

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

STATED MEETING

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May 14, 2014
Start: 1:27 p.m.
End: 3:39 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E: MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO
Speaker

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

MARIA DEL CARMEN ARROYO
INEZ D. BARRON
FERNANDO CABRERA
MARGARET S. CHIN
ANDREW COHEN
COSTA G. CONSTANTINIDES
ROBERT E. CORNEGY, JR.
ELIZABETH S. CROWLEY
LAURIE A. CUMBO
CHAIM M. DEUTSCH
INEZ E. DICKENS
DANIEL DROMM
RAFAEL L. ESPINAL, JR.
MATHIEU EUGENE
JULISSA FERRERAS
DANIEL R. GARODNICK
VINCENTJ. 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)

MS. JAMES, PUBLIC ADVOCATE

ARCHBISHOP JOSEPH A. ALEXANDER

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I think we are going to start ceremonials.

(background noise/talking)

Okay. So, we have three ceremonials. So, we can try to get started. I want to.. the first one today, is Helen Rosenthal, that is issuing a proclamation to the Martin Luther King High School soccer team..

(cheers)

...on winning. Wow, they have won the City championship fifteen times. Wow, that's amazing. So, congratulations to everyone. Welcome to the Chambers. Has anyone been in the Chambers before?

(unidentified replies)

Really? Alright. Now, another question I always ask young people; how many of you know who your Council Member is?

(unidentified replies)

Right? Coach? You've got homework. You've got homework for them. You to our website, and you go to our council.nyc.gov website, there is a button that says find my council member. And, you plug in your address of where you live, and you

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are going to get a photo, of someone that looks like Helen, or Andy, or me, or Margaret, whoever your council member is. So, we need you guys to know, it's really important that you understand who your representatives are because we are making big decisions on your behalf. So, with that, I will pass the mike onto our colleague, Council Member, Helen Rosenthal.

ROSENTHAL: Thank you, so much, Melissa. And, thanks for reiterating the point I just made to them. And, I challenged the freshmen, and the sophomores, and the juniors to come back next year and to know who their council members are.

So, I want to... I want to give this proclamation to you guys, today. And, in the spirit of coach Jake, who is going to come up here to receive this proclamation... uh, do I have time to read this?

(unidentified reply): They are going to read it.

ROSENTHAL: Oh, they're going to read it. Oh. The Clerk reads...

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2 ...(cross talk)I'm sorry. You know, you
3 guys should know. You have been in high school for
4 like four years, I have been in the Council for
5 four months. So, I am just learning how to do all
6 these things. So, the proclamation is going to be
7 read. But, I want you to know that speaking as
8 somebody who, uh..., who... um, would never participate
9 in high school sports, I want you to know how much
10 I admire your stepping up and participating in
11 sports. It's the single most important thing you
12 could be doing after reading, of course, and after
13 knowing who your city council person is...

14 (interruption)

15 ...it's Andy? Yeah, okay. Whatever.
16 Anyway, it is, participating in sports is the
17 single most important thing you can do to help
18 yourself to have a successful life after school.
19 And, I want to encourage you to ask every young
20 woman you know to get themselves involved in
21 competitive sports along with you. Next year, I
22 want to see Coach Jake here with the women's team,
23 with the young women's team who is equally
24 successful. You know, this is truly what's setting
25 you on the path to success. So, thank you for

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being engaged in your school, and engaged as a soccer player, and for listening to Coach Jake.
(applause)

So, now I am going to ask the Clerk to read the proclamation.

CLERK: Council, City of New York
Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of New York is proud to honor the Martin Luther King High School Varsity Soccer Team, recognizing their fifteenth win of the New York City public high school Championship in the past eighteen years, and thanks all players, coaches, staff, teachers and parents for the support they have shown to the team members in all facets of their lives. And, whereas, since Martin Luther King High School Varsity Soccer Team came under the guidance of Coach Martin Jacobson in 1994. The teams that represented King, have amassed a 389 to 25 to 14 record. And have been nationally ranked many times over the last eighteen years. This year, the team defeated Beacon High School to win its fifteenth New York City public high school Championship.
(applause)

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2 And whereas, the Martin Luther King High School
3 Varsity Soccer Team finished the season undefeated
4 with an overall record of 20 to 0 to 1.

5 Additionally, the team was ranked number 7 in the
6 country by Studentsportssoccer.com and number 14 in
7 the country in the National Soccer Coach's
8 Association of Americas, final polls of the season.

9 The team's supportive network within the school has
10 created a team that not only practices together,
11 but eats lunch and attends classes. And whereas,
12 the Martin Luther King High School Varsity Soccer
13 Team has one of the highest graduation rates of any
14 team in New York City public schools, with over 95%
15 of players completing their high school education.

16 (applause)

17 The team has seen hundreds of players go on to
18 college and many have gone on to play soccer at the
19 professional level, demonstrating the importance of
20 team sports to educational success. Now,
21 therefore, be it known that the Council of the City
22 New York proudly honors the Martin Luther King High
23 School Varsity Soccer Team for its fifteenth New
24 York City public school Championship and its
25 exemplary work, in fostering educational success

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through team sports. Melissa Mark-Viverito,
Speaker for the entire Council, Helen Rosenthal,
Council Member 6th District, Manhattan.

(applause)

ROSENTHAL: Alright. So, before we ask
the coach to say a few words; part two of the civic
lesson, alright? This young woman over here, Tish
James, is a city-wide elected official. So, that
means she represents everybody in this room.

(applause)

She is the Public Advocate. And, the first woman
of color, first African-American to have a city-
wide position. So, she has made history.

Coach, it's all yours.

COACH JAKE: Thank you. Thank you,
Helen. I want to thank my team for bringing us
back to City Hall.

(background noise)Shhh, shhh.

I like that. You like that? That's how
we should have it in the class. But, thank you
guys. Your... actually, I am very proud. I always
want to come back here. And, it took a little
while, 'cause Helen is new. We have been here
before. Thank God. And, you know, and not all

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fifteen times, but quite a few years. You have made me proud. Continue the tradition. We expect to win again next year, and be here next year. And, an MLK team did win a championship in the girls' basketball team this year.

(applause)

They are writing you, and they're... we are going to bring them here. I just want to thank everyone.

And, as I mentioned, these boys, the kids are graduating... we will probably have a hundred percent, this year, seniors again. We've done well. We're the winningest high school team in New York City, for pretty much all sports. And, these boys, you know, they are the pride of New York City. I want to thank you for bringing us up here.

And, guys thank you. And, have it one giant picture.

(applause)

ROSENTHAL: Thank you, Coach. We are proud of all these young men, and congratulations, again.

(background talking)

(pause)

ROSENTHAL: Okay. Congrats. So, the next ceremonial will be, Council Member, Inez

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Dickens, with the Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council in celebration of Hip-Hop Against Gun and Gang Violence.

Council Member, Dickens.

(background laughing/talking)

(pause)

DICKENS: Alright. This is a...

(interruption)

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Quiet please. Quiet in the Chamber.

DICKENS: This is a father and son duel. Charles Fisher, the founder, and Randy, Executive Director of the Hip-Hop Youth Summit, have been dedicated for years to bring awareness and advocacy for today's issue of anti-gang, by using hip-hop to improve social, political and economic conditions, by flipping the script. The Hip-Hop Summit encourages the youth to graduate from school, improve their character, obtain employment, pursue their entrepreneurial goals, fulfill their civic duty and avoid the criminal justice system. Using these tactics, it is a great way to build a

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movement that works for the safety and positive development of our future, our youth.

Today, we have worked tirelessly to secure funding from different public and private organizations, such as, Coca Cola, who last year gave \$25,000.00 to the Hip-Hop Summit to spread their message and solidify their commitment to improving public safety and health awareness for our youth to become more proactive towards reducing gun and gang violence, being leaders in their communities, and to lead healthy lives with a focus on prevention, education, and awareness. So, I want to... today, the City Council and the Chair of the B-L-A-C Caucus, Andy King, and the Co-Chair, Council Member, Rosie Mendez, we stand together, united, to say thank you to the hip-hoppers who can, with, our, by the way, our citywide... our, citywide elected Public Advocate, Tish James, to say thank you. Because hip-hop is what garners the support and the attention of the young people. And, so I'm going to ask now for the Clerk to read the proc.

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CLERK: Council, City of New York

Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of New York is proud to join the community in adjusting the problems of gun and gang violence as we honor the Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council for its 2014 Hip-Hop Against Gun and Gang Violence Week, and its unwavering commitment to improving public safety and ending gun and gang violence in all its forms. And, whereas, hip-hop is an international phenomenon that transcends music, culture, race, religion and ethnicity. When hip-hop was born in the Bronx in the early 1970's it addressed gang and gun violence, drugs, poverty, unemployment and academic failure. And, whereas, the Hip-Hop Summit Youth Councils Hip-Hop Against Gun and Gang Violence Initiative is 105 day campaign and tour to motivate children, youth and young adults and how they can become more proactive towards reducing gun and gang violence in their school home and community, with a focus on prevention, education, and awareness.

In an era where 34 people in America are killed with guns each day, and news of mass shootings is often met with indifference, the Hip-Hop Summit

1 Youth Council addresses one of the most urgent
2 public health issues of our time. And, whereas,
3 strong partnerships with law enforcement,
4 celebrities, students, schools, community groups,
5 corporations, clergy, gang leaders, seniors,
6 formally incarcerated citizens, city, state and
7 federal agencies are the keys to the success of the
8 initiative, which offers a host of activities and
9 empowers young citizens to take action, including
10 social media promotions, solution summits, seven
11 eaves for power, seven initiatives for success,
12 films, gun buy-back programs, celebrity PSA's,
13 prizes, talent and essay contests, tickets to
14 entertainment and sports events.

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16 And, whereas, we commend the Hip-Hop
17 Against Gun and Gang Violence Initiative for its
18 commitment to improving public safety, and its on-
19 going support to helping young citizens graduate
20 from school, pursue college, obtain employment,
21 fulfill their civic duty, and stay out of the
22 criminal justice system. Now, therefore be it
23 known, that the Council of the City of New York
24 honors the Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council and hereby
25 declares May 16th through the 22nd, 2014 as Hip-Hop

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Against Gun and Gang Violence Week in New York City. Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the entire Council; Inez E. Dickens, Council Member, 9th District, Manhattan; Rosie Mendez, Co-Chair, Black and Latino and Asian Caucus; Andy King, Co-Chair, Black and Latino and Asian Caucus.

(applause)

MS. ROSENTHAL: Alright. So, I want to thank Inez for giving this Proclamation recognition, to Charles and Randy, that I've had a chance sit with and learn about the great work that their doing in their organization, and we all know the challenges that we have, and it is always great to engage our young people in finding the solution to the challenges that we have. And, the issues of guns and gang violence is too much of a reality for too many of us in our districts, and I really thank you for the contributions that you are making to engage our young people and deal with... address those issues. So, with that, I don't know who is going to say a few words, but...

(interruption)

(laugh) okay. Thank you.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

(unidentified male speaker): I'll be brief. I want to thank the City Council, Speaker, Inez, Council McCain. I am a public advocate here. And, everyone, Mendez and Dromm[sic], I see you on T.V. all the time, getting busy.

(crowd laughs)

But, really, believing in a second time, this is our third annual year, and our focus this year is going to be our night tier[sic]00:18:03. We have a 7% increase in violence in night tier. You know, fifty six murders last year compared to fifty one the year before, a 10% spike. So, we have a serious, serious problem in night tier right now. And, the most of our black and Latino youth, and it gives me great pleasure to know that all the work that you guys did in the last two years in supporting us, that is, Hip-Hop Against Gun and Gang Violence Week in the State of New York. We have a resolution from the New York State Senate and Assembly, and the Governor. So, thanks to you guys, the City Council, and all of your work, this is now a State-wide initiative. So, I am appreciative of people recognizing what City Council does, and the struggle that we have had

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from the bottom, and now we are ready to take it the top. So, we are going to be gung-ho this year. We have a new partner. And, what we're doing this year, Power 105 is stepping up to the plate. Power 105.1 is stepping up to the plate to help us out. And, um, that means that now we have an official radio sponsor, so that we can really get to these young people, and solve this crime. So, I'm going to pass it to you for a brief second.

(2nd unidentified male speaker): Yes. So, with that being said, um, Power 105.1 and, of course, Source Magazine along with Metro PCS and the other guys, but I am going to need the City Council to be ready to go on the radio because we are very serious about this issue and, um, we have been dealing and working with Inez for the last couple of years. She's great. And, like the speaker said, we met with her, and she said what her initiatives were, and wanted us to focus on Nichur[sic]00:19:12, which we are doing. Then, of course, we have, you know, before Tish became Public Advocate, she gave us money out the City Council, and said you've got take care of Brooklyn. And, Jumaane is always... Jumaane is always trying to

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2 clean up Brooklyn. And, um, we are going to be
3 doing a lot in Staten Island. Yeah. We're going
4 to be doing a Shou Lan[sic] is in the house. So,
5 we're just gunna hit all the areas because we kinda
6 sick and tired of this. And, um, you know, once
7 you have the radio station to believe in what
8 you're doing, of course, Channel 11, we were just
9 on there a couple of weeks ago. And, we are ready
10 to take things to another level. So, um, I'm going
11 to let Joe, from Power 105.1, say a couple of
12 words. We dragged him out. Because, when these
13 guys believe in you, you have to really to
14 appreciate what's going on.

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16 JOE: Thank you. It's, um, it's
17 definitely our responsibility to be a part of
18 this, and to be able to use our reach of
19 14,000,000 plus people to get in the communities
20 and bring something to help with this whole deal.
21 105 days of summer to try to beat out gun and gang
22 violence is what we're here for, and we're hoping
23 that, you know, we can make a difference. Whether
24 it's big, small, whatever we can do, it's our
25 responsibility to help such an amazing project.

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3 MS. ROSENTHAL: Well, thank you all
4 very much. Congratulations on the partnership,
5 and thank you for working with our young people.
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7 (background noise/talking)
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9 MS. ROSENTHAL: Okay. And, we've got
10 one more ceremonial. Who, I know, Andy King, on
11 behalf of our colleagues, Darlene Mealy, who, I
12 think, is ill, to my understanding. Right? ...is
13 not feeling well. Alright. I will hand it off to
14 Andy King.
15

16 (background noise/talking)
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18 ANDY KING: Thank you. And,
19 congratulations to the Hip-Hop Against Gun
20 Violence, again. Thank you, guys. Can we get the
21 family up? Good afternoon, again. I am Council
22 Member Andy King, and I am substituting for my
23 colleague, Darlene Mealy. Recently, we know, on
24 Sunday we celebrated Mothers' Day, all around the
25 globe. Many of us cried, hugged, shared tears,

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and just had a joyous time with our parents over this weekend. So, I am glad today, to be able to use this ceremonial to honor Ms. Lucille McFadden(sp?). She is one of the 41st district outstanding seniors. She recently just turned one hundred years, earlier. And, it is her spirit and joy, and her giving nature are well known to everyone she has touched throughout the years. And, as Council Member, Mealy, expressed, she is a firm believer that when extraordinary people reach an extraordinary age, they should be recognized. I am thrilled to wish Ms. McFadden an amazing 100th year and, also, to let you know, she is also the mother of the Director of Political, of CSA, Herman Merritt(sp?) and also the mother of Sherry Williams. So, yes. She is part of family here, in the Council. So, we want to say congratulations to the family. And, we're going to ask if the Clerk will please read the Proc.

CLERK: Council, City of New York

Proclamation.

(background noise)

(interruption)

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2 (unidentified speaker): Quite on the
3 floor, please. Quite on the floor.

4 CLERK: Whereas, it is the
5 tradition of the New York City Council Members to
6 honor individuals whose unique and far reaching
7 perspectives remind others of the extraordinary
8 wonders life has to offer, and the importance of
9 embracing such wonders at every opportunity.

10 Lucille McFadden is truly such an individual, and
11 it is a privilege to publicly pay tribute to her
12 in recognition of her 100th Birthday. And,
13 Whereas, Lucille McFadden was born on January 30,
14 1914 in Elm City, North Carolina to William
15 McFadden and Maggie Armstrong. She spent her
16 youth in Rocky Mountain, North Carolina. In
17 1941, at the age of twenty seven...

18 (background noise/shh... shh)

19
20 (unidentified speaker): Quite, please.

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22 ...Lucille McFadden moved to New York City and has
23 called Brooklyn home ever since. She met and
24 married Benny Williams, and their union was
25 blessed with two children, Sherry and Benny.

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2 And, Whereas, Lucille McFadden has been an
3 invaluable asset to the Brownsville community.
4 She has served others with love and compassion
5 and continues to bring happiness and warmth into
6 the lives of all who know her. For the past
7 forty years, Lucille McFadden has been an active
8 member of the Brownsville Community Baptist
9 Church. And, has served faithfully on its
10 missionary board. In that role, she visited and
11 comforted the sick, the elderly, and the shut-in.
12 And, Whereas, now, at the age of one hundred
13 years young, it is fitting that we celebrate
14 Lucille McFadden's Birthday, for she has truly
15 distinguished herself, not only by the length of
16 her great life, but by the impact she has had in
17 so many lives. Her life story reflects the
18 history of New York City and the growth of
19 America into the nation that it is today. It is
20 fitting, therefore, that we honor her
21 contributions, for she has truly enriched us with
22 her presence and has rightfully earned the esteem
23 of all New Yorkers. Now, therefore, be it known,
24 that the Council of the City of New York
25 gratefully honors Lucille McFadden in celebration

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of her glorious One Hundredth Birthday, and her outstanding contributions to the community. Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the entire Council; Darlene Mealy, Council Member 41st District, Brooklyn; Andy King, Co-Chair of Black and Latino and Asian Caucus, and many other Council members.

(pause)

(unidentified male speaker):

Congratulations to Ms. Tarhill State(sp?), I know that. Madam Speaker?

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Oh, no... It's a great pleasure. We did not know... some of us were, like... is Lucille here? Like, she looks great. We're like, no. This is not Lucille.(laughs)

(background noise/laughing)

You look your wonderful forty years, young. Don't worry. (laughs)

I was like, wow, I'll take some of what she's having, right? (laughs)

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2 But, um, no, no. It's wonderful, I mean... we've
3 known each other for so long. It's great that we
4 are able to make...

5 (background noise/talking)

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7 (unidentified female speaker): Quite in
8 Chambers.

9
10 ...this recognition, and it's a pleasure to join
11 you here today. If either of you would like to
12 say a few words, I'm more than happy to give you
13 the opportunity. Mr. Merritt

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15 MS. MERRITT: Yes. I would like to thank
16 the City Council and Council woman, Darlene Mealy
17 for this prestigious honor for my mother, on
18 behalf of my mother, Lucille McFadden. And, um,
19 we love Brownsville. That's all I have to say.

20 (applause)

21 MR. MERRITT: I was smart enough to marry
22 someone with good genes.

23 (laughs)

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SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay. Thank you both, very much. Thank you, Council Member, King for standing in. Alright. Have a good one.

(recess)

(unidentified male speaker): Ladies and gentlemen, can I please have your attention, can I have your attention at this time. All quite on the floor, please. Quite on the floor. At this time, can you please place all electronic devices to vibrate.

(background noise/talking)

Quite, please. Will all non-council employees, all non-council employees, please leave the main floor of the Chambers. Please be seated upstairs in the balcony. Thank you.

(background noise/talking)

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Quite in the Chambers, please. Individuals without council business,

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

please remove yourself. Let us all now rise for
the pledge of allegiance.

(unidentified male speaker): All rise.

(crowd recites pledge of allegiance in unison)

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Roll call.

CLERK: Arroyo?

ARROYO: Here.

CLERK: Barron?

BARRON: Present

CLERK: Cabrera?

CABRERA: here.

CLERK: Chin?

CHIN: Here.

CLERK: Cohen?

COHEN: Here.

CLERK: Constantinides?

CONSTANTINIDES: Here.

CLERK: Cornegy?

CORNEGY:

CLERK: Crowley?

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

CROWLEY: Here.

CLERK: Cumbo?

CUMBO:

CLERK: Deutsch?

DEUTSCH: Here.

CLERK: Dickens?

DICKENS: Here.

CLERK: Dromm?

DROMM: Here.

CLERK: Espinal?

ESPINAL: Here.

CLERK: Eugene?

EUGENE: Here.

CLERK: Ferreras?

FERRERAS: Here.

CLERK: Garodnick?

GARODNICK: Here.

CLERK: Gentile?

GENTILE: Here.

CLERK: Gibson?

(interruption/gavel)

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: It's too much... Please,
may we have some quite for the roll call. Thank
you.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

GIBSON: I'm Here.

CLERK: Greenfield?

GREENFIELD:

CLERK: Johnson?

JOHNSON: Here.

CLERK: Kallos?

KALLOS: Here.

CLERK: Thank you. King?

KING: Present

CLERK: Koo?

KOO: Present.

CLERK: Koslowitz?

KOSLOWITZ: Here.

CLERK: Lancman?

LANCMAN: Here.

CLERK: Lander?

LANDER: Here.

CLERK: Greenfield?

GREENFIELD: Here.

CLERK: Levin?

LEVIN: Here.

CLERK: Levine?

LEVINE: Here.

CLERK: Maisel?

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

MAISEL: Here.

CLERK: Matteo?

MATTEO: Here.

CLERK: Mealy?

MEALY:

CLERK: Menchaca?

MENCHACA: Present.

CLERK: Mendez?

MENDEZ: Here.

CLERK: CUMBO

CUMBO: Present.

CLERK: Ferreras?

FERRERAS: Here.

CLERK: Cornegy?

CORNEGY: Present.

CLERK: Miller?

MILLER: Here.

CLERK: Palma?

PALMA:

CLERK: Reynoso?

REYNOSO: Present.

CLERK: Richards?

RICHARDS: Present.

CLERK: Rodriguez?

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

RODRIGUEZ: Here.

CLERK: Rose?

ROSE: Here.

CLERK: Rosenthal?

ROSENTHAL: Here.

CLERK: Torres?

TORRES: Here.

CLERK: Treyger?

TREYGER: Here.

CLERK: Ulrich?

ULRICH: Here.

CLERK: Vacca?

VACCA: Yes, I'm Here.

CLERK: Vallone?

VALLONE: Present.

CLERK: Weprin?

WEPRIN: Here.

CLERK: Williams?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Williams? Council

Member Williams?

WILLIAMS: I'm Here.

CLERK: Thank you.

CLERK: WILLS

WILLS:

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

CLERK: Ignizio?

IGNIZIO: Here.

CLERK: Van Bramer?

VAN BRAMER: Here.

CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito?

MARK-VIVERITO: Here.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. May we please rise for the Invocation, delivered by Archbishop, Joseph A. Alexander, New Covenant Ministries Worldwide, 1175 Boston Road, in the Borough of the Bronx.

ARCHBISHOP ALEXANDER: Thank you, very much, Public Advocate. We acknowledge this house, this Chamber, today. Particularly, for the extraordinary strength and fortitude, and moral stability in giving support to 276 young girls that have been kidnapped in Nigeria, a country of my birth. I cannot diminish[sic], without or... stop thanking the Council, from the Public Advocate to the Speaker, and to every member, or many members of this Council, joined us two days ago, in sending a word to the nations

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2 that an act so despicable and so inhumane, cannot
3 be let go without someone speaking out. Thank
4 you so much, and God bless this Council.

5 It's my privilege today to join you in a
6 very critical time in human history, and, of
7 course, for New York City in particular, to
8 depend upon God and the wisdom of God, and to
9 lead a great City. And, so, today, I bound my
10 heart with you, and ask the almighty God, the
11 creator of the whole Earth, the sustenance of
12 life, I ask you Father to grant wisdom, skill,
13 knowledge, ability needed to make just laws, and
14 to guide a great City. I ask you, Lord, to look
15 upon this City with your favor, and cause, Lord
16 that these great leaders, that you have raised
17 up, in this particular time, will walk in your
18 strength, for the benefit and the profit of the
19 citizens of this great City. And, that as a
20 light to the world, the City of New York will
21 continue to send forth the signal of justice,
22 peace, and inclusion of people of all races. We
23 ask for your special grace upon each Council
24 member, each committee, and each subcommittee,
25 and the staff, Lord that they will do great

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exploits. The generation to come will remember them. We ask, You, today, to show favor and blessing upon our City Council, and its leadership. For I ask this in the name of the almighty God, who created us all. Amen.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Amen. Council Member, King?

MR. KING: I want to thank...

(background noise/talking)

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Quite in the Chambers, please.

KING: ...Archbishop... I'd like to...

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Please...

KING: ...thank... I'd like to thank...

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: quite in the Chambers... Council Member, King.

KING: I would like to thank Archbishop Joseph A. Alexander for today's invocation. He's been a leader in my district, and is fighting the war on, against the terrorists acts by a few males, punks, as we like to call them, over in Nigeria, who abducted over 273 girls, and we are asking them for prayers and blessings for their

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safe return. And, we thank you for today's invocation. And, I make a Motion to spread this invocation full upon the record today, on April.. today, thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. Adoption of minutes, Council Member, Greenfield?

MR. GREENFIELD: Thank you. I make a Motion of the minutes, of the stated meetings of March 26 and April 10, 2014 be adopted as printed.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Messages and papers from the Mayor.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Pre-considered, M-50, dog licensing.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: State and federal legislation.

MALE SPEAKER: M-51 to M-59, executive budget.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Finance?

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

MALE SPEAKER: M-60, City debt and reserves.

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

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Communication from City County and Borough Offices?

MALE SPEAKER: None.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Petitions and communications?

MALE SPEAKER: None.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Land use call ups?

MALE SPEAKER: M-61 to M-64.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on call vote, roll call.

CLERK: Arroyo?

ARROYO: Aye.

CLERK: Barron?

BARRON: Aye.

CLERK: Cabrera?

CABRERA: Aye.

CLERK: Chin?

CHIN: Aye.

CLERK: Cohen?

COHEN: Aye.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

CLERK: Constantinides?

CONSTANTINIDES: Yes.

CLERK: Cornegy?

CORNEGY: Aye.

CLERK: Crowley?

CROWLEY: Aye.

CLERK: Cumbo?

CUMBO: Aye.

CLERK: Deutsch?

DEUTSCH: Aye.

CLERK: Dickens?

DICKENS: Aye.

CLERK: Dromm?

DRUMM: Aye.

CLERK: Espinal?

ESPINAL: Aye.

CLERK: Eugene?

EUGENE: Aye.

CLERK: Ferreras?

FERRERAS: Aye.

CLERK: Garodnick?

GARODNICK: Aye.

CLERK: Gentile?

GENTILE:

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

CLERK: Gibson?

GIBSON: Aye.

CLERK: Greenfield?

GREENFIELD: Aye.

CLERK: Johnson?

JOHNSON: Aye.

CLERK: Kallos?

KALLOS: Aye.

CLERK: King?

KING: Aye.

CLERK: Koo?

KOO: Aye.

CLERK: Koslowitz?

KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

CLERK: Lancman?

LANCMAN: Yes.

CLERK: Lander?

LANDER: Yes.

CLERK: Levin?

LEVIN: Aye.

CLERK: Levine?

LEVINE: Aye.

CLERK: Maisel?

MAISEL: Aye.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

CLERK: Matteo?

MATTEO: Yes.

CLERK: Mealy?

MEALY:

CLERK: Manchaca?

MANCHACA: Aye.

CLERK: Mendez?

MENDEZ: Aye.

CLERK: Miller?

MILLER: Aye.

CLERK: Palma?

PALMA:

CLERK: Reynoso?

REYNOSO: Aye.

CLERK: Richards?

RICHARDS: Aye.

CLERK: Rodriguez?

RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

CLERK: Rose?

ROSE: Aye.

CLERK: Rosenthal?

ROSENTHAL: Aye.

CLERK: Torres.

TORRES: Aye.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

CLERK: Trayger?

TRAYGER: Aye.

CLERK: Ulrich?

ULRICH:

CLERK: Vacca?

VACCA: Aye.

CLERK: Vallone?

VALLONE: Aye.

CLERK: Weprin?

WEPRIN: Aye.

CLERK: Williams?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Williams?

WILLIAMS: Aye, aye.

CLERK: Ignizio?

IGNIZIO: Aye.

CLERK: Van Bramer?

VAN BRAMER: Aye.

CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito?

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I vote aye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. Today's Land Use Call-ups were adopted by a vote of forty six in the affirmative, and zero in the negative... May we have some quite in the Chambers, please?

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(interruption)

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Communication from Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Madam Public Advocate. Again, I want to thank the Archbishop for his words, particularly, and us to keep the young women in our thoughts, in Nigeria. I want to thank Council Member, Laurie Cumbo, in particular, for her leadership on this matter. And, hope that with the International Communities Assistance, we can get resolution on this matter, as soon as possible. So, I want to wish good afternoon to all my colleagues..

[INDECIPHERABLE](Spanish)00:39:31

Today, the Council will be voting on legislation sponsored by Council Member, Margaret Chin that will expand eligibility for the senior citizen rent increase exemption program in New York City. By raising the maximum income for eligibility, from \$29,000 to \$50,000, we will allow approximately six thousand more seniors to remain in their homes and avoid high rent increases, by taking part in this program. I would like to now invite Council Member, Chin to

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2 give a few remarks on this very important
3 legislation.

4 MS. CHIN: Thank you, Speaker, for this
5 opportunity to speak on this historic vote.
6 Today the Council will be voting on two measure,
7 Intro 243-A, which would increase the income
8 threshold for SCRIE from \$29,000 to \$50,000 for
9 the next two years, and expand coverage of SCRIE
10 to include twenty four thousand more seniors.
11 And, Reso. 185, which supports the Senate 1218
12 and Assembly 1790 by Assembly Member Joan Millman
13 and Senator Bill Perkins; legislation that would
14 automatically link future increases in SCRIE to
15 the consumer price index.

16 Since I introduced 243, my office has
17 gotten many calls from seniors from around the
18 City, anxiously wanting to know when this bill
19 will be passed. We also had a very informative
20 hearing on May 1st, where seniors came to testify
21 about the challenges they face, ever trying to
22 remain in their homes, in the face of ever rising
23 rents. Some were denied, in the last years
24 because they were only a few hundred dollars, or
25 even a few dollars over the income eligibility.

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All of them are desperately waiting for us to pass Intro. 243-A so that they can afford to stay in their homes. These measures are an important part of the City's renewed effort to expand affordable housing options for seniors. I, again, want to thank Assembly Member, Kavanagh for leading this effort in the State, and my colleague, Council Member, Ferreras, Williams, and Koslowitz, who co-sponsored these pieces of legislation with me, and the Speaker, for your support. I would also like to thank the Committee staff, Kelly Taylor and Deheaney Supora(sp?)[phonetic] for all their hard work. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this significant and important change to the SCRIE eligibility. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Council Member, Chin. Can I ask my colleagues to please, keep it quite? It's a little loud in here.

(interruption/announcement)

We have several... quite a few resolutions today, and I will encourage all the sponsors of

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2 the Resos. to speak at the time when we vote on
3 Resos., we're very proud to talk about them,
4 here, during speaker's time. Today, we have a
5 resolution before the Council, sponsored by
6 Council Member, Danny Dromm; calling on the State
7 to authorize local governments to establish and
8 enforce minimum wage laws.

9 New York City's high cost of living is not
10 reflected in the State's current minimum wage of
11 \$8.00 an hour. Allowing local government to set
12 up rates that reflect the conditions in their
13 jurisdiction will allow low wage workers in New
14 York to receive fair compensation for their work.
15 I am very excited about this, and hopefully, the
16 State will listen to us.

17 We have another resolution sponsored by
18 Council Member, Fernando Cabrera, calling upon
19 the federal government to pass and enact the
20 Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act.
21 This Act, which has been introduced in Congress,
22 will provide much needed resources to help
23 prevent suicide and suicide attempts by American
24 Veterans.

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2 On average, twenty two veterans die from
3 suicide every day, in this country. These men
4 and women have bravely sacrificed for their
5 country, and many are now in need of our help,
6 back here at home. We owe it to them to dedicate
7 proper resources to treating psychological issues
8 that develop from their tours of duty. By
9 passing this resolution, the Council will be
10 sending our federal government the message that
11 this problem cannot be ignored, and we cannot
12 wait any longer to act.

13 We also have a resolution sponsored by
14 Council Member, Corey Johnson and Julissa
15 Ferreras, calling on Albany to eliminate the
16 property tax exemption from Madison Square
17 Garden. This will provide additional property
18 tax revenue for City services, and is a priority
19 of the Council as evidence by its inclusion in
20 the 2014 State budget and legislative agenda we
21 presented to Albany in March.

22 Our final resolution, today is sponsored
23 by Council Member, Greenfield, and it calls on
24 the State to pass legislation that will allow New
25 York City to lower our speed limit to 25mph. New

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2 Yorkers in all five boroughs have spoken up and
3 made it clear that something has to be done about
4 traffic related deaths and injuries in New York
5 City. We are in the process of implementing many
6 policies to make our streets safer for motorists
7 and pedestrians alike, but on this matter, our
8 hands are tied as the State government gives the
9 authority to modify our own speed limit. It's a
10 common sense suggestion, and one that the State
11 Legislature and Governor should seriously
12 consider.

13 We also have several items coming out of
14 the Land Use Committee today, including a vote to
15 approve the modified Domino Sugar Factory
16 project. This will mean seven hundred new,
17 permanently affordable housing units in the
18 Williamsburg community, in addition to new retail
19 development, new open space, and new job
20 opportunities. I really want to congratulate
21 Council Member, Steve Levin for his strong,
22 strong, advocacy on this matter. And, I will
23 allow him to say a few words at this time.

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2 MR. LEVIN: Thank you, Madam Speaker
3 for the opportunity to speak on this Land Use
4 action, as the Domino Sugar cite is being
5 approved today by this Council, it's based in my
6 district. After many weeks of discussion, and
7 this being the second time that this Council in
8 four years has heard a project at the Domino
9 Sugar cite, I am proud that the agreement on the
10 project, at the Domino Sugar cite will build on
11 the gains, made by the DeBlasio administration,
12 to maximize affordable housing and open space in
13 the Williamsburg community. The affordable
14 housing crisis can be seen throughout New York
15 City, and including in the communities
16 surrounding the Domino Sugar Factory, or former
17 Domino Sugar Factory, which I represent along
18 with the neighboring district, represented by
19 Council Member, Antonio Reynoso. I am working
20 collaboratively with Mayor DeBlasio, who has been
21 a leader in prioritizing the creation of more
22 affordable housing in our City. We were able to
23 secure housing that has deeper affordability now
24 and has a greater access to family size units.
25 The project will create approximately seven

1 hundred units, the average AMI in these units
2 will be 63% of AMI, that's affordable to a family
3 four, making 63% of the area median income, which
4 is very affordable. And, also, that... we are
5 going to work with administration and the
6 developer to maximize the number of family size
7 units with a goal of getting to 40% two and three
8 bedroom units. This project will also provide
9 public access to the waterfront and increase open
10 space, and there will be new mechanisms in place
11 to ensure that there is public oversight, over
12 the use of public space. I want to give special
13 thanks to Mayor Bill DeBlasio and Deputy Mayor,
14 Alicia Glen, and Chair, Carl Weisbrod from the
15 City Planning Commission, for locking in so much
16 affordable housing at the City Planning
17 Commission. And, I want to especially thank
18 Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito and our Land Use
19 staff, Gail Benjamin, Aday(sp?) Fox, Amy
20 Levitan,(sp?) Ann McCoy, Chairs, Weprin, and
21 Greenfield, as well as Ramon Martinez for their
22 incredible support. I want to especially thank
23 my colleague, Council Member, Antonio Reynoso for
24 advocating so effectively for his community and
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1
2 our collective communities. Lastly, I want to
3 acknowledge Judd Willentis(sp?) and Two Trees
4 Management for their collaboration and extensive
5 community outreach throughout this entire
6 process. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

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8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Council
9 Member Levin. And, again, you should be, and
10 your community should be very proud. And,
11 congratulations also to Antonio Reynoso for his
12 support of this. And, with that, I will ask the
13 Chair of the Land Use Committee and the Chair of
14 the sub-committee to speak, Council Members,
15 David Greenfield and Mark Weprin.

16
17 MR. GREENFIELD: Thank you very much,
18 Madam Speaker. And, I, too want to congratulate
19 Council Member, Steve Levin and Council Member,
20 Antonio Reynoso on the Domino Sugar project.
21 And, of course, I want to thank Council Member,
22 Mark Weprin for his leadership as the Chair of
23 the subcommittee. I will say that, you know, a
24 lot of people, a lot of people ask and wonder,
25 what is the role of individual council members,
when it comes to these Land Use projects. And, I

1 think that this, once again, clarifies and
2 reaffirms the important role that members have in
3 their particular districts. In this particular
4 case, there were many concessions that were made
5 by the developer and the City, most importantly,
6 to make sure that the affordability levels are
7 actually matched with the affordability of this
8 particular community. And, we actually saw
9 similarly, on the West 57th project, Council
10 Member, Helen Rosenthal, she... did incredible
11 work, advocating on behalf of her community and
12 the work that she did, in particular, where she
13 actually got additional affordable units, at
14 higher AMI to reflect the community that was
15 needed over there. So, I want to congratulate
16 the Council Members, and I especially want to
17 thank all of the staff, including Ramon Martinez,
18 Aday[sic](sp?) Fox, Gail Benjamin, Ann McCoy(sp?)
19 and Amy Levitan(sp?) for their terrific work.
20 Working on this project, I don't think people
21 realize, but it takes, literally, hundreds of
22 hours of work to resolve each and every one of
23 these projects. I know that none of us can do it
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2 without our terrific staff, so, thank you very
3 much.

4 MR. WEPRIN: Thank you, Madam Speaker
5 and Chairman Greenfield. Just briefly, I just
6 want to add, um, uh, that the Uler process [sic],
7 which is often criticized in many ways, or
8 aspects of it, does serve a great purpose, and as
9 long as went through this process, little
10 information came about from different... from the
11 community boards and from council members, and at
12 our public hearing, to let us know of changes
13 that needed to be made to these projects. I
14 congratulate the members who worked so hard on
15 this, as well. Steve Levin, fighting for open
16 spaces, fighting for his community and making
17 sure they have representation. Helen Rosenthal,
18 making sure that she has a local public school
19 and also making sure that she has the amount of
20 affordable housing at varied income levels
21 throughout that building. So, it's an important
22 process, one that's sometimes is dull, but serves
23 great purpose. And, I think these projects are
24 good
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2 testament to that, um, as well as, Ben Kallos is
3 on the Rockefeller University, showing that, you
4 know, community input is important. Council
5 members can have a role to play, representing
6 those communities. Thank you very much.

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8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you to
9 the Chairs. Council Member, Helen Rosenthal also
10 has an item, a Land Use item. You know, one
11 thing I want to say, for my eight years in the
12 Council there was a time when we were voting on
13 Land Use items, when we talked about the creation
14 of affordable housing. It was not a given that
15 the units would be permanently affordable. I
16 think we have come to a process now of evolution,
17 where now, we're talking, really, about, you
18 know, leveraging City property, that we're
19 leveraging the creation of permanent affordable
20 housing units. Which is really important to
21 note, that there has been that progress achieved.
22 And, as Helen highlighted to me in the press
23 conference, you know, between these two projects
24 alone, we are creating about a thousand units of
25 permanent affordable housing. So, with that, I

1
2 would like to ask Council Member, Helen Rosenthal
3 to talk about the item on the calendar, which has
4 to do with her district. And, it's a development
5 of a residential building at 606 West 57th Street,
6 where more than 20% of the units in this
7 development will be designated as permanent
8 affordable housing. Uh, I should have asked you
9 to speak earlier... it was not in my notes.

10 MS. ROSENTHAL: Thank you very much. I
11 appreciate the opportunity. You know, I really
12 want to thank all the council members who helped
13 me get through my first Land Use deal. I hope
14 never to experience that again. (laughs) I
15 really want to thank Eday Fox, who held my hand
16 throughout the whole thing. I could not have
17 come to a yes vote without her. Um, you know,
18 with the help of the Land Use staff and Eday,
19 what we were able to do in this project was so
20 far above and beyond what the community had asked
21 us to do, and what the borough president had
22 asked us to do. Not only are the units
23 permanent, into perpetuity, and not only are they
24 sprinkled throughout the entire, huge
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1 development, this is a thousand unit development
2 that will appear, suddenly, in the middle of what
3 was a nice residential district. And, um, we
4 were able to achieve a lot. It was important to
5 me that the additional affordable housing come
6 out of the market rate unit, so that the amount
7 of affordable housing is now yes, the 20%, but
8 the market rate is only 76%. There is going to
9 be 4% middle income affordable housing for
10 families. And, we'll also have what will be the
11 only Pre-K, new Pre-K in our district. And, I
12 was grateful that the SCA was willing to work
13 with me to guarantee that they would lease the
14 space there, but the reality is that, and while
15 I'm happy to have helped contribute to Mayor
16 DeBlasio's goal of two hundred thousand units of
17 affordable housing with this, you know, two
18 hundred twenty five unit deal; the reality is,
19 that in this two block radius, over five thousand
20 residents are going to be coming into this
21 neighborhood. It's going to completely swamp and
22 overwhelm the public services in that area. The
23 current residents are very nervous about it. I
24 am too. And, I am determined to work with the
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1
2 administration to make sure that, in deed, we get
3 a new public school, full Pre-K through eighth
4 grade public school, because this district is
5 going to desperately need it. They are going to
6 need a new library. They are going to need
7 additional transportation. They are going to
8 need help with traffic safety at fourteen corners
9 where the amount of traffic, um, um, problems are
10 going to rise to a level where it was called in
11 the EIS adverse impact. So, while I'm delighted
12 to be... have been a part of this process, and to
13 bring a positive closure to it, you know, I
14 really think that the City needs to step up and
15 do more with bringing City services, when we
16 bring in five thousand new residents to a two
17 block area. Thank you very much.

18
19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you
20 Council member. And, finally, today we want to
21 address something that I know many in this
22 Council, including myself, are very proud of.
23 Today the Council will be passing a
24 groundbreaking expansive reform package to make
25 the City Council the most responsive,

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2 transparent, and inclusive legislative body it
3 can be. The changes we are making today are the
4 culmination of a process that first began last
5 fall, when thirty four new and returning members
6 signed on to a platform, pledging to overhaul the
7 rules that govern the Council.

8
9 When I was first elected Speaker, I vowed
10 to work with my colleagues to make the Council a
11 place of equality and fairness. And, today,
12 thanks to the support and cooperation of everyone
13 in this body, for delivering on that commitment.
14 Legislation the Council will be voting on this
15 afternoon, is the result of months of hard work
16 and represents courageous performance New Yorkers
17 can and should be very proud of.

18
19 So, I want to quickly go through some of
20 the changes that we will be making. First,
21 making sure no legislation is left to languish,
22 by creating a dedicated legislative drafting unit
23 to ensure bills are drafted quickly; and, by
24 implementing a new super majority bill
25 sponsorship rule, so that bills with thirty four
co-sponsors must have the relevant committee,

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2 decide whether to hold a hearing on the
3 legislation. Based on the feedback we received
4 at our hearing, earlier this month, we are also
5 clarifying the procedure through which a bill may
6 be amended in committee to provide for a more
7 clear and transparent legislative process.

8
9 Next, we are further empowering committee
10 chairs to run their committees and hold stronger
11 oversight, by giving chairs the responsibility of
12 directing City government officials to swear in,
13 before testifying at hearings and by making it
14 clear that committee chairs determine the topic
15 of their hearings. We are also increasing the
16 transparency of the Council's budget and the
17 legislative process by providing a more detailed
18 Council operating budget and an annual financial
19 report. And, posting short, plain language
20 summaries of bills, on the Council's agenda, and
21 on our website, and by fully disclosing
22 discretionary items, including capital items in
23 the City's open data plan.

24 Finally, we will be making needed reforms
25 to the Council's discretionary funding system.

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2 Member items are crucial resources that allow
3 councilmembers to reinvest in New York City's
4 communities, to support underserved New Yorkers,
5 and the vital services local organizations are
6 able to provide. But, for too long we have
7 lacked a system to ensure that all communities
8 receive equitable funding. Today, the Council is
9 taking the politics out of member items, once and
10 for all, by implementing a new system to
11 distribute funding equally, while providing
12 additional resources to support lower income
13 communities.

14
15 These changes will ensure every
16 neighborhood across the five boroughs has the
17 resources it needs thrive. I am incredibly proud
18 of our trailblazing reforms which we hope will
19 pave the way for similar changes and legislative
20 bodies across the country. Today is the start of
21 a new era for the Council, one that welcomes
22 debate, encourages discourse and is open, not
23 just to all fifty one members, but all New
24 Yorkers. But, our work has only just begun. As
25 we pass these reforms today, we are mindful of

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2 the work still to come. That's why the Council
3 has committed to holding a hearing at the end of
4 the session to review how effective our reform
5 package has been, and how we might be able to
6 strengthen the Council in the future.

7
8 So, I want to thank Rules Chair, Lander,
9 Council Member, Greenfield, Cabrera, Williams,
10 the Council's dedicated policy staff, and every
11 single person who shared their ideas with us for
12 their contributions to make the Council the most
13 transparent and inclusive and responsive
14 legislative body it can be. So, I want to thank
15 a few members of the Council staff. They have
16 put in a lot of, lot of time into this.

17 Obviously, we want to thank David
18 Sightzer(sp)[phonetic], Gary Altman(sp?), Ramon
19 Martinez, Michael Freedman Schnapp(sp?) Ivan
20 Webenous(sp?)[phonetic], Rob Newman, Laura
21 Popa(sp?)[phonetic], Ematawa(sp?) [phonetic]
22 **00:57:43** Booth, and Rachel Goodman from Council
23 Member Lander's staff. And, with that, I will
24 ask Council Member, Brad Lander, as Chair of the
25 Rules Committee, to say a few words about this

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2 reform package.

3 MR. LANDER: Thank you so much, Madam
4 Speaker. This is a proud day for the New York
5 City Council. I believe that we are genuinely
6 transforming this body, not only for our term,
7 but for the future, making it more transparent,
8 more fair, more responsive, and more inclusive,
9 by taking the politics out of member items,
10 ensuring fairer consideration of legislation,
11 empowering chairs and providing for more open
12 government and transparency. We will make it
13 more possible for members, whoever they are,
14 wherever they're from, whatever their point of
15 view, to zealously represent their districts, and
16 more possible for New Yorkers, wherever they're
17 from, whatever community they're in, to genuinely
18 take part in the democratic process that sets the
19 laws for the City of New York, that's why were
20 elected, and it's really, what this body is all
21 about. I've had the opportunity to speak over
22 the last couple of days to the drafters of the
23 1989 Charter, which in many ways created the
24 modern City Council and they told me, you know,
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2 our hope in 1989 was that we would have a more
3 diverse City Council, and that we would have one
4 that would step up to principles of good
5 government, and genuinely step up to its
6 responsibilities as a legislative body; and they
7 told me... Fitz Schwartz [sic] and Eric Lane [sic]
8 that they really believe in so many ways as a
9 more diverse body, and as one that's taking rules
10 reform and good government seriously. This is
11 the City Council that they envisioned.

12
13 As the Speaker mentioned, this was a very
14 inclusive process that involved a lot of folks
15 both internally and externally. And, I think it
16 was a model for the kind of inclusive leadership
17 that the Speaker has set, and I know some of
18 these thank you's have been said. I want to echo
19 them because this was a lot of work. That thanks
20 does start with Speaker. It's easy to call for
21 change from the outside, but to make change when
22 you're a leader and on the inside, and the
23 minority leader can still say this... he'll say
24 this more eloquently than I, in his remarks as he
25 did in the Committee, but the thanks start there.

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2 Thanks to Council Members, Cabrera, Greenfield,
3 and Williams. We started work together a year
4 ago and worked together with many of our
5 colleagues through the summer and fall to move
6 this forward. The staff has been extraordinary
7 on this, David Sykes[sic], Ivan Nuevenos(sp?)
8 [phonetic], Michael Friedman(sp?) Schnopp[sic],
9 Amancha LeBoothe(sp?)[phonetic], Gary Altman,
10 Chuck Davis, Rob Newman, and Laura Popa, as well
11 as Ramon Martinez, Elizabeth Delione
12 Vorgava(sp?)[phonetic], Joe Toronto, Kathleen
13 Aun(sp?)[phonetic], and Jeff
14 Rotis(sp?)[phonetic], and my chief of staff,
15 Rachael Goodman. They have all done a lot of
16 work, research, communication, working with
17 members. We had great partners in the Good
18 Government Groups and Common Cause Nyberg and
19 Citizens Union, who have long called for many of
20 the reforms that we're adopting today, and, who
21 also, when the time came to get serious about
22 adopting them, were good partners, worked
23 thoughtfully with us, and I am very pleased to
24 say are supporting all of the changes that we are
25 proposing today. So, with thanks to everyone who

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2 has moved us to this point, and special thanks to
3 the Speaker, I am proud that we will be able to
4 move forward and adopt these rules reforms today.
5 Thank you.

6
7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
8 Council Member, Lander. And, with that, we
9 conclude communication from the Speaker.

10
11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. Discussion
12 of general orders, Council Member, Kallos.

13
14 MR. KALLOS: Thank you, Public Advocate.
15 I wanted to ask my colleagues to please vote in
16 favor of Land Use items 49 and 50, Reso's. 239
17 and 240. It's the application of Rockefeller
18 University. I wanted to thank the Land Use
19 Committee Chair, Greenfield, Zoning Committee
20 Chair, Weprin, Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito,
21 and her Land Use staff, Ada Fox, Gail Benjamin,
22 Ann McCoy[phonetic], Alonso Carr(sp?) and Rob
23 Moralia(sp?). Through the negotiations that
24 started the moment I set foot in my office, I was
25 able to work with Rockefeller University on a new
model, where we work together without lobbyist to

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2 make sure that the community gets benefits. The
3 benefits that my community will be seeing are
4 \$8,000,000.00 to keep our parks from literally,
5 falling into the river, \$1,000,000.00 to maintain
6 those parks in perpetuity, supporting a new
7 conservancy for that park and piloting green
8 noise barriers along the FDR Drive, in addition
9 to expanding access to the campus by 20% for
10 hundreds of hours a year in public benefits. I
11 just want to thank Rockefeller and the body for
12 this, and the fact that as a new progressive
13 body, we are really able to make sure that any
14 development in our districts, regardless of how
15 as of right, or how old the deal may have been,
16 in this case, 1973, means that it's going to be
17 sustainable, it's going to support the community.
18 And, again, thank you to Rockefeller University
19 for their commitment to earnest negotiations,
20 doing so without lobbyist, and making sure that
21 there was a concrete community benefit and all
22 those concerns were met. Thank you.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. Council
24 Member, Garodnick.
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2 MR. GARODNICK: Thank you very much, Madam
3 Public Advocate. I wanted to just speak very
4 briefly on the rules reforms. With, first of
5 all, a real congratulations to the Speaker and
6 also to Council Member, Lander for some rather
7 impressive and significant reforms, particularly
8 as they relate to member items, and bill
9 drafting, and legal memos, and a lot of the
10 challenges that we have seen in the past. In the
11 spirit of the sense of democracy, however, I did
12 want to note that there is one rule, in
13 particular, that I think, probably should not be
14 included in this package. I regard it as small
15 enough of a deal that I don't think it should
16 impact anybody's vote on this rules reforms
17 package, but it is 7.110, the supra majority
18 bill's sponsorship trader[sic]. This is the
19 provision which allows for an automatic vote on
20 whether or not to grant the hearing for a bill
21 which has thirty four or more sponsors. In my
22 view, it should rather be expected that a bill
23 that has thirty four sponsors, or perhaps even
24 fewer, should have a hearing, and its opportunity
25 to be considered. The rules today already have a

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2 sponsor's privilege, which allow you, if you are
3 the lead sponsor of a bill, to ask for a hearing
4 on that bill. That, in my mind, should be enough
5 in our Council rules to be able to satisfy that
6 opportunity. The rationale for this rule is that
7 Council members, perhaps, are a little too free
8 to lend their names to bills. And, if there were
9 a trader[sic] at thirty four, perhaps, we would
10 be more restrained. I think that rather than put
11 in a rule, we should just be more restrained.
12 And, I think that the rules themselves take care
13 of it. That being said, this again, is a small
14 part of a rather significant and very impressive
15 package. So, I will be supporting it. I vote
16 yes. And, I also wanted to just note that if
17 this proves to be a challenge, or the Council
18 finds itself not in compliance with its own rules
19 as a result, I just hope that the Rules Committee
20 will revisit this or anything else that we have...
21 that we are adopting today, to be able to ensure
22 a continued review of our best practices. Thank
23 you.

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. Council
3 Member, Greenfield, on the general order
4 calendar.

5 MR. GREENFIELD: Thank you very much.
6 Speaking very briefly on Resolution 111-A. And,
7 this is a resolution, we are calling upon the
8 State past legislation that would allow New York
9 City to lower the speed limit...

10
11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Council Member,
12 Greenfield, you are talking... you're speaking on
13 the Resolution?

14 There is an opportunity for you to speak
15 on your resolution at a later point in the
16 calendar. Is that alright? Or...

17
18 MR. GREENFIELD: Sure.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. Reports of
20 standing committees?

21 (unidentified male speaker - Clerk?):
22 Report of the Committee on Aging, Intro. 243-A,
23 Senior Citizen Exemption.
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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and coupled on general order.

(unidentified male speaker - Clerk?):
Report of the Committee on Finance. Pre-considered LU 60 and Reso. 237.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on general order.

(unidentified male speaker - Clerk?):
Report of the Committee on Land Use, LU 37 and Reso. 238 through LU 15, Reso. 240, Rockefeller University.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on general order...

(unidentified male speaker - Clerk?):
And... And it should have been mentioned... Let me just say... if I could say, it should have been mentioned during my Speaker's time, so apologies to Council Member Kallos. Uh, coupled on general order.

(unidentified male speaker - Clerk?): LU 56 and Reso. 241, School Facility.

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SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
general order.

(unidentified male speaker - Clerk?):
Report of the Committee on Rules, Privileges
and Elections, Reso. 184-A, Council Rules Reform.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and
coupled on general order.

(unidentified male speaker - Clerk?):
Report of the Committee on State and Federal
Legislation, Pre-Considered M-50, Dog Licensing.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
general order.

(unidentified male speaker - Clerk?):
General order calendar, LU 28 and Reso. 242
through LU 33 and Reso. 247, Domino Sugar.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
general order.

(unidentified male speaker - Clerk?): LU
41 and Reso. 248 through LU 43 and Reso. 250,
West 57th Street.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
general order.

(unidentified male speaker - Clerk?):
Resolution Appointing Various Persons,
Commissioner of Deeds.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
general order. And, at this time, I ask for roll
call on all items on the coupled general order
calendar.

CLERK: Arroyo?

ARROYO: Aye.

CLERK: Barron?

BARRON: Permission to explain my vote?
Permission to explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: So ordered.

BARRON: Thank you. In regards to the
Rules Reform, I certainly support those rule
reforms, I just want to make mention that it's a
continuation of work that had been begun when
term limits ended and there was a coalition of
people who came together, the fresh democracy
council. And, it included people, such as,
Council Member, Charles Barron, Council Member,

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2 Al Van[sic](sp?), Council Member, Avaller(sp?),
3 Council Member, Sanders, and Council Member,
4 Perkins, and others. And they were a group of
5 people who saw the need to have some reforms and
6 they were able to get some reforms instituted, so
7 I want to give acknowledgement to that, and vote
8 in support of that. In regards to LU 28 through
9 33, I am abstaining from that. I feel that the
10 developer should have adhered to his commitment
11 to have 2.5 acres, and he did not fulfill that,
12 so I am abstaining on that. And, in regards to
13 606 West 57th Street, I am voting in favor of
14 that, although the rents are affordable for that
15 group of people, I think we need to work to get a
16 mix of people, and not have areas that are
17 exclusive; but, I am encouraged by the fact that
18 the Council Member has indicated that a few
19 blocks away from where this development is, there
20 will be another development going up, which will
21 certainly reach out to those who are below what
22 is the area median income of that area. So, I
23 vote aye on all the others. Thank you.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.

25 CLERK: Cabrera?

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

CABRERA: Permission to explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes.

CABRERA: I just want to take a brief moment to thank Council Member, Brad Lander for his leadership in the Rule Reforms and Council Member, Williams and Council Member, Greenfield, as we sat together about a year ago. We started working towards this reform..

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Quite in the Chambers, please. Quite in the Chambers, please.

CABRERA: I want to call special attention to all of the new, my new colleagues, that now you will be able to, not have to worry like some of us did when we first came into the Council, wondering how much funding we were going to get, or are we going to be at the bottom 25%. Now, you can have certainty to be able to make good decisions based on the fact this is going to be true equity here. The political aspect has been totally taken out the equation. And, so, I commend Madam Speaker for your leadership. And, uh, that's a true mark, of a true leader to empower other leaders. Thank you so much. And I vote aye.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

CLERK: Chin?

CHIN: Aye, on all.

CLERK: Cohen?

COHEN: Aye, on all.

CLERK: Constantinides?

CONSTANTINIDES: Aye, on all.

CLERK: Cornegy?

CORNEGY: Aye, on all.

CLERK: Crowley?

CROWLEY: Madam Public Advocate, may I
have permission to explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes, Council Member.

CROWLEY: I rise to speak about the Rules
Reform we are voting on today. These Rules
Reforms will assure that no leader of this body
will be allowed to use our tax dollars as a
political tool. It's a good day for the Council,
it's a good day for fairness and for our tax
payers. The ones who have truly suffered in the
past, because of the political process that
happened with member items. I'd like to
congratulate our Speaker, Melissa Mark-Veverito,
and Council Member, Brad Lander, and all of my

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colleagues who fought and worked so very hard to get these changes made. I vote aye, on all.

CLERK: Cumbo?

CUMBO: Public Advocate, permission to explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes, Council Member.

CUMBO: As protocol has already been established, I just want to thank everyone in regards to Rules Reform as the Director of a not for profit organization, for over fourteen years, it was always a very challenging time, year after year, to understand if our organization was going to remain in business. And, this particular aspect of Rules Reform will allow the sustainability as well as the consistency that not for profit organizations throughout New York City require in order to be viable, in order to provide the services that they need, year after year, as well as giving their employees the stability that they need in order to plan for their futures, and that of their children. So, I thank you all for all of your hard work. And, as a new Council Member, it's really refreshing and exciting to come in with the ability to hit the

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

ground running with already such powerful organization and unity amongst the body. So, I thank you. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: How do you vote?

CUMBO: I vote aye, on all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.

CLERK: Deutsch?

DEUTSCH: Aye, on all.

CLERK: Dickens?

DICKENS: Aye.

CLERK: Dromm?

DROMM: Aye, on all.

CLERK: Espinal?

ESPINAL: Aye, on all.

CLERK: Eugene?

EUGENE: I vote aye.

CLERK: Ferreras?

FERRERAS: Aye, on all.

CLERK: Garodnick?

GARODNICK: Aye.

CLERK: Gentile?

GENTILE: Please, congratulations to all.

I vote aye, on all.

CLERK: Gibson?

GIBSON: I vote aye, on all.

CLERK: Greenfield?

GREENFIELD: May I explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes.

GREENFIELD: Thank you very much, Madam Public Advocate. I, uh, first of all, I want to thank the Speaker. You know, it's one thing to make a pledge, it's another thing in this business actually, to keep a pledge. She kept the pledge that was made before that rules would be reformed. They were done in an expeditious fashion. And, I really want to thank you for that. It certainly takes a big person to give of their power to benefit all, and I think that needs to be recognized today.

I also, want to thank, as it was recognized earlier, Council Member, Lander, Council Member, Cabrera, and Council Member, Williams. All of us did gather frequently. I am not sure we ever actually expected that we would get all of this done. I certainly didn't think that Brad was going to be the Deputy leader for policy. But, we have come a long way. And, I want to thank you for keeping us engaged and for

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2 providing Kosher food most of the time, germani
3 [sic] and, I really want to thank all of our
4 colleagues for their support. I think today
5 really is a historic day. And, finally, I do
6 want to congratulate the four colleagues on the
7 Land Use items, Council Member, Levin, Council
8 Member, Reynoso, Council Member, Rosenthal, and,
9 of course, Council Member, Kallos. I will tell
10 you that nobody fights harder for their
11 communities than council members. I know that
12 some of the members and senators and congress
13 members don't like to hear to this, but it's
14 true. We're in the neighborhoods, we're in the
15 districts, we know the communities. And, these
16 four respective Council Members fought down to
17 the wire to get everything they could to ensure
18 that their communities would get a fair share out
19 these developments. And, I want to congratulate
20 them for that. Thank you very much.

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22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: How do you vote? How
23 do you vote, Council Member?
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2 GREENFIELD: Let me think about that for
3 a second. I guess I'm going to go with, aye.
4 Thank you very much.

5 CLERK: Johnson?

6 JOHNSON: Permission to explain my vote?

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes, sir.

8 JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Public
9 Advocate. I wanted to comment on the Land Use
10 item today, 606 West 57th Street, which is Council
11 Member, Helen Rosenthal's district, just outside
12 mine. I wanted to congratulate her on her hard
13 work on this item. I know she spent a
14 significant amount of time working with the
15 developer to get some real benefits for the
16 community. I also want to echo her concerns, and
17 concerns that were raised by constituents in my
18 district and in her district with the Land Use
19 process generally. Council Member, Rosenthal
20 mentioned that five thousand new people are
21 coming to this very small area in the next few
22 years. And, I know conversations aren't always
23 sexy with regard to infrastructure and traffic
24 and the impact on schools, and other issues that
25 matter in a local neighborhood. But, this is

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really going to impact the neighborhood along the West Side both in her district and mine. And, it's my hope that as we move forward and the West Side becomes even more developed, we can have a longer conversation about how we can provide essential services, libraries, schools, traffic mitigation in the neighborhood, on the West Side. So, I vote aye, on this matter today; but, I also want the folks that did have reservations and questions to know that I know that Council Member, Rosenthal heard their concerns, and I did as well. Congratulations to Council Member, Rosenthal. And, I vote aye, on all.

CLERK: Kallos?

KALLOS: Permission to explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes.

(pause)

KALLOS: I rise to speak to the Rules Reforms. I want to thank Council Members Greenfield, Williams, Cabrera, and Lander for their leadership on this issue. I want to thank the Speaker for keeping her promise to make this happen and for her leadership in getting it done so very quickly. I want to acknowledge the hard

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work of the staff, David Sitzler(sp?), Michael Freedman Schnapp(sp?), amongst many others. After years of fighting for these types of reforms in Albany, it is an honor to be voting in favor of these reforms voluntarily. Many are calling these typological reforms to the rules, City Council 2.0, for a body that boldly going into the 21st Century. The next iteration of government uses technology to empower New York City residents with information and tools they need to have a dedicated role in a democratic process. Legislation is the source code for the laws that operate our government. By opening up our legislative process, with an open API, we can empower civic hackers and entrepreneurs to create applications that make our government accessible and accountable to all New Yorkers. I vote aye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Quite in the Chambers, please. Quite in the Chambers.

CLERK: King?

KING: Aye, on all.

CLERK: Koo?

KOO: Aye, on all.

CLERK: Koslowitz?

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

KOSLOWITZ: Aye, on all.

CLERK: Lancman?

LANCMAN: May I explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes.

LANCMAN: Thank you. I just want to commend the Speaker and the Chair of the Rules Committee for the work that they put into the Rules Reform process. I found it to be a very inclusive and comprehensive... uh, you know, it's very easy for a speaker and leadership and a council to hoard authority, and to do what they can to make it difficult for members in the body to advance legislation, and for members of the public to understand what is going on, and the procedures that effect the legislation and the budget that is important to them. But, our Speaker did just the opposite. She deserves to be commended for that. These Rules will have a significant impact, I believe, on equity in the Council, transparency, and most importantly, for me, the democratic process, giving each member a greater opportunity to have their voice heard, to have input into the process, and to ultimately make the legislation that we produce better, more

1
2 effective, more responsive to the needs of all
3 New Yorkers. So, I am going to be voting yes on
4 the Rules Reform as well as everything else.
5 And, I do want to commend the Speaker and the
6 Chair of the Rules Committee for bringing these
7 excellent reforms to the body. Thank you very
8 much.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: How do you vote?

10 LANCMAN: Yes.

11 CLERK: Lander?

12 LANDER: Aye, on all.

13 CLERK: Levin?

14 LEVIN: Permission to explain my vote?

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes, Council Member.

16 LEVIN: Thank you, Madam Public

17 Advocate. I, too, want to congratulate Madam
18 Speaker and Chair Lander and everybody else that
19 has worked so diligently on these Rules Reforms.
20 Um, I want to be clear, and I think everyone
21 should know that the Rules Reforms that the
22 Council is putting into place and that Speaker
23 Mark-Viverito has put forward here, are nothing
24 short of revolutionary. They are revolutionary
25 in this body. It is the most substantial and

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significant Rules Reform that have happened in modern history in this body. And, it will have a real impact on people's lives. And, this is going to be great for the health of this body, moving forward, the People's House in New York City, and it will be great for the health, long term of New York City and its institutions. So, I want to congratulate you, Madam Speaker; I want to congratulate you, Chair Lander, on a job well done. And, many generations will be thankful. Thank you. And, I vote aye.

CLERK: Vacca?

VACCA: Aye, on all.

CLERK: Levine?

LEVINE: Aye, on all.

CLERK: Maisel?

MAISEL: Aye, on all.

CLERK: Matteo?

MATTEO: Pass [sic]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes, Council Member.

MATTEO: Aye, on all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.

CLERK: Manchaca?

MANCHACA: Aye, on all.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

CLERK: Mendez?

MENDEZ: I vote aye on all. And, I abstain on LU 41, 42, 43 and any associated Resos.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.

CLERK: Miller?

MILLER: Aye, on all.

CLERK: Reynoso?

REYNOSO: Permission to explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes, Council Member.

REYNOSO: Thank you. I just want to thank Council Member, Steve Levin for working alongside me and our communities in really getting a great plan forward. I am extremely grateful for the partnership that we are building through this process. I also want to say thank to our Chairs, Weprin and Greenfield for standing with us, as well as Ada Fox, and Gail Benjamin, who helped us through the process, and the community for coming out, Two Trees for working with the community for so many years, and really getting to the nitty-gritty on what we really need in these communities. And, overall I thought the process was great. So, I am extremely grateful and

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thankful to Council Member, Levin as well. So, I
vote aye, on all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.

CLERK: Richards?

RICHARDS: Aye, on all.

CLERK: Rodriguez?

RODRIGUEZ: May I explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes, Council Member.

RODRIGUEZ: I will be voting aye. And,
like I said last time, and I said today, during
the voting of this Resolution that will bring
transparency and fairness to the Council. I
think that by voting on this reform, knowingly we
can say that our Speaker will be known as more
progressive one by her actions, by we as a body,
will have a lot to celebrate, with the legacy
that we will leave for the future generation,
letting them know that we can be of more power as
a body, when we share the body. That concern on
the thirty four signature that will allow a
Council member to have the opportunity to go for
the committee, and having a yes or no, it will,
if he will move to a voting, I think it's a great
thing to do. I was there in the lounge when,

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2 even though we had a right to get our bill out of
3 the committee, many of my colleagues here, there
4 were arguing against Council members to go and
5 use that power because it will affect the image
6 of the Council. So, here we will have a great
7 opportunity with the voice of thirty four
8 councilmembers who will say this is a good bill,
9 and at least a committee should make a decision
10 if it will be taken to a floor. I think that
11 that's how we build democracy. Thank you. I
12 vote aye.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. Continuing
14 with the roll call.

15 CLERK: Rose?

16 ROSE: Permission to explain my vote,
17 please?

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes, Council Member.

19 ROSE: I just would like to
20 congratulate Chair Lander and Speaker Mark-
21 Viverito, and all of the Council members for this
22 incredibly open and collaborative, and even
23 transformative process that we were able to
24 engage in to pass the Rules Reform. Um, in terms
25 of SCRIE, Intro. 243 and Reso. 185, I am really

1 proud to vote in support of Intro. 243, which is
2 increasing the maximum income level qualifying
3 the exemption from rent increases granted to
4 certain senior citizens to \$50,000.00; and Reso.
5 185, calling upon New York State legislature to
6 pass and the Governor to sign as one... as 1218 and
7 A-1790, which would link income threshold
8 increases for the senior citizen rent increase
9 exemption SCRIE to changes in the consumer price
10 index. Both of these measures have been long
11 needed, and in my district, which has a large and
12 growing senior population, many have told me how
13 they have missed the threshold cut off by a mere
14 \$69.00. Yes, \$69.00 could render them
15 ineligible. SCRIE assistance can be made... can
16 make a difference for seniors between living
17 independently with dignity and having to make the
18 decision on whether to pay the rent or eat.
19 Muhatma Ghandi once said, a nation's greatness is
20 measured by how it treats its weakest members.
21 These measures and others like them are what
22 distinguish New York City as one of the greatest
23 and most visionary cities in the world. And, I
24 want commend Council Member, Chin for this
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legislation. Thank you. And, I vote, aye on all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.

CLERK: Rosenthal?

ROSENTHAL: Aye, on all.

CLERK: Torres?

TORRES: Permission to explain my vote, very briefly?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes, Council Member.

TORRES: I just want to commend the Speaker for her role in really fundamentally changing the culture and the structure of the City Council. And, I couldn't be prouder to be a member of this body. And, I'm proud to have a Speaker who is a bona fide reformer. And, you're proving it today, so, thank you. I vote aye, proudly.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.

CLERK: Treyger?

TREYGER: Permission to explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes, Council Member.

TREYGER: Thank you. I want to first thank the Speaker and I want to thank the Chair of the Rules Committee, Brad Lander, for not just

1 talking about reform, but actually getting things
2 done. And, I think that is a major distinction
3 that should be recognized. And, I believe that
4 empowering the Council by extension really
5 empowers our constituents, because we are the
6 ones that have the most contact, direct contact
7 with the constituents. So, the more power this
8 body has, the more power and say our communities
9 have. And, I truly appreciate and I applaud and
10 I thank the Speaker and I thank Chair, Brad
11 Lander, and all those who have been very helpful
12 making that happen. I also want to thank the
13 Speaker and the Chair, Lander, again, on a
14 different item. I want to thank the Speaker for
15 having the vision, for first of all, creating a
16 new committee, recovering resiliency, to really
17 hone in on this issue of Sandy recovery, and how
18 to make our City more resilient in the face of
19 climate change. When this Committee first
20 formed, people questioned what powers and
21 jurisdiction it had, and the truth is, it was
22 simply an oversight body. But thanks to the
23 Speaker, and many Chairs of other committees that
24 have partnered with me, and our committee, we
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have certainly pushed Sandy to the forefront of our City's agenda. And, today, as part of the Rules Reform package, we are giving the committee actually more jurisdiction and more teeth in the oversight of mayoral offices that deal with recovery process and resiliency. So, I want to thank the Speaker. I want to thank Chair, Brad Lander for your support. And, I want to thank also, Mike Freedman Schnapp, who has been so instrumental and very helpful in making this happen. By empowering this committee, you are empowering the victims of that storm, and you are sending a message that we care about this issue. And, moving forward, how can we better prepare our City in the face of climate change. So, I thank you all. And, I vote aye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.

CLERK: Ulrich?

ULRICH: Permission not to explain my vote?

(laughs)

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: And it will not be granted.

(laughs)

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

ULRICH: I vote aye, on all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.

CLERK: Vallone?

VALLONE: Aye, on all. And, well done,
Madam Speaker.

CLERK: Weprin?

WEPRIN: Permission to briefly, explain
my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes, Council Member.

WEPRIN: I just would be remiss if I
didn't mention that the issue of Rules Reform has
come up over the last couple of the years, I know
Council Member, Lander and I have been discussing
for a number of years, along with a lot of our
colleagues. And, the Speaker did talk about it
often during the race for Speaker, as well as the
time after that, and I do have to give her an
enormous amount credit. I was asked by a lot of
people, and a lot of members of the press, some
of who are sitting in the room right now, is this
really going to happen? And, I said she made a
commitment, and I expect her to keep it. And she
did. And, really, it was a great process. I
have to give her a compliment that this is a lot

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of things that we talked about, a lot of the reforms, and she made it an inclusive process. And, these are very important changes. I also want to acknowledge something that is not a rules change, but I'm not sure we've acknowledged it on the floor properly, but I thank her for starting the meetings on time, and for keeping to a clock and a schedule, as she also promised during that race.

(applause)

So, congratulations mister... Madam Speaker, and also, to Brad Lander and to the members of the Rules Committee and Rules Reform Caucus. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: How do you vote?

WEPRIN: I vote aye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.

CLERK: Williams?

WILLIAMS: May I be excused to explain my vote?

(laughs)

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes, Council Member.

WILLIAMS: Thank you so much.

(background noise/talking)

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...I'm sorry, I just want to talk...

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: The clock is running.

(laughs)

WILLIAMS: No... you've got to give me a couple minutes... that was the Speaker who took away from my...

(laughs)

I just want to first say, congratulations to the Speaker, and she deserves a lot of credit. Congratulations for this. Not only did she keep a campaign pledge, not only did she allow the discussion, she encouraged the discussion, and she encouraged dissent in the discussion. She encouraged honesty in the discussion, and I think she needs to be applauded for that one. I say congratulations.

(applause)

And, of course, congratulations to uh, Chair Lander, who has mentioned, with myself, Cabrera, Greenfield, started talking about these things, I think a year or two ago. I don't think... I thought it would have happened so quickly, but the Chair really took the mantle on moving this forward. And, I also think you need some

1
2 applause as well, and say congratulations to you
3 for helping bring this to where it is. Um, I
4 think it should go down in council history as a
5 very magnanimous day. We made some rules changes
6 and also some cultural changes, because not all
7 them were rules changes, but some cultural
8 changes that I don't think make the Speaker weak.
9 I think it just helps the Council members do
10 their job as good as they can and do it in a way
11 that people expect us to, while making sure that
12 we have a strong speaker who can lead this body
13 in a direction that it needs to go. So, I am
14 very proud of it. I, too, do have some concerns
15 with the number thirty four, and the automatic
16 trigger. I don't know that I am necessarily
17 against it, but I am concerned. And, I would
18 like us to keep track of how it affects us
19 administratively, and how we do our jobs in terms
20 of putting legislation forward. And, if there is
21 any problems, I, too, like Council Member,
22 Garodnick, would just like us to correct it if we
23 need to, going forward. So, with that, I want to
24 vote aye, on all, with the exception of Land Use
25 41, 42, 43, and all accompanying Resos. And, I

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congratulate my colleagues, Kallos, Reynoso, Levin and Rosenthal for their work today. I vote aye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Council Member, are you voting no, or are you abstaining on those...

WILLIAMS: ...I'm sorry. Abstaining on 41, 42, and 43.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: And the rest you're voting aye?

WILLIAMS: Yes.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.

CLERK: Ignizio?

IGNIZIO: Aye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.

CLERK: Van Bramer?

VAN BRAMER: Permission to briefly explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes, Council Member.

VAN BRAMER: I just want to commend Speaker Mark-Viverito and Chair Lander and the entire body. When thirty four of us signed the document last fall, few people believed that we would follow through, should we be successful, and that has happened. And, I want to share one

1
2 brief story. Last week I ran into a council
3 colleague, former council colleague, who served
4 twelve years and left in December as a result of
5 term limits. He said, "I'm jealous of you
6 because from what I hear, it is an amazing City
7 Council that you get to serve in. It is truly
8 democratic and things are happening there that I
9 never thought possible. And, I never got to
10 serve in that City Council." I want the Speaker
11 to know that former council members who served
12 twelve years, are talking like that about the
13 City Council. That is an enormous step forward
14 and an enormous victory. And, Speaker Mark-
15 Viverito deserves great credit for making that
16 possible. Thank you.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: How do you vote?

18 VAN BRAMER: I vote aye.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.

20 CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito?

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I proudly vote
22 aye. I thank all the colleagues for their
23 comments. And, I also do want to recognize that
24 up in the balcony, we have sixteen middle school
25 kids visiting us from Acron, Ohio.

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(applause)
Want to wave to us, so we know where you are?
Oh, it's wonderful. Welcome to City Hall. We'll
be taking a photo later, but... I proudly vote aye,
on all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. We welcome
the Youth Civic Leadership under the leadership
of Mark Favors, the Executive Director from
Acron, Ohio. Welcome to New York City, and we...
welcome all of you. And, you are witnessing
democracy and civics in action. Welcome to New
York City.

All items on today's general order
calendar were adopted by a vote of 48 in the
affirmative, zero in the negative, and zero
abstentions, with the exception of Land Use Call-
ups 28 through Land Use 33, and accompanying
Resolutions, which was adopted by a vote of 47 in
the affirmative, zero negative, and one
abstention, and LU..

(background noise/talking)

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Quite, please.
Please, quite. Land Use Call-ups 41 through 43
and accompanying Resos., which were adopted by a

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vote of 46 in the affirmative, zero negative, and two abstentions. Revised Land Use Call-ups were adopted by a vote of 48 in the affirmative, and zero negatives.

Introduction and reading of bills.

Seeing, none. Discussion of Resolutions. The first Resolution that we will hear from is, Resolution 1.

(interruption) (pause)

Okay. ...reading of bills?

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Yes. All bills are referred to their appropriate committees, as indicated on the agenda.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. Discussion of Resolutions. The first Resolution that we will hear from is, Resolution 111-A, an amended Resolution, calling upon the New York State legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign. Legislation that will allow New York City to lower its speed limit to 25 miles per hour. We will first hear from the sponsor, Council Member, David Greenfield.

GREENFIELD: Thank you, Madam Public Advocate. I appreciate it. I want to

1
2 thank, of course, the Speaker Melissa Mark-
3 Viverto, the transportation Committee Chair,
4 Adonis Rodriguez, the Mayor, and the Department
5 of Transportation, and all of my colleagues in
6 the Council for prioritizing traffic safety. It
7 is one of the most important agendas that we have
8 here...

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Excuse me,
10 Council Member. May we please have some quite in
11 the Chambers...

12 GREENFIELD: Yeah, I would
13 appreciate that, thank you.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. You
15 have the...

16 GREENFIELD: ...so, I want to thank
17 all of my colleagues for prioritizing traffic
18 safety, specifically, Vision Zero. This was
19 actually a piece of legislation that we started
20 on several years ago, before Vision Zero was hot
21 or popular, and it took us some time. And,
22 people were skeptical, but I think, the science
23 is very clear. If you take action, including
24 lowering the speed limit, in New York City, it
25 will simply, save lives. And, while in the past

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2 years, we have actually seen the murder rate has
3 gone down in New York City, the rate of
4 pedestrians getting killed in automobile
5 accidents, has gone up. And, really, today, I
6 believe it is the top public safety issue that we
7 have in New York City, and that's why I encourage
8 my colleagues to vote aye. And, I want to thank
9 the Committee Council's Lyle Frank and Laura
10 Popa(sp?) for their great assistance and advice
11 over the years. Thank you very much.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.

13 Please note that on Resolutions, your comments
14 are limited to one minute. In regards to this
15 Resolution, Council Member, Rodriguez.

16 RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. I want to
17 say that my decision to change my stand from 20
18 miles to 25 miles per hour. The speed limit was
19 not taken lightly. After careful deliberation
20 and discussion, with family members, or victims
21 of these terrible crashes, we feel that in order
22 for meaningful action to be taken, we must unite
23 as a City, and let our... call echo across the
24 Chambers in the State lays later[sic]
25 (legislature?) We can build a unified coalition

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between the City Council, the Mayor's office, and the most importantly, family for safer street, in our meaningful fight to change our City's speed limit. I ask all my colleagues to please vote aye on this Resolution.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Does any other Member wish to speak on this Resolution? We will now take a vote. All of those in favor, say, aye.

(group response): Aye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: All of those opposed, say, nay.

(group response): Nay.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Any abstentions? The ayes have it.

The next Resolution, is a Resolution calling upon the United States Congress to pass and the President of the United States to sign. Senate 2- 2182 the Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Acts, legislation expanding and improving care provided to veterans and service members with mental health disorders or are at risk for suicide, and the sponsor member is Council Member, Cabrera.

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2 Cabrera: Thank you so much, Public
3 Advocate. As a grandson of a grandfather who
4 fought in World War II, and my father who fought
5 in the Army, Airborne, I stand, truly proud on
6 the Reso. 159 that is going to be able to expand
7 the health care period for VA, from the VA from
8 five years to fifteen years. It will review the
9 terms of the discharge of certain individuals
10 from the armed forces, and it will require a
11 pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists
12 who agree to serve in the Veterans Health
13 Administration of the Department of Veterans
14 Affairs. I want to give a special thanks to the
15 Speaker and to Chair Alrich for their support.
16 And, I encourage all the members to vote aye on
17 this item. And, especially, in light of the fact
18 that we're losing twenty two U.S. veterans daily
19 as a result of suicide. Thank you so much.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. Are
21 there any members who would like to speak on this
22 Resolution?

23 Seeing none. All those in favor, say aye.

24 (group response): Aye.
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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: All of those
opposed?
(group response):

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Any abstentions?
The ayes have it.

The next Resolution. Resolution calling
upon the New York State legislature to pass and
the Governor to sign. Senate 1218 and A-1790,
legislation that would link income threshold
increases for the senior citizen rent increase
exemption, SCRIE program, to changes in the
consumer price index. And, it's sponsored by
Council Member, Margaret Chin.

(Interruption)

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: She's not speak...
Okay. Um, all of those in favor of that
Resolution, say aye.
(group response): Aye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: All of those
opposed?
(group response):

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Any abstentions?
The ayes have it.

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Resolution 189. Calling upon the New York State Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign. A-9036, Senate 6516, authorizing local governments to establish and enforce higher levels of minimum wage. And, that is sponsored by Council Member, Danny Dromm. Council Member, Danny Dromm?

DROMM: Thank you very much. Thank you, Madam Public Advocate and Madam Speaker. I also want to start off by thanking my colleague, Council Member, Daneek Miller, who co-authored this Resolution with me. The minimum wage in New York City is absurdly low. How can anyone be expected to survive in New York City on \$8.00 an hour? New York City with a highest cost of living in the United States, has the same minimum wage as Buffalo, and other localities that have very low cost of living. As a result, many families have no choice but to avail themselves of public benefits. Particularly, impacted are fast food workers, most of whom work for multi-billion dollar companies. We, as an entire city, are subsidizing these ultra-rich corporations by supplementing the tremendously low wages they

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pay. Earlier this month, the Mayor of Seattle, a city with far fewer cost of living, far lower cost of living, announced that his city plans on gradually raising the minimum wage from \$9.32 to \$15.00 an hour. It is time for us to act and to enable the men and women who work here, in New York City, to be able to actually afford to live here also. Thank you very much.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Council Member, Miller.

MILLER: Thank you, Madam Public Advocate. I think that Council Member, Dromm said it very well. I'd just like to thank him for his leadership on this... such an important issue. And, I just want to reiterate that we, here in the City of New York, and our workers that work so hard, should not be held to the same standards of living as those in Buffalo, Albany, and Rochester, where the cost of living is obviously less, much less than it is here. And, I think that this is such an appropriate bill. And, I hope that all our colleagues will vote yes.

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. Any other members who wish to speak on this bill? All of those in favor, say aye.

(group response): Ayes.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: All of those opposed?

(group response):

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Any abstentions? The ayes have it.

The next Resolution is Resolution 231. Resolution calling upon the New York State Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign. A-6597 and Senate 4609, legislation that would repeal provisions of law granting a real property tax exemption to the Madison Square Garden. Council Member, Johnson.

JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Public Advocate. Thank you for introducing the pre-considered Resolution and what it would do. This tax break that has existed, has cost New York City \$300,000,000.00 since its inception in 1982, and will, according to the Independent Budget Office, result in 17.4 million dollars of lost revenue this year, in 2014, and next year valued

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2 up to \$50,000,000.00 in lost revenue and property
3 taxes. Intended by the late Mayor Koch, to last
4 only ten years, and now persists. It's the only
5 State tax break written into law to benefit a
6 single company, out of approximately eight
7 billion dollars' worth of State programs. It's
8 the only tax break that never expires.

9 Originally conceived to ensure that the Knicks
10 and Rangers stayed in New York during times of
11 rising costs. Both these teams are now two of
12 the most valuable properties in the respective
13 leagues, and achieves[sic] benefits from a full
14 property tax exemption. There's more to say, but
15 I want to thank Chairwoman, Ferreras, the finance
16 staff, and I want to ask my colleagues to end
17 this tax break to fund New York City services
18 that are needed. This is in our State budget
19 response. Thank you for my colleagues who have
20 supported this.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Council Member,
22 Ferreras, the Chair of Finance.

23 FERRERAS: Thank you. And, I'm
24 going to try to limit my comments so I'm not
25 repetitive. But I just wanted to very,

1 specifically, talk about this tax exemption which
2 has existed in perpetuity for MSG[sic] and, in
3 many ways, Mayor Koch already stated that that
4 was not the intention. According to the
5 Independent Budget Office, who testified earlier
6 in the Finance Committee, on this Resolution, the
7 consensus within the economics file... file, the
8 government subsidies for sports facilities are
9 not an effective use of scarce public resource.
10 There... "There is little evidence that
11 substantiates subsidies to support facilities
12 generated... generate sufficient economic activity
13 that would have occurred in the absence of the
14 subsidy." MSG has received this tax exemption
15 for thirty two years. To date, the accumulative
16 value of the exemption is currently over \$300
17 million dollars with \$17.3 million dollars in
18 foregone taxes in fiscal year 2015. And, as we
19 enter our executive budget hearings, I bet we all
20 know what we can do with \$17.3 million dollars,
21 if we had it. Thank you.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. Any
23 other members wishing to speak on this
24 Resolution? Council Member, Rosenthal.
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2 ROSENTHAL: Um, I just want to
3 reiterate what I said in committee, that I think
4 it's... you know, when Madison Square Garden talks
5 about the philanthropic work that it does, you
6 know, I think that's terrific, and applaud them
7 for it, but I think it's incredibly disrespectful
8 that... for them to talk to City government about
9 its philanthropic work when it doesn't even pay
10 its taxes for all the services that it uses,
11 including police, sanitation, and fire department
12 of buildings, everything. So, you know, I'm
13 going to proudly vote yes on this. And, I really
14 want to applaud my colleagues for bringing up
15 this Resolution. I hope the State comes to its
16 senses, and ends this tax exemption. Thank you.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. Any
18 other member wishing to speak on this
19 Resolution? All of those in favor, say aye.

20 (group response): Aye.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: All of those
22 opposed?

23 (group response):

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Any abstentions?
25 The ayes have it.

1
2 General discussion. Council Member, Inez
3 Dickens.

4 DICKENS: Thank you, Madam Public
5 Advocate. First, I would like to acknowledge
6 that... and let the Council know, and Madam
7 Speaker that Paul Roberson, Jr. passed several
8 weeks ago. And, although he was not as eloquent
9 as his dad, he was no less a strong activist for
10 civil rights, human rights, and fairness for
11 all. I also, want to congratulate Michael Sam
12 for being drafted by the St. Louis Rams this
13 week...

14 (cheers/applause)

15 ...which would make him the first openly gay man
16 to play for the NFL. This is a pivotal step in
17 the sports world, and I wish him well, and a
18 phenomenal football career. For the past few
19 weeks, the race comments made by Donald Sterling
20 have been striking. I applaud the NBA for their
21 decision to ban him for life and continue to
22 push for the selling of the Clippers to an owner
23 that is accepting and welcoming of all. In
24 addition, I congratulate Magic Johnson for
25 handling himself with dignity and respect

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2 throughout this ordeal, as was seen on Anderson
3 Cooper's interview last night. Finally, I
4 commend the City Council for joining a campaign
5 to bring our girls back. The press conference
6 held on Monday with the leadership of our
7 Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito and Council
8 Member, Laurie Cumbo, and all the caucuses of
9 the City Council sent a clear message that we
10 support our girls, and something must be done to
11 bring them back. I commend the few members of
12 the Women Nigerian Delegation who more than a
13 month ago came to our City, seeking assistance,
14 but for fear of retaliation, did not go public,
15 and their quite screams fell on deaf ears.

16 Thanks to social media, it has made this issue
17 world-wide, and these females don't have to fear
18 anymore. Send... I send my love and strength, and
19 courage to these girls. And, today, as I stand
20 with them, I declare that today, and until they
21 return, I am Nigerian. Bring our girls back.

22 And, I want to thank, of course, Council Member,
23 Alrich for the Veterans Reso. 159 for badly
24 needed medical attention and mental health
25 services, and to Council Member, Chin on Reso.

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185 for the SCRIE, linking it to the consumer's price index. Thank you, Madam Speaker... Public Advocate and Speaker.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.
Council Member, Daneek Miller.

MILLER: Thank you, Madam Public Advocate, and Madam Speaker. This afternoon, I rise... I'm sorry.

(laughs/background noise)

Be quite. Actually, I'll sit and say it.

(laughs)

To the colleagues, we have a... you are probably in receipt of a letter, a dear colleague letter that I've sent out. And, it states that we have thirty eight days left. We have thirty eight days before we lose two thousand good jobs. I refer to the employee protection provision. It is with great conviction that I write you today, asking for your support on the employee protection provision. A mandatory in New York City's school bus contracts. The EPP has been included in all such contracts since 1979 through 2011. But in 2012, the previous administration removed

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2 them from under fabricated premises of costs and
3 legalities. The EPP was designed to protect
4 workers' pensions, promote fair hiring and
5 practices, and allow for an experienced and well
6 trained work force to be retained. Since its
7 removal, we have witnessed the erosion of the
8 school bus transportation industry and
9 workforce. As a result, families have been left
10 suffering, at the end of the school year... at the
11 end of this school year. Another two thousand
12 bus work employees will be left without jobs,
13 and thousands of more families will fear their
14 children's morning commute. Throughout the City
15 of New York, and Metropolitan area, over six
16 hundred thousand students utilize transportation
17 services contracted by the Department of
18 Education, which serves as the center piece of
19 the largest such system in the country. We are
20 obligated to make sure that this system is safe
21 and reliable for our children, and employing the
22 most experienced and qualified workforce, allows
23 us to do so. However, this period, since the
24 EPP's removal, we have seen diminishing of this
25 industry, and I ask that you all support us on

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2 this employee protection provision. Thank you,
3 Madam Public Advocate.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.
5 Council Member, Van Bramer.

6 VAN BRAMER: Thank you very much,
7 Madam Public Advocate. I do rise to speak about
8 a package of bills that I've introduced that
9 reform the board of standard and appeals. This
10 package of reforms would provide increased
11 community involvement in the BSA process and
12 require BSA to respond to concerns of the
13 community by enacting several reforms. Intro.
14 281 requires all mayoral recommended members of
15 BSA to be approved by the City Council. Intro.
16 282 initiates BSA rules change to create a
17 standardized procedure through which BSA will
18 incorporate the recommendations of the City
19 Planning Commission Community Boards, borough
20 boards, and tenants. Intro. 283 would expand
21 the membership of the BSA. And, finally, being
22 introduced today, Intro. 354 creates a formal
23 procedure for community members to draft a
24 complaint against the issue that stands before
25 the BSA because previously, and currently, in

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2 making rulings, the BSA does not have to reveal
3 or discuss any responses to community and/or
4 elected official objections when they grant
5 variances. It's an important series of reforms
6 that I introduced in the previous council, and
7 that I re-introduce today, and I welcome support
8 from all of my colleagues. Thank you very much.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you,
10 Council Member. Council Member, Kallos.

11 KALLOS: Thank you. I'd like to
12 join the Public Advocate and the Speaker in
13 welcoming the Youth Civic Leadership Academy,
14 Mark Favors and his sixteen students from Acron,
15 Ohio, here today, to see that no matter what your
16 background, you can become a leader, and make
17 history. Please, remember to follow your dreams.
18 Today, I am introducing two introductions. One
19 Resolution. The first Introduction 328 with
20 Council Member, Jimmy Vacca and Borough
21 President, Gail Brewer... open foil creating a
22 centralized, automated, online process for
23 submitting, tracking and responding to Freedom of
24 Information law requests, and for making the
25 content of non-personal requests and responses

1 public, in the interests of efficiency, fairness,
2 and transparency. The second, is Introduction
3 329 with Council Member, Brad Lander, to create
4 an office of food policy and a food policy
5 council, building on Council Member, Brad
6 Lander's work from last year. This is a grass
7 roots driven bill, and I have the honor of
8 working collaboratively with New York City food
9 forum, which now represents over ninety food
10 advocacy organizations across the City. This
11 codifies the Mayor's office of food policy as the
12 office of food and the interagency food policy
13 task force, and creates a food policy council,
14 which have been already been convened in nearly
15 two hundred other states and municipalities
16 across the country. The New York City Food
17 Policy Council would advise the Mayor's office on
18 policy initiatives to reduce hunger, reform
19 school food programs, and improve nutrition,
20 reduce obesity, and cards city purchasing of
21 local and sustainable products, improving working
22 conditions for food workers and reducing waste.
23 Lastly, I'd introduce Resolution 232 to
24 consolidate the June Federal and September State
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primaries into one primary in June in order to save \$50 million dollars of the tax payers, and to improve our State's voter turn-out. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.

Council Member, Jumaane Williams.

(interruption)

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Bless you.

WILLIAMS: Um, sorry. I just

want to first, recognize a couple of students from my district who participated in an essay... they wrote about what changes they would make as council members and why. And, these two winners are here, and they took a nice tour and hung out with me for the day. If they could please stand up. That is Nyeba(sp?) Wong, eighteen years old from Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow. Wave. And... (applause)

...Nicole Tefler(sp?), seventeen years old, High School for Service and Learning, I believe is going to Penn State, yes? Let's give them a round of applause, please.

(applause)

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2 And, I would like to ask co-sponsorship of
3 Intro. 356, which improves compliance with City's
4 pro-voter law. I am introducing... re-introducing
5 legislation to improve compliance with the City's
6 pro-voter law, a law that requires City agencies
7 to distribute voter registration forms to the
8 public. The new legislation will make it easier
9 for agencies and encourage agencies to comply
10 with the original pro-voter law by requiring each
11 agency to code their voter registration forms.
12 Coding makes it possible for City government
13 officials, including the City Council, to track
14 how successful each individual agency is at
15 registering voters, so they're not just handing
16 it out, but they are encouraged to try to get
17 them back in. This initiative will ultimately
18 increase the number of registered voters that
19 participate in the democratic process throughout
20 the five boroughs. I hope you all please, join
21 me in co-sponsorship.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. And,
23 now, a joint discussion from Council Member
24 Cornegy, and Council Member, Manchaca.
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2 CORNEGY: Thank you, Madam Speaker,
3 um, Madam Public Advocate. Last week, prior to
4 the release of the executive budget, I circulated
5 a letter, urging the Mayor to restore funding for
6 our City's industrial and business zones, and to
7 include funding to revitalize the Mayor's Office
8 of Industrial and Manufacturing Business. Within
9 a very short period of time, a dozen of us joined
10 together to make this request. Our effort was
11 amplified by a similar letter, signed by all five
12 borough Presidents. I believe this consensus was
13 possible because we understand how important the
14 industrial and manufacturing sector is to our
15 goal of expanding the supply of solid, living
16 wage jobs in our City. As the Chair of the
17 Committee on Small Business, this is a particular
18 interest to me because more and more the
19 manufacturers who find the City a great place to
20 call home, are themselves, small businesses.
21 Today, Council Member, Manchaca is joining me to
22 introduce a resolution which continues this
23 conversation by calling on the Mayor to
24 reinvigorate the Office of Industrial and
25 Manufacturing Business. The office was first

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2 established and funded in 2005, but has gone
3 without a leader since 2007, with its intended
4 functions disbursed between the Department of
5 Small Business Services and EDC. Two entities
6 whose mandates extend far beyond the needs of
7 this sector. Reinvigorating the office of
8 Industrial and Manufacturing Business would
9 ensure that there is a single entity in the
10 administration whose sole purpose is to support
11 the development and growth of businesses,
12 particularly, small businesses in the sector.
13 This change will create efficiencies for business
14 operations and create a mechanism for residents,
15 employees, and advocates concerned with
16 industrial development to impact policy
17 development. Council Member, Manchaca will speak
18 further to this issue now, and I do hope that you
19 will join us in signing on as a sponsor of Reso.
20 228.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Manchaca.

22 MANCHACA: Thank you so much. And, I
23 join and rise with colleague from Brooklyn,
24 Council Member, Cornegy in support, and really
25 thank both the committee staff that's been

1
2 working long hours on this, all the other Council
3 Members that have put their support behind this,
4 and staff, both Lee and Dinah Shaw[sic], who have
5 been an incredible force as well. You know, this
6 Resolution is an important starting point as we
7 begin envisioning what a dedicated office for
8 industrial sector looks like in this new and
9 progressive administration. We increasingly
10 understand that the industrial sector is a
11 gateway to making our City more sustainable and
12 more resilient, and our green cluster is growing.
13 And, we truly need a strong, dedicated policy arm
14 to support resilience, green job creation, and
15 more. A new office can help our City make those
16 important connections and launch an aggressive
17 effort to combat things like climate change.
18 Additionally, we been working closely with our
19 community stake holders to think about how a
20 reinvigorated office can be a bridge to not only
21 other city agencies, but to also our
22 neighborhoods so that we can all come together as
23 one city to support our industrial sector. I
24 also want to speak on Resolution 235, which I am
25 introducing today. You know, while there have

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been a lot of discussions around Envision Zero, about increasing funding for speed cameras, we can also use cameras that we have near our school zones more efficiently by extending their length of time in use. This Resolution does that. I hope you can all look at it and support. Thank you all for your time.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.

Council Member, Reynoso.

REYNOSO: Thank you, Madam Public Advocate. Sorry. Um, I just want to speak to the AEP legislation that I am introducing today, alongside Council Member, Daniel Garodnick. Currently, two hundred of the City's worst buildings are repaired by HPD and the bill is then given to the landlord. That really puts us in a position where our worst buildings are actually livable, at this moment. We have an investment of a million dollars by the administration into this program, which would allow us to expand this bill, to expand the amount of homes that get repaired. We are hoping to get it to four hundred because we know that two hundred is not enough. So, I'm hoping that

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everyone can sign on to Intro. Number 345. Thank you very much, Madam Public Advocate, and have a good day.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you, Madam Public Advocate. I want to call my colleague's attention to two items. First, is Reso. 234, which calls for an end to the so-called tenant black list, I am happy to be co-sponsoring this with my colleague, Council Member, Rosenthal. We all know that housing court is a profoundly unequal terrain in which nearly every landlord has an attorney and virtually no tenants do. But, even for those few tenants who manage to prevail against those odds, they do not come away unscathed because our court system post... the names of the tenants on its website, and a small industry of companies collects that data and sells it to landlords, creating a list of tenants who have gone through the housing court system. And, many landlords refuse to rent with... to rent to. Despite a tenant's victory in court, despite the grounds in which they might have been taken to a court, tenants want nothing to do with tenant... landlords want nothing to do with tenants

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2 who have been through the court system. This is
3 an unjust mark on the record of renters, and we
4 want to do away with this in the market place.
5 Secondly, I want to call your attention to Reso.
6 333, that I'm proud to be introducing with
7 Council Member, Lander, which would call on the
8 Federal Government to make kosher and Hallel food
9 available through its emergency food assistance
10 program. There are an estimated 330 thousand
11 households in the New York City area of Jewish
12 faith, and an estimated 300 thousand Muslim
13 households living in poverty. Big numbers in
14 both groups, and they are not able to eat because
15 of their dietary restrictions; food from the USDA
16 food banks during times of emergency. And,
17 hurricane Sandy non-profits had to step in to
18 fill that gap. And, so we're calling on the
19 Federal government, under the leadership of
20 Kirsten Gillibrand [phonetic] in the Senate,
21 sponsored the bill, and Congressman Crowley in
22 the house, the house sponsor, to make kosher and
23 Hallel food more available and well labeled to
24 New Yorkers of all faith. Thank you.

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.
3 Council Member, Dan Garodnick.

4 GARODNICK: Thank you very much,
5 Madam Public Advocate. I wanted to add a couple
6 of words to Council Member, Reynoso's
7 introduction of Intro. 345. As you know, the
8 problem of over leverage deals and affordable
9 housing has been a problem citywide where owners
10 in attempt to make a buck, saddle properties with
11 far too much debt and far beyond what the rental
12 income can support in buildings around the City.
13 The result is either an effort to aggressively
14 push out rent stabilized tenants, or it is to
15 reduce the cost by allowing the buildings to fall
16 into complete disrepair. The bill that Council
17 Member, Reynoso and I are introducing today,
18 deals with the latter example. The buildings
19 that are falling apart as a result of landlord
20 neglect. The City's program, the AEP program is
21 designed to address just that. You let your
22 buildings fall apart, the City is going to fix
23 it, quick review, are among the very, very worst,
24 and we're going to send you the bill. There is a
25 statutory limit to that. That statutory limit

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2 today is too low and we need to fix it. That's
3 what this bill is about. I also wanted to draw
4 my colleague's attention to additional bills that
5 have an impact on traffic enforcement on our
6 streets. They are Intro. 325 and 326. The
7 first, allows for traffic enforcement agents to
8 issue tickets for idling, using handheld
9 computers. Obviously, idling is an environmental
10 challenge in New York City. There is a limit of
11 three minutes for all vehicles to idle on our
12 streets. It is a law that is widely not known
13 and widely ignored, and wholly unenforceable,
14 particularly, without this tool. So, this bill
15 would allow that to, uh, the ticket to be issued
16 using a handheld device. The same thing would be
17 true for bogus parking placards. Intro. 326
18 would allow and require a barcode to be placed on
19 parking placards to allow to discern what is
20 legit and what is not. Thank you very much.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.

22 Council Member, Barron.

23 BARRON: Thank you, Madam Public
24 Advocate. I want to commend the Speaker for her
25 leadership in getting the Rules Reform package

1 done. It was a pledge that she made and it was
2 something that was important to me to make sure
3 that it became a reality. And, I commend her for
4 pushing it forward, and to Brad Lander, and all
5 the committee members, and the staffers who did
6 the work to make it a reality. Secondly, the red
7 that I am wearing today, is in support of the
8 Bring Back our Girls Campaign, as has been
9 referenced already. It's an atrocity that is
10 going on for those three hundred girls and their
11 families. It's been noted that it started
12 through social media, and it was social media
13 that pushed the issue into the international
14 forefront. So, what we're hoping, is that this
15 atrocity, which is a manifestation, really, of
16 human trafficking, and of boys and girls being
17 sold into a form of slavery. What we are hoping
18 is that we will continue to build the pressure so
19 that the international forces will come together
20 and use all of the technology, all of the
21 resources, all of the manpower, and all of the
22 money that it takes to be able to bring back our
23 girls. And, I stand with all of you... I wasn't
24 able to be here on Monday, but I certainly
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support all of the efforts and all of the organizations that are pushing this effort forward. And, I believe that with our continued voices and push, and determination, we will be successful. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Welcome back Council Member. Council Member, Rose.

ROSE: My colleagues, I ask you to support Intro. 337, which would establish a senior housing task force to evaluate the options and funding needed to promote independent living or shared or supportive housing in New York City. In my district, on the north shore of Staten Island, we have virtually, very little senior housing, or housing for persons with disabilities. Our City has an increasing aging population and it is not prepared. The work of this task force will be to help us develop a plan to move us in the right direction, and I hope that you will support it by co-sponsor... by signing on as a co-sponsor. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. Council Member, Cumbo. Council Member, Cumbo?

CUMBO: Thank you, Public Advocate.

I want to first, start my remarks by thanking Speaker Mark-Viverito, Public Advocate James, members of the women's caucus, the Black Latino and Asian Caucus, the Jewish Caucus, Congressman, Hakeem Jeffries, for their support during the Bring Back Our Girls rally and press conference on Monday. I want to thank all of my colleagues that were there in support. I want to, as protocol has been established, and many of you have touched on the points, I just want to bring it to the attention that this epidemic and this tragic and horrendous issue has really brought to our attention, human trafficking, which is the third largest international crime industry behind illegal drugs and arms trafficking. It reportedly generates a profit of \$32 billion dollars every year. Of that number, \$15.5 billion is made in an industrialized country. There are approximately twenty to thirty million individuals enslaved in the world today. According to some estimates, approximately, 80% of trafficking involves sexual exploitation and 19% involves labor exploitation. And, I want to

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2 say, that so many of you have participated in
3 rallies, and while we have done one here at the
4 City Council, I really implore all of my
5 colleagues to continue to do these types of
6 rallies in your district. The larger ones that
7 are happening at the United Nations and beyond,
8 and this has to be an issue that we continue to
9 raise our voices on until each and every one of
10 those young women are returned back home. Our
11 pressure on this issue is critical and I hope
12 that every single person in the Council recognize
13 their spiritual power in order to send vibrations
14 out into the global atmosphere to bring those
15 young ladies home. Council Member, Rose will be
16 doing a rally in Staten Island this Saturday, and
17 I hope that we all can stand with her. And, as
18 many more become available, and many more are
19 known, we need to continue to have our voices
20 there, as well as our advocacy. Thank you.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you.

22 Council Member, Lander.

23 LANDER: Thank you, Madam Public
24 Advocate. I have number of introductions on
25 today's agenda. I won't go through them all. I

1 do look forward to the day when the plain
2 language summaries are available and perhaps, we
3 can even shorten this part of the meeting, Madam
4 Speaker, because people would know what the bills
5 do. I will note that I have four intros. related
6 to affordable housing, following up on the
7 housing plan that the Mayor introduced last week.
8 Intro. 335 with Council Member, Torres, to create
9 a land bank that would help New York City receive
10 more funding pursuant to Attorney General
11 Schneiderman's foreclosure settlement and enable
12 us to acquire property through foreclosure and
13 other means and create affordable housing that..

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Please, quite in
15 the Chambers, please. Sorry, Council Member.

16 LANDER: Thank you. The Intro. 337
17 to create the senior housing task force that
18 Council Member, Rose so eloquently described, the
19 need for Intro. 336 to require reporting on the
20 inclusionary housing programs the City has for
21 today. It's difficult to get information on
22 them. And, finally, Intro. 333, as some members
23 know, the 421-A tax break in Manhattan, and some
24 parts of the outer borough, requires affordable
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housing, but in most of the outer boroughs, we still give you a very substantial property tax break for building entirely market rate housing under the... under 421-A. It is time, in New York City, if you are going to get a tax break, that you be required to include affordable housing as part of that development. I hope folks will sign onto those interests. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Council Member,
Chin.

CHIN: Thank you, Madam Public Advocate. I wanted to draw my colleague's attention to Reso. 225, which calls for the State to levy school impact fees when developers create new residential capacity. In my district, we have a large volume of as of right construction that asks hundreds of you each year to our district, yet developers on most of these projects are not required to address the burden they are adding to city infrastructure or resources. They are too small to trigger environmental review or mitigation, but have the accumulative effect of overcrowding our schools and straining our city resources. At the same

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2 time, the City has limited capital resources to
3 build new schools. We would like developers to...
4 contributing to residential growth to pay a
5 reasonable impact fee to address, in particular,
6 the impact new development has on schools. This
7 would enable us to build new schools for our
8 growing district population's need and address
9 school overcrowding, which is a problem, not just
10 in my district, but in many of my colleague's
11 districts as well. So, I hope my colleagues will
12 join me in supporting this idea. Thank you.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. And,
14 lastly, I urge all the members of the City
15 Council to join bills being sponsored by the
16 Public Advocate and Council Member, Kallos to the
17 creation of a division of LGBT youth services
18 within the Department of Health and mental
19 hygiene. Any closing remarks, Speaker, Speaker
20 Melissa Mark-Viverito?

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: No. Thank
22 you Madam, Public Advocate, as always. And, uh,
23 a little later than usual, but 3:40 we adjourning
24 this meeting.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. We
now stand adjourned.
(gavel)
Youth Civic Leadership, come on down for
pictures.

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. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.



Date 05/28/2014