

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

STATED MEETING

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October 22, 2014  
Start: 1:33 p.m.  
Recess: 3:40 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  
Julissa Ferreras

## COUNCIL MEMBERS: (CONTINUED)

Daniel R. Garodnick  
Vincent 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)

Melody Kellogg

Principal

Emma Lazarus High School

Andy Casares

Former Student

Emma Lazarus High School

Mei Qui Lin

Student Government President

Emma Lazarus High School

Nacibas Mayilva [sp?]

Student

Emma Lazarus High School

Jesus Rodriguez

Former Student

Emma Lazarus High School

Dionne Wyatt Mokolo

Parent

Emma Lazarus High School

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STATED MEETING

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SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Alright, good afternoon everybody, we're gonna get started; we have only one ceremonial today, but it's a good one, so... [laughter] we have a ceremonial that's being presented by Council Member Chin, with also Council Members Dromm and Menchaca, who I think will be coming up shortly, but in the meantime I'll hand it over to Margaret. This is to recognize Emma Lazarus High School for their academic excellence and their being named by Newsweek Magazine as the number one high school in the United States for low-income students and number 20 out of all high schools in America, so that is quite an accomplishment and Council Member Chin will let us know more.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you, Madame Speaker. Good afternoon everyone. [background comments] We have always known that we have great public schools in New York City and especially in my district. [laugh] So but one of those schools recently gained a particularly outstanding honor, Emma Lazarus High School, for English language scholars who serve our immigrant community... [interpose, background comment] Oh okay. Yes, let's invite up... [laugh] [background comments] Emma Lazarus

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High School, [laughter] the principal, [background comments] Melody Kellogg, [background comments] the staff, the faculty, [background comment] the students; come on up. [applause] [background comment] Anisha [sp?], the guidance counselor who happened to be a high school student when I was working at her high school. [background comments] [laugh] So we go way back. Come on up. [background comments] Yes, that's Principal, Melody. [background comments] I'd like to also ask my colleague to come up and join us. [background comments].

Okay. [background comments] Okay, good afternoon. [background comments] Now we have always known that we have great public schools in New York City, right, [background comments] but especially in my district, [laughter] in District 1, on the Lower East Side, Chinatown, we have one of those schools who recently gained a particularly outstanding honor, Emma Lazarus High School, for English language scholars who serve our immigrant community and students who are learning English as a second language, has distinguished itself as the best of the best; Emma Lazarus has been named the nation's number

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one high school for low-income students by Newsweek Magazine and the nation's number 20 high school overall. Melody Kellogg, the principal of Emma Lazarus High School, is a true leader in closing the education gap and showing why our public schools are an incredible place to learn. So today it is my pleasure to present this City Council Proclamation to Principal Kellogg and some of the outstanding students, staff, parents and founders at Emma Lazarus High School. Congratulations to all of you on your remarkable achievement and I know that you will continue to make our district and the whole city proud. Joining me on this proclamation is our Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito, Council Member Danny Dromm, who's the chair of the Education Committee, and Council Member Carlos Menchaca, who is chair of our Immigration Committee. So the Clerk, could you read the proc? Thank you.

[background comments, laughter]

CITY CLERK: Council, City of New York Proclamation. The Council of the City of New York is proud to honor Emma Lazarus High School for five years of academic excellence and to congratulate the school for its most recent achievement. And whereas,

1  
2 Emma Lazarus High School, located in Manhattan at 100  
3 Hester Street, is named after a New York City poet  
4 most famous for her words that appear at the Statue  
5 of Liberty, "Give me your tired, your poor, Your  
6 huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched  
7 refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the  
8 homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside  
9 the golden door!"

10                   Today the school embodies the spirit of  
11 these lines by providing second-language students  
12 with a safe, secure and academically rigorous  
13 environment and program that prepares them with a  
14 firm foundation to enter institutions of higher  
15 learning, to global economy and the world of work.  
16 And whereas, Emma Lazarus High School opened its  
17 doors in 2009 as a part of a Department of Education  
18 initiative for new small schools. It fulfilled the  
19 long-time dream of its visionary founder and current  
20 principal, Melody Kellogg; under her leadership the  
21 2nd and 4th floors of an old YMCA building have been  
22 transformed into a bustling school that supports  
23 diverse students 16 years of age and older who learn  
24 English as they complete their high school studies  
25 and prepare for the future. And whereas, in addition

1  
2 to Principal Kellogg, Emma Lazarus High School owes  
3 its success to its tireless, multicultural staff, all  
4 of whom are trained to support the needs of ESL  
5 students, as well as their families. With a student  
6 population comprised of more than 18 different  
7 language groups, the staff shares an incredible  
8 challenge, but they have embraced the opportunity and  
9 the results speak for themselves. School-wide  
10 curriculums meet common core standards and students  
11 are required to [background comment] take the New  
12 York State Regents Exams. In recent years, pass  
13 rates for algebra, algebra II, geometry, languages  
14 other than English, and U.S. history exams have  
15 exceeded 90 percent. And whereas, this year Newsweek  
16 Magazine named Emma Lazarus High School the number  
17 one high school in the United States for low-income  
18 students and number 20 out of all high schools in  
19 America. We wish the school, its students and its  
20 staff continued success in the years ahead. Now  
21 therefore be it known, that the Council of the City  
22 of New York honors and congratulates the staff and  
23 students at Emma Lazarus High School for their  
24 outstanding work that led to its ranking as the  
25 number one high school in America for low-income



1  
2 students and commends them for creating a model for  
3 other schools across the nation. Melissa Mark-  
4 Viverito, Speaker for the Entire Council; Margaret S.  
5 Chin, Council Member 1st District, Manhattan, Daniel  
6 Dromm, Chair Committee on Education, Carlos Menchaca,  
7 Chair Committee on Immigration. Thank you.

8 [cheers, applause]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: So I'd like to  
10 invite the principal, Melody Kellogg, to say a few  
11 words and maybe some of the students after you.

12 MELODY KELLOGG: Absolutely. Thank you  
13 so much, that as a lot of what I was gonna say,  
14 [laugh] so. So, Speaker, Councilmen; Margaret, thank  
15 you so much; not surprisingly, this is a really big  
16 honor for us and it has a lot of meaning because what  
17 it says is that a New York City public high school  
18 can go head to head with some of the highest-income  
19 schools in the nation and still rank [applause,  
20 cheers] one and 20... yeah. And you know, it also says  
21 that with the right supports, with good quality  
22 instruction, with dedicated teachers and with  
23 students that get onboard, there's really nothing  
24 that we as educators can't accomplish, even with  
25 students that are often identified as not having

1 strong graduation rates; they can be successful.

2 'Kay. [background comments] Thank you. [background

3 comments] [applause] This is fun. [laughter] So

4 just very quickly, you [sic] already you a lot about

5 Emma Lazarus; we opened our doors in 2009, our

6 mission was to be able to provide a rigorous college

7 preparatory education for second-language students.

8 'Kay. We started with a non-standard instructional

9 model and we started with a lot of practices that

10 were not standard; however, one of the things that we

11 did go into this believing is that regardless of

12 anything, every student that we had could and would

13 be successful, and with that foundation of belief we

14 were able to accomplish a lot of what we're able to

15 do.

16  
17 We gave you a lot of information about

18 our kids -- their ages, average entry time [sic] is

19 17 to 18 years of age, they enter as beginners, we

20 have over 18 languages in the school right now and

21 everyone of our students are second-language

22 students. So these are kind of numbers and stuff,

23 but what these kids are to us, and I think the reason

24 we work well, is because we see them as young adults

25 and we see them as young adults who just wanna learn

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and develop and have a place to do it in, so we too are appreciative to the DOE for letting us open the school and provide the service.

Everyone you see around you here today is either a student, current or former, a parent or one of the founding members of the school, so what I wanna do too is just very publicly thank them, because what we've accomplished doesn't come because they just did their jobs; it happened because everybody gave extra, went above and beyond and that's what allowed us to be successful. So that being said, to go back to the proclamation, Madame Speaker, Councilwoman Chin, we very much appreciate... Council Members, Councilwoman Chin, thank you so much for being a supporter of our school and for everything you've done; we consider ourselves very fortunate to be in your district. 'Kay. So the only other thing... [applause] thank you... [background comment] the only other thing that I wanted to do was just give a couple of our students the opportunity to introduce themselves so you could [background comments] get a sense of what the school was through our students' eyes and why they felt the school did work for them. So if I may... [background comment]

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STATED MEETING

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good. So this is Andy Caceres, he graduated from us last year and I'm gonna let him speak [applause] briefly to you. [background comment]

ANDY CACERES: Thank you, Miss Melody.

[background comments] So once again, my name is Andy Caceres; I'm from Ecuador. I was in Emma Lazarus High School for four years; actually, it's a tremendous place and I would like to give you a description of what Emma Lazarus really meant to me.

So I say that Emma Lazarus is basically like an apple tree; it may have started as a small tree, but it grew up to what it is now, okay. So we start with the trunk, which in this case are you, Principal Kellogg, Mr. Heckethorn, as Assistant Principal, and also Miss Yang and everybody in the main office. Then we move to the top, to the branches, which means all the professors and advisors; they were really strong and support us in everything; they made us believe that we were more than what anyone else could have told us we were. Then we reach to the fruit, the apple; in this case, we are the apple, because we are the fruit of the hard work that you guys put into us and the passion that you show us.

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STATED MEETING

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I feel honored to be in this place; I mean with you sharing this special moment and I would like to finish with the same words all of you told me -- good job and keep up the great work, Emma Lazarus. [laughter] Thank you. [applause, cheers, background comments]

MEI QI LIN: Hi everyone, my name is Mei Qi Lin and I am a student at Emma Lazarus High School and I'm also the current student government president. [background comment] As a senior student at Emma Lazarus High School I couldn't be more grateful for what this school has offered me. Everyday I walk into the school with warm smiles and greetings; I feel loved and welcomed.

English is our second language and it is hard for us to learn it when we first arrive, but this school has very unique language learning programs for students like us. Emma Lazarus provides us with academic tools that I never dreamed of having. We use equipment such as iPads, video cameras, audio recorders and professional software on a daily basis.

The teachers do a really good job for helping us... [background comments] helping our

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academic area [sic] and even more, they also help us to get to know how the real world is. As an immigrant student, we gradually adapted to American culture with our teachers' help and advice. We are a diverse community and with more than 18 different languages spoken at the school; while we learn English together, we also learn multiple cultures around the world. This is more than just a school for me; this is the place where I can share my thoughts and a place I've settled into. I've learned a lot here and I've become more creative, competent and I feel really energetic everyday; I feel prepared to step into a society and to put forth my efforts, thanks to Emma Lazarus.

[background comments, applause]

NACIBAS MAYILVA: Hello everyone, my name is Nacibas [sp?] Mayilva [sp?]; I'm from Uzbekistan; I have been here in New York for two years. First I attended a high school in Queens; I studied there for almost one year, but I got lost in the crowd of mainstream students, so naturally I spent most of time speaking Uzbek with Uzbek students; I didn't learn anything; I decide that changing school was the only way to improve my English. At Emma Lazarus,

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teachers are caring and teach in a way to make sure we all understand the content of our classes, even we are just learning English. I'm so comfortable here because the teachers make sure I'm never lost in the crowd. Teachers give us hands-on activities; projects to make it exciting. This style of teaching has really helped me learn English and learn the content I need to pass my exams. Now my friends are from different countries, like China, Poland, Panama and others; I don't feel so alone because I know there are many students who face the same challenge as me. It was a difficult decision to change schools, but I know it was the right one for me because I have learned not only academic subjects, but I have learned a lot how to become a better person. Thank you.

[laughter, applause, cheers]

JESUS RODRIGUEZ: Good afternoon, my name is Jesus Rodriguez; I was a first student from Emma Lazarus High School 2009. The first time I meet Miss Kellogg, I felt like comfortable with her, because all teamwork was the greatest. When I come to Dominican Republic, I can't speak or write or understand English; I spent four years in Emma

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2 Lazarus; it being my second home. Every morning I  
3 wake up, I say, oh I need to go to high school, I  
4 felt like I go to my second home, because I met one  
5 of my best friends; I met great people; I shared my  
6 ability and my speak [sic] and my understanding  
7 developing the greatest gift, like I feel thankful to  
8 be here as a congratulation for all you do to us.

9 [background comments] You make a warm environment we  
10 can feel safe, we can speak, we can learn; thank you  
11 for all your hard work; thank you Emma Lazarus High  
12 School.

13 [background comments, applause, cheers,  
14 laughter]

15 DIONNE WYATT MOKOLO: Hello, my name is  
16 Dionne Wyatt Mokolo. I had two children from Gabon  
17 who didn't speak a word of English. When they came,  
18 I went to find what school they can go to; I was  
19 directed to Emma Lazarus and they were absolutely  
20 amazing. The day I came in, Miss Stacey made us feel  
21 at home, helped us, you know, helped us say that we...  
22 my children will learn English, they will get their  
23 high school diploma and to this day they are now in  
24 college; they speak English, they have excelled and I  
25 am so proud to be a parent of Emma Lazarus High



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School; the staff is amazing, Miss Ramos is amazing, your staff... to teach these children from different countries English in a short time is amazing and I thank you. I thank you. Thank you, Miss Chin.

[applause, background comments]

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Well great, thank you so much; I mean it really is powerful to hear the success of the school, but even more so through the words of the young people that have experienced that teaching and that experience. So thank you so much for sharing it. I think we wanna take some photos [background comments] and then... that's the last of our ceremonial. Thank you.

[pause]

[background comments]

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay, we're gonna try to move along, [gavel] but we're gonna try... [background comments] Can we keep quiet a minute? [background comments] Before we get started we're gonna ask all of the... [background comment] all the members wearing pink and we wanna take a photo in the front, those of you wearing the tee shirts, I guess we wanna take a photo in the front before we get started, because now we're gonna lose people. So the

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women... the women wanna do it... the Women's Committee...  
[background comments] Should we do the... [pause]  
[background comments] Although we appreciate the  
support of our male colleagues, this will be a photo  
of just the women council members. [background  
comments].

[pause]

[background comments]

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Alright, we're  
ready to go.

MALE VOICE: Ladies and gentlemen, can I  
have your attention please? Quiet on the floor,  
please. Quiet on the floor. [background comments]  
[gavel] At this time, please place all cell phones,  
electronic devices to vibrate. Will all non-Council  
employees, all non-Council employees please leave the  
main floor of the chambers? Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the  
chambers. Everyone, please have a seat; visitors,  
please find a seat; members. [background comments]  
Let us all rise for the pledge of allegiance.

[background comments]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Roll call.

[background comments]

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STATED MEETING

CITY CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

[background comments]

[gavel]

[background comment]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet for roll  
call.

CITY CLERK: Barron.

[background comments]

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

[background comments]

CITY CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

CITY CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

CITY CLERK: Cohen.

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.

CITY CLERK: Constantinides.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Here.

CITY CLERK: Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Present.

CITY CLERK: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

CITY CLERK: Cumbo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Present.  
CITY CLERK: Deutsch.  
COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.  
CITY CLERK: Dickens. Dromm.  
COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.  
CITY CLERK: Espinal. Eugene.  
COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.  
CITY CLERK: Ferreras. Garodnick.  
COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.  
CITY CLERK: Gentile.  
COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.  
[background comments]  
CITY CLERK: Gibson.  
[background comments]  
COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Present.  
CITY CLERK: Greenfield.  
COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Here.  
CITY CLERK: Johnson.  
COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Here.  
CITY CLERK: Kallos.  
COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.  
CITY CLERK: King.  
COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Present.  
CITY CLERK: Koo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.  
CITY CLERK: Koslowitz. Lancman.  
COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Present.  
CITY CLERK: Lander.  
COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Present.  
CITY CLERK: Levin.  
COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.  
CITY CLERK: Levine. Maisel.  
COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Here.  
[background comments]  
CITY CLERK: Matteo.  
COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.  
CITY CLERK: Mealy. Menchaca. Mendez.  
COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.  
CITY CLERK: Miller.  
COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Present.  
CITY CLERK: Palma. Reynoso.  
COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Here.  
CITY CLERK: Richards.  
COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.  
CITY CLERK: Rodriguez.  
COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.  
CITY CLERK: Rose.  
COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

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CITY CLERK: Rosenthal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

CITY CLERK: Torres.

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Here.

CITY CLERK: Treyger.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

CITY CLERK: Ulrich. Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

CITY CLERK: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

CITY CLERK: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

CITY CLERK: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

CITY CLERK: Wills. Ignizio. Van

Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

CITY CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Here.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please rise for

the invocation delivered by Rev. David K. Brawley,

Pastor of St. Paul Community Baptist Church, 859

Hendrix Street in the Borough of Brooklyn.

[background comment] Quiet in the chambers, please.

1  
2 REV. DAVID K. BRAWLEY: To the Speaker;  
3 our Public Advocate, I'm delighted to be here today;  
4 let us pray together. God of all creation, we take  
5 this moment to acknowledge your presence in this  
6 assembly. We thank you for the opportunity to gather  
7 together this day and to reason together on behalf of  
8 this city. We are admonished over and over again to  
9 pray for leaders who have the charge over us to pray  
10 for those who maintain the peace of this city for  
11 which we find ourselves. So we gather in your name,  
12 humbly seeking your leadership, your will and your  
13 wisdom as we discharge our duties as representatives  
14 of your people this day, today and every day. Give  
15 us the ability to selflessly serve in the stead of  
16 all New Yorkers, our seniors who have built a great  
17 legacy in this, our city and our youth, who right now  
18 sit in school being prepared to become better  
19 citizens of our world; being a servant and a servant  
20 leader is a serious job oh god. Let not our  
21 individual voices speak today, but our global voice  
22 as representatives of those who have given this body  
23 permission to serve and the expectation that we will  
24 do our best to ensure better quality of life for them  
25 as the people who make this great city what it is.

1  
2 We ask that you would guide and direct our Speaker,  
3 the Council and this meeting so that it is full of  
4 wisdom, productivity and that we all speak and act in  
5 respect for one another. Help us today to accomplish  
6 our goals while displaying your character. In the  
7 spirit of god we pray and give thanks. Amen and  
8 amen.

9 [background comment]

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please be seated.  
11 Motion to spread the invocation, Council Member Inez  
12 Barron. [background comments] Quiet in the  
13 chambers, please.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Madame  
15 Public Advocate. It's my pleasure to ask that we  
16 spread the invocation in full upon the record and I  
17 just want to make some comments about Pastor David  
18 Brawley. He is the senior pastor at St. Paul's  
19 Community Baptist Church, which is located in the  
20 42nd Council District, which of course is my  
21 district. He is a part of the East Brooklyn  
22 Congregations; they are responsible for hundreds of  
23 thousands of housing units that are affordable to the  
24 community in which we live which has a median income  
25 of about \$30,000. He has many programs in his church



1  
2 addressed not just for the congregation, but for the  
3 community as well and they include a summer literacy  
4 program, an organization called E.D.I.F.Y., which is  
5 empowering and developing and improving families and  
6 youth, Jewels, which is the organization for females,  
7 Eldad, which is for males and includes a male dance  
8 of artistic expression, and Chionesu Bakari. They  
9 have a deaf ministry, they have the sacred arts and  
10 they also have the Imagine Me Charter School for  
11 boys.

12           The church, under the leadership of  
13 Pastor Brawley has done outreach on domestic violence  
14 and they have programs targeted for two NYCHA  
15 developments; they're seated between Linden Houses  
16 and Boulevard Houses and they have programs of  
17 outreach for them. They are in the process of  
18 completing senior housing, which once again, is  
19 affordable and they, for me, are so well-known,  
20 celebrating their 20th anniversary of the Maafa,  
21 which is an acknowledgement of the transatlantic  
22 slave horrors and it presents an opportunity to  
23 analyze a situation, talk about it's impact and  
24 address means for healing. So it is with great  
25 pleasure that I acknowledge him and ask that the

1  
2 invocation be spread in full upon the record. Thank  
3 you so much.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Also joining the  
5 motion to spread the invocation, a member of St.  
6 Paul's Community Baptist Church, Council Member  
7 Jumaane Williams.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you,  
9 Madame Public Advocate. This will be remised if I  
10 didn't say anything; happens to be probably the best  
11 pastor in Brooklyn; the best pastor in New York City;  
12 since I joined there 8-10 years ago, a spiritual  
13 enliftment [sic] has been fantastic; the wonderful  
14 programs that were mentioned, [background comments]  
15 particularly the focus on the young black males of  
16 East New York... [interpose]

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Excuse me Council  
18 Member. May we have quiet in the chambers, please?  
19 Sorry.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: it's something  
21 that is needed and I hope mimicked in many of the  
22 churches across the City; the discipline and the  
23 pride that is given to those young men is very  
24 important, and of course, their focus on the Jewel  
25 ministry for the women of the area, and I've had the

1  
2 pleasure of presenting in Maafa for I think three or  
3 four years straight, is also a source of pride for  
4 myself; just wanted to make sure I participated and I  
5 thank Council Member Barron for bringing the pastor  
6 here and for allowing me to participate in spreading  
7 the invocation.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

9 Adoption of Minutes. Council Member Menchaca.  
10 Motion that the Minutes of the Stated Meeting of  
11 September 23rd be adopted as printed.

12 Messages and Papers from the Mayor.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Communications  
15 from City, County and Borough Offices.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: M 0154 to M 0183 on  
17 Page 5, Base Station Licenses.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Petitions and  
19 Communications.

20 [background comments]

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: It goes to  
22 Transportation.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: No Petitions and  
24 Communications.

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STATED MEETING

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Land Use Call-Ups.

COMMITTEE CLERK: M 0184 to M 0187.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on Call-Up Vote. As for a roll call vote.

CITY CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

[background comments]

CITY CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I'd like to vote aye on all Call-Ups and with permission, I'd like to vote on all Coupled General Orders and Resolutions. Yes. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Uhm-hm.

CITY CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Cohen.

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Constantinides.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye on all.

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CITY CLERK: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Cumbo.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Dickens. Dromm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Espinal. Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Ferreras. Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Like to vote aye  
on all Call-Ups and with permission, I'd like to vote  
on all Coupled General Orders.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: I vote no on  
0486-A and 0487-A and aye on the remainder.

CITY CLERK: Gibson.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I vote aye.

CITY CLERK: Greenfield.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Johnson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Kallos.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

CITY CLERK: King.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Koslowitz. Lancman.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Lander. Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Levine. Maisel.

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Matteo.

COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Mealy.

[pause]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Did she vote?

[background comment] Council Member Mealy, how do  
you vote on Land Use Call-Ups?

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

CITY CLERK: Menchaca.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.

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CITY CLERK: Mendez.  
COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.  
CITY CLERK: Miller.  
COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.  
CITY CLERK: Palma. Reynoso.  
COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.  
CITY CLERK: Richards.  
COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.  
CITY CLERK: Rodriguez. Rose.  
COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.  
CITY CLERK: Rosenthal.  
COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.  
CITY CLERK: Torres.  
COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye.  
CITY CLERK: Treyger.  
COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.  
CITY CLERK: Ulrich. Vacca.  
COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.  
CITY CLERK: Vallone.  
COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.  
CITY CLERK: Weprin. Williams.  
COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.  
CITY CLERK: Wills. Lander.  
COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

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STATED MEETING

CITY CLERK: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I vote eye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

Today's Land Use Call-Ups are adopted by a vote of 43 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative. All quiet in the chambers, please quiet in the chambers for communication from the Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Madame Public Advocate and good afternoon. Buenas tardes to all my colleagues. I first of all would like to recognize that we have been joined here today by the Minority Leader of the Turin City Council in Italy; we have Fabrizio Ricca [sp?] who's with us... [applause] as well as his Chief of Staff, Matteo Becutti [sp?] [applause]. So we say benvenuti to both of you; thank you for being here.



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2           So good afternoon; I also wanna just  
3 acknowledge that one of our colleagues is not with us  
4 today because she just recently had... my understanding  
5 is knee surgery and that's Annabel Palma, so we  
6 obviously wish her well in her recuperation.

7           Before we get started with the  
8 legislation I want to acknowledge that October is  
9 Breast Cancer Awareness Month, so you're gonna see a  
10 lot of pink flying around here today. There are more  
11 than 2.8 million people in the United States today  
12 who have been treated for breast cancer; we know that  
13 this is a health crisis that affects everyone and we  
14 need to get everyone involved to defeat it. During  
15 Breast Cancer Awareness Month is a good time to  
16 remember that frequent screenings and early detection  
17 are crucial in the fight to curb breast cancer-  
18 related deaths and I especially wanna thank Council  
19 Members Laurie Cumbo and Corey Johnson for their  
20 incredible work around this issue and for  
21 coordinating all of us wearing our shirts today.

22 [applause, cheers]

23           I'd also like to acknowledge that a week...  
24 on a separate matter, I wanna also acknowledge that a  
25 week from today marks the second anniversary when

1  
2 Sandy hit New York City's coastline. Countless  
3 families and business had so much taken from them in  
4 this natural disaster and two years later we still  
5 have a lot of work to do as we continue to rebuild.  
6 This Council remains dedicated to restoration efforts  
7 and I especially wanna recognize Council Member Mark  
8 Treyger for his work on these issues as the Chair of  
9 the Recovery and Resiliency Committee. [applause]

10           On legislative matters, today we're gonna  
11 be voting on a bill sponsored by Council Member Rory  
12 Lancman, requiring that taxi and livery vehicles post  
13 signs stating that the penalty for assaulting a  
14 driver is up to 25 years in prison. Statistically,  
15 taxi and livery drivers are at far greater risk of  
16 facing physical threats or assaults than other  
17 workers. So far this year more than 40 drivers have  
18 been assaulted on the job. This legislation will  
19 make clear the serious criminal penalties, including  
20 lengthy incarceration that can result from attacking  
21 a driver. I'd like to thank Laura Popa, Matt Gewolb,  
22 Kelly Taylor and Gefarzay [sp?] Law [sic], Jonathan  
23 Masserano and Lyle Frank for their work on this bill,  
24 and with that I'd like to ask Council Member Lancman  
25 to say a few words.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Thank you,  
Madame Speaker.

The men and women who drive our taxis and livery cars for a living play a vital role in our city's mass transit system and they pay a terrible price for it. As the Speaker mentioned they suffer a tremendously higher rate of on-the-job assaults and attacks, there have been, in this year alone, over 40 assaults on taxi and livery drivers and this legislation will make sure that anybody who gets inside a taxi or a livery or for-hire vehicle knows that there are very, very serious consequences to assaulting or attacking that driver and they will know that we in the City Council, we in City government care enough about those drivers, their families; their safety that we took the time to pass this legislation.

So I wanna thank the Speaker and the Chair of the Transportation Committee, Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez, and all of my colleagues who are voting for this legislation today for taking this important step forward to make sure that those who play such an important role in our transit system

1  
2 here in New York City get this added measure of  
3 protection. Thank you.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,  
5 Council Member. We also have legislation sponsored  
6 by Council Member Antonio Reynoso that will require  
7 the Department of Education to provide an annual  
8 report to the Council detailing information about the  
9 number of guidance counselors and social workers in  
10 each school for each school year. The report would  
11 include the number of full- and part-time guidance  
12 counselors and social workers, the guidance counselor  
13 and social workers to student ratio, as well as the  
14 number of staff in each school that has been trained  
15 in college readiness. Data from advocates and  
16 testimony from students suggest that there are wide  
17 discrepancies in the guidance counselor to student  
18 ratio across the system and this report from the DOE  
19 will allow us to better examine the issue.

20 Personally, I know how important it was to have a  
21 guidance counselor give me guidance to make a  
22 decision to go on to higher education, as I'm sure  
23 people can attest in this room and I know we have  
24 heard a lot, unfortunately, about the lack of  
25 guidance counselors in our public education school

1  
2 system and that is something that is critically  
3 important, particularly for low-income communities  
4 and communities of color. So I wanna thank Laura  
5 Popa, Matt Gewolb, Aysha Schomburg, Jan Atwell, Joan  
6 Povolny, Andrew Vasquez, Ters [sp?] Anasar [sp?] and  
7 Lyle Frank for their work on this bill and Council  
8 Member Antonio Reynoso will say a few words.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I am proud to be  
10 passing my first bill today, Int 0403... [cheers,  
11 applause] yeah... yeah, requiring the Department of  
12 Education to report on the presence of guidance  
13 counselors and social workers in New York City public  
14 schools. As a young man of color, I am particularly  
15 proud that my first bill is an education bill that  
16 will have an impact on New York City students,  
17 particularly those in large or struggling schools.  
18 Guidance counselors and social workers provide a  
19 number of valuable services, including behavioral,  
20 academic, college preparatory and career counseling.  
21 However, independent studies have shown that the  
22 ratio of students to counselors in the majority of  
23 New York City high schools is so high that many  
24 counselors are unable to effectively provide  
25 students, especially those who are struggling, with

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2 the individual attention and services that they need.  
3 When I was in school I was lucky enough to have a  
4 guidance counselor that was able to give me lots of  
5 attention and it helped me to get to where I am  
6 today. I want my experience to become the norm for  
7 all New York City students; Int 0403 will help us  
8 analyze the data so that we can take steps forward,  
9 regulating the system so that all students can  
10 receive the counseling service they need to help them  
11 succeed.

12 I'd like to thank all the advocates who  
13 have supported this bill, particularly the Annenberg  
14 Institute, Alliance for Quality Education, Advocates  
15 for Children, Coalition for American Children and  
16 Families, Make the Road New York, as well as Jan  
17 Atwell and Donny Dromm from the Education Committee,  
18 Matt Gewolb, whose father-in-law is a former guidance  
19 counselor, and of course, my great Legislative  
20 Director, Lacey Tauber, for her work on this bill.  
21 Thank you very much.

22 [cheers]

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: And  
24 congratulations, Council Member Antonio Reynoso for  
25

1  
2 your first bill; many of us can remember that moment,  
3 so congratulations.

4 I'm gonna say a few words in Spanish  
5 first before I just say my last words here. 00:43:54  
6 **[Spanish]**. And thank you for that.

7 The final two bills we'll be discussing  
8 today -- we're voting on two pieces of legislation  
9 that will significantly limit the City's role in the  
10 Federal Government's Civil Immigration Enforcement  
11 System. Recently a number of courts have ruled that  
12 local authorities are not required to comply with ICE  
13 detainer requests and that doing so in the absence of  
14 a probable cause finding may raise civil rights  
15 concerns. So these bills will require that in order  
16 for any detainer to be honored it would have to be  
17 supported by a warrant issued by a Federal judge  
18 based on a probable cause finding. But our bills go  
19 even further. In the event that ICE provides a  
20 judicial warrant, the law will only allow the City to  
21 honor the detainer if a subject has been convicted of  
22 a violent or serious felony in the last five years or  
23 if the person is a possible match on the Federal  
24 Terrorist Watch List.

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2           Finally, the bills will remove ICE  
3 offices from Rikers Island and significantly limit  
4 the time and money we currently spend assisting ICE  
5 in deporting folks who are low-level offenders or  
6 will have not committed any crimes.

7           We are a city that respects the  
8 constitutional rights and dignity of all our  
9 residents. We also have no reason to expend scarce  
10 resources assisting in enforcing broken immigration  
11 laws. These bills are simple, they're about keeping  
12 hard-working families united, they're about keeping  
13 New Yorkers safe and secure and they're about simple  
14 fairness.

15           If obstructionists in Congress insist on  
16 delaying any federal action on fair and just  
17 immigration reform, it falls to municipal governments  
18 to pick up the slack; that's what we've been doing  
19 here in New York City and it's what we continue to do  
20 today with these two bills.

21           New York City is not afraid to lead on  
22 immigration, our history is filled with immigrants  
23 coming and contributing and that is a tradition we  
24 are continuing today.



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2 I'd like to thank Jennifer Montalvo  
3 [sp?], Catalina Cruz, Rachel Cordero and Brian Crowe  
4 for their work on these bills, as well as the  
5 advocates who continue to be such great partners on  
6 this issue; a lot goes out to them as well.

7 But I have to give special recognition to  
8 Rob Newman, he and I have been working on this issue  
9 together since before I was Speaker, as early as  
10 2011, when I sponsored the first bill to restrict the  
11 City's collaboration with ICE. We have come a long  
12 way since then and I personally want to thank Rob for  
13 all of his efforts. Thank you so much, Rob.

14 [cheers, applause]

15 And with that, I end Communication from  
16 the Speaker.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: First to our  
18 guests, benvenuto.

19 And now, for General Orders, to discuss  
20 Int 0403-A, a trio of members -- Council Member  
21 Menchaca, Torres and Richards and in that order.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: So I just wanna  
23 say thank you again for all the work and as a young  
24 man of color, it is important to me that we ensure  
25 that immigrant students, many of them who are

1  
2 classified as English language learners, some of them  
3 that just spoke today, earlier in our ceremonial,  
4 talking about their educational experiences, are  
5 receiving the counseling and college preparatory  
6 support that they need in their first language and  
7 that school staff are able to communicate with  
8 parents and caretakers in their native language as  
9 well. Int 0403 will require the DOE to report on the  
10 number of licensed and certified bilingual guidance  
11 counselors and social workers in each school and the  
12 number of ELL students in each school so we can  
13 analyze where these services may be lacking and  
14 address the issues practically. Thank you so much  
15 for everyone who's made this possible.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Sixty years ago  
17 the U.S. Supreme Court in Brown v. Board of Education  
18 warned us it is doubtful any child may be reasonably  
19 expected to succeed in life if he is denied the  
20 opportunity of an education. As a young man of  
21 color, I worry that we have an overzealous suspension  
22 policy that denies the opportunity of an education  
23 that is so essential to success in life. Too many  
24 young men of color are being arbitrarily kicked out  
25 of the classroom and onto the streets and our

1  
2 suspension policy has led to a school-to-prison  
3 pipeline. I feel strongly that suspension should  
4 never be a punishment of first resort; the DOE has an  
5 obligation to our students to pursue restorative  
6 justice interventions, including guidance counseling  
7 before imposing suspension. Int 0403 will help us  
8 live up to that obligation.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: As a young man  
10 of color, I find it alarming that there are currently  
11 more police officers than guidance counselors in New  
12 York City public schools. According to the NYCLU, on  
13 a typical day the NYPD makes four arrests and issues  
14 seven summonses in New York City public schools and  
15 of those arrested, more than 95 percent are black or  
16 Latino. This is particularly troubling because it is  
17 projected that close to 270,000 children in New York  
18 City have a diagnosable mental disorder. Counselors  
19 and social workers are better equipped to understand  
20 the whole student and to be able to identify red  
21 flags and invest in students psychologically,  
22 emotionally and their physical well-being. Int 0403  
23 will give us data that we can compare with school  
24 safety data to help us better understand where  
25 students' needs are being met and where they are not.

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And now, Minority Leader, Council Member Matteo.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Matteo? What's happened? [sic] [crosstalk]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: I mean... excuse me... [background comments] Ignizio.

[laughter]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Wait your turn. Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yeah. [laugh]  
[background comment] Thank you, Madame Public Advocate. And I appreciate, members of the Council. I first wanna point out one thing that the Speaker mentioned, which was about Sandy and wanted to thank the Council and thank the Council members how have been at their finest moment in regards to taking care of Sandy victims and Sandy businesses in their community and I appreciate the Council for leading the way and pushing the Administration, both the former administration and the current administration, in getting what we need for our communities and I really think it is a shining moment and something we should hold up and be proud of the work that we did as a joint body with regards to Sandy recovery.

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2 With regards to bills Int 0486 and 0487  
3 on behalf of the minority delegation, two pieces of  
4 legislation that I believe raises significant safety  
5 concerns to the people in the city and the people in  
6 our country. While I agree that our national  
7 immigration policy is broken and in desperate need of  
8 reform, this solution, prohibiting our law  
9 enforcement officers in prisons from detaining  
10 criminals in cooperation with our national  
11 immigration enforcement agency is not the solution.  
12 Unlike the Council's vote last month to help innocent  
13 children gain representation in their immigration  
14 cases, these piece of legislation will help  
15 individuals who have already shown a disregard for  
16 the law of the community.

17 Additionally, there are significant legal  
18 issues associated with our municipality dictating to  
19 the Federal government, I believe and especially in  
20 regards to compliance with a federal subpoena.

21 Again, I join my colleagues in their  
22 frustration over Washington; both Houses, both  
23 parties, for their failure to act on a comprehensive  
24 immigration policy and work together, we do very  
25 often in this body. But I believe that lobbying our

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2 members of Congress, our senators and our president,  
3 to develop a national solution to this problem is the  
4 solution and not breaking ranks with our federal  
5 partners in law enforcement who seek only to keep my  
6 family and your family safe. Thank you very much.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And now the most  
8 valuable player of the City Council, a ranking member  
9 of the minority party, Council Member Matteo.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Thank you for the  
11 promotion, Madame Public Advocate. Today we're also  
12 voting on Int 0438, which creates an industrial  
13 business improvement district in the West Shore  
14 portion of my district. I wanna start by thanking  
15 all the people involved in the process... [interpose]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: I vote no..

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Oh...

18 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: hold on a  
19 second...

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: We're gonna have  
21 to have a talk. [laughter, background comments] I  
22 wanna start by thanking all the people involved,  
23 including our Finance Chair, Julissa Ferreras, her  
24 staff, particularly Tanisha Edwards and Rebecca Chase  
25 for their hard work. I wanna thank Cesar Claro on

1  
2 the SIEDC for helping me to organize these business  
3 owners behind this effort to create a BID on the West  
4 Shore. I also wanna thank SBA's commissioner, Maria  
5 Torres Springer, her staff, my former boss and  
6 predecessor, Borough President Jimmy Otto and  
7 Minority Leader Ignizio.

8 In 2012 I began my involvement in the  
9 creation of this BID on day one as a member of the  
10 steering committee; once elected I was able to  
11 continue my advocacy as a member of the City Council.  
12 Today is the culmination of a lot of hard work, a  
13 partnership between myself, the SIEDC and the  
14 business community in Bloomfield and Chelsea.

15 We are essentially creating an enhanced  
16 civic association for this area which will be  
17 empowered to pool its resources to get the services  
18 they need to address their unique challenges. As we  
19 all know, every neighborhood, every commercial  
20 corridor has unique needs and this slide of the West  
21 Shore is no different. I think that is why the rate  
22 of support in this IBID zone is among the highest of  
23 any BID in the City.

24 Let me extend my thanks to the property  
25 owners for their support and dedication. Moving

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2 forward, these property owners' investments in their  
3 own area will help to turn the West Shore of the  
4 borough into a jobs coast where Staten Islanders can  
5 have rewarding and prosperous careers. The West  
6 Shore could become home to a host of firms that need  
7 larger real estate to operate or want to keep their  
8 businesses local to New York City.

9           Again, I wanna thank everyone for their  
10 support and look forward to the passage of this  
11 legislation. Thank you.

12           PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
13 Council Member Inez Dickens for a vote.

14           COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you,  
15 Madame Public Advocate. I vote aye on all Land Use  
16 Call-Ups and permission please to couple votes and I  
17 vote aye on all. Bye.

18           PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Feel  
19 better.

20           COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you.

21           PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reports of  
22 Special Committees.

23           COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

24           PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reports of  
25 Standing Committees.



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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee  
3 on Education, Int 0403-A, Report on Guidance  
4 Counselors.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Report of the  
6 Committee on Finance. Council Member Dromm.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you very  
8 much. I wanna thank the Speaker for her many years  
9 of work on improving the way the criminal justice  
10 system interacts with our immigrant communities. I  
11 also wanna recognize the Council staff who worked  
12 hard on the legislation to put these bills and  
13 hearing together -- Jennifer Montalvo, Brian Crowe,  
14 Rachel Cordero, Rob Newman and the co-sponsors, along  
15 with the Speaker and I, Carlos Menchaca and Rafael  
16 Espinal.

17 By ending the collusion of local law  
18 enforcement with jails, with federal immigration  
19 authorities, New York City will be a safer place  
20 where our immigrants no longer fear deportation by  
21 interacting with the police. This is good news for  
22 all New Yorkers, both recent immigrant families and  
23 the rest of us who rely on our immigrant neighbors to  
24 report crimes and to cooperate with investigations.  
25 With these bills we also take a stand against the

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blatant unconstitutionality of the detainer program which holds individuals without a criminal sentence or even probably cause. Given New York's lead, I hope many other localities rise up and take a stand against these odious tactics of immigration customs enforcement. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reports of Standing Committees. [background comment]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Education, Int 0403-A, Report on Guidance Counselors.

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

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Finance, Int 0438, West Shore BID.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered Res 0450, Organization Funding.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Immigration, Int 0486-A in relation to persons not to be detained by the Department of Corrections.



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

COMMITTEE CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Permission to  
explain my vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you. I  
just wanna take a moment to congratulate Council  
Member Reynoso and your first bill. As a former  
school counselor myself [background comment] and also  
a college professor that ran a whole program at the  
masters level for counseling students, I cannot  
commend you enough for this; the reality is that we  
have schools where we really don't have school  
counselors or may have the same experience that I  
had, when I had 700 students at one point and I was  
the only school counselor at a high school level and  
my greatest fear that there was the potential of a  
young man or young lady waiting in the long lines to  
see me who could potentially be suicidal or on the  
verge of dropping out of school; the stories go on,

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and that was one of my greatest nightmares being a school counselor, just the overwhelming amount of work. Certain grade levels is mandated; some grade levels school counselors are not mandated and we need to do better and I'm very hopeful that this data is gonna help us to pass better legislation to have school counselors mandated and a certain amount of school counselors per quantity of students. So thank you so much and I commend you and I commend the Speaker for the bill dealing with immigrants so we could have true justice; it's been too long and I know she advocated this for a long time; I commend you both. Thank you so much.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: How do you vote?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: I vote aye on all. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Permission to explain my vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I have three land use items regarding a disposition in my district for a building to be constructed on MTA property at 19

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2 East Houston Street; I wanted to thank the community  
3 board, the borough president, MTA the City and the  
4 applicant for working through all these issues to get  
5 to this point today. I am also particularly thankful  
6 to Ann McCoy in the Land Use Division for her  
7 guidance and input throughout this process and of  
8 course, thank you to Council Member Weprin and  
9 Council Member Greenfield for chairing the hearing.

10           On the biggest issue, the size of the  
11 retail, the applicant has agreed to limit retail to  
12 second floor and below and has withdrawn their  
13 application for large-scale retail in that building.  
14 The applicant also further committed to sidewalk and  
15 crosswalk changes that will help preserve pedestrian  
16 flow and a commitment to bring their tenants to the  
17 community board, should illumination issue arise and  
18 the Department of Transportation has agreed to work  
19 with the applicant on these issues. So therefore I  
20 have no opposition to the remaining application  
21 before us and ask also my colleagues to vote to  
22 approve them.

23           And I also wanted to congratulate Council  
24 Member Reynoso on his first bill. I vote aye on all.  
25 Thank you.

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STATED MEETING

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen.

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: I'd like to congratulate Council Member Reynoso and vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Constantinides.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cumbo.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission to explain my vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: [background comment] I just want to congratulate my colleague, Council Member Reynoso; this is so fantastic. And I just wanna say for myself, growing up, "when I wasn't performing in the way that my teachers suspected that I could or what my potential was or even at times, what was wrong with me," a guidance counselor discovered that I loved art and channeled me into

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that career and what has become my passion. So I thank you for this; this is going to give us an incredible opportunity in the City Council to not only, hopefully, be able to understand what the issues are, but hopefully that we can put the resources together to make sure that there are guidance counselors and professionals that are available to help our young people as it pertains to everything from domestic violence to issues pertaining to education [background comments] and many other issues... [crosstalk]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet...

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: So thank you very much and I vote aye on all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Quiet in the chambers, please. [background comment] Quiet in the chambers. Continue with the roll call.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: No on In 0486-A and 0487-A and aye on the remainder.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dromm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Espinal.



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COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I would like to explain my vote on Int 0403.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: As a young man of color, I am deeply concerned by studies that show that living in a low-income community of color correlates directly with a lack of college readiness. In Ocean Hill, in my district, for example, only about 12 percent of students are defined as college ready based on their Regents exam scores. The fact that college readiness counselor is inaccessible to so many students only exacerbates this problem. Int 0403 will help us learn not only about the presence of guidance counselors and social workers in schools, but also about the presence of other staff who have received professional development or training and post-secondary planning who may fill gaps in college readiness counseling. This will help us analyze whether enough teachers and administrators are taking advantage of this important opportunity to help ensure that our students are informed about and prepared for college. And I'd like to vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene.

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COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Congratulations to Council Member Reynoso and I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ferreras. Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

[background comment]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gibson.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Permission to explain my vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you, Madame Public Advocate. I too wanna join with our colleagues in congratulating Council Member Reynoso on his first bill; I also would like to congratulate Council Member Lancman for the bill working with the New York City Taxi Driver's Alliance in making sure that we educate and provide a lot of awareness to the public about assaulting and injuring taxi drivers and livery drivers across the city; I think it's a great step of progress and certainly hope that people will begin to think twice about assaulting or injuring a taxi driver in this city. I also wanna congratulate others for some of the other bills that we're passing today and on Int 0486 and Int 0487, I wanna thank the Speaker for her leadership, as well as Council Member

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Menchaca, Chair of Immigration. I had a number of concerns about these two bills, I recognize the intent; I recognize the purpose; as we move forward I certainly would like to be a part of the conversations around implementation and with that I will be supporting it, but with a little bit of reservation and continuing to have further conversations around this. And with that I'll be voting aye on all. Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Greenfield.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you.  
May I explain my vote, please?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you, Madame Public Advocate. First I want to congratulate my colleagues -- Council Member Reynoso, really a terrific bill that's gonna save and really help so many children; thank you so much for that. I wanna thank Council Member Rory Lancman; I think that the taxi industry is fortunate, from his time in the Assembly to his time in the Council, he's been a great advocate and I really wanna congratulate him for that as well.

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I want to speak now about 0486; 0487-A...  
[background comments]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Could we have  
quiet in the chambers, please. Quiet in the  
chambers. [crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I'll wait for  
quiet and hopefully they'll freeze my time there  
while we do that. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Three seconds  
back on the clock. Council Member Greenfield.

[background comment]

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you; I  
certainly appreciate that. You know I think any time  
that you have a discussion on a hot button political  
issue such as immigration you're gonna have a lot of  
visceral reaction and emotional viewpoints as well.  
I do think however that as legislators we really  
should try our best to be above the fray and assess,  
to the extent that we can, an issue from an objective  
perspective and that's what I intend to do today. As  
a legislator and an attorney, my first duty, which is  
a sworn one, is to uphold the Constitution of the  
United States of America and I take that  
responsibility very seriously; some would call me a

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2 civil libertarian, but really, I view it as a duty to  
3 uphold the law. The 4th Amendment is very clear; the  
4 right of the people to be secure in their persons  
5 against unreasonable search and seizures shall not be  
6 violated, and that's really what's happening over  
7 here and it's really very simple -- someone's  
8 arrested; they're even convicted of a crime, they go  
9 to prison; now, because that person has been afforded  
10 due process -- 14th Amendment, for those of you who  
11 are following at home -- they can be seized in  
12 prison, but only until the end of their term; when  
13 their term is up, the government can't simply hold  
14 someone because they think he or she did something  
15 wrong and that's what the government is doing in a  
16 detainer request. If you think someone did something  
17 wrong, we have a process for that, it's called an  
18 arrest warrant; when the government gets that we  
19 should and will respect it, but to simply lock  
20 someone up because you suspect they did something  
21 wrong, that's un-American and those rights apply,  
22 even those who are not yet American citizens. Just  
23 as how we don't beat people up in prison because  
24 they're in prison, we should not keep people in  
25 prison simply because we think they may have done

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2 something wrong and that is why I'm proud to support  
3 this legislation and I specifically [bell] would like  
4 to thank the Speaker for her leadership; not a lot is  
5 happening in D.C. on this issue, but it's happening  
6 here and I proudly vote aye on all.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Johnson.

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

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: I want to  
12 congratulate the Speaker for her hard work on these  
13 bills; I also want to congratulate my colleagues,  
14 Council Member Lancman and Council Member Reynoso.  
15 On Council Member Reynoso's bill, I just wanna say  
16 that I look back at a pivotal, important moment in my  
17 life; the first person who I ever came out to in my  
18 life when I was 15 years old was my guidance  
19 counselor in middle school, who then stayed my  
20 guidance counselor through high school, and I  
21 remember it like it was yesterday. So I really know  
22 how important guidance counselors are; it had a deep  
23 and important impact on my life and I am proud to  
24 support this bill today and I congratulate Council  
25 Member Reynoso on its passage. Thank you very much.

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STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Your vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: How do you vote?

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: I vote aye on  
all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Permission to  
explain my vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I wanna  
congratulate Council Member Antonio Reynoso on this  
legislation on behalf of myself, my mother who's a  
psychologist and a commitment to making sure we have  
access to mental health in our schools and my  
director of constituent service, who is a social  
worker, and the more of those we can get into our  
schools, the better. So thank you for what you're  
doing. Thank you also to Council Member Rory Lancman  
for keeping our drivers safe and to our Speaker for  
taking on national issues right here at home. I vote  
aye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: King.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Congratulations to Antonio Reynoso and I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Congratulations to my next door neighbor, [laughter] Council Member Reynoso, for passing such a wonderful bill [background comments] and muchas gracias to the Speaker, to Council Member Menchaca and Reynoso. Thank you very much. Oh... [interpose]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And how do you vote?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote yes.

[laughter] [background comments]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lancman.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: May I please explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, sir.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: As the proud son of a public elementary school guidance counselor in St. Louis, I wanna say a big congratulations to Council Member Reynoso; you know, I remember at the dinner table this stories that my mom would tell and



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that's a school that serves a real diverse range of kids; it's a deseg [sic] program in St. Louis, so there's a whole set of kids who are in her office every day and the difference she makes in her their lives is tremendous, so I dedicate this vote to my mom, but it's with great congratulations to Council Member Reynoso on this really important piece of legislation, as my colleagues have said. And I'm also really proud to be a supporter of the Speaker's detainer bills, [background comments] I think setting a standard in New York City that this has always been a city of immigrant opportunity and we are going to keep it a city of immigrant opportunity and I couldn't think of a better way to do it than the bills that we're passing today. Congrats also to Council Member Lancman on helping keep our taxi drivers safe and I proudly vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin. Maisel.

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo.

COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: No on 0486-A and 0487-A; aye on the rest.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye on all.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Menchaca.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Permission to explain my vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: I just wanna say thank you to Council Member Lancman for your taxi bill; Council Member Reynoso, thanks for making Brooklyn proud and the work that we're gonna continue to do to reform our schools, and then finally, thank you to the Speaker and the detainer bills and as Chair of the Immigration Committee, I am so proud to be working with her; her entire career has been rooted in the progress for our immigrant community and it is incredibly important to so many of our districts and this is gonna have a huge impact. The vision that we are laying here, and especially in the last nine months, has been incredibly clear; we need to change the sentiment and the relationship between our immigrant community and government; these pieces of legislation are gonna continue to do that and I can't wait to see what will happen in the next nine months. I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye on all.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Miller.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Permission to explain.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: First I'd like to congratulate the Speaker and especially like to congratulate Council Member Reynoso on his legislation. Thank you, Madame Public Advocate. And thank you to Council Member Rory Lancman for introducing this legislation, 0082, Int 0082, which under these circumstances I would love to support, but I rise today, however, to express my dismay at the manner in which Taxi and Limousine Commission has been conducting business. This law, Int 0082, has been amended to include commuter vans so that drivers of these vehicles may also receive signage promulgated by TLC in order to help protect drivers, yet the TLC has done very little to protect the constituents in my district and throughout the city who are victimized by these same commuter vans; these are hundreds of illegal vans running throughout the City of New York and many more properly licensed vans

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which are operating in an illegal fashion. They do business directly in front of bus stops, intimidate mass transit passengers and hold little regard for the rules of the road. Particularly given the nature of this business, it's so frequently illegal.

Recently a young woman from my district ended up in a coma for 10 days after the police engaged one of these vans in a high speed chase; this is how bad things have gotten. Despite my plea, these concerns have gone unheard by the TLC. With this in mind, I cannot in good conscience vote for legislation which supports the TLC Commission which has repeatedly failed to support and protect the constituents of this city. A good relationship is beneficial to all parties at the table, but this one is certainly unhealthy. I will vote no on voting on Int 0082; the TLC has become far too comfortable with surface measures, such as decals and stickers; [bell] neither will keep my constituents alive or out of the hospital. TLC's... [interpose]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member...

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: riders and drivers... [interpose]

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: bring your  
comments to a close, please.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: deserve more  
substantial safety measures. I vote no on 0082 and  
aye on the rest. Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Vote aye on all.  
[background comment] Oh, I'd like to vote aye on all  
Call-Ups and with permission I'd like to vote on all  
Coupled General Orders.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Permission to  
explain my vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I just wanna  
really thank everyone; to hear your stories regarding  
guidance counselors, it just means that much more to  
me to know that I can be helpful in ensuring that  
what we have and the great experiences we had with  
our guidance counselors are also something that more  
children in our school system can experience. And I  
wanna thank Lacey Tauber; it is her first piece of  
legislation as well and I... [applause, cheers] and we

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2 have some flowers for her. So congratulations,  
3 Lacey. Thank you.

4 [background comment]

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: How do you vote?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I vote aye on  
7 all.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Permission to  
10 explain my vote.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: First I wanna  
13 congratulate Council Member Reynoso and Lacey as well  
14 on this great bill and my wife actually started as a  
15 guidance counselor, so I understand the struggles  
16 that they incur on a daily basis. I'm gonna vote aye  
17 on all, but I also wanted to just back up and support  
18 something Daneek just spoke on on Int 0082-A and in  
19 Southern Queens in particular, in our areas, because  
20 our transportation infrastructure is not the  
21 greatest, we often have dollar vans running in our  
22 particular communities and I just wanna also urge the  
23 TLC to certainly do more enforcement in our  
24 particular community; we are getting complaints every  
25 day on this particular issue; it is not just a

1  
2 quality of life issue; you're taking your life in  
3 your own hands crossing some of these streets and  
4 there's been very little enforcement on this issue.  
5 So I vote aye on this because I do believe that we  
6 should protect... you know, do all we can to protect  
7 livery drivers and everyone else who are certainly  
8 useful in our communities, but we also need them  
9 [background comments] to enforce and make sure that  
10 we have legal vans on the street if we're gonna have  
11 them out there [sic]. Thank you.

12 [background comments]

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: How do you vote?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I vote aye on  
15 all.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Quiet  
17 in the chambers, please. Continue roll call.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: May I explain  
20 my vote?

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I would just  
23 like to say that... first of all, congratulations  
24 Antonio and to say that we will continue working with  
25 Council Member Mealy and my other colleagues and the

1  
2 TLC's administration to identifying ways on how to  
3 protect also the workers that he particularly  
4 addressed; I believe that this a great piece of  
5 legislation, since why we are doing this legislation  
6 is letting anyone who gets into a taxi or a livery  
7 taxi knows what are the consequences if they assault  
8 any taxi drivers. So I believe that as we are  
9 committed to protect the pedestrian, it is also our  
10 responsibility to protect the taxi drivers. In the  
11 United States, taxi drivers have [background  
12 comments] 20 percent... [interpose]

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Excuse me,  
14 Council Member. May we have quiet in the chambers,  
15 please? Council Member. Sorry.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: In the United  
17 States, taxi drivers have 20 percent more probability  
18 to be assaulted than any other drivers in our  
19 society. So I believe that this is good progress,  
20 but we will continue working with my colleagues here  
21 to expand the protection to all drivers. Thank you.  
22 And I vote aye.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.  
25



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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Permission to  
3 explain my vote.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Permission to  
6 explain my vote.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I would just like  
9 to congratulate my colleagues for these impressive  
10 packages of bills that really turns out to be, in  
11 many cases, assurances of rights that people are  
12 entitled to. [background comments] I'd like to  
13 thank CM Reynoso for ensuring the rights of students  
14 to receive a quality education with the resources  
15 that are needed to accomplish [background comments]  
16 that goal. I'd like to thank and congratulate  
17 Council Member Matteo, from Shaolin [sic], for the  
18 BID on the West Shore of Staten Island, something  
19 that's going to improve the economic development  
20 opportunities there. And to CM Lancman for ensuring  
21 the safety of our taxi and livery drivers; they have  
22 dangerous jobs and oftentimes no one seems to give  
23 that a second thought. And to the Speaker for the  
24 detainee bills. These bills further codify our  
25

1  
2 commitment to improve the quality of life for all and  
3 I'm proud to vote aye on all.

4 [background comments]

5 MALE VOICE: Keep it down, please. Keep  
6 it down.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rosenthal.

9 [background comment]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye on all.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres... [crosstalk]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye on all  
13 still.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I vote aye and I  
16 wanna cede my time for explaining my vote to Jumaane  
17 Williams, so.

18 [background comments, laugh]

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Treyger.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Permission to  
21 explain my vote.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I'd like to  
24 first commend [background comments] Council Member  
25 Lancman on the passage of his bill. I'd like to also

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commend Council Member Antonio Reynoso; as a former teacher I can tell you that in a very large nebulous system, very little gets changed unless it's measured and today we will begin to measure the access our children have to critical guidance services. And on Int's 0486 and 0487-A, I'm actually influenced by the story of what my father went through when he was living and going to school in the former Soviet Union and he was detained because he had the audacity to listen to the voice of America to make sure that his loved ones in Israel were still alive during the Arab-Israeli War. So I take issue when any government decides to arbitrarily detain and stop people for any reason, considering where my family came from and what they endured. And with that, I vote aye on all. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye on all except Int 0486-A and 0487-A.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Could I explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I'm voting aye on  
3 all. Uh 0486 and 0487, to me, I studied them and  
4 gave it significant attention; they represent  
5 constitutional issues and on that basis I'm voting  
6 yes. Regarding Council Member Reynoso's bill, I did  
7 wanna speak on guidance counselors. Years ago we did  
8 have community school boards and I served on one as  
9 president and member and I have to tell you what we  
10 did and I hope that Chancellor Farina, when she sees  
11 our vote today, will consider certain steps on how we  
12 can make guidance counselors more effective. We  
13 established a floor for every school based on  
14 population so there was equity, so at a certain  
15 threshold, when a school reached a population  
16 threshold they had to hire a full-time guidance  
17 counselor; when they went beyond the threshold, we  
18 did point two additional time, point four; point six,  
19 so that we had thresholds that were reached and then  
20 escalated as population went up. So we made sure  
21 that every school had guidance services. The second  
22 thing we have to do today is that we have to instruct  
23 guidance counselors on what we expect them to do.  
24 Are they truly doing guidance; what is guidance in  
25 2014? It's a very important issue; how are they

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servicing kids? We need staff development; we need a uniform policy on what we want guidance counselors to do in and out of the classroom; how do we want emergency intervention; how do we want contact with families; when do we want that? All of this has to be updated. So I'm hoping that our vote today for Council Member Reynoso's bill will indicate to DOE that it's not just time that we look at how many counselors we have, but what are they actually doing and how are they making sure that our kids don't fall through the safety net. But with that, I vote aye on all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Permission to explain my vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: I vote aye on all except I vote no on Int 0486-A and 0487-A. Congratulations Antonio on your bill and Rory Lancman. And as a fellow barrister and attorney, I get all excited when I hear David Greenfield mentioning the constitution and I see grounds for a debate here, David. We discussed there are times

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2 when we're going to agree and disagree; this is one  
3 of those times that I disagree -- requiring judicial  
4 warrants should have been enough if the aim truly was  
5 to protect individuals arrested for committing a  
6 crime and now face deportation. However, I believe a  
7 judicial warrant should have been required for any  
8 crime other than a serious felony. Why are we making  
9 it harder to return criminals if god for bid they  
10 have raped or murdered someone? Additionally, I  
11 oppose the inclusion of the five-year limitation.  
12 What we are saying today is that we aren't going to  
13 honor any request, even if there is a warrant  
14 obtained to deport violent felons if five years has  
15 passed. How does help our city at all? We would  
16 rather want this murderer in our system rather than  
17 being deported? Finally, removing federal officers  
18 at Rikers Island sends a dangerous message to our  
19 federal government -- we don't want you here  
20 deporting violent felons, but we do want you to pay  
21 an assistance for fighting terrorism and crime in a  
22 number one targeted city in the world. There is no  
23 argument presented today that these bills make us a  
24 safer city, a city that demands public safety is our  
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1  
2 number one priority. For these reasons I vote no on  
3 both bills and vote aye on all other matters today.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Weprin.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: May I be  
9 excused to explain my vote?

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you.

12 First I wanna congratulate Council Member Lancman on  
13 his bill; I did wanna address some things and  
14 concerns that I heard about the commuter vans.

15 [background comments] I too have some similar  
16 concerns, but I do wanna make sure that commuter vans  
17 that are licensed and insured do have legal ways to  
18 operate as the city goes to them at all times of  
19 emergency; those legal vans have and continue to  
20 request increased enforcement to get the people who  
21 are breaking the rules off the streets.

22 Congratulations to Council Member Reynoso on his  
23 bill; I'm hoping that we will actually get the  
24 resources we need from this bill. When I was young,  
25 and I know it's hard to believe; I needed much

1  
2 guidance throughout the public school system  
3 [laughter] so I wanna make sure people like me get  
4 the support that is needed. And then congratulations  
5 to the Speaker and others on the detainer bills; this  
6 one personally means a lot to me, as I learned  
7 several years ago, my brother, who is in this country  
8 was actually here "illegally," as we like to call it,  
9 for much of his life, until several years ago; had he  
10 been deported, he actually would not have been sent  
11 back to Canada where he spent his first 18 years; he  
12 would've been sent back to Granada, where he left as  
13 a child and had no attachment to at all. And also, a  
14 friend of mine was detained; luckily his wife had the  
15 wherewithal to make phone calls and had contacts so  
16 that we can help him. Many of the people have not  
17 had those contacts and remain unable to get in  
18 contact with their families, sometimes they're sent  
19 other places across the country; what is happening is  
20 undeniably, I think, "un-American" and  
21 unconstitutional and I'm very proud to support these  
22 and hopefully our federal government will get it  
23 right at some point. And lastly, I just wanna thank  
24 my Latino brothers and sisters for really championing  
25 this and push my Caribbean family, my Caribbean



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brothers and sisters; my Caribbean community to get much more involved in immigration debate, as well as the African community. There are many more immigrants [bell] who are not a part of this debate that need to get involved immediately. Thank you.  
[crosstalk]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please conclude your remarks, Council Member. Thank you. How do you...

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I had to conclude my remarks, so I didn't get to vote. I vote aye on all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

[laughter]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: No on Int 0486 and 0487 and aye on all others and congratulations to Steve Matteo and Council Member Reynoso and those that passed their bills.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye on all.

[background comments]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. All items on today's General Order Calendar were adopted by a vote of 47 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and 0 abstentions, with the exception of Int 0486-A, which was adopted by a vote of 41 in the affirmative, 6 in the negative and 0 abstentions, and Int 0487-A, which was adopted by a vote of 41 in the affirmative, 6 negative and 0 abstentions, and Int 0082-A, which was adopted by a vote of 46 in the affirmative, 1 negative and 0 abstentions. The revised Land Use Call-Up vote is 47 in the affirmative, 0 negatives. Introduction and Reading of Bills, see attached. This... [interpose]

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

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Discussion of Resolutions, Res 0166, sponsored by Council Member Debi Rose. Seeing none. The resolution reads as follows: Resolution calling upon the New York City Department of Education to establish a comprehensive college preparation program based on the college readiness program proposed by the Urban Youth

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Collaborative to improve and expand college access for all students. All of those in favor say aye.

[collective aye]

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

Res 0405, sponsored by Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito. Anyone wishing to speak on this resolution? Seeing none. It's a resolution calling upon Congress to pass and the President to sign H.R. 1217 and S. 568 to establish the Smithsonian American Latino Museum and designate the Arts and Industries building as its future location in Washington, D.C. All of those in favor, say aye.

[collective aye]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All those opposed. Any abstentions? The ayes have it. And finally, Res 0429, sponsored by Council Members Gibson and Cumbo and Council Member Gibson to speak on that resolution.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you very much, Madame Public Advocate. I wanna thank all of my colleagues for support of Res 0429 and recognizing October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the City of New York. Throughout the entire month many

1  
2 of us have been a part of so many different efforts  
3 to raise the level of awareness and education around  
4 domestic violence; we focused on public housing, we  
5 focused on [background comment] sexual assault,  
6 [background comment] campus violence; we have really  
7 done a lot to try to bring light to this issue that  
8 remains in the darkness; [background comments] the  
9 fact that so many families and children are impacted  
10 by domestic violence each and every day. I wanna  
11 thank the Mayor and his commission to combat domestic  
12 violence, Commissioner Rose Pierre Louis for her  
13 leadership; I wanna thank you, Madame Public Advocate  
14 for all you've done; I wanna thank our Speaker,  
15 Melissa Mark-Viverito for her leadership, as well as  
16 our Women's [background comments] Issues Chair,  
17 Council Member... [crosstalk]

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the  
19 chambers.

20 [background comments]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Laurie Cumbo, who  
22 really led the charge in making sure that all of us  
23 as a family recognize that in our communities we have  
24 victims and families that live and struggle each and  
25 every day. As we now near the end of October, I

1  
2       wanna be firm in making sure that all New Yorkers  
3       understand that every day we have an opportunity to  
4       do more to advance services, programs and provide  
5       critical resources for families in need across this  
6       city. I wanna thank our advocacy groups who do all  
7       this work each and every day and I most importantly  
8       wanna recognize the incredibly strong survivors that  
9       have now taken their pain and moved it into a purpose  
10      of action of making sure that we can bring many of  
11      our families out and provide them with the critical  
12      public service that they truly need. And also I  
13      wanna thank my distinguished colleague, Council  
14      Member Cumbo, for introducing this resolution with me  
15      as well. Thank you.

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

18                   COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I wanna first  
19      begin by thanking all of my colleagues here today for  
20      your support with "Go Purple Day," it was really very  
21      inspiring to see all of you participating to bring  
22      greater awareness about domestic violence as it  
23      pertains to all of our districts and all of our  
24      families and communities and to have this entire body  
25      come together so publicly really meant a great deal

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2 to me and it really meant a great deal to all New  
3 Yorkers to see us bringing greater visibility around  
4 an issue that impacts all of us so much.

5 I thank you all for your support of  
6 Res 0429, particularly because I want to acknowledge  
7 that in 2013 there were 66 family-related homicides  
8 in New York City, 16 victims were killed in The  
9 Bronx, 26 victims were killed in Brooklyn, 5 victims  
10 were killed in Manhattan, 13 victims were killed in  
11 Queens and 2 victims were killed in Staten Island and  
12 74 percent of these cases had no known prior police  
13 contact and 86 percent of these cases had no current  
14 order of protection. And that's why it's so  
15 important for us to bring greater visibility around  
16 this particular month, because there are so many  
17 [bell] people that are sitting in silence. So I  
18 thank all of you for your support; I look forward to  
19 working with each and every one of you. Thank you  
20 again.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Any  
22 other members wishing to speak on Res 0429? Res 0429  
23 recognizes October as Domestic Violence Awareness  
24 Month in the City of New York. All of those in  
25 favor, say aye.

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2 [collective aye]

3 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All of those  
4 opposed. Any abstentions? The ayes have it.  
5 General Discussion. Council Member Treyger.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you,  
7 Madame Public Advocate. Next Wednesday marks two  
8 years since the largest natural disaster in New York  
9 City history hit our shores and devastated coastal  
10 neighborhoods across Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island,  
11 Lower Manhattan and The Bronx. As we approach that  
12 milestone I wanted to give you a sense of where we  
13 are with the recovery process and how we reached this  
14 point and to convey the critical and urgent need that  
15 still exists in neighborhoods across the City. The  
16 damage caused by Sandy was truly devastating -- 43  
17 lives lost, 80-mile-per-hour winds at landfall and  
18 estimated \$19 billion in losses for the City, the  
19 loss of 3 million cubic yards of sand, 70,000 NYCHA  
20 units damaged or destroyed, the loss of power in  
21 countless homes and buildings, 2 million New Yorkers  
22 without water, 6 hospitals forced to close; forcing  
23 the evacuation of over 2,000 patients, the closure of  
24 26 nursing homes; impacting 4,500 residents, and  
25 damage to over 400 parks. In the weeks and months

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2 after the City received over 20,000 applications to  
3 Build It Back and learned that over 23,000 businesses  
4 had been inundated by the storm. No matter how you  
5 measure it, the impact was widespread and devastating  
6 and requires an unprecedented response from all  
7 levels of government. We all know that the pace of  
8 this recovery has been far from acceptable and has  
9 left thousands of residents and families in limbo,  
10 unable to return home, unable to ensure their  
11 financial security or reopen their business until  
12 government finally provides the assistance they need.  
13 It is clear that the current administration inherited  
14 a process that was fundamentally flawed and had  
15 failed in its mission to help New Yorkers recover.  
16 Along the way, my committee, with the support of the  
17 Speaker and the entire Council, has done incredible  
18 work to expose inexcusable problems and red tape that  
19 has been delaying this recovery. Our first hearing  
20 was a historic hearing with Council Member Ritchie  
21 Torres' Committee on Public Housing, which we held  
22 not at City Hall, but for the first time ever in a  
23 public housing complex in Coney Island's Carey  
24 Gardens Community Center. At the hearing there was a  
25 resident who exposed the fact [bell] that NYCHA had



1  
2 rented faulty temporary boilers that were not  
3 designed for cold weather... [interpose]

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

6 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: a week later we  
7 learned that FEMA had found over \$1 billion to  
8 rebuild the impacted NYCHA buildings and make them  
9 more resilient. At our Build It Back hearing... I'll  
10 close this paragraph, Public Advocate. At our Build  
11 It Back hearing, with Chairs Richards and Williams,  
12 we found that almost nobody had received actual  
13 assistance and there was no localized recovery  
14 effort. That is now changing with increased  
15 visibility, improved communication and measurable  
16 benchmarks. As a result of information revealed  
17 during our hearing on Small Business Recovery with  
18 Chair Cornegy, the Administration made the correct  
19 decision to de-couple loans and grants, as these  
20 small businesses need help and not more debt.

21 In closing, I have been asked whether we  
22 could finally see light at the end of the tunnel; my  
23 response is no, but we have finally found this  
24 tunnel. This recovery will not be judged by the  
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number of announcements and presentations, it will be judged... [interpose]

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

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: on the number of people helped and assisted. This anniversary I will be rolling up my sleeves with Habitat for Humanity to help rebuild a house on Coney Island and I urge all my colleagues to commit to a day of service helping New Yorkers who are still in need two years after the storm.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Council Member Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you very much, Madame Public Advocate and thank you, Madame Speaker. My colleagues, I rise to express my gratitude to the Homeland Security and also to the President of the United States of America and to all of you, my colleagues from this good body. You know, United States is a great country and when you are living in the United States you have the opportunity to bring your family members for family unification. But Haitian, when they had to bring their family members over to the United States, they had to wait

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2 for 5, 10 or 15 years and some of the time their  
3 family members died and they didn't see the promised  
4 land. But in 2012 I sponsored a resolution that was  
5 voted overwhelmingly by the City Council, because of  
6 your support and since that time I've been working  
7 very hard with my colleagues from the city, state and  
8 federal government across the nation and Haitian  
9 leaders to urge the federal government to act. Last  
10 week the federal government, Homeland Security,  
11 accept to grant to Haitian people to come to the  
12 United States and to expedite the process. Now  
13 family members -- brothers, sisters, wife; husband --  
14 they will be able to come to the United States to  
15 wait for the green card. Just imagine the suffering;  
16 the pain of brothers, sisters, wife; children waiting  
17 to unite with the family members, and let me tell  
18 you, after the horrific earthquake that devastated  
19 part of Haiti, the pain and their suffering became  
20 worse, but thanks to your support and also to the  
21 Homeland Security, now the Haitian people will have  
22 the opportunity to come to the United States to wait  
23 for their green card. On behalf of the Haitian  
24 community and Haitian people, from the bottom of my  
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heart, to all of you, my colleagues, thank you very much.

And I want to... today I'm introducing also two bills... [interpose]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member, your time has come to... [bell]

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Yes...

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: a close... [crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: two bills before the Council; the first, a Local Law to streamline information on federal, state and local candidates into a singular guide and for the guide to be online. And the second one... [interpose]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member, please bring your comments to a close; the time has expired. [crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Yes, I'm closing now. The second one seeks to reserve parking for senior citizens in front of the senior centers.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you very much; I'm asking you for your support. Thank you. [crosstalk]

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
3 Council Member Williams.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you,  
5 Madame Public Advocate. First I'd like to bring my  
6 colleagues' attention to two bills -- Int 0526 --  
7 [background comment] the bill will require multiple  
8 dwelling owners to provide notice to their tenants  
9 prior to making building amenities unavailable,  
10 whether it is temporary or permanent. The second is  
11 Res 0454, which I'm joined with Council Members  
12 Cumbo, Gibson and Barron, it's a resolution calling  
13 upon the United States Congress to pass and the  
14 President to sign H.R.5277/S.2695, also known as the  
15 Survivor Outreach and Support Campus Act, which  
16 amends the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require  
17 institutions of higher education to have an  
18 independent advocate for campus sexual assault  
19 prevention and response. I'm proud to introduce this  
20 resolution during Domestic Violence Awareness Month,  
21 as it will require every college campus that receives  
22 federal money to hire sexual assault counselors on  
23 their campus.

24 Lastly, I wanted to make mention of  
25 something that's been troubling; there's a lot of

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2 attention that's been given to the Ebola crisis,  
3 apparently in the United States of America and from  
4 my understanding there has been one confirmed death  
5 and two people who contracted it who were actually  
6 attending to that person; most of the crisis I  
7 believe is in the countries in Africa, which we  
8 should hopefully, as a country, not neglect anymore  
9 and provide as much service and resources that are  
10 needed to stem it there. In this country, however, I  
11 believe that the real crisis of gun violence is  
12 something that I'm hoping we will pay more attention  
13 to; I know we've appointed... our federal government  
14 has appointed an Ebola czar to deal with the Ebola  
15 issues in the United States; there has been a little  
16 over 9,000 people shot and killed this year; whatever  
17 day people are listening; hear me speaking, about 32  
18 people will get shot and killed; tens of thousands of  
19 people have been shot and killed since Newtown. My  
20 hope is that governments will take the real crisis of  
21 gun violence as seriously as they're taking the Ebola  
22 scare. I wanna thank the Speaker and the Mayor and  
23 what we're doing in this city and hopefully others  
24 will follow, [bell] but much more needs to be done.  
25 Thank you.

1  
2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member  
3 Johnson.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you,  
5 Madame Public Advocate. I rise today to speak during  
6 gay and lesbian, LGBT History Month, which October  
7 is; I wanna speak about someone who lived in my  
8 district and was a very famous New Yorker and  
9 American -- Bayard Rustin was remembered as the  
10 organizer of the 1963 March on Washington, one of the  
11 largest, non-violent protests ever held in the United  
12 States. He brought [background comment] Gandhi's  
13 protest techniques to the American civil rights  
14 movement and helped mold MLK, Jr. in an international  
15 symbol of peace and non-violence. Bayard Rustin's  
16 biography will be as particularly important for  
17 lesbian and gay Americans, highlighting the major  
18 contributions of a gay man to ending official  
19 segregation in America. Rustin stands at the  
20 confluence of great struggles for civil, legal and  
21 human rights by African-Americans and lesbian and gay  
22 Americans. He officially began his life-long career  
23 as a social and political activist in 1937, which is  
24 when he moved to New York City. In 1941, it was a  
25 turning point; it was the year that he began to work

1  
2 with A. Philip Randolph, his mentor. The following  
3 year he was dispatched to California to help protect  
4 the property of Japanese Americans imprisoned in the  
5 internment camps. In 1947 he helped plan the first  
6 Freedom Rides in the south to help challenge Jim Crow  
7 practices. In 1956 he began working with Dr. Martin  
8 Luther King, Jr. in the early days of the Montgomery  
9 bus boycott. However, as a gay man, who was  
10 relatively open about his sexual orientation for the  
11 time, Rustin experienced much anti-gay prejudice in  
12 addition to racial discrimination. Because he was  
13 gay as well as having controversial political  
14 positions, Rustin was often relegated to the behind-  
15 the-scenes role in various campaigns. We commemorate  
16 him today as an incredible activist; I am proud to  
17 say that the Bayard Rustin High School is in my  
18 district, on West 18th Street; [bell] lived at Penn  
19 South in Chelsea and his late partner and husband,  
20 Walter Naegle, still lives there today; Bayard Rustin  
21 was a great American and I am so proud that he lived  
22 in my district and we should honor him during LGBT  
23 History Month. Thank you, Madame Public Advocate.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

25 Council Member King.



1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Good afternoon. I  
3 rise today, my colleagues and thank you, Madame  
4 Public Advocate, to ask you all in support of myself  
5 and Council Member Koo's resolution that's designed  
6 to help students in the public school system have a  
7 better chance at learning. Over the past year I've  
8 been having meetings with principals, students,  
9 family members; parents, talking about the number one  
10 distractions that they're incurring the schools and  
11 that's apparel. So we are requesting that the State,  
12 with the resolution that we're submitting today,  
13 0451, we're asking you to support urging the State to  
14 mandate uniform wear in the public school system.  
15 Why we are asking for this? Because we wanna make  
16 sure it's a safe environment for our students,  
17 students who incur bullying because they're not  
18 wearing the latest fashions, students who are not  
19 part of certain cliques just because they can't  
20 afford the right Jordans; all the issues that come  
21 with not being able to afford the latest apparel;  
22 parents are stressing out trying to buy their  
23 children uniforms. We've had a number of  
24 conversations with advocates and parents understand  
25 the cost savings that they have with buying maybe

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three uniforms for a year as opposed to trying to find outfits throughout the whole year. So I'm asking us all to figure out how we can help our students relieve the number one distraction that they're incurring, from the young men talking about it's a distraction watching young ladies with tight clothing, and it's hard to tell a 14-year-old who's going through puberty and all the issues that your body goes through, these changes, that they're supposed to ignore these challenges, as well as the young sisters talking about how disrespectful of young men walking with their pants down and all some of the free sexual behaviors that happen in stairwells in schools that are not being discussed today. So I'm asking us all to help our students to find a way that we can relieve this number one distraction that's happening; that's not being talked about and urging the State to make sure that we're able to get uniform use in schools. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

Council Member Kallos.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I rise on Int 0508 with co-sponsorship of the Progressive Caucus

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that will allow New Yorkers to register to vote...  
[interpose]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member  
Kallos; is your microphone on?

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: My mic's on. I  
rise on Int... are we... I rise on Int 0508 with co-  
sponsorship of the Progressive Caucus that will allow  
New Yorkers to vote online. In this day and age we  
are use to filling out forms online, clicking a mouse  
or swiping right and getting instant confirmation.  
Voter registration should be as simple as a click  
away or a swipe away. This is the way of the future,  
24 states have online registration in some form; many  
of them entirely paperless and it's a secure process.  
I hope to build on Governor Cuomo's 2012 Reform to  
allow DMV users to register online in New York State.  
Thank you to the Progressive Caucus for its support,  
Co-Chairs Reynoso and Richards, as well as members  
Dromm, Levin, Levine, Menchaca, Rodriguez, Rose, and  
Rosenthal.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member  
Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you, Madame  
Public Advocate. Today I am introducing Int 0509

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about tree planting. This bill will require the City to notify the owners of one-, two- or three-family homes at least 30 days in advance notice that they will be planting a tree on the sidewalk abutting their properties. Currently the City is only required to notify schools and hospitals. This bill extends coverage to homeowners. The City can notify the homeowners either by fax, regular mail, email or by carrier. This is common sense legislation. If the homeowner is responsible for maintaining of their sidewalks, the least the City can do is to notify them when they intend to plant a tree next to their homes. Thank you very much.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And now members of the LGBT Caucus, Council Members Dromm, Rose... Council Member [background comments, laughter] Dromm, Council Member Mendez and Council Member Menchaca and honorary member... [background comment] and honorary member, Council Member Rose will speak later.

[laughter]

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: We'll take all honorary members, Madame Public Advocate.

[laughter]

1  
2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council... quiet in  
3 the chambers... Council Member Dromm. [laugh]

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you, Madame  
5 Public Advocate. I also wanna rise in support of the  
6 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender History Month,  
7 which October is. I wanna mention Billy Jean King,  
8 who is an American, former world number one tennis  
9 player. Her position as a feminist and member of the  
10 LGBT community is legendary. King's activism centers  
11 on supporting not just other athletes who wanna come  
12 out of the closet, but anyone who wants to live an  
13 open life. At the age of 70, she still serves as a  
14 leading figure in women's sports and was selected by  
15 President Obama to travel to Sochi for the 2014  
16 Winter Olympics as part of the official U.S.  
17 delegation. King currently shares her life with her  
18 partner, Ilana Kloss, another former tennis pro.  
19 Though King has been inducted into the International  
20 Tennis and the National Women's Halls of Fame, she  
21 has received the Presidential Medal of Freedom and  
22 had a tennis stadium in Queens renamed in her honor;  
23 many New York City students have no idea of her many  
24 accomplishments or most importantly to me, that she  
25 identifies as a proud lesbian. King has broken

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barriers for women and LGBT people across the globe.  
This is an important part of the greater human rights  
movement and needs to be taught in our public  
schools. Billy Jean King is a fabulous lesbian.  
Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
[laughter] Thank you. Thank you. Council Member  
Rose, you don't have your papers yet, so I'll exclude  
you from [laughter] the member... so again, continuing  
with the LGBT Caucus, Council Members Mendez, Torres  
and Menchaca.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you, Madame  
Public Advocate and I've been trying to convert  
Council Member Rose for the longest, so this is  
[laughter] good news and we need an out member in  
Staten Island, so it's about time, so we could have  
one in every borough.

So October is LGBT History Month and  
today I would like honor and recognize Sylvia Rivera.  
Sylvia Rivera was a Puerto Rican and Venezuelan  
transgender activist; she was present at the  
Stonewall Riots of 1969; she was also very active in  
the civil rights movement; she was a member of the  
Young Lords Party and also very active and worked

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2 with the Black Panther Party. She started an  
3 organization called STAR, Street Transgender Action  
4 Revolutionaries, when in 1986 we passed the Gay Civil  
5 Rights Bill in this City Council and she was dismayed  
6 at the exclusion of transgender and then created this  
7 group. She also worked in my district on East 2nd  
8 Street, where she had a building for homeless drag  
9 queens and homeless transgender women. She passed  
10 away in February of 2002 and for two years I worked  
11 with her, when I was a staffer on the Transgender  
12 Civil Rights Bill; unfortunately she didn't get to  
13 see that law become a reality; she passed away in  
14 February and this City Council passed that law in  
15 April. In her memory and in all the work that she  
16 did as a Latina and as a transgender activist, I  
17 honor her today. Thank you very much.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Thank you, Madame  
19 Public Advocate, you originally forgot to mention me,  
20 so I thought I had been replaced by Council Member  
21 Rose, but... [laughter] and that would actually have  
22 been a good addition to... But I'm gonna speak in honor  
23 of Audre Lorde, who was a feminist, a lesbian, poet,  
24 essayist, mother, daughter of immigrants, and a self-  
25 proclaimed warrior. Born in New York City in 1934 of

1  
2 West Indian immigrant parents, Audre came to poetry  
3 in her early teens, publishing her first poem in 17  
4 Magazine when she was still in high school. Over the  
5 course of her life, Audre published poetry  
6 anthologies, collections of essays and an  
7 autobiography. Her writing blended art and activism,  
8 beautifully addressing these themes ranging from  
9 lesbian relationships and love to racism and  
10 homophobia. Audre was the recipient of numerous  
11 awards. In 1991 she was honored as New York's Poet  
12 Laureate in 1991; a year later she died of liver  
13 cancer, but her legacy lives on in many corners of  
14 New York City, from the Audre Lorde Project and the  
15 Callen-Lorde Community Health Center to the hearts  
16 and minds of innumerable artists and activists.

17 Audre once famously said there was no such thing as a  
18 single-issue struggle because we do not live single-  
19 issue lives. Those words ring true for many of us  
20 here in the New York City Council as we increasingly  
21 see the intersectionality of our work. LGBTQ rights  
22 depend on access to quality, affordable housing,  
23 housing depends on good employment, employment  
24 depends on quality education and quality education  
25 requires safety and security for LGBTQ youth. All of



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these issues we fight for are interconnected;  
understanding and embracing the interconnectedness of  
our work as we strive for a fairer, better New York  
City; that, ladies and gentlemen is the legacy of  
Audre Lorde. [background comments] And a shout-out  
to Council Member Rose. Yeah. Yeah. [laughter]  
Yeah.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member  
Menchaca.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you,  
Public Advocate. In honor of the LGBT History Month,  
I want to highlight Patria Jimenez. She's Mexico's  
first openly gay member of congress, elected in 1998  
at the age of 41. She met many colleagues at that  
time at the City Council, like Margarita Lopez and  
company in Puerto Rico and she comes in with a very  
kinda similar history to mine; the 9th of 10 children  
in a conservative catholic family, Jimenez overcame  
her own family's prejudices to confront the bigotry  
of society at large. She works on issues of  
homophobic violence, violations of basic rights,  
sexual and sexuality education, cultural activism and  
awareness of AIDS and HIV and other sexually  
transmitted diseases. In addition, she is a leader

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2 on domestic violence initiatives and is a supporter  
3 of peace negotiations with the Zapatista rebels in  
4 Chiapas. As a member of the national legislature,  
5 Jimenez works on behalf of sexual minorities and for  
6 the dispossessed and the voiceless throughout Mexico.  
7 Jimenez has been a relentless advocate for justice,  
8 pressuring police to reopen investigations on the  
9 deaths of thousands of openly gay and trans people;  
10 these are the same things we're facing here today in  
11 New York City. In 1992 she was quoted out of an  
12 organization that she started, El Closet de Sor Juana  
13 (the Closet of Sister Juana) -- "We always took the  
14 opportunity," she says, "to forthrightly declare that  
15 we were lesbians, protesting this and that, because I  
16 believe it is very important to get involved within  
17 social movements as lesbians, homosexuals and  
18 bisexuals and to work within them, like the  
19 indigenous movement in Mexico, for example; that gave  
20 us presence and made us and them realize that one is  
21 not alone."

22 So for her bravery in the fact of  
23 injustice and for furthering the cause of the LGBT  
24 Mexicans and really having an impact around the  
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1  
2 world, I honor her and pay tribute. Thank you so  
3 much.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. I  
5 wanna thank the members of the LGBT Caucus for that  
6 history lesson. And now, back to General Discussion.  
7 Council Member Chin. Council Member Vallone.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you,  
9 Madame Advocate. I just wanted to let our fellow  
10 members know what a great morning we had; Speaker  
11 Melissa Mark-Viverito and Council Member Margaret  
12 Chin chaired a conference with AARP, talking about  
13 the status of seniors in our city and Melissa  
14 unveiled some wonderful ideas with age-friendly New  
15 York and she commanded a room of professionals that  
16 were all there for ideas and Margaret was on the  
17 panel and it was great to be there and could say the  
18 City Council was ruling the day today, talking about  
19 seniors and what our role will be going forward and  
20 as Chair of the Senior Centers, I was very proud to  
21 be there with both of them. Thank you.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member  
23 Cabrera.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you so  
25 much, Madame Public Advocate. Today I'm introducing

1  
2 a resolution urging the Congress of the United States  
3 to adopt House Resolution 85, the Dominican-American  
4 Heritage Resolution. This resolution would honor the  
5 contributions the Dominican-American community has  
6 made to the United States. When adopted, [background  
7 comments] this resolution will establish a national  
8 month of recognition beginning January 21st, the Day  
9 of the Procession of Altagracia through February 27,  
10 the Dominican-American Independence Day. As the son  
11 of a Dominican father, I take some personal pride and  
12 satisfaction in numerous accomplishments of the  
13 Dominican community, from heroes in the field of  
14 sports to heroes of the field of battle, Dominican-  
15 Americans have established a distinguished record of  
16 service to American life. I think it is also  
17 important to note that Dominican-Americans represent  
18 the fastest growing Hispanic population in America,  
19 are the second largest Hispanic population in New  
20 York and the largest in Manhattan, though they found  
21 the promised land in The Bronx.

22 So today we also pause to reflect on the  
23 life and contribution of one of our great Dominican  
24 heroes, Oscar de la Renta; I urge my colleagues to  
25 adopt this resolution. Thank you very much.

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
3 Council Member Richards.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I just wanted  
5 to bring to my colleagues attention Int 0518, which  
6 is sponsored by myself and Council Member Jumaane  
7 Williams; it's a bill that will make it unlawful for  
8 a used car dealer to sell a vehicle that has been  
9 recalled without making the necessary repairs. This  
10 bill is simply about establishing better business  
11 practices throughout the industry and about  
12 protecting consumers. When a consumer goes to a  
13 licensed dealership to purchase a vehicle, it is fair  
14 to have an expectation that what is being sold is in  
15 safe and working condition; therefore, it is  
16 appropriate to hold a licensed dealer responsible for  
17 selling inventory that has been recalled by the  
18 manufacturer; it is unfair to sell the vehicle to and  
19 ultimately pass the costs and liabilities of a  
20 malfunctioning automobile to the consumer. In order  
21 to deter this type of bad behavior we are proposing  
22 an increase in the penalties for such infractions and  
23 for those who chronically break the law, we propose a  
24 revocation of their operating license. This bill  
25 demonstrates our commitment to protecting consumers

1  
2 and it brings accountability to the industry. No one  
3 is hurt if they are doing the right thing. Thank  
4 you.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member  
6 Espinal.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Thank you,  
8 Madame Public Advocate. I wanna rewind the clock and  
9 talk about some intros we passed earlier today; I'm  
10 so compelled to speak on them; I missed an  
11 opportunity. As the son of Dominican immigrants who  
12 came to this country to seek a better life for  
13 themselves, I am very proud to have voted in favor of  
14 Intros Nos. 0486 and 0487, the ICE detaining  
15 legislation. With the passage of these two pieces of  
16 legislation today, the we in this body are taking the  
17 lead on what I believe is a national human rights  
18 issue. For many years I have witnessed ICE set up  
19 shops in our city jails to prey on some of our most  
20 vulnerable immigrant inmates who have served their  
21 time and expedite them into federal detention  
22 centers. These immigrants are then separated from  
23 their families and oftentimes transported to states  
24 like Texas and Louisiana without due process of the  
25 law. It is my hope that this legislation will serve

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2 as a model of other municipalities throughout the  
3 country that are also struggling to keep ICE from  
4 targeting its most vulnerable residents. I would  
5 like to strongly commend our Speaker, Melissa Mark-  
6 Viverito, for pushing forth and prioritizing this  
7 bold and groundbreaking legislation and giving a  
8 voice to those that need it most. Thank you.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. And  
10 now the honorary member of the LGBT Caucus, Council  
11 Member Rose.

12 [laughter]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: This is gonna be a  
14 surprise to my family; I'm [laughter] outed at City  
15 Hall. [laughter] [background comments] I don't  
16 know, my family... my boo is not gonna be happy, Rosie.  
17 [background comment]

18 I wanna first say that the women in the  
19 City Council are awesome and I guess that really...  
20 [cheers, background comments, applause] especially my  
21 LGBT women. [laughter] And I would really like to  
22 thank the Speaker, Council Member Cumbo, the Women's  
23 Caucus and the Women's Committee for shining a light  
24 on the scourge of domestic violence and the health  
25 issues that women face facing breast cancer. I think

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that the efforts put forth by the women in City Council have been phenomenal this month and I hope that it not only has an impact but it will be an ongoing effort.

And so today I also speak in support of Int 0507; I'm excited to introduce this legislation with Council Member Kallos to expand the waterfront advisory board, giving access to our city waterfronts is a valued but underused resource for the City and at our Waterfront Committee yesterday we learned that there are only five dockmasters to oversee our vast waterfront. So with the expansion of the waterfront management advisory board we will be able to better oversee development on our waterfronts, protect our waterfront, improve the overall upkeep and ultimately enhance and increase access to our beautiful waterfronts, which are the jewels and the crown of New York City. So please support better management of and greater access to our waterfronts by signing on in support of Int 0507. Thank you so much.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
Council Member Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Yes, I just would like to rise to let all my colleagues know that we



1  
2 lost a phenomenal woman of god this week under  
3 Archbishop Roy E. Brown of Pilgrim Assembly and under  
4 the dudamous [sp?] district, my Bishop is Robert  
5 Rochford and he just lost his wife on Sunday, Lois L.  
6 Rochford, a strong, phenomenal woman who did many  
7 things in the community and our community in  
8 Brownsville and East New York, we will miss her and I  
9 just hope that everyone knows that just losing her we  
10 have lost a warrior in our community, with things  
11 that she had done with having our young people get  
12 singing groups, to make sure they go to the hospital,  
13 to make sure that they do different things,  
14 volunteer; to know that you have to get on a  
15 community board and she had all her parishioners on  
16 all the community boards in which neighborhoods they  
17 lived in. So I know we have lost someone that we  
18 will truly, truly never forget and you will be  
19 hearing from our church about... I could say about  
20 40,000 members in the Pilgrim Assembly, so please  
21 pray for the family and our church. Thank you.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. And  
23 I'd like to ask my colleagues to join me and Council  
24 Members Gibson, Barron and Cumbo and sign onto Int  
25 No. 0517, a bill that would devote information and

1  
2 city services to address college sexual assault; this  
3 bill is part of a larger policy and legislative  
4 proposal that my office has been working on for  
5 several months; the goal of our efforts is to  
6 guarantee that students attending any college or  
7 university in New York City can be assured of the  
8 most basic and necessary services to combat and  
9 respond to college sexual assaults; the bill is one  
10 step in helping to provide the tools to colleges and  
11 universities to achieve that and I look forward to  
12 the oversight hearing on this issue on October 27th.  
13 I wanna thank the Speaker and my colleagues, Council  
14 Members Gibson, Barron, Cumbo and Mealy for working  
15 with me on this office [sic]. And now Council Member  
16 Mendez.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you, Madame  
18 Public Advocate. I just wanna rise today and speak  
19 about one of my predecessors, Marion Friedlander; she  
20 served on the City Council for 18 years, from 1973 to  
21 1991; she lost her seat after redistricting; she was  
22 an incredible voice for the LGBT community and this  
23 weekend we co-named a street after her and she  
24 created, had the Woman's Committee created here in  
25 the City Council and she got the word "councilman" to

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be called council member, so even if you were a woman you were still called a councilman. So during this month, the LGBT History Month and for Domestic Violence Month, for everything that she did for women, for tenants and for the LGBT community, I just wanna give her a shout-out. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. And now the Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito to close.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: So I wanna thank the LGBT Caucus for reminding us that October is LGBT Awareness Month and we've heard some great recognition of some of those that are LGBT members in our community and the contributions. I also am reminded, unfortunately, of the continued struggle that we must engage in. Unfortunately, although we see some great advancements across different states in this country for the advancement of marriage equality and for equal justice for all, we unfortunately have seen a setback, temporary setback, in Puerto Rico, where unfortunately some of our judges are not as enlightened and we have a Puerto Rico federal court judge just yesterday that dismissed a same-sex marriage lawsuit on the island. His name is U.S. District Court Judge Juan Perez-

1  
2 Gimenez, who had this lovely quote in his decision.

3 "Ultimately the very survival of the political order  
4 depends upon the procreative potential embodied in  
5 traditional marriage." Those are his words. It's  
6 very embarrassing, to be honest, as a Puerto Rican,  
7 to hear that kind of language spewed by a judge to  
8 deny equal rights to couples on the island. So that  
9 is a temporary setback; it is a reminder, during this  
10 month in particular that the fight for justice  
11 continues; there will be an appeal, obviously to that  
12 case; it will be taken to Boston to be heard and  
13 hopefully we will prevail.

14 So thank you all for the work that you  
15 do, to the LGBT Caucus for reminding of us of the  
16 accomplishments of many that have contributed to our  
17 city and to our nation and with that, thank you all;  
18 have a great afternoon, colleagues and it is just  
19 about 3:40.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: The Black, Latino  
21 and Asian Caucus is meeting after Stated in the Red  
22 Room and we are now adjourned.

23 [gavel]

24 [background comments]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date October 24, 2014