Albert Mammon  
NYPD Officer

Jose Francisco Avila  
President  
Garifuna Coalition USA

[gavel]

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Alright, think we're gonna get started and on the first ceremonial. Will be Council Member Mark Treyger, who's honoring an NYPD Officer, Albert Mammon, for helping rescue a swimmer in the ocean in Miami Beach. Council Member Treyger.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: So we've said this before and I will say it again, that many people who serve in the New York City Police Department are people of service, both on and off uniform and this is a case that really validates and reaffirms that very point.

Albert Mammon is a Staten Island resident and 14-year NYPD vet currently assigned to the 60 Precinct in Coney Island. He was with his family vacationing in Florida, as we all should at some point, when he heard screams from someone panicking in the water. Without hesitation he immediately sprang into action, running towards the water and noticed there were no lifeguards at the beach on duty; he went into the water and he helped rescue a 17-year-old young man named Christopher Tran, along with other people who were there to assist.

1  
2 Struggling in the difficult water, Officer Mammon and  
3 other individuals were able to get the teen onto a  
4 surfboard and help everyone get to back to shore.  
5 The Bal Harbour Police Chief, Mark Overton, joined  
6 Mammon on the beach the following day to express the  
7 entire city's and department's gratitude. He is a  
8 Southern Brooklyn legend; a graduate of Sheepshead  
9 Bay High School, he went to John Jay; studied  
10 criminal justice, he worked in various precincts in  
11 Southern Brooklyn; he's earned NYPD Exceptional Merit  
12 Police Award for helping apprehend armed robbery  
13 suspects who fired at officers; he's won Officer of  
14 the Month awards repeatedly. But again, I reiterate  
15 my initial point -- while with his family on  
16 vacation, off uniform, still rushing, running into  
17 danger to help rescue someone else's life, and that's  
18 the bravery and sacrifice that we see made by  
19 officers every day, so it's great gratitude and I  
20 thank The Speaker that we get to honor today Officer  
21 Mammon. Congratulations.

22 [applause]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: And we're gonna...  
24 yes, we're gonna have the official reading of the  
25 Proclamation by our City Clerk. Thank you.

CITY CLERK: City of New York

Proclamation. Whereas, the New York City Police Department's reputation as the best police department in the world is due on large part to the dedication, professionalism and caring nature of the 34,500 men and women who have devoted their careers to keeping our city safe. For New York's finest, their commitment to protecting the public does not end with their shift and is not limited to our five boroughs. Officer Albert Mammon demonstrated this recently when he was not only off duty, but on vacation and save the life of a drowning teenager. His actions brought well-deserved praise and acclaim for himself and the entire NYPD and once again showed that the men and women of the NYPD are stellar public servants, both in and out of uniform.

And whereas, Albert Mammon, a native New Yorker, was born in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn to Jewish parents who fled religious persecution and emigrated from Russia to the United States in the 1970s. He attended Yeshiva for most of his youth before graduating from Sheepshead Bay High School.

And whereas, Officer Mammon showed an early interest for law enforcement and a desire to

1  
2 give back to his community. He gained experience by  
3 enrolling in the 61st Precinct Explorers Program,  
4 interning at the station house and volunteering as a  
5 New York City Auxiliary Police Officer. After high  
6 school he attended John Jay College of Criminal  
7 Justice and became a New York City Police Cadet  
8 before graduating with a bachelor's degree in police  
9 science in 2001. In July of that year he officially  
10 fulfilled his dream of becoming a member of the NYPD  
11 and launched his career as a beat officer at the 62nd  
12 Precinct.

13           And whereas, during Officer Mammon's  
14 tenure with the NYPD, he has proven himself to be a  
15 brave and loyal officer, earning numerous honors,  
16 including the NYPD Exceptional Merit Police Award,  
17 for returning fire on an armed robbery suspect and  
18 taking him into custody; two Officer of the Month  
19 awards and several special counterterrorism  
20 assignments, along with revitalizing the 60th  
21 Precinct Auxiliary Officer Program.

22           And whereas, this dedication to others  
23 was exemplified recently when Officer Mammon was on  
24 vacation in Florida and had just arrived at the beach  
25 when he heard someone screaming from the water; he

1 spotted a swimmer in distress far from the shoreline  
2 and noticed that there were no nearby lifeguards.  
3 Officer Mammon immediately jumped into action and  
4 swam out to the struggling teenager; he took control  
5 of the situation and with the help of several other  
6 onlookers helped lift the swimmer onto a surfboard,  
7 then coordinated the rescue so that all three  
8 rescuers were able to ride the momentum of the waves  
9 back to safety.  
10

11 Now therefore be it known, that the  
12 Council of the City of New York gratefully honors  
13 NYPD Officer Albert Mammon for his lifelong  
14 dedication to the citizens of Southern Brooklyn and  
15 New York City for his courageous efforts to help save  
16 the life a drowning teenager while on vacation in  
17 Florida, bringing recognition and acclaim to our city  
18 and the NYPD. Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the  
19 Entire Council; Mark Treyger, Council Member 47th  
20 District, Brooklyn.

21 [background comments, applause, cheers]

22 ALBERT MAMMON: Listening to her read all  
23 that stuff off, it kinda touched me; I've gotta be  
24 honest with you; heard my whole history.  
25



1  
2           Became, like they said, a New York City  
3 Police Officer 2001; I did it to help the City; I did  
4 it to help not only the City; I became a police  
5 officer to help everybody. I like to help everybody;  
6 that's what I took this for and I'm proud of what I  
7 do, I'm proud of every officer I work next to, you  
8 know we all do the same thing; I'm pretty sure a lot  
9 of other officers would've done the same and no  
10 matter what part of the world I'm in, I always like  
11 to help and there's a lot of things that do not come  
12 to light that every officer and every individual  
13 does, but for whatever reason, god brought it to  
14 light and it came this far; I never expected it to  
15 come this far.

16           I wanna thank you, Mark Treyger, I wanna  
17 than the Council, thank you very much everyone for  
18 what you have done and I appreciate everything and  
19 really nice of you to bring me up here. Thank you.

20           [background comments, applause]

21           SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you so  
22 much, Officer, really, congratulations and thank you  
23 for saving that life. [background comments,  
24 applause]

1  
2 Okay, the next ceremonial is Council  
3 Member Vanessa Gibson, [applause] celebrating  
4 Garifuna American Heritage Month and commemorating  
5 the 25th anniversary of the tragic Happy Land Social  
6 Club arson in which 87 people were killed 25 years  
7 ago. It was about the time when I just came to New  
8 York. So Vanessa Gibson, there you go. Yes, those  
9 that are gonna be receiving the Proclamation and part  
10 of the ceremonial, if you could just join us up on  
11 here.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Good afternoon  
13 ladies and gentlemen, it's a pleasure to be here; to  
14 my colleagues, to The Speaker of the Council, to all  
15 of our families and friends who are here with us  
16 today, this is a wonderful great day that only god  
17 has made and I'm so glad we are here to be glad and  
18 rejoice in it.

19 Today we are presenting a Proclamation to  
20 the Garifuna Coalition USA declaring March 11 through  
21 April 12 as Garifuna American Heritage Month.  
22 Celebrating both the events past and present,  
23 Garifuna American Heritage Month pays tribute to the  
24 resiliency of the Garifuna people and the long-  
25 standing friendship that the Garifuna people have

1 here in the community with the United States.

2 Commemorating their past this month observes the

3 218th anniversary of the forcible deportation of the

4 Garifuna from St. Vincent and the Grenadines and

5 commemorates the first Garifuna settlement in Central

6 America on April 12th of 1789. Today in New York

7 City we are home to the largest concentration of

8 Garifuna residents outside of Central America and I

9 am so proud that a significant part of this community

10 resides in the Bronx, as well as in Brooklyn.

11 Through my position as a former assembly member and

12 now here at the Council, it is my honor and pleasure

13 to come together in recognizing our brothers and

14 sisters in the Garifuna community who are business

15 leaders, entrepreneurs, successful community

16 residents, very active and engaged in our communities

17 in this city and so it is my honor and pleasure to

18 officially, on behalf of the Council and my

19 colleagues and the delegations to make sure that we

20 recognize March 11 through April 12 as Garifuna

21 American Heritage Month in the great city of New

22 York.

23 [cheers, applause, background comments]

24

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Yes. Yes. And I  
3 just want to say that I'm so proud of all of you and  
4 I wanna congratulate you and may god bless you.

5 **00:11:38 [Garifuna language]** [background comments,  
6 applause]

7 And now we will have the clerk read the  
8 official Proclamation on behalf of the City Council.

9 CITY CLERK: City of New York  
10 Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of  
11 New York is proud to celebrate Garifuna American  
12 Heritage Month to pay tribute to members of the  
13 Garifuna community for their enduring contributions  
14 to New York City. And whereas, the Garifuna are an  
15 ethnic group of mixed ancestry descendents of the  
16 Caribbean, Arawak and African people living along the  
17 Caribbean coast in Belize, Guatemala, Nicaragua,  
18 Honduras and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

19 And whereas, during World War II  
20 Garifunas began migrating to the United States in  
21 significant numbers as merchant marines in search of  
22 a better life, but their numbers were virtually  
23 obscured in New York City until March 25, 1990. This  
24 month Garifuna Americans commemorate the 25th  
25 anniversary of the Happy Land Social Club fire, a

1  
2 nightmare caused by arson and the most horrific mass  
3 murder our city had ever known until 9/11. Fifty-  
4 nine of the 87 victims were Honduran; more than 70  
5 percent of the Honduran victims were also of Garifuna  
6 descent.

7           And whereas, in the 25 years since the  
8 Happy Land Social Club fire, the Garifuna community  
9 has grown stronger while promoting its wide range of  
10 political, economic and social issues and cultural  
11 contributions. In 2001 the United Nations  
12 Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
13 (UNESCO) proclaimed the Garifuna language, dance and  
14 music as a masterpiece of the oral and intangible  
15 heritage of humanity.

16           And whereas, today New York City is home  
17 to the largest Garifuna population outside of Central  
18 America, with over 200,000 living in the South Bronx,  
19 Brownsville and East New York and Brooklyn and the  
20 Village of Harlem. The Garifuna Coalition has been  
21 working to raise awareness and appreciation of this  
22 community and its contributions to our city's culture  
23 and society and we are proud to support these efforts  
24 on this occasion.

1  
2 Now therefore be it known, that the  
3 Council of the City of New York, including all the  
4 members of its Bronx delegation, celebrates the  
5 common culture and enduring bond that connect the  
6 United States and the Garifuna countries of origin  
7 and hereby proclaims March 11 through April 12, 2015  
8 as Garifuna American Heritage Month in New York City.  
9 Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the Entire  
10 Council; Vanessa Gibson, Council Member 16th District  
11 Bronx and all of the members of the Bronx delegation.

12 [applause, cheers, background comments]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: And again, we are  
14 just so honored and excited that the growing  
15 diversity in this city includes our brothers and  
16 sisters from the Garifuna community; whether you're  
17 in Bronx, Brooklyn, Harlem, Queens or Staten Island,  
18 we celebrate your success and we know that we will  
19 continue to make great partnerships together. And  
20 now I'd like to introduce the President of the  
21 Garifuna Coalition USA, Jose Francisco Avila.

22 [applause]

23 JOSE FRANCISCO AVILA: Thank you, Council  
24 Member Gibson; thank you everyone for being here. It  
25 is quite an honor; it's amazing that we sat up here

1  
2 seven years ago and in those seven years there's only  
3 been twice, in 2009 and this year where Garifuna  
4 American Heritage Month actually starts right on  
5 March 11, which is today. And I'd like to remind you  
6 that the reason for that month has to do with the  
7 fact that we were originally from St. Vincent and the  
8 Grenadines; our ancestors were exiled from there and  
9 the British loaded 2,000 of our ancestors onto ships  
10 which sailed to the Atlantic and a month later, April  
11 12th, landed in an island known as Roatan, today part  
12 of Honduras; that's how we ended up in Central  
13 America and Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and  
14 Nicaragua; it was not a voluntary tour. [laughter]  
15 And I'd like to say, it was not the love boat, okay,  
16 but again, but here we are, 218 years later, over  
17 200,000 right here in New York, 500,000 across the  
18 world; if that's not proof of resilience and  
19 survival, I don't know what it is. [applause] And  
20 it's no coincidence that the largest population is in  
21 the greatest city in the world, New York City; right,  
22 the most resilient city in the world also.

23 In 2009 we received the first  
24 Proclamation, right in the offices of the Garifuna  
25 Coalition and we have gone from the offices of the

1  
2 Garifuna Coalition in the Bronx to the New York City  
3 Council, thanks to Council Vanessa Gibson. But I  
4 also wanna recognize who's standing right in front of  
5 me, our friend, former Assemblyman Michael Benjamin,  
6 [cheers, applause] who presented the first  
7 Proclamation in Albany. We are -- and I'd also like  
8 to say that we, the Garifunas, represent the African  
9 descendent diaspora of Latin America; therefore, we  
10 have our African-American friends here with us; we  
11 also have our continental Africans here with us,  
12 because just like I can say, **00:17:02 [Garifuna**  
13 **language]** I can say good afternoon and I can say  
14 **00:17:07 [Spanish];** [laughter] that's because of the  
15 jury of our ancestors that we got here. Today around  
16 me are my brothers and sisters from Belize, my  
17 brothers and sisters from Guatemala and Honduras, in  
18 addition to again, the brothers and sisters that I  
19 mentioned. So we're a melting pot of the great  
20 United States of America.

21 I wanna thank you, I wanna thank the City  
22 Council; Speaker, thank you very much, this is the  
23 second time that we've been here and I look forward  
24 to returning, and to my brothers and sisters I say  
25



1  
2 **00:17:40 [Garifuna language]**. [background comments,  
3 applause] Thank you.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Well  
5 congratulations and **00:17:48 [Spanish]**, so...  
6 [background comments, laughter] Okay. Alright,  
7 thank you. [background comments]

8 [pause]

9 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: We have one last  
10 ceremonial. We have a lot of representatives here  
11 and unfortunately we can't have everyone join us up  
12 here, but we're gonna ask some representatives to do  
13 that.

14 Today we are honored -- and I'm gonna be  
15 doing this with my colleague, Council Member Corey  
16 Johnson -- Today we are honored to be joined by a  
17 number of healthcare professionals who bravely  
18 stepped forward to care for and protect others when a  
19 confirmed case of Ebola appeared in New York City  
20 last year. Rather than giving into fear, these  
21 courageous New Yorkers, who represent a wide array of  
22 health services in this city, selflessly put  
23 themselves on the line without question to help  
24 others. We wanted to take a moment in this Council  
25 to express our appreciation and that we are extremely

1  
2 for your services, your continued services in keeping  
3 this city safe and we wanted to do that by honoring  
4 you with a presentation or a Proclamation. And I'm  
5 gonna read some names and if those reps could join us  
6 up here, but I'm gonna read the names of the people  
7 that we have here with us -- DC 37, Local 420, Jose  
8 Robles, who's the Second Vice President, and David  
9 McCullum [sp?], nurse's aide transport escort;  
10 representing 1199 SEIU, Mildred Altreche, Lab  
11 Technologist, and Miguel de la Cruz, Lab  
12 Technologist; from DC 37 we have President Wells,  
13 President Miranda and President Reid [sp?],  
14 representing different locals, as well as Jahmila  
15 Joseph, Associate Director; representing DOHMH,  
16 Dr. Jay Varma, Deputy Commissioner of the Division of  
17 Disease Control, Marisa Raphael, Deputy Commissioner,  
18 Division of Emergency Preparedness and Response; from  
19 the Doctors Council, Frank Proscia, President, M.D.,  
20 and Kevin Collins, Executive Director; from OCEM,  
21 Frank DePaolo, Assistant Commissioner and Dennis  
22 Mazone, Director of Investigations; NYSNA, the  
23 Nurse's Association, we have Jane Galuo [sp?] and Ann  
24 Bogay [sp?], and HHC, we have Amit Nagpal [sp?],

1  
2 M.D., Director of Medical ICU, Ramoline Dechavez,  
3 [sp?] R.N. and Dr. Laura Evans, lead physician.

4           So these are the different -- between  
5 unions and our city agencies, this is all the  
6 frontline of defense here protecting us in the city  
7 of New York and we all know that New York City really  
8 stood strong and firm when it was confirmed and we  
9 really stood up and thanked all of our workers for  
10 the work that they did. Thank you very much and with  
11 that I wanna ask my colleague, Council Member Corey  
12 Johnson, who's the Chair of the Health Committee, to  
13 also say a few words. Thank you, thank you all very  
14 much for being here.

15           COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: I just wanted to  
16 really give my thanks to all of you and the hundreds  
17 if not thousands of people that you all represent.  
18 What the City faced last fall put us in the  
19 international spotlight and people around the world  
20 learned about New York City's public health system  
21 and our public hospital system and I believe over a  
22 100 people at Bellevue were involved in treating  
23 Dr. Spencer, over a 100 individuals. When the  
24 President of the United States comes to New York  
25 City, there's one designated place that if something

1 happens, that's where he goes; that's Bellevue. When  
2 world leaders visit New York City to come to the  
3 U.N., there is one designated place that those  
4 leaders are supposed to go if something tragic  
5 happens; that is Bellevue, and Bellevue and HHC is  
6 only as strong as the people that work there day in  
7 and day out; the nurses, the doctors, the  
8 professional staff, everyone that works at Bellevue  
9 and at HHC deserves our utmost thanks. I also want  
10 to acknowledge HHC's leadership; I think Dr. Raju did  
11 a great job during the crisis and Dr. Bassett became  
12 a household name across America because of her calm,  
13 cool and collected calm in finding the way through  
14 the storm. So the New York City Council, under  
15 Speaker Mark-Viverito, is really grateful that you  
16 all performed in such an able way and really did your  
17 profession well and did the people well who are under  
18 your care; I think the bigger issue here, besides  
19 this one Ebola case is that you all treat the most  
20 vulnerable New Yorkers day in and day out; the poor,  
21 the undocumented, the uninsured, the people whose  
22 lives are literally on the line and these hospitals  
23 are the last thread of a social safety net for these  
24 individuals. And so you stepped up during Ebola, but  
25

1  
2 you step up day in and day out taking care of New  
3 Yorkers that need it most -- I'm getting the chills  
4 talking about it, because you save countless,  
5 countless lives, literally you save countless lives.  
6 So we are all tremendously grateful that you took  
7 time out of your busy days to be here with us today  
8 and we are tremendously honored that you work on  
9 behalf of New Yorkers day in and day out. Thank you  
10 all very, very, very much.

11 [applause]

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: And obviously,  
13 again, these are the representatives for the  
14 different entities that I mentioned, but there are  
15 many others here joining us and we extend that  
16 appreciation to all of you. Thank you very much.  
17 And with that we would like to ask the clerk to read  
18 the Proclamation.

19 CITY CLERK: Council, City of New York  
20 Proclamation. Whereas the Council of the City of New  
21 York is proud to honor many groups of first  
22 responders, healthcare providers and public health  
23 officials who have been working together to keep New  
24 York City and the nation free from the life-  
25 threatening Ebola virus. These groups include DC 37

1  
2 Locals 420, 375, 436, 768, 1321, 1322, 1549, 2507,  
3 3621, 1199 of the SEIU, Doctors Council SEIU, as well  
4 as the New York State Nurses Association, the New  
5 York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene,  
6 New York City Office of the Chief Medical Examiner,  
7 and the Health and Hospitals Corporation.

8           And whereas, the Ebola virus causes an  
9 acute serious illness which is often fatal if  
10 untreated. There is no known cure or antidote. In  
11 March 2014 the Ebola virus began devastating West  
12 Africa in the largest and most complex outbreak since  
13 the virus was first discovered in 1976. In fact, it  
14 is the first known Ebola epidemic the world has ever  
15 seen. During the 12 months of this current outbreak  
16 in West Africa there have been roughly 14,000 cases  
17 and 10,000 deaths; that's more than all the previous  
18 outbreaks combined. As horrific as this epidemic has  
19 been, it would be much worse without the courageous  
20 healthcare professionals working on the frontlines.  
21 Last fall, when Ebola arrived on our shores, our  
22 City's own heroic healthcare workers came to the  
23 rescue. And whereas, on October 23, 2014 Ebola  
24 arrived in New York City when an infected physician  
25 who had served with Doctors Without Borders in Guinea

1  
2 returned to New York. Although the disease was  
3 isolated, the fear of Ebola continued to spread  
4 across the nation as three cases in other states made  
5 news. Undeterred, our dedicated public healthcare  
6 workers reaffirmed their roles as our frontline  
7 protectors and with the support of a coalition of  
8 unions advocating for them, the infected New York  
9 physician began treatment.

10 And whereas, on November 11, 2014 the  
11 first and hopefully last New Yorker to be infected by  
12 Ebola was virus-free and released from the hospital.  
13 Thanks to the collective efforts of these incredible  
14 organizations, the patient and his fellow New Yorkers  
15 are Ebola-free today.

16 Now therefore be it known, that the  
17 Council of the City of New York gratefully honors the  
18 members of DC 37 Local 420, DC 37 Local 375, Local  
19 436, Local 768, Local 1321, Local 1322, Local 1549,  
20 Local 2507, Local 3621, 1199 of the SEIU and Doctors  
21 Council of the SEIU, as well as the New York State  
22 Nurses Association, the New York City Department of  
23 Health and Mental Hygiene, the New York City Office  
24 of the Chief Medical Examiner and the New York City  
25 Health and Hospitals Corporation for their

1  
2 outstanding teamwork and response to the 2014 Ebola  
3 crisis. Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the  
4 Entire Council; Corey Johnson, Chair of the Health  
5 Committee.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: You can see this  
7 took a lot of coordination, so thank you to the staff  
8 as well for helping us and again, congratulations to  
9 all of you receiving honors today. Thank you.

10 [applause]

11 [pause]

12 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Ladies and gentlemen,  
13 please find seats. Any private conversations, please  
14 take outside the hearing room. Ladies and gentlemen,  
15 please find seats.

16 [pause]

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Take your  
18 comments outside; if you're leaving the Council,  
19 please leave quietly.

20 [pause]

21 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Ladies and gentlemen,  
22 can I have your attention please, quiet on the floor  
23 please, quiet on the floor. At this time... at this  
24 time please place all cell phones and pagers to  
25 vibrate, all cell phones and pagers to vibrate. Will



1  
2 all non-Council employees, non-Council employees  
3 please leave the main floor of the chambers. Thank  
4 you.

5 [pause]

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the  
7 chambers. Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

8 [background Pledge of Allegiance]

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please be seated.  
10 Roll call.

11 CITY CLERK: Arroyo.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

13 CITY CLERK: Barron.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the  
15 chambers please. Please quiet down for roll call.

16 Thank you. Everyone please take their seats.

17 [background comments] Thank you.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

19 CITY CLERK: Thank you. Cabrera. Chin.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

21 CITY CLERK: Cohen.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.

23 CITY CLERK: Constantinides.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Here.

2 CITY CLERK: Cornegy. Crowley. Cumbo.  
3 Deutsch.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.

5 CITY CLERK: Dickens. Dromm.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

7 CITY CLERK: Espinal. Cornegy.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Present.

9 CITY CLERK: Eugene.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I'm here.

11 CITY CLERK: Thank you. Ferreras.

12 Garodnick.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

14 CITY CLERK: Gentile.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: I'm here.

16 CITY CLERK: Gibson. Greenfield.

17 Johnson.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Present.

19 CITY CLERK: Kallos.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Present.

21 CITY CLERK: King.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Present.

23 CITY CLERK: Koo.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

25 CITY CLERK: Koslowitz.

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

27

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Yes.  
3 CITY CLERK: Lancman.  
4 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Yes.  
5 CITY CLERK: Lander.  
6 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I'm here.  
7 CITY CLERK: Levin. Levine.  
8 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.  
9 CITY CLERK: Maisel. Matteo.  
10 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.  
11 CITY CLERK: Mealy. Menchaca.  
12 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.  
13 CITY CLERK: Mendez.  
14 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.  
15 CITY CLERK: Miller.  
16 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Here.  
17 CITY CLERK: Palma.  
18 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.  
19 CITY CLERK: Reynoso.  
20 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Here.  
21 CITY CLERK: Richards.  
22 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.  
23 CITY CLERK: Rodriguez.  
24 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.  
25 CITY CLERK: Rose.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

CITY CLERK: Rosenthal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

CITY CLERK: Torres. 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: I am here.

CITY CLERK: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

CITY CLERK: Wills. Ignizio. Van

Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

CITY CLERK: Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.

CITY CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Here.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All rise for the invocation, delivered by Dr. Uma Mysorekar from the Hindu Temple Society of North America located in Queens, New York. Quiet in the chambers.

DR. UMA MYSOREKAR: Thank you.

**00:39:22 [Hindi]**

Oh Lord Ganesha who has curved tusk and a strong body with luster equal to millions of suns, I pray for your grace to make all our endeavors succeed without any obstacles.

**00:39:44 [Hindi]**

Oh Lord, may all mankind be happy, all mankind be healthy, may all mankind experience prosperity, may none in this world suffer, let there be peace, peace and peace.

And universal prayer will conclude.

Oh adorable Lord of mercy and love, salutations and prostrations unto thee. Thou art omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient. Thou art Satchitananda. Thou art existence, knowledge and bliss absolute. Thou art the Indweller of all beings. Let us abide in thee forever and ever.

Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please be seated.

Council Member Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Motion to spread the invocation in full upon the record.. [interpose,

1  
2 background comments] And Dr. Uma Mysorekar, she is a  
3 doctor... [interpose, background comments]

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quite in the  
5 chambers. Quiet in the chambers. Council Member  
6 Koo; apologize.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Yeah. Dr. Uma  
8 Mysorekar is a doctor in OB-GYN; she's also President  
9 of The Hindu Temple Society of North America.  
10 Dr. Mysorekar has initiated programs to bring the  
11 community together, including spiritual, educational  
12 [background comments] and cultural activities..  
13 [interpose]

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council... Excuse  
15 me Council Member. Please, may we have quiet in the  
16 chamber, please? [background comment] Please.  
17 Council Member Koo, we apologize.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Yeah. She has  
19 initiated interfaith meetings and spoken at numerous  
20 functions to increase public understanding of  
21 Hinduism. [background comments] She has received  
22 several awards over the years for her contributions  
23 and community service. I personally know Dr. Uma  
24 Mysorekar for many years; she's a wonderful public  
25

1  
2 service servant for our community. Thank you for  
3 coming to do this. Thank you.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member  
5 Crowley.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I make a motion  
7 that the Minutes of the Stated Meeting of February  
8 12, 2015 be adopted as printed.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
10 Messages and Papers from the Mayor.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Communication  
13 from City, County and Borough Offices.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: M 0242, report of  
15 activities for the Public Advocate.

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Received,  
17 ordered, printed and filed.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: M 0243 through M 0252,  
19 on Page 3, base station licenses.

20 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Transportation.  
21 Roll call. Sorry; go ahead.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: There are no petitions  
23 or communications and on the Land Use Call-Ups, M  
24 0253.

25 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Roll call.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera. Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen.

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Permission

sought to vote on all Land Use and General Orders.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: I vote aye on

all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Constantinides.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cumbo.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Yes.



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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dickens.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dromm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Espinal. Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Yes [background  
comment].

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ferreras.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gibson.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Greenfield. Johnson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: King. [background  
comment] Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lancman.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

1  
2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander.  
3 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.  
4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin. Levine.  
5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.  
6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel.  
7 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Aye.  
8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo.  
9 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Yes.  
10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy. Menchaca.  
11 Mendez.  
12 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.  
13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Miller.  
14 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.  
15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Palma.  
16 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.  
17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso.  
18 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.  
19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards.  
20 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.  
21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez.  
22 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.  
23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.  
24 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.  
25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Espinal.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rosenthal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres. Treyger.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich. Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Wills. Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

[background comments]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: I ask for  
unanimous consent to vote on all items, as I have a  
family matter to attend to.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: I vote no on  
Int. 0685 and aye on all others. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Quiet in the chambers, please. Quiet in the chambers.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I vote aye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

Before I read our results, I would like to welcome our educational ambassadors of District 19 in the Borough of Queens, represented by the great Council Member Paul Vallone. Welcome to the people's house. [background comments, cheers, applause] Today's... [applause] thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much. Welcome. Welcome.

Today's Land Use Call-Ups were adopted by a vote of 46 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative.. [background comments] quiet in the chambers. Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito.

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

Before we begin today, I want to acknowledge the recent passing of Cardinal Edward

1  
2 Egan [background comments]. Cardinal Egan served as  
3 Archbishop of New York for many years and his spirit  
4 will be greatly missed. I especially want to  
5 acknowledge Cardinal Egan's advocacy for immigration  
6 reform, which I will be forever grateful for; also,  
7 his bringing this city together and consoling us in  
8 the wake of September 11th. [background comments]  
9 So many New Yorkers paid their respects to Cardinal  
10 Egan during his funeral service yesterday and we join  
11 them in mourning and remembering him. I'm sorry; can  
12 I get quiet over here, guys? Thank you. I'm sorry;  
13 Mr. Kallos, Council Member, if you could please sit.

14           Additionally, I wanna note that tomorrow  
15 is the one-year anniversary of the East Harlem  
16 explosion. I was on my way to City Hall, to this  
17 room in fact, for a Stated Meeting on March 11, 2014  
18 when I heard the news that a blast that had leveled  
19 two apartment buildings had exploded in my district;  
20 eight lives were taken from us that day and many  
21 people were also injured. Tomorrow some of us will  
22 be at the site and I would welcome any colleagues  
23 that would wanna join me; we're gonna be at the site  
24 of the explosion to commemorate the anniversary and  
25 remember those we lost. And I would like to ask the

1 Council, on behalf of Archbishop and Cardinal Egan  
2 and all of those we lost in the East Harlem  
3 explosion, that we join in a moment of silence.  
4

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please rise.

6 [moment of silence]

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you my  
8 colleagues.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please be seated.

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Today the Council  
11 will be voting on legislation to [background  
12 comments] extend the rent stabilization law through  
13 April 1st, 2018... [crosstalk]

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the  
15 chambers.

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: we have a bill  
17 and several Resos; among them also calling a housing  
18 emergency in the City of New York.

19 New York City must remain a home for the  
20 middle class and rent stabilization is a crucial part  
21 of keeping this city affordable for them. It is  
22 essential that we protect our stock of [background  
23 comments] affordable and stabilized housing for those  
24 who currently live in stabilized housing and the many  
25

1  
2 others who are looking for relief from rising rents  
3 across the city.

4 I would like to thank all of my  
5 colleagues, particularly Council Members Rosenthal,  
6 Johnson and Housing Chair Jumaane Williams for  
7 sponsoring this legislation. On the staff side I  
8 would like to congratulate and thank Shijuade Kadree,  
9 Jen Wilcox, Ed Atkin and Jeff Baker for all of their  
10 hard work and ask Council Members Johnson, Rosenthal  
11 and Williams, in that order, to say a few words.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you,  
13 Madame Speaker. Today is an important day; year  
14 after year New York City residents continue to face a  
15 housing crisis. Vacancy rates are at roughly 3.5  
16 percent; a housing shortage that constitutes a threat  
17 to the citizens of New York City and creates a  
18 special hardship to those individuals and families  
19 with limited resources. Many are priced out of their  
20 homes by inequitable and harassing policies that have  
21 been created and sanctioned by the New York State  
22 Legislature. I am proud that the Council will be  
23 passing my legislation today, along with Chair  
24 Williams and Council Member Rosenthal that recognizes  
25 this continuing housing emergency and will extend

1  
2 rent stabilization laws in New York City for another  
3 three years. The challenge we face today is  
4 retaining economic diversity in our neighborhoods and  
5 communities. Are we going to be a city of luxury  
6 housing with part-time residents from around the  
7 globe or are we going to be a city with neighborhoods  
8 of families, full-time residents who send their  
9 children to our schools, beautify our blocks and  
10 contribute to the fabric of New York? Too many New  
11 Yorkers are being priced out of their homes and out  
12 of our communities. [background comments] If we  
13 fail to renew rent regulation laws, we continue to  
14 run the risk of creating larger disparities between  
15 the rich and poor. This tri-annual extension falls  
16 within months of the expiration of the rent laws in  
17 Albany; we need to embrace this opportunity, to speak  
18 out for real reform during those debates and the need  
19 to repeal vacancy deregulation; if we do not, even  
20 fewer New Yorkers will remain in their homes in three  
21 years when we next complete the Housing and Vacancy  
22 Survey. To further demonstrate the importance of  
23 strengthening these existent laws, I will be  
24 traveling to Albany this coming session to demand  
25 change from legislators at the state level; simply



1  
2 too many people have been priced out of their homes;  
3 we can do better for New Yorkers. We must strengthen  
4 the rent laws; a simple renewal is not enough; I  
5 thank my colleagues in the Council for supporting  
6 this critical measure to extend rent regulations for  
7 New Yorkers that need it most. Thank you, Madame  
8 Speaker.

9 Council Member Rosenthal.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you,  
11 Speaker. I wanna start by thanking and echoing  
12 Council Member Johnson's remarks about doing  
13 everything we can to close the divide between rich  
14 and poor. I also want to echo the Speaker's thanks  
15 to staff and to the advocates for all their hard work  
16 and most importantly, to the Speaker and Chair  
17 Williams for shepherding through these most important  
18 rent regulation laws.

19 Rent control tenants face rent increases  
20 of roughly 7.5 percent annually, while their income  
21 is going down. I'm proud to co-sponsor this  
22 Resolution in support of Assemblywoman Linda  
23 Rosenthal's bill, which provides rent relief to the  
24 over 27,000 people who depend on rent control to stay  
25 in their homes. Thank you.

1  
2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Council Member  
3 Williams.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I too wanna  
5 thank the Speaker for her leadership on the issue and  
6 my colleagues, Council Member Johnson and Rosenthal  
7 and all who participated in these Resolutions.

8 It needs to abundantly clear how  
9 important... [background comment] It needs to be  
10 abundantly clear how important housing is connected  
11 to so many of the other issues we deal with; if you  
12 have finally gotten a minimum wage or if you have  
13 received appropriate medical care, you have no place  
14 to come home to if you can't afford it and it will  
15 not help you get well if you have to be homeless;  
16 same thing with studying after school if you have no  
17 steady to place to stay. Housing is of critical  
18 importance and I think with this package of  
19 legislation we've done what we can do here in the  
20 city when it comes to renewing the rent laws; we've  
21 done our part; it's now up to Albany in June to not  
22 only renew it, but to strengthen it.

23 There are two bills here; one renews our  
24 rent stabilization laws; one calls for the emergency  
25 what's needed in the Resolution; the other

1  
2 Resolutions are telling Albany what we need to see  
3 done in the renewal of the rent law and the  
4 strengthening of the rent laws. If it's just a  
5 renewal; we would have lost the battle, from  
6 preferential rent to vacancy decontrol, to high rent  
7 decontrol, to MCIs and individual apartment  
8 improvements; all of these things must be dealt with  
9 to strengthen the rent laws in New York and so I hope  
10 Albany's listening, particularly the republican  
11 senators who too often block even the renewal. We  
12 must strengthen this or we may not even get to  
13 accomplish the lofty goals of the Mayor of preserving  
14 200,000 units; we are losing more units than we can  
15 ever build and of course most people talk about the  
16 rents that we have to keep in control, but the  
17 protections that are given to rent-regulated tenants  
18 are just as important; when tenants would come to me  
19 when I was organizing and working on this, I would  
20 have to ask them first if they're a rent-regulated  
21 tenant or a market rate, unregulated tenant before I  
22 help them fix the repairs in their apartment and had  
23 to let them know if they weren't a rent-regulated  
24 tenant they might get the repair, but they might not  
25 get a rent renewal; all of these things are important

1  
2 and must be in the discussion. And again, I thank my  
3 colleagues for the work that they've done, the  
4 Speaker and my Council colleagues; I wanna thank the  
5 Housing and Buildings Committee for getting this  
6 through the Committee and I also wanna thank my  
7 staff, Nick Smith, my Deputy Chief of Staff, Jen  
8 Wilcox, Shijuade Kadree, Counsels to the Committee;  
9 Guillermo Patino, Jose Conde, Policy Analysts to the  
10 Committee, and Sarah Gastelum, the Committee's  
11 Finance Analyst. I do wanna thank all of the housing  
12 advocates, but if you name one and you skip, they get  
13 upset, so there are two umbrella groups -- Real  
14 Affordability for All and Alliance for Tenant Power;  
15 I wanna thank them and all of the their members for  
16 the work they're doing and not just renewing the  
17 rental laws, but strengthening them. Thank you.

18 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,  
19 Council Member Williams.

20 The Council is also voting on legislation  
21 requiring the Department of Education to submit data  
22 in an annual report to the Council. The report would  
23 provide information regarding the length of time it  
24 takes to convene meetings for individualized  
25 education plans and to fully comply with the

1  
2 recommendations. We have heard from parents that  
3 special education services for their children are  
4 often delayed or not fully provided in a timely  
5 manner. These services are critical to a student's  
6 educational progress and need to be delivered in an  
7 effective and timely manner. This legislation will  
8 make the information which is necessary to monitor  
9 this issue available to the Council and to the  
10 public. And as I had indicated in the pre-stated,  
11 about 20 percent of children in the public education  
12 system have an IEP and 78 percent of those are either  
13 African-American or Latino children. This  
14 information that we will gather due to this  
15 legislation is critically important; this is a very  
16 important bill and I wanna thank the Chair of the  
17 Education Committee, Danny Dromm for his advocacy, to  
18 thank the staff, Aysha Schomburg, Jan Atwell, Joan  
19 Povolny, Teresa Nazir [sp?], Matt Gewolb and Lyle  
20 Frank. And with that, Council Member Dromm, if you  
21 could say a few words.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you very  
23 much. Today the City Council will be voting on Int.  
24 0435-A, which requires the Department of Education to  
25 submit to the City Council an annual report regarding

1 students referred for individualized education  
2 programs and receiving [background comment] special  
3 education services. Testimony from parents and  
4 advocates revealed several areas where the DOE can  
5 improve how it serves special education students. Of  
6 particular concern are delays that these families  
7 experience getting students the appropriate services.  
8 Receiving appropriate services in a prompt manner is  
9 critical to setting these students on a lifelong path  
10 to self-sufficiency and success. We cannot allow any  
11 student to slip through the cracks. It is our  
12 responsibility to ensure and in fact, it's mandated  
13 by the law that every student gets the vital services  
14 they need when they need them. Int. 0435-A will help  
15 us identify systemic trends and concerns; the data we  
16 collect will enable us to gain a better understanding  
17 of how well the DOE is serving our special education  
18 students and address areas in need of improvement.

19  
20 In addition to thanking the advocates, I  
21 wanna recognize the team that worked to make this  
22 reality -- Aysha Schomburg, who spent countless hours  
23 working on this over weekends, Jan Atwell, Joan  
24 Povolny, Norah Yahya, Regina Poreda Ryan, and Madina

25

1  
2 Nizamitdin for helping to make this a reality. Thank  
3 you very much.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,  
5 Council Member.

6 And finally, the Council will be voting  
7 on legislation requiring the Department of Consumer  
8 Affairs to engage in outreach and education efforts  
9 to provide teens and younger adults in New York City  
10 guidance as they work to establish financial  
11 stability for their future.

12 In their late teens and early 20s, young  
13 people with very little experience managing personal  
14 finances find themselves making major decisions with  
15 long-lasting implications when they take out student  
16 loans, buy a car or get their first credit card.  
17 This legislation will help provide them with the  
18 tools they need to make informed decisions and avoid  
19 being taken advantage of. These materials will be  
20 available on the Department of Consumer Affairs  
21 website, not only in English but in six other  
22 languages -- Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Korean,  
23 French Creole and Italian. Language access is  
24 exceptionally important and has been priority for  
25 myself and this Council. New Yorkers speak many

1  
2 languages and we need to ensure that we include  
3 everyone when we take steps to protect consumers.  
4 This bill will empower young New Yorkers who are  
5 striving for financial independence and security and  
6 it will reach young people at all communities across  
7 our city.

8 For the staff, I'd like to thank Laboni  
9 Rahman, Israel Martinez, Rachel Cordero, and Council  
10 Member Treyger is a sponsor of this important  
11 legislation; I would ask him to say a few words.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you,  
13 Speaker, thank you to you and your staff and the  
14 outstanding Chair of the Consumer Affairs Committee,  
15 Council Member Espinal.

16 Just read off a few facts before I  
17 discuss the bill briefly. As of last September,  
18 consumer debts, excluding home loans, reached an all-  
19 time high of \$3.2 trillion. Over 50 million  
20 Americans carry student loans, including over 1.3  
21 million here in New York City. The graduating class  
22 of 2014 is currently the most indebted class ever, as  
23 was the class before them and they are expected to be  
24 surpassed this year in 2015. The number of students  
25 who are holding more than four credit cards has now



1  
2 reached over 50 percent. Under this legislation the  
3 Department of Consumer Affairs will establish  
4 outreach and education efforts on consumer issues  
5 affecting young adults between ages 16-24; this would  
6 cover products that are commonly relied upon by young  
7 people -- student loans, car loans and credit cards.  
8 This legislation will help ensure that our young  
9 adults have the knowledge needed to make sound  
10 financial decisions and avoid the pitfalls that lead  
11 to serious consequences down the road. As a public  
12 school teacher I saw firsthand how students are  
13 aggressively targeted by credit card companies and  
14 other financial institutions, often without  
15 understanding the long-term implications of their  
16 decisions. This leads to countless young New Yorkers  
17 finding themselves in debt early in life, even before  
18 they have attended college or purchased a home. This  
19 bill will begin to combat that movement by empowering  
20 young people to make sound decisions that will  
21 protect their financial security. This is the start  
22 of a very serious conversation as we work to attack  
23 this national issue on a local level. I again thank  
24 Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Chair Espinal; I wanna  
25 thank Matt Gewolb, Laura Popa, Rachel Cordero, Loni

1 [sp?] Rockman [sp?], Israel Martinez and my Leg.  
2 Director, Ethan Westica [sp?] Bradley. Thank you  
3 very much.  
4

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,  
6 Council Member. And with that, end of communication  
7 from the Speaker.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. I  
9 wanted to recognize, but he's no longer on the floor,  
10 the former Council Member Domenic Recchia; I believe  
11 he's left the floor, [applause] but a round of  
12 applause in his absence.

13 Discussion of General Orders. Seeing  
14 none. Report of Special Committees.

15 CITY CLERK: None.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reports of  
17 Standing Committees.

18 CITY CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
19 Consumer Affairs, Int. 0458-A, Consumer Protection  
20 Education.

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
22 coupled on general orders.

23 CITY CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
24 Education, Int. 0435-A, Special Education Services.

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2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
3 coupled on general orders.

4 CITY CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
5 Finance, Preconsidered LU 0186 and Reso 0626.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
7 general orders.

8 CITY CLERK: Preconsidered LU 0187 and  
9 Reso 0627, Tweemill House.

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
11 general orders.

12 CITY CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
13 Housing and Buildings, Int. 0685, Extending the Rent  
14 Stabilizing Laws.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
16 general orders.

17 CITY CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
18 Land Use, LU 0174, Zoning Modification.

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Approved with  
20 modifications and referred to the City Planning  
21 Commission pursuant to Rule 11.7(b) of the Rules of  
22 the Council and Section 197-(d) of the New York City  
23 Charter.

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

2 CITY CLERK: LU 0180 and Reso 0628  
3 through LU 0183 and Reso 0631, Melrose Commons.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
5 general orders.

6 CITY CLERK: LU 0184 and Reso 0632, UDAAP  
7 Queens.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
9 general orders.

10 CITY CLERK: LU 0185 and Reso 0633,  
11 Zoning amendment Queens.

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
13 general orders.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: General order  
15 calendar.

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

18 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
19 general orders and at this time I ask for a roll call  
20 on all items on the coupled general order calendar.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the  
22 chambers please, quiet in the chambers. All those in  
23 the balcony, please quiet in the chambers. Thank  
24 you. Roll call.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Arroyo.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.  
3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron.  
4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.  
5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.  
6 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.  
7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen.  
8 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Yeah, aye.  
9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Constantinides.  
10 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.  
11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy.  
12 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.  
13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Crowley.  
14 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.  
15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cumbo.  
16 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.  
17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch.  
18 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Yes.  
19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Dickens.  
20 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.  
21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Dromm.  
22 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.  
23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Espinal.  
24 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I'd like  
25 permission to explain my vote.

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Good afternoon.

I will be voting in support of a measure out of the Consumer Affairs Committee that proactively seeks to educate... [interpose]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member, is your microphone on?

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Yeah, it's on.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Okay.

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Can you hear me?

One, two. [laughter] I'll be voting in support of Int. 0458-A, a measure out of the Consumer Affairs Committee that proactively seeks to educate and connect young people with some of the tools they need to become savvy consumers. Statistics suggest there is a need for financial education targeted to young adults. [background comments] Some reports have concluded that less than 10 percent of high school graduates are financially literate. Furthermore, as much as 12 percent of young adults do not own their own checking account; 43 percent have used non-traditional methods of borrowing, such as payday loans and 34 percent have engaged in three or more costly credit card behaviors. Additionally, the

1  
2 average student loan debt held by New York City's  
3 borrowers is \$34,100, which is nearly 25 percent  
4 higher than the national average. [background  
5 comments] This is an important step towards  
6 improving financial literacy for our younger New  
7 Yorkers and I would like to thank my colleague,  
8 Council Member Treyger for introducing this bill,  
9 which is my understanding that this is an issue that  
10 he observed while teaching in our New York City  
11 public school system, so thank you for your  
12 leadership, Councilman, and I'll be voting yes on  
13 Int. 0458 and everything else in the Call-Up.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ferreras.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: I vote aye and  
19 congratulations to Council Member Treyger.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Garodnick.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gibson.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Sorry; can you  
24 pass? Thanks.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Greenfield.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I vote aye and I congratulate Council Member Treyger on the legislation and I welcome back Domenic M. Recchia, Jr. to this fine body here at New York City Hall. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And you vote aye on all Land Use Call-Ups?

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Yeah, why not; sounds good.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I'll do that. At the recommendation of the Public Advocate, I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Johnson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: I vote aye on all and I congratulate Council Members Treyger, Dromm, Rosenthal and especially Council Member Williams for the impressive package of bills. Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: King.



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2 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye on all and  
3 congratulations to everyone who has legislation being  
4 passed today.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye on all.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Lancman.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I vote aye on all  
13 and I look forward to joining my colleagues and going  
14 up to Albany to fight to strengthen the rent laws and  
15 protect tenants in New York City. Thanks. Aye on  
16 all.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye on all.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: With congrats to  
21 all the sponsors, voting aye on all.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Aye on all.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: No on 0685; aye  
3 on the rest.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Menchaca.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye on all.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mendez.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Miller.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye on all and  
10 congratulations to all my colleagues on this  
11 intelligence and common sense legislation being  
12 passed today.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Palma.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso.

16 [background comments]

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reynoso.  
18 Reynoso. How do you vote? And nobody?

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye on all.  
21 Congratulations to all my colleagues and I would like  
22 to also acknowledge my new intern, Baruch College  
23 intern, Diana Arias. Congrats again.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rosenthal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye on all,  
with congratulations to the advocates and the staff  
for working so hard... [interpose]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the  
chambers. [background comment] Apologize, Council  
Member. Quiet in the chambers, please. Council  
Member... [crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: really  
appreciate all the hard work of people to do  
everything [background comments] they can to protect  
our rent-regulated tenants and similarly, to Council  
Member Dromm, to protect our special education  
students and to Council Member Treyger for protecting  
our students from possible credit fraud. Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres.

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Treyger.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: With congrats to  
all my colleagues who are pushing their bills and  
their bills passed, and again, a big thanks to Chair  
Espinal for his leadership and support; we're

1  
2 fighting for tenants and we're fighting for kids;  
3 it's a great day. Aye on all.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Permission to  
6 vote on all items on the general order calendar as  
7 well as the Land Use Call-Ups.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, Council  
9 Member.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Thank you. I  
11 vote yes.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vacca.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye on all.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Permission to  
17 explain my vote?

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, sir.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you,  
20 Madame Advocate for acknowledging the hard  
21 ambassadors that I brought today and I also wanted to  
22 thank and congratulate Council Members Johnson,  
23 Rosenthal, Williams, Danny Dromm and Mark Treyger for  
24 your great bills. The students that I brought today,  
25 fellow Council Members, you should be very proud of;

1 hopefully one day they'll all be sitting here; these  
2 are the students that are the future leaders from  
3 Bayside High School, Holy Cross High School; World  
4 Journalism School that have spent a year with me and  
5 my office helping on community affairs legislation,  
6 service projects and now they're here today and I  
7 thank all of those that made them feel so welcome.  
8 So I have Sidney Boodoo [sp?], Michael Flores Ribbick  
9 [sp?], Brenda Ruiz; all from the Bayside High School;  
10 from Holy Cross High School I have Nabil Taveraz  
11 [sp?], Joseph Lombardi, and from the World Journalism  
12 High School I have Havin Jappa [sp?], Raj Vita [sp?]  
13 and Ruki Vita [sp?]; they're standing up on the  
14 balcony, and polite applause for all them. Thank you  
15 very much. [applause] And thank you to my staff,  
16 Mike Young for working all year with them. Great  
17 job, Mike. Thank you everyone. I vote aye on all.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Weprin.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: I vote aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote aye on  
22 all; I just wanna say congratulations to [background  
23 comments] Council Members Treyger and Dromm...  
24 [interpose]  
25

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the  
3 chambers, please. Excuse me, Council Member. May we  
4 have quiet in the chambers? We apologize. Thank you  
5 Council Member, sorry.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Congratulate  
7 Council Members Treyger and Dromm and again, say  
8 thank you and congratulations to Council Member  
9 Johnson, Rosenthal and again, the Speaker for the  
10 pack of legislation that we're sending up to Albany.  
11 I vote aye on all.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Wills.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye on all.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gibson.

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

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you, Madame  
19 Public Advocate. I want to congratulate all of my  
20 colleagues for awesome and amazing bills today and  
21 especially wanna recognize Council Member Williams  
22 for his package of housing-related Resolutions; today  
23 is housing day, but really an opportunity with June  
24 30th slowly approaching and the rent-regulated laws  
25 expiring in the State of New York; it's a very unique

1  
2 opportunity for us to make sure our voices are heard.  
3 I've always been a champion of rent-regulated  
4 apartments, if making sure we strengthen and keep our  
5 families in their apartments; IAI, vacancy de-  
6 control, repealing earth stat law [sic] and all of  
7 the package that really keeps our families intact, so  
8 I'm grateful for the chance to support this and thank  
9 you again, Madame Public Advocate. I vote aye on  
10 all.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso.

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

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: With  
17 congratulations to all, aye on all.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I vote aye.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. All  
21 items on today's general order calendar were adop..  
22 [background comments] Quiet in the chambers, please.  
23 Quiet in the chambers, particularly in the back. All  
24 items on today's general order calendar were adopted  
25 by a vote of 49 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative

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2 and 0 abstentions, with the exception of Int. 0685,  
3 which was adopted by a vote of 47 in the affirmative,  
4 2 in the negative, 0 abstentions. Revised Land Use  
5 Call-Ups were adopted by a vote of 49 in the  
6 affirmative and 0 in the negative. Introduction and  
7 reading of bills.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All bills are  
9 referred to committees, as indicated on the agenda.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Now we're going  
11 to go to Resolutions; we're going to begin with the  
12 first Resolution, Reso 0585, a Resolution calling  
13 upon Congress to pass and the President to sign  
14 legislation to implement President Barack Obama's  
15 America's College Promise Plan to make two years of  
16 community college free to anyone who maintains a 2.5  
17 GPA and calling upon the New York State Legislature  
18 to pass and the Governor to sign legislation funding  
19 the State's obligation under the plan; we call up on  
20 the sponsor, Council Member Inez Barron.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Madame  
22 Public Advocate. Today we'll be voting on Reso 0585,  
23 President Barack Obama's America's College Promise.

24 Until 1976, when the State took over the  
25 City University of New York, we took for granted that



1  
2 everyone in this city was entitled to a first-class  
3 education free of charge, from kindergarten through  
4 college, but when the State took over CUNY, they  
5 imposed tuition. So our foundation in New York City  
6 is that college should be free, but we've moved away  
7 from that and we've imposed increasing tuition on  
8 students who attend our university.

9 As has been said, this America's College  
10 Promise Plan will offer the first two years of a  
11 community college free to those students that are  
12 there pursuing those courses that are going to help  
13 make them viable in the emerging economy that we are  
14 facing and to those colleges that offer courses that  
15 will translate to four-year colleges or to training  
16 programs that [bell] give certificates.

17 In his remarks, the President referenced  
18 CUNY's ASAP program, which provides free tuition for  
19 two years and gives support and counseling.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member,  
21 can you please bring your comments to a close?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Okay. In fall of  
23 2013, 40 percent of all undergrads were in community  
24 colleges; more than 50 percent of them are African-  
25 American and other underrepresented groups. I'm

1  
2 pleased to be able to be the sponsor. I wanna thank  
3 the Speaker for her support and I wanna thank my  
4 counsel and my staffer, Ndigo Washington, for working  
5 on this and I encourage all of you to vote in support  
6 of this. Thank you.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you,  
8 Council Member; seeing... any other speakers on this  
9 Resolution? All of those in favor say aye.

10 [collective aye]

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

13 The next Resolution is 0597; a Resolution  
14 determining that a public emergency requiring rent  
15 control in the City of New York continues to exist  
16 and will continue to exist on and after April 1st,  
17 2015. Any members seeking to speak on this  
18 Resolution? All of those in favor say aye.

19 [collective aye]

20 All of those opposed. Any abstentions?

21 And then the rest of the Resolutions,  
22 Reso 0086-A, Reso 0596-A, Preconsidered Resolution  
23 0609, 0619, 0620, 0622, 0623 and 0625 -- all of those  
24 in favor, say aye.

25 [collective aye]

1 All of those opposed. Any abstentions?

2 The ayes have it. If any member wants to vote on any  
3 one particular Resolution, please approach the desk.

4 General discussion, beginning with  
5 Council Member King.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Good afternoon. I  
7 rise today first just to remind the BLAC members that  
8 we have a caucus meeting right after here downstairs  
9 in the committee room; I wanna say early happy  
10 birthday to my colleague, Ritchie Torres, who shares  
11 the same birthday with me, as well as Rory Lancman,  
12 Karen Koslowitz, Council Member Gibson, Laurie Cumbo,  
13 all the Pisces in the house, happy birthday to all  
14 the Pisces. [background comments] But equally  
15 important, March is a very beautiful month for us  
16 all; it is also recognized as Women's Month and I  
17 wanna say to all the wives, the sisters, the aunts,  
18 the colleagues, those women who make us smile and who  
19 are in leadership, I wanna say thank you as we  
20 recognize you and this day and as in the tradition  
21 since I've been here... [background comments] aw..  
22 [background comments] I wanna say thank you to all  
23 the women for being great leaders, friends and  
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colleagues. Congratulations; happy Women's Month.  
[background comments]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Thank you. A round of applause for Council Member King.  
[applause, cheers] Thank you. Thank you, Council Member.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: That's from all of us.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [laugh] Council Member Reynoso. Quiet in the chambers, please.

[background comments]

Not here? Okay. Council Member Johnson. Quiet in the chambers.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Madame Public Advocate. Today I am proud to introduce two companion bills with Council Member Constantinides that will help protect New Yorkers from the effects of poor air quality. As we know, asthma, largely caused by poor air quality, is one of the leading causes of emergency room visits, hospitalizations and missed school days in New York, particularly in our city's lowest income neighborhoods. In fact, the top reason why our children are absent from schools is due to asthma.

1  
2 Typically diagnosed children miss between 10 and 30  
3 school days a year due to their symptoms. Overall, 1  
4 in 8 children in New York City suffer from asthma.  
5 We also know that our seniors are affected by poor  
6 air quality; [background comments] even low levels of  
7 pollution can have adverse... [crosstalk]

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the  
9 chambers. Apologize, Council Member. May we have  
10 quiet in the chambers, please?

11 [background comment]

12 Apologize. Thank you, Council Member.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: even low levels  
14 of pollution can have adverse health effects on  
15 seniors, particularly those with heart conditions.  
16 Poor air quality and pollution are directly linked to  
17 more serious respiratory and cardiovascular diseases;  
18 those with asthma are 10 times more likely to be  
19 diagnosed with chronic bronchitis, 12 times more  
20 likely to be diagnosed with COPD, 17 times more  
21 likely to be diagnosed with emphysema; extreme heat  
22 only worsens air quality in our city due to its  
23 creation of smog. Today's introduced bill combats  
24 the health risks directly posed by these  
25 environmental issue. We propose that the Health

1  
2 Department conduct an air quality survey annually  
3 and... [interpose]

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the  
5 chambers, please. Council Member Domenic Recchia,  
6 please quiet down. [laughter, background comments]  
7 Oh he exited. Thank you, welcome back. [laughter]

8 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Alright. We  
9 propose that the Health Department conduct an air  
10 quality survey annually that would be required to  
11 submit to the City Council, enabling the analysis of  
12 pollution patterns and how they vary based on  
13 location, as well as making recommendations for  
14 approving air quality here in the city.  
15 Additionally, the legislation will require the city's  
16 cooling center program to operate during both heat-  
17 related emergencies as well as on days with very low  
18 air quality level. The Health Department would be  
19 responsible posting a list of these cooling centers  
20 online and conducting an assertive public education  
21 campaign citywide [bell] to boost awareness of these  
22 centers. Please join me and Council Member  
23 Constantinides in supporting these bills today. I  
24 also have two other bills; please sign onto them.  
25 Thank you very much, Madame Public Advocate.

1  
2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. I  
3 have a pair of keys at the desk with a blink -- if  
4 you've misplaced your keys, please come to the desk.  
5 Council Member Garodnick.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank you,  
7 Madame Public Advocate. I rise today at the  
8 encourage of my friend, Council Member Dickens,  
9 [background comments] who thought I should share a  
10 few words about my recent visit to Selma, Alabama.

11 As many of you know, last weekend my wife  
12 Zoe and I had the privilege of traveling to Alabama  
13 to trace some of the steps of the foot soldiers of  
14 the Civil Rights Movement. We went because we wanted  
15 to pay respect to those who gave so much of  
16 themselves in pursuit of justice and who changed  
17 American history in the process. We sat in the 16th  
18 Street Baptist Church in Birmingham where a bomb  
19 exploded over 50 years ago, tragically stealing the  
20 lives of four young black girls while they were  
21 changing into their choir robes. We visited Browns  
22 Chapel in Selma, where ordinary Americans gathered to  
23 learn the tactics of nonviolence and steeled  
24 themselves for the unknown as they endeavored to  
25 march 55 miles to Montgomery to deliver a clear

1 message to the Alabama governor and ultimately to the  
2 world. And we went to the Edmund Pettus Bridge, the  
3 sight of Bloody Sunday, where so many of them were  
4 brutally attacked by an angry mob of police and  
5 others precisely 50 years ago. We were moved to see  
6 John Lewis and President Barack Obama embrace at the  
7 foot of the Edmund Pettus Bridge. The President,  
8 whose very presence next to that bridge spoke  
9 volumes, captured the spirit of America when we  
10 referred to the courage of the foot soldiers and  
11 asked, "What could be more American than what  
12 happened in this place?" He added, "Americans were  
13 born of change." And perhaps my most important  
14 takeaway from that weekend was the reminder that  
15 times have changed, but the work of Selma is not  
16 complete. There is so much more to do on so many  
17 levels and one example, a clear one, is the Supreme  
18 Court's recently striking down portions of the Voting  
19 Rights Act which gave the federal government the  
20 chance to pre-clear voting rules in areas with  
21 historic discrimination; at the same time, states are  
22 enacting laws designed to make it actually tougher  
23 for people to vote in a country that already has  
24 among the lowest voting rates among free nations. We



1  
2 need Congress to fix that; we should all add our  
3 voices and I hope you will join me. Thank you.

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

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you, Madame  
7 Public Advocate. I'd first like to give a shout-out  
8 to the members of TW Local 100 that's in the balcony  
9 up there for... [interpose]

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: May we have quiet  
11 in the chambers. Quiet in the chambers, please..  
12 [crosstalk]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: for moving New  
14 York City safely each and every day. I'm proud to  
15 rise today as a sponsor and a supporter of  
16 Resolutions 0610, 0611 and 0612, as we call for the  
17 State to grant New York City authority to enforce  
18 labor laws that serve to protect the dignity of  
19 working people throughout the five boroughs.  
20 Additionally, we are calling for the enhancement of  
21 the Wage Theft Prevention Act; we're asking Albany  
22 once again to empower our municipality the ability to  
23 raise its minimum wage.

24 While in other parts of the nation, such  
25 as Wisconsin earlier this week, we have seen the

1  
2 enactment of Right to Work laws and formerly strong  
3 pro-labor states collapse. We must remember the  
4 words of Dr. King and the glory of the civil rights  
5 is that we must guard against foolish slogans, such  
6 as Right to Work. They are not right to work, they  
7 are right to rob workers of rights. Whenever these  
8 laws have been passed, we see lower wages, job  
9 opportunities are fewer and there are no civil rights  
10 involved. We do not intend to let New York become  
11 one of those states. For this reason here in New  
12 York we are seizing the opportunity to serve as a  
13 beacon for working people across the nation. The  
14 Speaker's vision for an office of labor is the key  
15 step in this journey. As an activist and former  
16 labor leader and the Chair of Civil Service and  
17 Labor, I am excited and look forward to continuing  
18 the work in seeing this vision a reality. Thank you.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
20 Council Member Levin. Levine.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you, Madame  
22 Public Advocate. I want to remind members of the  
23 Jewish Caucus that we'll be meeting directly after  
24 this State downstairs in the conference room.

25

1  
2 I wanna call my colleagues' attention to  
3 an Intro I'm proud to be co-sponsoring with Council  
4 Member Williams and Borough President Brewer; this is  
5 Int. 0722, which will address the administrative code  
6 in relation to minimum temperatures required to be  
7 maintained in buildings. February was one of the  
8 coldest months our city has ever experienced as long  
9 as temperatures have been recorded. I'm sure many of  
10 you had calls flooding into your offices with  
11 complaints about inadequate heat. The law, as it  
12 turns out, is surprisingly weak in relation to the  
13 heating minimum required of building owners. As you  
14 may know, landlords are not required to provide any  
15 heat whatsoever if the overnight temperature is not  
16 40 degrees or lower; that means on a night when it's  
17 41 degrees out, landlords are not required to provide  
18 a single bit of heat, and when they do provide heat,  
19 the minimum temperature they must achieve is only 55  
20 degrees. In many cases when tenants are suffering  
21 from cold, the fact is the law is not on their side  
22 and this bill, Int. 0722, would change that by  
23 raising the trigger temperature overnight to 49  
24 degrees from 40 and to changing the minimum  
25 temperature required to be maintained in the

1  
2 apartments from 55 to 65 overnight; it would also  
3 change the minimum temperature required during the  
4 day from 55 to 58 degrees.

5 I also want to very quickly call your  
6 attention to Int. 0706, which I'm proud to be co-  
7 sponsoring with Council Member Dromm and others that  
8 would for the first time require the Department of  
9 Corrections to provide clear data on visitation to  
10 its facilities so we can prevent some of the terrible  
11 denials of visitation rights [bell] which our city  
12 has experienced recently. Thank you.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
14 Council Member Dromm. Council Member Dromm.  
15 [background comment]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you very  
17 much. Sorry; the speech is here; not where I was.

18 Today I'm joined by my colleagues in the  
19 LGBT Caucus in introducing a Resolution calling upon  
20 the New York State Legislature to pass the Gender  
21 Expression Nondiscrimination Act, commonly known as  
22 GENDA.

23 Statistics show that nearly 40 percent of  
24 transgender New Yorkers are not protected by any  
25 local ordinance and are vulnerable to job, housing

1  
2 and other forms of discrimination. If passed, GENDA  
3 will strengthen New York State's Human Rights Law by  
4 banning discrimination based upon gender identity and  
5 expression. Transgender New Yorkers have waited far  
6 too long for the basic protections that this bill  
7 offers. We urge the New York State Assembly and  
8 Senate to make GENDA a priority this legislative  
9 session. I ask my colleagues to sign on to  
10 Resolution 0614. Thank you very much.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
12 Council Member Williams.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you.  
14 First I wanna thank Council Member Andy King on  
15 behalf of all of the men in the City Council for  
16 doing what we collectively decided. [laughter]  
17 Thank you very much.

18 And I wanna call attention, my  
19 colleagues, to Int. 0721, a Local Law to [background  
20 comments] amend the New York City Charter in relation  
21 to green building standards for certain capital  
22 projects; this is a green building [background  
23 comments] to require all projects in which the City  
24 spends a certain amount of public funds to adopt  
25 stricter... [crosstalk]

1  
2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Excuse me,  
3 Council Member. [background comments] May we have  
4 some quiet in the chambers, please? We apologize,  
5 Council Member.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you.  
7 Thank you for stopping the clock too. ...public funds  
8 to adopt stricter LEED standards; new City-funded  
9 buildings will be required to adhere to higher LEED  
10 standards than before.

11 Also wanna call attention to Int. 0722,  
12 Council Member Levine did a good job in describing  
13 what that is; basically we wanna make sure our  
14 tenants are warm; even though they should be, they  
15 aren't and the law, as mentioned, is not on our their  
16 side.

17 And lastly, I was in Staten Island this  
18 morning with some of my colleagues, standing with  
19 Debi Rose, who I'm very proud to be serving with in  
20 this body, and David Thomas, David Jones and Rachel  
21 Goodman; particularly Rachel Goodman, who I know and  
22 very proud to have had her work on my campaign; they  
23 are being all -- frivolous is not even a word that  
24 describes what's happening to them right now, but I  
25 wanted to make sure I give them a shout-out and make

1  
2 sure that I and that many others will be standing  
3 with them and if I ever aspire to higher heights in  
4 elections, I'd be proud to have any one of them work  
5 on my campaign. Thank you.

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

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Thank you, Madame  
9 Public Advocate. Today I rise to introduce  
10 Resolution No. 0624, along with Council Members  
11 Donovan Richards and Mark Treyger, urging the Mayor  
12 to apply for the enrollment of New York City in the  
13 Federal Emergency Management Agency's Community  
14 Rating System (CRS). The Community Rating System is  
15 a volunteer program where municipalities that enroll  
16 can reduce National Flood Insurance premiums  
17 [background comment] for thousands of New York  
18 families who need immediate financial relief by  
19 implementing advanced flood plain management  
20 measures, some of the initiatives that the City has  
21 already in place. A municipality like New York City  
22 that enrolls in CRS can reduce flood insurance  
23 premiums in 5 percent increments up to 45 percent by  
24 completing certain credential activities relating to  
25 disseminating public information about flood risk,

1  
2 increasing flood preparedness, adopting more  
3 stringent flood zone maps and promulgating  
4 regulations to better protect buildings and other  
5 public infrastructure projects from flood damage.

6 Many of my constituents, as everyone here  
7 knows, suffered tremendously as a result of Hurricane  
8 Sandy, partly due to the fact that they live in low-  
9 lying areas in New York City that are close to the  
10 ocean and are prone to flooding. But this is a real  
11 opportunity for the City to help those people save  
12 money when the Biggert-Waters Act delay that went  
13 into effect last year expires in five years and so  
14 many of my constituents and people across Brooklyn  
15 and Staten Island and all across the city in the low-  
16 lying areas will experience skyrocketing flood  
17 insurance premiums that's only gonna drive up the  
18 cost of living in New York. So this is a real and  
19 practical way that the City of New York can help  
20 people [background comment] mitigate those rising  
21 costs when they start to go up and actually help  
22 homeowners who were affected by Hurricane Sandy  
23 because quite frankly, so many of them are not back  
24 on their feet and they deserve [bell] and they need  
25 the help the most. Thank you very much.



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

4 [background comments]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. Good  
6 afternoon. I'd like to draw my colleagues' attention  
7 to Int. 0702, which I'm pleased to be co-sponsoring  
8 with our Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito.

9 Int. 0702 would call upon the Department  
10 for the Aging, Department of Housing, Preservation  
11 and Development and the Department of Buildings to  
12 develop and distribute information to owners about  
13 how they can make it easier for their tenants to  
14 safely age in place. The guide will include things  
15 like improving access for tenants with limited  
16 mobility and offering suggestions regarding senior-  
17 friendly building design.

18 In a city with a rapidly growing senior  
19 population, this is something relatively simple that  
20 will help make our city more age friendly. I urge my  
21 colleagues to support. Thank you.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member  
23 Barron.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Madame  
25 Public Advocate. As we know, March has been

1 designated at Women's History Month and I just wanna  
2 share a brief bio of another one of my heroes, Mary  
3 McLeod Bethune. She was born July 10, 1875 and she  
4 died May 18, 1955. She was born in a log cabin in  
5 South Carolina; she was the 15th of 17 children;  
6 [background comments] she was the only one of her  
7 siblings to be able to go to school; she walked five  
8 miles to school every day and five miles back; that's  
9 been documented. We know sometimes some of our  
10 elders tell us, I had to walk five miles uphill to  
11 school and five miles back home uphill again, but  
12 it's documented that she had to walk that distance  
13 every day to go to school; when she came home she  
14 shared what she had learned with her siblings. Her  
15 desire was to become a missionary and her training  
16 was through the seminary schools, but she did not go  
17 to a mission in other countries, but she did fulfill  
18 a great mission here in the United States. She moved  
19 to Daytona, Florida and she established a school for  
20 girls; she started with just five students and her  
21 son. That school went on to merge with has now  
22 become known as Bethune-Cookman College. Mary McLeod  
23 Bethune was an adviser to five different presidents;  
24 she went on to become the chapter president of the  
25

1  
2 National Association of Colored Women and she went on  
3 to be honored with a stamp and my time is running  
4 out, but I just wanna share with you what she said  
5 was her last will and testament. "I leave you love,  
6 I leave you hope, I leave you with the challenge of  
7 developing confidence in one another. I leave a  
8 thirst for education, I leave you a respect for the  
9 use of power, [bell] I leave you faith, I leave you  
10 racial dignity; I leave you with a desire to live  
11 harmoniously with your fellow man. I leave you with  
12 a responsibility to our young people." Thank you.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
14 Council Member Rose.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: My colleagues, I  
16 rise out of a sincere sense of gratitude for the  
17 support that the members of this august body has  
18 showed me over the past two years and I couldn't let  
19 today pass without thanking all of you for your  
20 support and help and love. Thank you so much.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: We love you,  
22 Debi. Council Member Ferrares [sic].

23 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Ferrares, yes.  
24 [laughter]

25

1 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Ferreras.

2 Ferrares.

3  
4 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Thank you,  
5 Public Advocate. First I would like to thank all the  
6 sponsors of our Resolution in favor of the Paid  
7 Family Leave Insurance Act, Speaker Mark-Viverito,  
8 Council Member Lancman and Council Member Cumbo. I  
9 was very pleased to see in today's news that the  
10 State Senate included the creation of a Paid Family  
11 Leave Program in its budget proposal. To our  
12 colleagues in Albany, we deeply appreciate and look  
13 forward to your serious consideration of this  
14 Resolution during your negotiations and I'm hopeful  
15 that Paid Family Leave Insurance Act will be passed.  
16 Not having to choose between getting a paycheck and  
17 being able to care for your newborn during the first  
18 few months of their life is vital.

19 I would also like to thank all the  
20 sponsors of the Resolution for the Wage Theft  
21 Prevention, Speaker Mark-Viverito, Council Members  
22 Torres, Lancman, Johnson, Miller and Public Advocate  
23 James. I am proud of our Resolution in support of  
24 Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal's Anti-Wage Theft  
25 Bill, which would further strengthen the existing

1 laws. The issue of stolen wages is particularly  
2 relevant in my district and Council Member Dromm's  
3 district, which is the heart of the immigrant  
4 community, so I fully support giving working families  
5 a tool to collect their hard-earned money. I'd like  
6 to acknowledge NICE, the Urban Justice Center and  
7 Make the Road for having been great partners in this  
8 battle and I thank them, as well as Catholic  
9 Migrations; this has been a fight that we're doing  
10 together and to finally get some resolution to this  
11 is something that all immigrant families that have  
12 their wages not paid deserve. Thank you. And.. Thank  
13 you... [crosstalk]

14  
15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: I apologize,  
16 Julissa Ferreras. [background comment] Council  
17 Member Cumbo.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you. I  
19 wanna start by saying I'm very pleased that Council  
20 Member Garodnick was able to represent us in Selma;  
21 although I was not able to be there, I was very  
22 pleased that Borough President Eric Adams organized a  
23 coalition of thousands of New Yorkers to walk over  
24 the Brooklyn Bridge in solidarity and it was such a  
25 phenomenal experience, with Council Member Menchaca,

1 Council Members Treyger and Williams and many others  
2 who walked over the Brooklyn Bridge, Council Member  
3 -- excuse me, Public Advocate Letitia James; it was a  
4 phenomenal experience. But it was also phenomenal in  
5 Borough Hall to watch the speech with so many others,  
6 hundreds of individuals were able to experience the  
7 speech at Borough Hall collectively and together and  
8 we felt like we were part of that history made that  
9 day. It also transcends into the sentiments of  
10 President Barack Obama's, to recognize the progress  
11 that has been made thus far and I felt that at the  
12 Beijing U.N. anniversary; it was an incredible  
13 opportunity to look at where we are as women today  
14 and 20 years later some of the battles and some of  
15 the statistics that have improved are that we have 45  
16 percent fewer maternal deaths worldwide in 1990; we  
17 have 2 billion women gained access to clean drinking  
18 water from 1990-2010; also, the percentage of women  
19 in Parliament has nearly doubled in the last 20 years  
20 but only translates into 22 percent of women in  
21 Parliament today. We in the City Council in the next  
22 election cycle have to get our numbers up of women  
23 represented in the City Council. At least 50 percent  
24 of the world's women are in paid wage and salary  
25

1  
2 employment and increased from 40 percent in the  
3 1990s; 25 women CEOs lead Fortune 500 companies  
4 today, compared to 1 in 1998 or 5 percent of all CEOs  
5 on the list. So there is a lot that's been done; a  
6 lot more to go. I also want to acknowledge a dynamic  
7 woman in my district, Public Advocate Letitia James  
8 [bell] and Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito; we were  
9 pleased to attend the Jewish Children's Museum's 10th  
10 anniversary, Devorah Halberstam, the Director,  
11 phenomenal woman, and she recognized sadly that this  
12 was the 21st anniversary of the death of her son Ari  
13 Halberstam and she's utilized that pain to create an  
14 institution in my district representing diverse  
15 cultural Jewish history at that particular museum.  
16 And that's it. Thank you.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. And  
18 lastly, I'd like to invite my colleagues to sign onto  
19 Int. No. 0714; this bill would require New York City  
20 Department of Sanitation to establish a program to  
21 assist seniors and people with disabilities with snow  
22 removal [background comments] and to cut fines for  
23 failure to remove snow from sidewalks by at least 50  
24 percent for these individuals. In another year of  
25 remarkable snowfall, Department of Sanitation has so

1  
2 far issued more than 10,000 tickets to homeowners for  
3 failure to clear snow. I believe it is vital for the  
4 city to ensure the safety of New Yorkers after  
5 significant snowfall; in this case, that means both  
6 ensuring that all of our sidewalks are clear and  
7 ensuring that our seniors and people with  
8 disabilities do not injure themselves in an attempt  
9 to avoid hefty fines. A key change in this bill is  
10 to improvement pavement for volunteers by contracting  
11 with not-for-profit organizations to assist with snow  
12 removal from sidewalks and curb cuts. Under the  
13 current program, single-day workers often wait 4-8  
14 weeks for payment, which discourages many of them  
15 from participating in this important work. Please  
16 sign on to Int. 0714.

17 And to close, Madame Speaker, Melissa  
18 Mark-Viverito. And I still have keys, they look like  
19 house keys and access.. [interpose]

20 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Blink Fitness..

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: to a Blink  
22 Fitness Club. If you don't use it, I can certainly  
23 use it, so. Madame Speaker.

24 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: No, thank you,  
25 Madame Public Advocate. It's been a full day, not



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much more to say; I think we're adjourned. Thank  
you.

C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date March 28, 2015