

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

STATED MEETING

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March 26, 2014
Start: 1:30 p.m.
Recess:

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E: MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO
Speaker for the Council
TISH JAMES,
Public Advocate, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

Vanessa L. Gibson
David G. Greenfield
Vincent Ignizio
Core D. Johnson
Ben Kallos
Andy L. King
Peter A. Koo
Karen Koslowitz
Rory L. 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 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)

Rabbi Diana S. Gerson
New York Board of Rabbis

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STATED MEETING

[background noise, sound check]

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Good afternoon, everyone. We're going to get started on the ceremonials, and I get the first one. So I get to start. For those of you who don't know, my name is Mark Weprin. I'm the Council Member to the 23rd Council District in Queens. And I am delighted to be joined today -- and I've asked them all to come up -- by the Cardozo High School Varsity Boys Base -- Basketball Team, who won the New York City Championship a couple of weeks ago at Barclays Center. Guys, come on up all of you. Coach.

TISH JAMES: That's okay. Come on up.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: We'll wait until they come up. We are led here by Coach Ron Naclerio who is coming here, a very famous PSAL coach known throughout the world. His assistant coaches Mike Blisset and Billy Medley, and Athletic Director, Mr. C. Joe Cavallo, and the Principal of Cardozo High School, Jerry Martori.

TISH JAMES: Right, and they said I think Brooklyn.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Yeah, I told her that. We are also - this is Tish James, our Public

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STATED MEETING

Advocate. It's important -- I want to acknowledge a couple of important things. Cardozo High School this is the first time, and I know we have a lot of Brooklyn Colleagues. But it's the first time that the Championship has been outside of Brooklyn for about eight years. Brooklyn has had a bit of a monopoly on PSAL Basketball.

And Cardozo High School not only won against Thomas Jefferson High School for the championship, but they actually beat four Brooklyn teams on their way to that championship. So take that, Tish James. All right, come on in somehow.

I also want to acknowledge that I was -- I had the pleasure of going to the Barclays Center for the championship game between Thomas Jefferson and Cardozo. It was one of the most exciting games you'll ever see, and it ended with Cardozo trailing by one point. And a foul was called with the clock saying one second at that moment. It actually was then amended to 2.5 seconds.

The young man -- Where's Ray? Raise your hand. This young man is a sophomore. How old are you Ray?

RAY SALNAVE: Sixteen.

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STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Sixteen-year-old Ray had to make two foul shots, one to tie and one to win with one second -- 2.5 seconds on the clock. My son who was with me said, Ray is going to remember this the rest of his life one way or the other. And luckily, it was the right way. And I'll tell you, to be that cool and have that much ice in your veins is pretty impressive because that's a moment [applause] that I'm sure even Robert Cornegy hasn't experienced. He's not here at the moment. That's the dream of every kid.

So I wanted to let the coach, Coach Naclario say a couple of words and then call the speaker?

MALE SPEAKER: [off mic]

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Okay, we're going to read this plaque. I don't know if you want him and then you. Let's read the proclamation. Will the Clerk please read the proclamation. We'll hear from the coach, and then you guys get to hear from the speaker of the City Council Melissa Mark-Viverito.

CLERK: Council, City of New York Proclamation.

Whereas, the Council of the City of New York is proud to honor the Benjamin N. Cardozo High School Boys Basketball Team for their outstanding teamwork that led to victory; and

Whereas, on Saturday, March 8, 2014, Benjamin N. Cardozo High School Boys Basketball Team won the PSAL AA City Championship; and

Whereas, Coach Ronald Naclerio fulfilled his dream of coaching a team to victory as the Cardozo judges scored a 55 to 54 victory; and

Whereas, Rashond Ray Salnave, sophomore student, sophomore standout, converted a pair of three throws with 2.5 seconds left to lead the Cardozo judges to their first title since 1999; and

Whereas, the Principal Gerald Martori and Coach Ronald Naclerio leading by example teaching teamwork and tenacity, the Cardozo judges Carl Balthazar, Tarequ Coburn, Armando Dunn, Malcolm Hendrick, Tarik Howard, Marzuq Jimoh, Elijah McNeely, Kristian Mondesir, Nicholas Panduri, Abraham Richter, Rashond Ray Salnave, Amir Tutt, Andrew Whisenant, and Francisco Williams demonstrated superior skills in sportsmanship throughout their session; and

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2 Whereas, we congratulate each of these
3 championship -- each of these champions on their
4 accomplishments, and we wish them continued success
5 both on or off the basketball court.

6 Now, therefore, be it known that the
7 Council of the City of New York honors the members of
8 the Benjamin N. Cardozo High School Boys Basketball
9 Team for their outstanding achievements as the 2014
10 PSAL AA Champions. Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker
11 for entire Council, Mark S. Weprin, Council Member,
12 23rd District Queens. [applause]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: I know. Let me
14 call on first the Speaker of the City Council Melissa
15 Mark-Viverito and then on Coach Naclerio.

16 MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: Well, good
17 afternoon everybody. Welcome here to our chambers.
18 It's a real pleasure to be able to congratulate you.
19 You make us all very proud. The spiteful little
20 Brooklyn-Queens rivalry going on over here. So
21 congratulations. We really do hope that you pursue
22 your dreams. As we all said, we want to see you go
23 to college, and do well, and fulfill your potential.
24 And it's a real pleasure to have this team here and
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STATED MEETING

success, much more success moving forward. Okay,
thank you. [applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: And here's Coach
Ron Naclario, who's been coaching Cardozo High School
for how many years?

COACH RON NACLERIO: [off mic]

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Thirty-three
years. There you go. [applause]

COACH RON NACLERIO: Thank you. Thank
you. I want to thank my administration because
without their help -- I want to thank the parents for
trusting their sons by sending them to Cardozo and
me. I want to thank my Assistant Coaches who don't
get all the credit that they deserve, and without
them -- And I want to thank my players because they
know how hard I've worked, and the coaches worked and
they made us live a dream.

At the press conference at Barclays, I
made a statement that said, I don't want to win the
game, and people were like, What are you talking
about? I said, I don't want to win the game if it
means 10 years, 20 years from now the kids that
played for me on this team are losers in the game of
life. And I meant that, but, you know what, I know

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STATED MEETING

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God gave us a break when we won that City
Championship game.

And I know in ten or 20 years from now,
if I'm still around and we have our reunion, these
young men are going to come back and they're going to
be winners not only in the City Championship game of
2014, they're going to be winners in the most
important thing, the game of life. [applause/cheers]

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Thank you all
very much.

MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: Hey,
Congratulations, yay.

COACH NACLERIO: Thank you.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Nice photos. All
right, I think the next proclamation is from Council
Member Palma.

TISH JAMES: All right, guys, thank you.

MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: All right, I'm
going to hand it off to the Council Member, and then
we'll talk about all these beautiful young women that
are here with us today. We'll talk about that next.
Stay tuned.

[background discussion]

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Good afternoon,
3 everyone. So I'm Council Member Annabel Palma. I
4 just want to thank Speaker Mark -- Melissa Mark-
5 Viverito for allowing us to use the chambers today to
6 honor two great groups in the Bangladesh community
7 who have given so much back to our community. Not
8 only in the Bronx, but throughout the City of New
9 York in making sure that the Bangladesh community
10 were acclimated in a real way around the
11 neighborhoods in the City.

12 The Bangladesh Freedom Fighters many,
13 many, many years ago, in particular Tofia Ahmed
14 Chawdhury [phonetic], you know, without his bravery
15 we would not be celebrating here today. And what
16 we're celebrating here today in the Bangladesh
17 community is Bangladesh Independence Day. And so,
18 we're honoring Bangladesh-American Community Council,
19 and we have the President here with us, Mohamed
20 Mojimba [phonetic] and Shakawi Alli [phonetic], who's
21 the Vice President, among some of the other members.

22 So they're going to be standing to my
23 right, and we also have the Bangladesh Cultural
24 Society, who are and I want them standing to my left.
25 And the President is Nasri Ahmed [phonetic] and

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STATED MEETING

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Mohammed Igbal Hassad [phonetic], who's the Senior Vice President. So if you can quickly come up, and we can hear a few words from our speaker, our president and we can have the clerk read. Yes, you can send someone to the left. And I promise each of you will get your own individual picture with Speaker Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right. So I want to thank Council Member Palma for welcoming these two great organizations into our chamber as we celebrate them, and celebrate the work. And I always say this, you know, this is the people's offices, a place that welcomes everybody that is a true beautiful reflection of our city, and our city is made up of so much diversity, so many different cultures.

And we have so much to learn from each other. So it's great that we have these opportunities to really highlight work of these local organizations so that we can learn about each other. And learn the work that is happening throughout our neighborhoods. We are one city, and we all need to work collaboratively. So it's great that we can

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STATED MEETING

highlight your, and I think Council Member Palma for bringing you into this chamber today.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: And today is the first time in the ten years that I've been here in the City Council, and I think in the history of the Council, that the Bangladesh community has been honored in this chamber. So I think it's a great opportunity for a first. [applause] And definitely an opportunity to move forward to continue celebrating the ever-growing Bangladesh community, and I want --

COUNCIL MEMBER: [off mic]

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: So I'm going to ask the clerk to read the role, to read the proclamation and then I'll have each president say a few words.

CLERK: Council, City of New York
Proclamation:

Whereas, in celebration of the 43rd Anniversary of Bangladesh independence, the Council of the City of New York is proud to honor the Bangladesh-American Community Council and the Bangladesh Cultural Society for their stellar service to our community; and

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2 Whereas, on March 26, 1971, Bangladesh
3 then called East Pakistan, declared its independence
4 from Islamabad following years of political and
5 economic disadvantage. Millions of people were
6 killed, and displaced during the nine-month war that
7 ensued. On December 16, 1971, East Pakistan
8 officially became the Nation of Bangladesh; and

9 Whereas, Bangladesh Independence Day
10 provides a special opportunity to celebrate the
11 people of Bangladesh to reflect on the way they
12 enrich so many aspects of American culture, and also
13 to recognize the two great Bangladeshi organizations
14 that serve New Yorkers throughout the five boroughs,
15 and

16 Whereas, the Bangladesh Cultural Society
17 and Bangladesh-American Community Council provide a
18 wide range of critical services and resources by
19 reaching out to the Bangladeshi community through
20 language classes, raising awareness of discrimination
21 and hate crimes, and providing professional support
22 services. These organizations help create
23 opportunities for all generations in this vibrant and
24 growing community, and

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2 Whereas, the organizations exemplify the
3 very best of Bangladeshi and Bangladeshi-American
4 Community of New York. On this 43rd anniversary of
5 Bangladesh independence, let us celebrate their work
6 and the bond between our great nations, and continue
7 realizing our common goals and aspirations.

8 Now, therefore, be it known that the
9 Council of the City of New York gratefully honors the
10 Bangladesh Cultural Society and the Bangladesh-
11 American Community Council for their outstanding
12 service to New York City.

13 Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the
14 entire Council; Annabel Palma, Council Member, 18th
15 District of Bronx; Daniel Dromm, Council Member 25th
16 District, Queens.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: And besides the
18 proclamations that we are having here today, tomorrow
19 we're going to do a Bangladesh Independence
20 celebration here in the Council. [applause] So I
21 invite every Council Member to come and to help us
22 celebrate Bangladesh Independence Day. I'm going to
23 hand the mic over to the President.

24 BANGLADESH COUNCIL PRESIDENT: This very
25 remarkable day for Bangladesh Americans. I want to

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STATED MEETING

thank the speaker and the -- our Council Member Annabel Palma for giving us such honor, and I'm going honor that she mentioned Ahmed Chawdhury [phonetic] who is respected as the Freedom Fighters of Bangladesh, and he's honored here today. And I have here with me my Vice-President Shakawi Alli [phonetic]. And their secretary Mardru Hah [phonetic].

And also one of our council member for our organization, Bella Hakrishna Dawat [phonetic], and my wife standing there, and I really feel very proud and happy. I want to say a few words about our organization. We at the organization have a welcome center in the Bronx, 442, right close work. Whatever you do, it be set up from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We work on all day. We get some minorities who need help in preparing a resume to look at maybe getting the government benefit.

What happens? People come from all over the world, but do not know how to use and receive these services, understand these services that the federal government -- so many things that the government offer to them. So we educate them, maybe get the benefit and help the people. And once again,

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STATED MEETING

we are so in love and proud that our work, and we are blessed by the council, and special thanks to Council Member Annabel Palma. Thank you all. [applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: And now we'll hear from President Aswi [phonetic].

PRESIDENT ASWI: Thank you everyone. I'm very humbled and pleased to get this proclamation from the speaker Annabel Palma. The Councilwoman Annabel Palma is the queen of our district. You know why? We are the fastest growing community in the -- in our district, the Bangladeshi community, and she always stand out to not throw a culture. And I would say that in the Bangladeshi community all those are with Annabel Palma. And in the future, our organization and myself want to work with Annabel Palma. She'll be sure of that. Thank you, thank you, everyone. Thanks a lot. [applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Thank you and don't forget tomorrow at 5:30 the Chambers.

[background discussion]

[applause/cheers]

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Good afternoon. Good afternoon. Do we have girl power here in the chambers today? [applause/cheers]

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STATED MEETING

CHAIRPERSON CROWLEY: Today is a very special day. Today, is a very special day here in the Chambers. Our Women's Caucus, all 15 members strong --

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: That's right, that's right.

CHAIRPERSON CROWLEY: -- and our Public Advocate together with our speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, we're excited to honor young leaders who are council members for a day. And each of us of the Caucus has a woman that we're going to advance, a young woman their name, and I'm going to give Council Member Mealy an opportunity to say a few words. Council Member Mealy is the Co-Chair of the Women's Caucus.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I want to thank -- Since this is Woman's History Month, this is a phenomenal time that we need more women in politics and in leadership in general. We want to thank our -- [applause/cheers] Yes. Yes, and yay, in leadership. We want to thank our speaker Mark-Viverito and my co-leader and my co-leaders and the Woman -- Chair of Woman's Committee, Laurie Cumbo. And this is a great opportunity for all of us to bond

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STATED MEETING

together to love one another, and to make sure that we support one another that we can move this city forward. And mine is Councilwoman Allen. She's here. Councilwoman for today. What's your name?

AVIA ALLEN: Avia Allen.

CHAIRPERSON CROWLEY: And you're?

AVIA ALLEN: A senior I'm 17 years at Carsey High School.

CHAIRPERSON CROWLEY: Your major?

AVIA ALLEN: I'll major in psychology in college, and - -

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Thank you and we're going to have all -- You can't have everyone, but I'm going to turn it back over to my co-leader.

CHAIRPERSON CROWLEY: Okay, now we're going to hear from our great speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right. [cheers] I think I want to commend the chairs, Darlene Mealy and Elizabeth Crowley. I think this is probably the most successful one that we've had so far. We've done this for a couple of years. I really want to thank the leadership, and Laurie for chairing the Woman's Issues Committee, and why I had

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STATED MEETING

said show me a recommendation. Next year, we've got to make sure we get one -- we get somebody from Tish's district so she can join us up here with her -- All right.

But this is an incredible opportunity to really, you know, encourage and really inspire and work with young women. To show them not only what we do, but to really let them know the sky is the limit that they have such bright futures ahead of them. And we have a responsibility as women, but also as a city to create opportunities for them to fulfill their potential. Despite the fact we may be 15 out of 51, we are strong, powerful women in this room. [applause/cheers] Not afraid to express ourselves, and I'm here with? Yes, I think Vinny has his whole family with him today, right? He's got his mother, his father, his daughters. It's great to see them all here. Welcome to the Chambers. I want to just say the name of my City Council Member, she's going to be my City Council Member for the day is.

CARLA LIVAS: Carla Livas [phonetic].

CHAIRPERSON CROWLEY: And you're

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STATED MEETING

CARLA LIVAS: I'm a junior at the Young Women's Leadership School, feminists, activists.
[cheer]

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right. I'll give it back to Liz. Thank you all.

CHAIRPERSON CROWLEY: And my Council Member for a Day is?

BRIANNA O'CONNELL: Brianna O'Connell.
[phonetic].

CHAIRPERSON CROWLEY: And where do you go to school?

BRIANNA O'CONNELL: I'm in ninth grade at the Baccalaureate School for Global Education.

CHAIRPERSON CROWLEY: And thank you for being such a strong leader. [cheers]

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: My Council Member for a Day is Amanda Marte [phonetic], and she is the youngest member of the day for the City Council today. So I'm super proud about that. Please introduce, Amanda.

AMANDA MARTE: Hi, I'm Amanda Marte. I go to Brooklyn East Collegiate. Their mission is for us to go to college, and to be able to go to college.

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STATED MEETING

I want to major in -- to be a doctor. [cheers] I'm still thinking about where, though.

CHAIRPERSON CROWLEY: And what grade are you in?

AMANDA MARTE: I'm in sixth grade. I'm turning 12 in July. [applause/cheers]

COUNCIL MEMBER: Okay, my Council Member for the day is?

KELLY MAY: Kelly May.

COUNCIL MEMBER: Kelly, do you want to say a few words.

KELLY MAY: I'm Kelly May. I'm a sophomore in NYC Lab High School.

COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER: All right. [cheers]

MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: She's also a young feminist activist.

COUNCIL MEMBER: My Council Member is Angela Rosario from Emolier Academy, and she blew them away this morning at the luncheon.

ANGELA ROSAIO: Hi my name is Angela Rosario. I go to school at Emolier Academy in the Bronx. I am a seventh grader. Emolier is a Latin word and it means to achieve by effort, and that's

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STATED MEETING

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what my school is all about. What I would like to be when I grow up and achieve is probably be either an actress or a fashion designer.

COUNCIL MEMBER: I like that. Yes.

[applause]

MARIA COLLANDRA: Hi, I'm Maria

Collandra. I go to Forest Hills High School, and I'm a senior there, and I'm on the Leadership Board of the Huntington Lounge in Queens.

[applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Hello, my council

woman for the day is Felina Boudros [phonetic], and I will let her tell you a little bit about herself.

LENA BOURDROS: Hi, my name is Lena

Boudros, and I'm a senior at the Bronxdale High School, and I hope to go to either one of the colleges in the Bronx to pursue a nursing career for the aged. [applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER: Hi, my council woman for

a day is Casey Biaz, but I just want to take an opportunity to introduce Vinny Ignizio's family. We have his beautiful daughter Lena, and Olivia, and his niece. I forget your first name.

ALYSSA: Alyssa.

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STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER: Alyssa. So here you go.

[applause]

CASEY BIAZ: Hi, my name is Casey Biaz.

I'm an eighth grader in the Hawthorne [phonetic]
Middle School in Queens.

COUNCIL MEMBER: Yay, in Queens.

[applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Hi, it's Helen
Rosenthal. Short but here. My Council Member for a
Day has been working in my district office as a
council member already, but she's here at City Hall.
I'm very proud of her. Natalie Minous [phonetic].

COUNCIL MEMBER: Natalie, come on. Thank
you.

NATALIE MINOUS: Hi, I'm Madelyn Minous,
and I'm a sophomore and Beacon High School, and I'd
like to be a politician. So I'm very excited.

[applause/cheers] [crosstalk]

TISH JAMES: Deanna Castro. She
represents the Village of Harlem, and she is Council
Member Dickens' council member for the day, and I'm
the public advocate, and my girls are going to be the
Ignizio girls. Yay.

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2 DIANA CASTRO: Hi, my name is Diana
3 Castro. I'm 17. I go to the Manhattan Center for
4 Science and Mathematics. I work for a not-for-profit
5 organization called Philanthropy Harlem, which is
6 Spanish. All Spanish people know me as moving
7 forward, and it's also an acronym for people living
8 in tenant abuse and tenant exploitation. So I also
9 am a community activist, and it is wonderful to be
10 here with all of you. So thank you. applause/cheers]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Hi. Staten
12 Island is so bad, we did it twice. I have Alia and
13 Aliana [phonetic] Bell, and they are eighth graders
14 at IS-61.

15 ALIA BELL: Hi, I'm Alia Bell. That's
16 Aliana, and we're from Staten Island. We go to
17 William A. Morris Intermediate School. It's a school
18 of the arts, and we're dancers. We also dance for
19 like charities and do other community stuff. You
20 know, just to help the community, and you know.
21 [Yay.] We're really proud to be here, and it's a
22 great opportunity to be surrounded by so many and
23 powerful women. And just wonderful people here
24 today. So, we're really happy. [applause/cheers]

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Okay, Brooklyn
3 goes last because we save the best for last, right?
4 All right, because I was born in Brooklyn. I'm Rosie
5 Mendez, and I represent the Second District of
6 Manhattan, which is the communities of the Lower East
7 Side, East Village, Kips Bay, and parts of Murray
8 Hill. And my council member for the day is Melissa
9 Rodriguez [applause] from PS 140 in Manhattan. She's
10 an eighth grader, and she comes from Jacob Reese
11 Houses, one of the prized developments in my
12 district. Melissa, Council Member Melissa Rodriguez.

13 MELISSA RODRIGUEZ: I'm Melissa
14 Rodriguez, and I'm just really excited to be here,
15 and also when I grow up I always wanted to be a
16 lawyer or in politics, or even a business worker is
17 quite nice. Yeah, and I just have a great
18 experience, and all these people are now my mentors
19 because I can have more than one, and yeah.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Good morning,
21 Council Member Inez Barron. I'm introducing my
22 council member for the day. This Jasmine Jada Scott-
23 Grabor [phonetic]. She is a senior at the Brooklyn
24 Theater Arts School. Not only is she an actress, but
25 she's a scholar. She has the highest SAT score in

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STATED MEETING

her school. So Jada will bring you some words of her own. [applause]

JASMINE JADA: Hi, everyone. My name is Jada. I'm 17 years old, and as she said, I'm a senior at Brooklyn Theater of the Arts High School. I'll be going to Howard University in the fall. [applause]

FEMALE SPEAKER: Thank you.

JASMINE JADA: I'll be majoring in media journalism and film, and I'll be concentration in area of production. I want to be a broadcast technician or a broadcast journalist. [applause]

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you. All right, so picture, picture, and Lynn, this is great. They'll be joining us on the floor, all the council members for a day.

[background discussions]

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay, I think we have one more quick little presentation, and then we're going to get the stated started.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Ladies and gentlemen, my name is Council Member Andy King. In honor of all the work that you do as ladies, as mothers, as colleagues, as friends, I just want to

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STATED MEETING

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let you know that your spirit shines on us men each and every day, and we know that we could not survive without you in our world. We love you. We're looking forward to the next generation being the great leaders. But more important on the month of March, we recognize it as Women's Month. And I just want to say from your council member that we will offer each and every one of you a delightful rose for all that you do, Madam Speaker.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you.

ANDY KING: And to everyone here, we're saying happy, happy, happy Woman's Month, and from your council member and all my colleagues in here happy, happy Woman's Month.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right, Andy tried to put all you guys in shame in this room. All right, all right. Thank you, Andy, very thoughtful.
[cheers]

[background discussion]

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right, we all have seats on the floor. We can get the stated started. [background discussion]

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Very nice.

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STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Ladies, as you receive your rose, please take a seat, your respective seats. Thank you.

TISH JAMES: Can public advocate have a rose?

[background discussion]

COUNCIL MEMBER: Ladies and gentlemen, can I please have your attention? Quiet please. Quiet on the floor. At this time, can you please place all cell phones or cell phones and electronic devices to vibrate. Will all non-Council employees -- all non-Council employees please leave the main floor of the chambers. You could have a seat upstairs in the balcony. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay, before we get started, again I want to acknowledge that the Ignizio family is here. It's nice to have you with us. Those of you all know that at certain times as our tenure, right, in these institutions sometimes those tenures come to an end. And I'm going to try to keep this short, because I don't know how Mr. Chuck Meara is going to feel about. But Chuck is going to be leaving us. Chuck is going to be leaving us, and we want to give him a proclamation for all

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STATED MEETING

his years of service, and we want to get -- at least thank him. [applause/cheers] I'm sure he's not -- I'm sure he's not very happy right now. And if you want to come up and -- [laughter]. Well, we'll hear the proclamation. I mean Chuck just has extensive his extensive history not only here in the institution but obviously serving the City of New York in these eight years --

MALE SPEAKER: [off mic]

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Well, for me eight years in the Council that I've known him, he, you know, he's always been there to make sure that the institution runs, that we as council members are happy, that things get done. I know this is a sad occasion, but he is always going to be here with us. We all know that. I'd like the Clerk to read the Proclamation, so we can hear the great and illustrious career of Chuck, and then if he wants to say a few words, it would be great. Yes. You can say a few words, Chuck. If you don't want to, you don't have to. We're not going to force you. But that would be great. So yes.

CLERK: Council City of New York
Proclamation

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2 Whereas, Charles Chuck Meara has
3 exemplified the very best in public service upon his
4 departure for the New York City Council as Chief of
5 Staff, we are proud pay tribute to his outstanding
6 support and dedication to the New York City Council.
7 The current, Speaker Melissa Martin-Viverito, and her
8 predecessor, Christine C. Quinn, and Gifford Miller
9 and to all his fellow New Yorkers, and

10 Whereas, born in the Bronx and raised in
11 Queens, Chuck had a deep understanding of how our
12 city works, and how to keep it running from an early
13 age. He also recognized the importance of building
14 relationships and supporting friends, many whom have
15 remained friends throughout his life. As a student
16 at Marist College, he shared a room with Bill
17 O'Reilly, but none of his friends held that against
18 him. [crosstalk/laughter]; and

19 Whereas, for nearly 20 years Chuck honed
20 his expertise at the Port Authority of New York and
21 New Jersey, ultimately as Assistant Director of
22 Governmental Affairs. He is very proud of his work
23 there, particularly the Air Train. Even today he
24 loves to remind people that the Air Train was his
25 idea. [applause/laughter]; and

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2 Whereas, in June 2004, Chuck left the New
3 York Port Authority to join the New York City Council
4 as Chief of Staff to Council Speaker Gifford Miller.
5 During his distinguished tenure at the City Council,
6 he has had a major impact in many areas. He often
7 ensured Council Members were happy, budgets were
8 passed on time, community issues were addressed in a
9 timely fashion, policy and legislative processes ran
10 smoothly, maintained general order and more. Too
11 many areas to cover here. Overall, Chuck made sure
12 the entire Council remained a well oiled machine; and

13 Whereas, whenever Council Members and
14 staff needed advice or direction, Chuck has been
15 their go-to guru who knew how to get things done.
16 Fortunately, for everyone on staff, he has never
17 taken a sick day since his arrival ten years ago.
18 [laughter] Chuck fostered more transparency, always
19 kept his door open to his staff to just check in, and
20 he was always open to a bold idea from bike sharing
21 to light rails to the rodeo. No matter how difficult
22 a problem was, after knocking out a solution, he
23 would often send the staffer off with his favorite
24 mantra: Public service is a privilege; and

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2 Whereas, for everyone at the City Council
3 it has certainly been a privilege to work with Chuck.
4 He has inspired everyone with his selfless service to
5 his colleagues, his unwavering commitment to the
6 greater good of the community, and his remarkable
7 endurance. He has not only kept pace with two
8 tireless Council speakers, but at rest with their
9 terms. Upon his departure, he can be proud knowing
10 that his decade of service as chief of staff has had
11 a very positive impact not only on the Council and
12 his colleagues but throughout the city.

13 Now, therefore, be it known that the City
14 Council of the City of New York gratefully honors
15 Chuck Meara for his outstanding service to the City
16 Council and to all New Yorkers, and we wish him
17 continued success in all his future endeavors.
18 Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the entire
19 Council.

20 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay.

21 [applause/cheers] From all of us here in the Council,
22 Chuck, thank you for your service. As the prop says,
23 you know, trying to keep 51 of us happy not an easy
24 job. Probably not always successful. We're not easy
25 people, but all of us here have great stories to

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STATED MEETING

tell, but we're not. Come on. We're all good people. We're council members right, so, you know. But obviously, we all have stories to tell and experiences of how you have been helpful to each and every one of us. It's really appreciated. So thank you very much. You don't have to say anything, but you would like to obviously. We'd love to hear from you. Yeah. [applause/cheers]

CHUCK MEARA: Thank you all very, very much. It's a -- it's sort of a bittersweet kind of a day for me. This, believe it or not, each and every one of you. I counted the other day. I've worked with 105 members.

FEMALE SPEAKER: Oh, wow.

CHUCK MEARA: The only members who were here when I came Annabel and Vinny Gentile, and everybody else has come along the way. Some people here are staffers, correct. I will send an email in the next couple days indicating how best to reach me, and I want to wish each and every one of you, members and staff, nothing but the best. Thank you.

[applause] [background conversation]

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: If you could just maybe come up for a quick photo. If the Council

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STATED MEETING

Members could come up, and we could do a quick photo with Chuck. I think it would be appreciated.
[crosstalk][applause]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please, all rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: [In unison] I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

FEMALE SPEAKER: Roll Call.

CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

CLERK: Cohen.

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.

CLERK: Constantinides.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Here.

CLERK: Cornegy.

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STATED MEETING

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COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: [off mic]

CLERK: Crowley.

CHAIRPERSON CROWLEY: Here.

CLERK: Cumbo.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Present.

CLERK: Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.

CLERK: Dickens.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.

CLERK: Dromm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

CLERK: Espinal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: [off mic]

CLERK: Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

CLERK: Ferreras.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Present.

CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

CLERK: Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

CLERK: Gibson.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: [off mic]

CLERK: Greenfield.

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STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [off mic]
CLERK: Johnson.
COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Here.
CLERK: Kallos.
COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.
CLERK: King.
COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Here.
CLERK: Koo.
COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.
CLERK: Koslowitz.
COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off mic]
CLERK: Lancman.
COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Present.
CLERK: Lander.
COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.
CLERK: Levin.
COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: [off mic]
CLERK: Levine.
COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.
CLERK: Maisel.
COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Here.
CLERK: Matteo.
COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.
CLERK: Mealy.

STATED MEETING

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.
CLERK: MENCHACA.
COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Present.
CLERK: Mendez.
COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Present.
CLERK: Miller.
COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: [off mic]
CLERK: Palma.
COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Present.
CLERK: Reynoso.
COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Present.
CLERK: Richards.
COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.
CLERK: Rodriguez.
COUNCIL MEMBER RORRIGUEZ: [off mic]
CLERK: Rose, thank you.
COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: [off mic]
CLERK: Thank you.
CLERK: Rosenthal.
COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.
CLERK: Torres.
COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Excused.
CLERK: Treyger.
COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

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STATED MEETING

CLERK: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.

CLERK: Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: [off mic]

CLERK: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

CLERK: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

CLERK: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

CLERK: Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Present.

CLERK: Espinal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Present.

CLERK: Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: [off mic]

CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Present.

CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Present.

CLERK: We have it.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: May we have some
quite in the chambers, please. Individuals please
find seats. Please rise for the invocation delivered

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STATED MEETING

by Rabbi Diana S. Gerson, representing the New York Board of Rabbis, Program director, at 136 East 39th Street, New York, New York. Please rise.

DIANA S. GERSON: I'd first like to begin by thanking you for inviting me to this distinguished body today to offer a prayer in this most auspicious month. Women's History Month is always a one where we take notes of the accomplishments of women. This year we celebrate like 42 years of women in the Rabbinate. I remember the book, the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy that 42 is the Meaning of Life. And 42 as a New Yorker no wonder we have lots of meaning.

There's a wonderful old story in the Jewish tradition that talks about an elderly man by the side of the road, and he's planting a carob tree. A young man walking down the road sees the other gentleman, and says, Sir, why do you labor so hard? Why are you planting this tree? You will never see its fruit.

The elderly man stopped what he was doing, looked up at the young man and said, Look around you. Do you see all the beautiful trees, their fruit in season? And the young man said, Yes.

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STATED MEETING

The elderly man reminded him, Someone planted those trees so that I might eat of their fruit. I must now plant a tree for the next generation, and with that in mind I offer this prayer.

As we turn to you, oh, God we have come together in this historic place where many have toiled before us to fulfill the sacred task of working together and making this great city a more complete and peaceful place for all of its inhabitants. May you the Rock of Ages guide us in protecting the most vulnerable members of our community. May we work together to raise each other up, to reach our fullest potential in unity without uniformity, seeing the beauty of our diversity, our history, our customs, our traditions.

Sustain us, oh, source of all life. Enshrine in our hearts the knowledge that all are created in your image, and that life, your gift to us, is sacred. Inspire us to get the hunger and hurt, to promote compassion, and to find successful ways to assure the weak, their share in life's promise. In humility we pray that our sacred work as a diverse gathering of community representatives and legislators will advance reconciliation and harmony

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in the family of nations helping to guarantee peace in our neighborhoods, and tranquility in the farthest reaches of our city.

Oh, God, may you who makes peace in high places help us here on earth and to find the way to peace. Blessed are you, Oh, God. Oh, say, Shalom, Granter of peace. And together let us say. Amen.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Amen.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: You may be seated. Motion to spread the Invocation Council Member Levine.

[background discussion]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the chamber. Council Member Levine, Motion to spread the invocation.

COUNCIL MEMBER: Council Member Garodnick is sitting in for Council Member Levine today.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Okay, Council Member Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank you, Madam Public Advocate, I wanted to welcome Rabbi Diana Gerson, the Program Director at the Board of Rabbis, which is an important institution in my Council District as well and for the entire city.

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2 And you all should know that Rabbi Gerson is
3 recognized as a leader here in New York, and across
4 the country in confronting family violence in the
5 faith community. She has trained over 4,000 members
6 of the clergy, and community leaders in family
7 violence prevention, and here in New York City, she
8 has been a real innovator in developing comprehensive
9 programming between the faith-based community and
10 local government to help combat domestic violence.
11 So thank you, Rabbi Gerson, for your Invocation
12 today, and for all that you have done to spread
13 awareness about family violence in our city. And
14 with that, I move to spread the Invocation in full
15 upon the record. Thank you.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you,
17 Council Member Garodnick. We apologize for the
18 misprint. The adoption of minutes. Council Member
19 King.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: I motion that the
21 Minutes of the stated meeting on February 26, 2014 be
22 adopted as printed.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Messages and
24 papers from the Mayor?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: None.

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STATED MEETING

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Communication from city, county and borough offices.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: None.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Petitions and communications?

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: None.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Land call ups.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: M37 through M39.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Roll call.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Call for roll call. Call for roll call and vote.

CLERK: Arroyo.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [interposing] Roll call, please.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye on all.

CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yes.

CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

CLERK: Cohen.

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

CLERK: Constantinides.

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STATED MEETING

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COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANINIDES: Aye.

CLERK: Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

CLERK: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

CLERK: Cumbo.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye [two women].

[laughter]

CLERK: Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

CLERK: Dickens.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

CLERK: Dromm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DRUMM: Aye.

CLERK: Espinal

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: [off mic]

CLERK: Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

CLERK: Ferreras.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

CLERK: Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

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STATED MEETING

CLERK: Gibson.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Aye.

CLERK: Greenfield.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

CLERK: Johnson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye.

CLERK: Kallos.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

CLERK: King.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye.

CLERK: Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Madam, Public

Advocate.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: May I have your permission to vote on today's agenda items, and all the members' items and the resolutions.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, Council Member Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Then I vote aye for on that.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

CLERK: Koslowitz.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

STATED MEETING

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CLERK: Lancman.
COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: [off mic]
CLERK: Lander.
COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [off mic]
CLERK: Levin.
COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.
CLERK: Levine.
COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.
CLERK: Maisel.
COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: [off mic]
CLERK: Matteo.
COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: [off mic]
CLERK: Mealy.
COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.
CLERK: Menchaca.
COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.
CLERK: Mendez.
COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.
CLERK: Miller.
COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.
CLERK: Palma.
COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.
CLERK: Reynoso.
COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.

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CLERK: Richards.
COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.
CLERK: Rodriguez.
COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: [off mic]
CLERK: Rose.
COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.
CLERK: Rosenthal.
COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.
CLERK: Torres.
COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Excused.
CLERK: Treyger.
COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.
CLERK: Ulrich.
COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: [off mic]
CLERK: Vacca.
COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: [off mic]
CLERK: Vallone.
COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.
CLERK: Weprin.
COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.
CLERK: Williams.
COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.
CLERK: Wills.
COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: I vote aye.

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STATED MEETING

CLERK: Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

[Daughters vote aye.] [Laughter]

CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Today's Land Use Callups were adopted by a vote of 49 in the affirmative. We heard from Council Member Ignizio twice, and zero in the negatives. May we have quite in the Chamber. [background discussion] Quiet in the Chamber, and now communication from Speaker Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I'm not sure that our colleague left, but - -

MALE SPEAKER: [off mic]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All right, if we could just hold on one second, please.

[background discussion]

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I wanted to take a moment of our time to speak. The last time we met, we did lose an extended member of our family. Dan Garodnick's mother did pass away, and we wanted to at

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least remember her, and at least from this body recognize her by having a moment of silence. [moment of silence]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please rise.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you all very much.

[background discussion]

CARLA: I want to begin today by thanking all my colleagues from the bottom of my heart for the outpouring of support and the condolences my community has received from the members of this body in the past two weeks. I was on my way to City Hall from the last -- from the last stated meeting two weeks when I heard that the building had exploded in the East Harlem neighborhood where I live right down the street from my district office. I turned around and headed back as soon as I heard the news, and I spent the majority of my waking hours at the scene of the explosion for the next several days. Since then, the goodwill of the fellow members has helped us see through a very difficult time, and I am very grateful.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: As you know, we are being shadowed today. Carla is not only here and

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2 she goes a local school, she lives in the
3 neighborhood that I represent. She literally lives
4 at 116th Street and Park Avenue right near where the
5 explosion happened, something that obviously touches
6 both of us very dearly. And she actually came to our
7 office looking to see how she could be helpful. But
8 I want to take a moment. I know the last time I was
9 here, I was coming from the site. Since then,
10 there's been a lot of work that has happened.

11 But all of you have been extremely
12 supportive, and extended your thoughts and your
13 prayers in these days in which we've been burying the
14 eight members of our community and of the city that
15 passed away due to this unfortunate incident.
16 Hoping, which obviously will never repeat itself. So
17 thank you. I just wanted to take a moment to
18 personally thank all of you.

19 Today, we are going to be voting on
20 legislation sponsored by Council Member Vacca that
21 amends the City's Human Rights Law to assure that
22 interns are legally protected from discrimination in
23 the workplace. The spirit of the Human Rights Law
24 has always been to protect all workers from unfair
25 discriminatory practices. But a recent court ruling

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found that an intern did not have grounds to sue after being sexually harassed at work because she was unpaid and, therefore, not considered an employee of the company under the law.

By passing this legislation, it will spell it out for everyone that employees do not have to tolerate discrimination or abuse in the workplace. And neither do interns regardless of whether or not they receive wages. Interns are often young people who are getting their first exposure to a professional environment. It is unacceptable for this first experience in such an environment be one where they are told they have to put up with discrimination and abuse. It's unfair to them and sends the wrong message to the next generation of professionals. I'd like to thank also Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer for her support on this issue, and again I want to thank Council Member Vacca for his leadership.

Additionally, we'll be voting on a Resolution sponsored by Council Members Wills, Levin, and Gibson that calls upon Albany to pass and enact the budget that allows our city to establish a new state funding for a Rental Subsidy Program for

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2 homeless people. And I also want to thank the
3 leadership of Council Member Levin who has chaired
4 General Welfare. He was up in Albany yesterday again
5 to reiterate this message.

6 Under the language of the current State
7 Budget Bill, state reimbursement is only allowed for
8 anti-eviction services. A Rental Subsidy Program is
9 necessary to move the homeless from shelters into
10 housing. It is a successful and cost-effective way
11 to help them get their life back on track. There are
12 a record number of homeless people in the shelter
13 system today, and it has only grown in recent years.
14 The City Council developed the State Legislative and
15 Budget Agenda. Many of you here today wrote to
16 Albany and helped lobby for our agenda, and Homeless
17 Rental Subsidy was included. It is something we
18 reiterated since then, and we've made sure that the
19 State hears it loud and clear.

20 We forwarded that Agenda to the Governor
21 as well as to the Legislature, and we lobbied for
22 that Agenda where we went to Albany. So we need
23 action from Albany to assure that we can reverse this
24 unfortunate trend in the City of New York. We also
25 have a resolution sponsored by Council Members Palma

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2 and Arroyo before the Council that calls on the State
3 Department of Transportation to implement the plan
4 drafted by the City known as the Sheridan-Hunts Point
5 Land Use and Transportation Study. This is a study
6 that was conducted by the City in 2013 dealing with
7 the Sheridan Expressway in the Bronx, and quality of
8 life related issues for the surrounding communities
9 following years of advocacy by community and advocacy
10 groups. The study yielded several recommendations
11 that address environmental concerns such as poor air
12 quality, lack of open space, and other negative
13 impacts to the area while also improving the Hunts
14 Point Market. The Council will show the State, and
15 more specifically the State Department of
16 Transportation its support for the plan by passing
17 this resolution today.

18 One other thing I'd like to bring up, as
19 I mentioned in the press conference today. Now,
20 which all State press conferences will be streamed
21 live so people can check it out. There are only five
22 days left for New Yorkers to enroll in the Health
23 Insurance Marketplace under the Affordable Care Act.
24 After March 31st anyone looking to take advantage of
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this opportunity will need to wait until November 15th to enroll.

So I'd like to encourage all my colleagues to keep your constituents informed about this over the next few days, and help anyone who wants to get enrolled to do so before we reach the deadline. And obviously, there is a hotline number that really is important that we get out there. So please when you're out in your districts, when you're talking to constituents, make sure they know this is the deadline. It's coming up, and if they want to get enrolled, they should visit healthcare.gov or call 800 number 1-800-318-2596, 1-800-318-2596, and that concludes communications from this speaker.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Discussion of general orders. Council Member Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker and Madam Public Advocate. I have the honor of announcing my guests here today. I have some great ones. I am little biased, though, but I wanted to my introduce Lena Ignizio, my daughter. [applause] Alyssa Millatello [phonetic], my niece, and Olivia Millatello, my nice as well. And we all wouldn't be here but for mom and dad, who are

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2 sitting here. [applause] Mr. Vinny Ignizio and
3 Camille Ignizio, and my sister and my brother-in-law,
4 Teresa Millatello and Anthony Millatello.

5 And then I have to call Laticia up
6 because this is my bride, and I want everybody to --
7 She hates to. She doesn't really like the limelight,
8 nor does she like politics, but that's my wife
9 Laticia. So, today is a family day of sorts, but
10 also, too, I actually was going to do this back in
11 January to bring my family up, and just the timing
12 didn't work.

13 But this being a great day, particularly
14 one that shows women's achievements, and that my
15 daughters, my nieces can look around and see the
16 powerful women we have in the City, and to see the
17 powerful women we have in this Council. And to show
18 them that the sky is the limit, and there are no more
19 glass ceilings particularly when it comes to this
20 Council. And I thank you Madam Speaker for being a
21 great role model for my daughter and for my nieces;
22 Madam Public Advocate, and all the women who are in
23 this body that I work with day in and day out.

24 Many of which are stronger than anybody
25 else can, and you can't hold a candle to them

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especially in a cause, huh? Come on. [applause] But I thank you very much. Thank you for indulging me, and with that if I can ask unanimous consent to vote on all items today because we're all going out as Italian families do to go out to eat. So, if I may Madam Speaker have your honor's consent to vote aye on all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Consented.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Thank you. Aye on all. Thank you all very much, and I appreciate the hospitality that my colleagues have shown me today. Thank you very much.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Yay. We welcome the Ignizio family to the City Council. We thank you for coming to deliberations, and thank you for again -- to the parents of Council Member Ignizio thank you. He's a treasure. He's an asset, and we love him dearly. And to Mrs. Ignizio, whose name is like Laticia, Lateesia [phonetic], we welcome you as well. Thank you all for coming.

Report of Special Committees.

COUNCIL MEMBER: None.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reports of Standing Committees.

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STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER: Report of the Committee on Civil Rights, Intro 173A - Discrimination Against Interns.

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

COUNCIL MEMBER: Report of the Committee on Finance Pre-Considered Res 0135 - Organization Funding.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on General Order.

COUNCIL MEMBER: Pre-Considered LU 38 Res 0152 - Support of Housing, Council District 16.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on General Order.

COUNCIL MEMBER: Report of the Committee on Land Use LU18 and Res 0153 - Unenclosed Sidewalk Cafe.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on General Order.

COUNCIL MEMBER: LU20 and Res 0154 - Zoning Amendment.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on General Order.

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STATED MEETING

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COUNCIL MEMBER: LU 21 and Res 0155 -
Sidewalk Cafe.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
General Order.

COUNCIL MEMBER: LU 22 and Res 0156 -
Enclosed Sidewalk Cafe.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Motion to
disapprove.

COUNCIL MEMBER: LU 34 and Res 0157,
Landmark Designation.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
General Order. General Order Calendar.

COUNCIL MEMBER: Resolution appointing
various persons to Commissioner of Deeds.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
general order, and at this time I ask for a roll call
on all items on the General Order calendar.

CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

CLERK: Chin.

STATED MEETING

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.
3 CLERK: Cohen.
4 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.
5 CLERK: Constantinides.
6 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANINIDES: Aye.
7 CLERK: Cornegy.
8 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye on all.
9 CLERK: Crowley.
10 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye on all.
11 CLERK: Cumbo.
12 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye on all.
13 CLERK: Deutsch.
14 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.
15 CLERK: Dickens.
16 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye on all.
17 CLERK: Dromm.
18 COUNCIL MEMBER DRUMM: Aye on all.
19 CLERK: Espinal
20 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye on all.
21 CLERK: Eugene.
22 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.
23 CLERK: Ferreras.
24 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye on all.
25 CLERK: Garodnick.

STATED MEETING

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.
3 CLERK: Gentile.
4 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.
5 CLERK: Gibson.
6 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Aye on all.
7 CLERK: Greenfield.
8 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Yes.
9 CLERK: Johnson.
10 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye on all.
11 CLERK: Kallos.
12 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye on all.
13 CLERK: King.
14 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: [off mic]
15 CLERK: Koslowitz.
16 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye on all.
17 CLERK: Lancman.
18 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.
19 CLERK: Lander.
20 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.
21 CLERK: Levin.
22 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.
23 CLERK: Levine.
24 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye on all.
25 CLERK: Maisel.

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Maisel?
3 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Not present
4 CLERK: Matteo.
5 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Aye.
6 CLERK: Mealy.
7 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.
8 CLERK: Menchaca.
9 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: [off mic]
10 CLERK: Mendez.
11 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.
12 CLERK: Miller.
13 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye on all.
14 CLERK: Palma.
15 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye on all.
16 CLERK: Reynoso.
17 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye on all.
18 CLERK: Richards.
19 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye on all.
20 CLERK: Rodriguez.
21 COUNCIL MEMBER RORRIGUEZ: Aye.
22 CLERK: Rose, thank you.
23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.
24 CLERK: Rosenthal.
25 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye on all.

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STATED MEETING

CLERK: Treyger.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.

CLERK: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: [off mic]

CLERK: Maisel

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Aye.

CLERK: Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Can I explain,
Madam?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I would like to
thank the speaker and all the members of this body
for voting on what I call the Intern Bill of Rights
today. I'm the proud sponsor. I want to thank our
President Gale Brewer for her help. It's hard to
imagine that this legislation was put together based
on a court decision known as the Wang Decision. And
in that decision it was ruled that unpaid interns do
not have the same rights as employees when it comes
to sexual harassment, when it comes to retaliation,
when it comes to any type of discrimination based on
race, color, creed, or sexual orientation.

It's an unbelievable fact of life to
think that a court could rule in a matter in that

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2 way. And I put together this legislation because I
3 felt that we had to close a loophole that was so big
4 you could drive a truck through it. Because interns
5 are not only invaluable here at the Council, they're
6 in public, private, non-profits. We have tens of
7 thousands of interns in this city, and they're
8 entitled to basic rights, and basic protections.

9 And this legislation now affords them the
10 right to go to the New York City Human Rights
11 Commission, and to make their case administratively,
12 as well, of course, to seek legal recourse against
13 employees who would discriminate against them in any
14 way, shape, or form. So I'd like to thank again all
15 those who are responsible, the Speaker, Borough
16 President Gale Brewer for her help, and I want to
17 thank my colleagues and I vote aye on all.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

19 CLERK: Vallone.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on all.

21 CLERK: Weprin.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

23 CLERK: Williams.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [off mic]

25 CLERK: Wills.

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STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye on all.

CLERK: Ulrich

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Yes.

CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Yes.

CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye on

all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All items on today's Order Calendar were adopted by a vote of 50 in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and zero abstentions. Revised Land Use Callups were adopted by a vote of 50 in the affirmative, and zero in the negative. Introduction and reading of bills.

Discussion of Resolutions?

COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: [off mic]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Whoops.

Introduction and Reading of Bills?

COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Oh, those are year to year. So committees as indicated on the agenda.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you Madam Speaker. Discussion of Resolutions. Council Member Arroyo.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Thank you Madam
3 Public Advocate. I stand with my Council Member,
4 Council Member Rosario to ask my colleagues to
5 support Resolution 15, a Resolution that makes a
6 recommendation to the State, the Governor, and the
7 Department of Transportation to implement the
8 recommendations included in the Title Study that was
9 conducted relevant to sharing the expressway in the
10 Bronx. That is not wholly in my district.

11 I want to thank the Speaker, the Chair of
12 the Consultation Committee, Council Member Rodriguez,
13 and my co-sponsor, Council Member Palma for
14 supporting the resolution and bringing it to the
15 floor more quickly for a vote. I want to say a
16 special thank you to the groups in the community that
17 for over 20 years have fought to get this work done
18 in our community. And I'm going to name just a
19 couple because there have been many. Mothers on the
20 Move, the Point, Sustainable Cell Phones, We Sing
21 Esque Amos [phonetic]. Thank you guys for your work.
22 You are absolutely amazing.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And does the
24 Council Member agree who's standing next to you? Do
25 you agree?

COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Yes.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

Council Member Johnson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Public Advocate. I speak today on Resolution 138, which I want to thank Council Member Mark Levine and his staff for working on this with me. It's a resolution calling on the New York State Legislature to pass and the Governor sign a piece of legislation that would ensure that consumers have the option to access every covered medication from a local network participating pharmacy including HIV and AIDS medications that are not -- And they are not forced in the mandatory mail order.

Under current law, those with chronic conditions have been adversely affected, and their access has been impeded to vital medications. There's a lot of information on this, which I can give to folks. If they're understood, I want to personally say someone with chronic illness and disease, someone that is HIV positive, I have had real issues getting my medication on a timely basis.

Every month the headache of spending two and half, three hours on the phone with insurance

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companies to get my medicines has been enough. And we're hearing this from across the city. So I ask my colleagues to sign on for this resolution that Council Member Levine and I put together. Thank you very much.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Council Member Menchaca.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you, Public Advocate. I rise to speak on Resolution Number 141 to really give praise to Council Member Palma from the Bronx, who is introducing --

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Introducing, you're speaking about a bill as opposed to a resolution?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: A resolution.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Okay.

COUNCIL MEMBER MANCHACA: Sorry if I didn't make that clear. Sorry. Resolution 141, specifically. Now, this resolution was called in the United States Congress to pass, along with the President to sign the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Bill that does not include any provisions that would deny Social Security Benefits to undocumented immigrants. This is a moment in time when we have

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STATED MEETING

all been pressuring our federal government to act. And to act in a way that denies Social Security benefits is uncalled for, unjust, and I'm asking for our council members to consider strongly passing Resolution 141. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. We're only speaking about two resolutions, Resolution 15 and Resolution 1-2-3-A, and then we will go to general discussions. Again, we have members who are -- who signed up to speak with regards to these two pieces of resolutions that we are about to vote on. Res 015 and Res 0123-A. After we vote on those resolutions, we will go to general discussion. Council Member Mealy, do you want to speak on these two resolutions?

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: [off mic]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member Levine.

COUNCIL MEMBER: [off mic]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: You're welcome.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: My comments are actually for general discussion.

[background discussion]

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STATED MEETING

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member Gibson, are you talking about Resolution 15 and Resolution 123-A that we are about to vote on?

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: No, Madam Public Advocate, and I'm glad that you clarified that fact to me.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. We will hear from you in general discussion. Thank you, council member. And Council Member Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Yes, I would like to speak about Res 015.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: First of all, thank you to the speaker for allowing our committee to take this important resolution to the vote, to Annabel Palma to Carmen Arroyo, and to all the advocate group. The resolution is about New York environmental the justice. It's about creating potential for future development, and it's about improving the safety of this area. So with that, I'd like to ask all my colleagues to vote aye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member Levin, do you want to -- are you speaking on Res 015 or 123-A?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Yes, Madam Public
3 Advocate, I'm speaking on Resolution 1-2-3-A. Thank
4 you. Madam Public Advocate, I rise to encourage my
5 colleagues to vote in favor of Resolution 123-A. I
6 want to give special praise to Council Member Rubin
7 Wills who has been dogged in pursuing this
8 resolution. Making sure that it is passed, and that
9 this Council states affirmatively that New York State
10 must allow New York City to draw down on state and
11 federal funds so we can develop a rental subsidy
12 program for homeless families here in New York City.

13 As many of you know, the homeless crisis
14 has dramatically increased since we lost the rental
15 subsidy in 2011. It's absolutely essential that the
16 state remove language prohibiting us from drawing
17 down on state and federal funds. Again, I want to
18 thank Council Member Rubin Wills. I want to thank
19 Madam Speaker for her support of this measure, and I
20 also want to thank Council Members Vanessa Gibson,
21 and Annabel Palma for their support, and all of my
22 colleagues on the General Welfare Committee. Thank
23 you.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you council
25 member. Council Member Barron.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you Madam
3 Public Advocate. I also want to stand and urge my
4 colleagues to vote in the affirmative on Resolution
5 123-A. As has just been stated, it is so important
6 that we be able to access funds so that we can adjust
7 the increasing issue of homelessness in New York
8 City. And unfortunately, the image that has been
9 presented is that it's too late in the process for
10 this to happen.

11 Well, I stand before you to say that
12 having come from the Assembly, I know that the
13 ability exists for this to happen if those who make
14 those decisions want it to happen. Things can be
15 done overnight if the decision makers decide that's
16 what they want. So I stand in support of this
17 resolution, and I urge all of us to move forward and
18 support it. And bring that pressure to the State
19 Legislature to make that change so that we'll be able
20 to address the issue of homelessness. And I want to
21 acknowledge the sponsor of this bill for the work
22 that's been done. Thank you.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
24 Gibson.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you, Madam
3 Public Advocate, and I apologize for my remarks
4 earlier. I, too, want to thank Council Members Levin
5 as well as Rubin Wills for their leadership. As
6 former member of the State Assembly, as someone who
7 has always been a staunch supporter of fighting for
8 children and families, certainly I'm not happy that
9 Advantage was dissolved in 2011. I think this is a
10 unique opportunity for the City of New York to take
11 the leadership in creating our own rent subsidy
12 program, recognizing we are in a crisis.

13 Fifty-three thousand families, 22,000
14 children live in shelters each and every night. It
15 is absolutely unacceptable. Removing this
16 prohibitive language in state law would allow the
17 city to continue to partnership with the state in
18 coming up with a comprehensive new plan. Because we
19 recognize that there are many families living in
20 homeless shelters that are employed. But they simply
21 need that boost to be able to take care of their
22 rent. So I thank you, Madam Public Advocate, and
23 urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.
24 Thank you.

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STATED MEETING

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you, Madam Public Advocate. My colleagues, today I ask your support for Res 0142 addressing issues --

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing] Council Member Rose, we're only discussing Res 015--

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: [interposing] Oh, sorry.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: -- and 123-A. We'll put you on general discussion.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Sorry.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: So, now we're going to a voice vote on each resolution separately. The first resolution where we're taking a voice vote is Resolution 15: Calling upon the Governor and the New York State Department of Transportation to implement the recommendations of the Sheridan-Hunts Point Land Use and Transportation Study. All of those in favor say aye.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye [Chorus of ayes]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All those opposed? Any abstentions? They ayes have it. [applause] Resolution 123-A, an amended resolution calling on

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2 the New York State Assembly and Senate. May we have
3 quiet in the chamber. A resolution calling upon the
4 Assembly and Senate to pass, and the Governor to sign
5 a Stage Budget, which does not bar the City of New
6 York from using State reimbursements for Rentals
7 Subsidies Program for the homeless. And calling on
8 the City of New York and the State of New York to
9 work together to create a rental subsidy program for
10 the homeless. All of those in favor say aye.

11 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye [Chorus of ayes.]

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All those opposed?
13 Any abstentions? The ayes have it. General
14 discussion. Council Member Treyger.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you, Madam
16 Public Advocate. I rise today in support of Intro 226
17 in response to three tragic deaths that we've seen
18 this past winter in relation to snow plow deaths. One
19 of which was a pregnant woman in the District of
20 Council Member Carlos Menchaca, who was killed by a
21 snow plow that was backing up right into her. This
22 legislation would require all snow plow vehicles to
23 be equipped with flashing lights, and warning audible
24 sound to alert pedestrians that they are nearby.

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2 These are vehicles that are deployed
3 during emergency conditions, declarations of
4 emergency whether it's the city or the state, and
5 they should be treated as such emergency vehicles.
6 Typical emergency vehicles alert people that they are
7 nearby. We must buy time for people to react if
8 these vehicles are nearby. And this would apply to
9 flashing lights day and night.

10 The sound would be a beeping sound
11 similar to the sound that you hear while a truck is
12 backing up. And you don't have to play that all
13 night, but certainly during the day. We must do all
14 that we can to buy pedestrians time to react. And
15 sometimes, let's be honest, when these vehicles are
16 deployed, they're deployed during low visibility
17 hours. So the view of the drivers are obstructed in
18 addition to the plows in front of them, which can
19 obstruct their view. So we must question ourselves
20 are we doing enough to protect New Yorkers. And this
21 legislation has the power to mean the difference
22 between saving a life. And that's why I'm urging my
23 colleagues to support with me Intro 226. Thank you,
24 Madam.

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

4 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Thank you Public
5 Advocate. I want to just call your attention to the
6 fact that you should have received a report on all of
7 your desks. It's a Policy Report on Improving
8 Community Boroughs in New York City, Best Practices
9 and Recruitment, and Appointment in New York City's
10 59 Community Boroughs. Between April 1st, which is
11 coming up right away, and May 30th of this year, four
12 new borough presidents and 21 new City Council
13 members, along with the rest of those who have
14 already been elected, we'll be making 1,475
15 appointments to 59 community boards spanning all five
16 boroughs.

17 This report is something that my office
18 prepared from testimony that we received at the
19 Governmental Operations Committee from Controller
20 Scott Stringer; Manhattan Borough President Gale
21 Brewer; Bronx Borough President Rubin Diaz; and the
22 Staten Island Borough President Oddo, as community
23 borough leadership from all five boroughs. I
24 encourage you to read the 80 pages. It's a really
25 great read if you can't sleep at night.

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2 But we do have substantial
3 recommendations including standard online
4 applications; requiring reappointment applications;
5 independent screening panels. Engaging those who did
6 not receive appointments, and important changes to
7 restore the public trust including disclosure of
8 conflicts of interest; ban on appointments of people
9 who are on the executive board of a political party,
10 or staffers who are elected officials.

11 Mandatory reporting on appointment
12 process to the City Council, and determinants, which
13 were actually supported by Borough President Melinda
14 Katz, and Borough President Eric Adams. And their
15 response to the Citizen's Union questionnaire in
16 their election. It's a good read, and I recommend
17 everyone take a look at it. And I hope to work with
18 you as a body towards a resolution where we can take
19 on a lot of these best practices voluntarily.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you Council
21 Member Kallos. Required reading. Council Member
22 Barron.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Madam
24 Public Advocate, and I stand today regarding Intro
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2 195, which is being introduced jointly by myself and
3 Council Member Julissa Ferreras.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: This
5 Introduction is our local effort to amend the
6 Administrative Code of the City of New York in
7 relation to requiring the Department of Environmental
8 Protection to notify water customers or owners of Tax
9 Class 2 properties by mail of large charges that
10 could indicate a substantial leak.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. You
12 did an excellent job, Council Member. Council Member
13 Williams.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you. I
15 just wanted to point out a couple of Intros that I
16 have. One is a Resolution calling upon the New York
17 State Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign
18 legislation that would establish the Public Campaign
19 Finance System for Campaigns for the Office of New
20 York State Comptroller. This is Res 0150.

21 The next is to Amend the Administrative
22 Code of the City of New York in relation to borough-
23 specific coordination of snow event and responsive
24 communications. Intro 241. Those who went through
25 the recent snowstorms understand how difficult it was

1
2 to coordinate. This will put a borough coordinator
3 to help implement a borough-specific snow plan to
4 communicate with OEM and other elected officials.

5 And the last one is to amend the
6 Administrative Code of New York in relation to filing
7 semi-annual reports on catch basin cleanup and
8 maintenance. That's Intro 240. It would ensure that
9 catch basins across the city are properly maintained,
10 and require that catch basins are inspected on an
11 annual basis. A minimum of one inspection per year.
12 And if there are any complaints regarding the catch
13 basin or if it is in need of repair, it is handled at
14 least three days after the complaint is lodged.

15 Unclogged basins have the potential to
16 lead to various issues such as flooding or causing
17 property damage to residents. This legislation will
18 provide local elected officials with an update of the
19 status of catch basins in the district. Anyone who
20 has ever dealt with this issue knows how difficult it
21 is dealing with these catch basins. And I've found
22 that the Administration and the agency really doesn't
23 have a good command of what is happening with the
24 catch basins, how often they're being cleaned and
25 where the problems are. Thank you very much.

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

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: My colleagues,
5 today I rise to talk about someone who is special to
6 me. But very special my dear friend and colleague,
7 Dan Garodnick. His mother, Barbara Riotto Garodnick
8 was an incredible wonderful person. She was an
9 artist, and a public school teacher. And during the
10 last few years when certain people demonized school
11 teachers, Dan took that very personally. Dan and I
12 share a border, and we live about ten blocks away.

13 But we also through the years shared the
14 love of our parents, as he was very kind to my mother
15 and his parents have been kind to me. And until he
16 got married, I was the daughter they never had, and
17 now they have Zoey. I know she's in Heaven. I know
18 she is very proud of Dan, and you could just see it
19 in her eyes and in her smile. I just want to read
20 something that I saw at the Italian Chiville
21 [phonetic] that we were all sitting at.

22 At her desk for many years author
23 unknown, it said, Of all the forces that make for a
24 better world, none is powerful as hope. With hope one
25 can think, one can work, one can dream. If you have

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hope, you have everything. And as a teacher I know she was instilled that in so many individuals, and she instilled that love and kindness in my dear friend Dan. Thank you, Dan, for sharing your mom with all of us. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Excellent.

[applause] Council Member Garodnick, our thoughts and our prayers are with you and your family during your time of loss, and she's at peace. Thank you.

Council Member Levine, Mark Levine.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you, Madam

Public Advocate. I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to two Introductions. First, to Number 214, which would seek to level the playing field in Housing Court where tenants currently face virtually 100% of landlords being represented by attorneys, while tenants themselves on average fewer than ten percent have legal representation. This puts them at a severe disadvantage in the legal proceedings leading up to eviction and other such proceedings, and landlords know this.

And the most unscrupulous property owners exploit it by dragging tenants into Housing Court knowing they will not have the legal fire power to

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2 defend themselves, who may be intimidate, and they
3 take the buyout. And they lose cases they shouldn't
4 have lost. Our bill would require that all tenants
5 who may have income of 125% of the poverty or lower
6 would receive free legal counsel from the City.

7 Secondly, I want to call your attention
8 to Introduction 216, which would help make our
9 streets safe for visually impaired New Yorkers. This
10 is a critical component of Vision Zero. It would
11 require the installation of all of the pedestrian
12 signals, APSS at additional intersections. Today, in
13 the City of New York there are 10,800 intersections
14 with traffic signals.

15 Only 71 of them have audible signals that
16 allow a visually impaired person to cross safely.
17 That's 71 out of 10,800. I'm sure all of us agree
18 this is unacceptable. This legislation would require
19 installation of 25 new APSS a year. Also
20 installation in any kind of a bike lane, a lead
21 pedestrian interval or automated pedestrian interval
22 is installed. And would also require the retrofit of
23 50 such installations a year. Thank you.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
25 Council Member Gibson.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you very
3 much, Madam Public Advocate. I, too, want to join my
4 colleague, Council Member Mark Levine in expressing
5 our firm support, and encouraging our colleagues to
6 please review Intro 212, which does relate to
7 providing vulnerable low wage income New Yorkers with
8 sufficient legal services. In Bronx County I
9 represent every courthouse from Family, Criminal,
10 Civil Court, and in particular Housing Court.

11 And I have been a part of major efforts
12 with an abundance of advocacy groups through the
13 Bronx in focusing on how we can reform the Housing
14 Court process. And in addition, how we can provide
15 sufficient legal consultation for many residents that
16 insufficiently served. It's very unfortunate that in
17 Bronx County last year there were 11,000 families
18 evicted in Bronx Housing Court. And when I hear that
19 number, there are many families that are behind that
20 number.

21 And so, I really want to acknowledge and
22 recognize incredible organizations like Urban
23 Justice, UHAB, New Settlement, Cause Up, Palante
24 [phonetic], Bronx Works, and so many organizations in
25 my district that do this work each and every day.

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This is a great bill that takes us in the right direction. It's the right approach to find balance in a system where there is inequity. And I'm urging my colleagues to please look at Intro 14 and join us in this collective effort. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, and thank you Council Member Levine for your leadership. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

Council Member Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Good afternoon. I

rise with my Council Member for a Day, Avia Allen, and I would like to thank Council Member King to introduce a legislation of Intro 218. A bill that required the Department of Transportation to fix winter weather related potholes in a timely manner. As we all know, our city had been plagued with an unusual large amount of snow this season. This bill will require DOT to survey and fix all winter potholes on main streets by April 21st or 30 days after the beginning of spring.

And survey and fix all winter potholes on non-main streets by May 21st, 60 days after the beginning of spring. This is a common sense bill that will provide our safe -- our city with safer

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2 streets while giving DOT adequate time to do the
3 work. I thank my Council colleague Andy King for
4 working with me on this bill and I urge all my
5 colleagues to vote on this bill. And I want to just
6 thank -- commend Council Member Jimmy Vacca,
7 Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, and our
8 Speaker Mark-Viverito for their passionate advocacy
9 on behalf of interns.

10 I look forward to working with this
11 entire city on behalf of interns, and the City Human
12 Rights Commission to ensure that our city interns
13 that they have every right to be free of
14 discrimination and harassment of any kind. While
15 internship are a vital introduction to the workplace,
16 interns are often in a truly vulnerable position.

17 Intro 173 empowers interns by stating
18 specifically that all interns, whether they are paid
19 or unpaid, have the same protections from
20 discrimination and harassment that every employee
21 currently enjoys. No one should have to tolerate
22 discrimination when they are trying to achieve
23 professional or educational goals. And I ask all my
24 colleagues to get on this legislation, and thank you
25 Council Member Vacca.

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STATED MEETING

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you, and does your Council Member agree, the one who's sitting next to you, standing next to you?

COUNCIL MEMBER: Yes, I do.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Council Member Cumbo.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Yes, good afternoon. Thank you, Madam Chair. I just want to first start by thanking Council Members Crowley, and Mealy for a wonderful job today of bringing so many dynamic young women today. [applause] The Council just has altogether new energy. And we are so much more committed after today, and after our luncheon of refortifying our strong unified efforts to make sure that young women are sitting in these very seats in the years to come.

So, I'm very proud of that. I'm also very proud to have a dynamic young woman with me here today, our Council Member Amanda Matea, Marte, excuse me and she is a sixth grader in my district. And I met her actually on the campaign trail. So she's a dynamic woman, and I'm very excited to have her here today.

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2 I am rising today because I want to
3 request the support of my colleagues on Intro 187,
4 which will require the Administration for Children's
5 Services to provide information regarding high school
6 graduation rates of youths in foster care.

7 AMANDA MARTE: Thank you, Madam Public
8 Advocate. It is an honor to be here today. This
9 rule will call for an A-S -- A-C-S Commissioner to
10 submit an annual report to City Council no later than
11 October 1, 2014, and no later than every October 1st
12 thereafter. Regarding the number of youth in foster
13 care who graduated from high school in the previous
14 year from September 1st through August 31st.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: As elected
16 officials, we have a duty to ensure that our city's
17 most vulnerable population is well regarded. After
18 yesterday's hearing with General Welfare and chairing
19 that with Council Member Levin, we recognize that
20 foster youth are 44% less likely to complete high
21 school than their peers in general. And less than
22 half of former foster youth are employed within four
23 years of emancipation.

24 We need to hold ACS accountable for the
25 academic success of our young people by increasing

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access to educational opportunities. And I hope that all of my colleagues will join with me to make sure that all children that are part of the ACS system have every educational opportunity that every child in New York City is granted. Thank you so much for your support, and I also look forward to all of you -
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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
Please bring your comments to a close.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Yes, Public Advocate. And we just want to remind everybody Monday is our Women's History event and we hope that all--

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: --of you will be here.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you so much, Chair.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you very much, and we thank you for that new young council member. You're very dynamic. Council Member Chin. Excuse me. Council Member Rose. I apologize.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: And I apologize for
3 jumping the gun. So I stand again at the right time
4 to ask you, my colleagues today to support Res 0142.
5 This resolution is calling on the United States
6 Congress to pass, and the President to sign,
7 H.R.1593, also known as the Stop Act, which would
8 establish a sexual assault an oversight response
9 council. Sadly, statistics bear out that this
10 legislation is greatly needed.

11 According to the Department of Defense,
12 an estimated 19,300 sexual assaults occurred in the
13 military in 2010. Yet, only 13.5% reported assaults.
14 For those few who came forward to report their
15 assaults, only 8% saw their assailants referred to
16 court-martials. Indeed, in the most recent case
17 reported only regarding sexual misconduct in the
18 military, a brigadier general was reprimanded for,
19 among other offenses, mistreating an Army Captain,
20 who was his mistress. He was only reprimanded.

21 This bill will address this dilemma by
22 changing how sexual assault is handled in the
23 military by creating an independent body to
24 investigate and prosecute sexual assault cases.
25 Please join me in protecting the civil rights and

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dignity of all of our citizens putting their lives on the line in the armed services by supporting this Stop Act.

And I just want to commend the Women's Caucus Chairs for a wonderful day. We've seen such wonderful, powerful, young dynamic, young people and today I have with me, if you notice, they're twins. They were valedictorian and salutatorian in their class and they are [applause] -- and they are proof that arts in schools are -- is really important. I thank you for having them today.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you, Council member. Thank you. Council Member Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you Public Advocate, and I also wanted to thank the Co-Chair of the Women's Caucus for organizing this event so that we could see all our future young women leaders here. So I'm going to ask my Council Member for the day, Kelly May, to introduce the three legislation, three bills that I'm talking about today.

KELLY MAY: The first bill is a bill to regulate portable generators and to acquire companies that use them to monitor the impact on indoor air quality. If you're going to use a generator for an

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2 extended period of time in street light under
3 someone's window, it should meet certain emission
4 standards. The second bill is a bill to ensure that
5 new buildings in the city are built to include simple
6 environmental design standards so that they retain
7 heat better. When buildings leak heat, tenants are
8 cold, and it uses unnecessary amounts of electricity
9 at cost both the building and everyone in our city.

10 And the third is a bill I'm introducing
11 with to Council Member Lander, Public Advocate James,
12 and Council Member Richard, and 16 other Council
13 Members legislations to reduce the use of carryout
14 bags. This bill will create a mandatory ten cent
15 charge on paper and plastic bags that are normally
16 given for free. Stores would use the charge --
17 stores would keep the charge, and customers would
18 have to make a more conscious choice about the impact
19 that paper and plastic bags have on the environment.
20 Many other towns and cities in the United States have
21 already passed single-use bag legislation. New York
22 is behind -- is being left behind. So I hope my
23 colleagues will join us in signing on to support this
24 important legislation. Thank you.

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Quiet
3 in the chambers, please. Council Member Rodriguez.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.
5 First of all, I'd like to invite everyone to go to
6 the movies on the 28th, and see the movie about the
7 life of Cesar Chavez. It's financed by the Kennedy
8 Family. I had the opportunity to see Carlos Menchaca
9 to be one of the special guests when the Kennedy
10 Family, and -- And Cesar Chavez saw him, he came to
11 the premiere of the movies. And that's going to be
12 very important because we're talking about the State
13 of New York is notable to have one the worst snows
14 affecting the agricultural workers. So I hope that
15 everyone invite their family and see those, and see
16 the life of a great civil right such as Cesar Chavez.

17 Second, I'd like to invite everyone for
18 tonight. Vision Zero - -

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Excuse me,
20 Council Member. Quiet in the Chambers, please.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Tonight at
22 6:00 p.m. is our next town hall meeting of Vision
23 Zero led by Speaker Melissa-Mark Viverito. And all
24 the Manhattan delegation, the Manhattan Borough
25 President. What we are looking to achieve after the

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2 fifth town hall meeting to all the boroughs, we will
3 come out with some suggestion, idea from the average
4 New Yorkers who participated. So that we can add all
5 the ideas in the package of legislation that we're
6 working on right now.

7 Third, I would like to invite my
8 colleagues to sign into the legislation Intro 225,
9 which I submitted today. It's the Local Law to Amend
10 the Administrative Code for the City of New York in
11 relation to the CitiBank Financial Reporting.
12 CitiBank have to open the book and let us know how
13 much money that they're raising, how much does it
14 cost so that we can plan in a better way for the
15 future.

16 Lastly, I would like to invite also to
17 sign Intro 238 that I am introducing together with my
18 colleague Mark Weprin, which is a local law to amend
19 the Administrative Code for the City of New York in
20 relation to the right-of-way of pedestrian
21 ambassadors. Thank you.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
23 King.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: I just rise today
25 again to offer my condolences to Council Member

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Garodnick and Council Member Johnson for the loss in their families. But as they celebrate going home, we still want to recognize our women and our young ladies who are here today for Woman's Month. God bless you. Stay strong, and this is just an FY reminder for BLAC that we have a meeting directly right after here, and we will be concluding in 45 minutes our meeting. So please make sure that you come to the Committee hearing -- committee meeting. Men's month. What are you talking about?

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic]

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Uh-huh. But anyway, I'm looking forward to seeing everybody at the BLAC meeting later on. Again, happy, happy, happy Woman's month. God bless.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member Vallone. Council Member Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: I blame Vacca. He's getting me in trouble. I rise as a father of two young ladies. And I'd like to thank my fellow council members and the Woman's Caucus for setting an amazing precedent for our future. Women leaders, and ladies, and junior council members another applause. You guys were great today. Thank you. [applause]

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2 It's still inconceivable to me that today
3 someone can drive a vehicle, kill someone, and still
4 only be charged with a misdemeanor. So in Resolution
5 147, Elizabeth Crowley and I have introduced trying
6 to call on our friends in order to change that. So
7 if you are driving with a suspended license, a
8 revoked license, or without a license and you kill
9 someone in the City of New York, it is still a
10 misdemeanor. That's insane. We've got to change
11 that immediately especially with our new priorities
12 this year. So Resolution 147 does that, and on Intro
13 233 I'm asking for a simple identification card for
14 our veterans here in New York City, which they still
15 do not have. So again, thank you, Madam Public
16 Advocate. I appreciate the time.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you, Council
18 Member. Council Member Dickens.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you, Madam
20 Public Advocate, and I extend my condolences to
21 Council Member Garodnick, and I yield my time to
22 Council Member Dianna Castro.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: May we have quiet
24 in the chambers for Council Member Castro.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CASTRO: Thank you, Madam
3 Public Advocate. I thank the leadership of Speaker
4 Melissa Mark-Viverito. I represent Council Member
5 Inez Dickens, and today I am the Council Member for
6 the Ninth District. Thank you Council Member Levine
7 for the crucial legislation of Intro 13, a local law
8 to amend the Administrative Code of the City of New
9 York in relation to providing legal counsel for low
10 income tenants who are subject to eviction, a
11 judgment or foreclosure proceedings. I work for
12 Palante Harlem, who helps and represents low income
13 tenants in the community, and I hope that our council
14 members help pass this through. And I would also
15 like to thank the Woman's Caucus and the Chairs for
16 having all of us today representing them. Thank you
17 so much.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you so much.
19 [applause] And now to complete our discussion,
20 Council Member Mendez.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you, my
22 colleagues. Today I rise to talk about two specific
23 pieces of legislation of several that I mentioned in
24 sum today, and I defer to my colleague, Council
25 Member Melissa Rodriguez.

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2 MELISSA RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. So I'm
3 introducing Intro 221. This bill, which will provide
4 legal representation to single heads of household
5 with children who are subject to eviction, and -- and
6 judgment or foreclosure. I introduced similar
7 legislation of the February 26 stated by legal
8 representation to senior citizens subject to the same
9 proceedings. This bill is of equal importance as it
10 will create protection for this population,
11 preventing children of single-parent households from
12 becoming a part of our city's homeless population.

13 I'm also introducing Bill Intro 19, which
14 will create a bicycle safety task force operated
15 through DOT and required to meet at least five times
16 per year. To ensure that we have a better
17 understanding of how to improve the use of bicycles
18 in New York City, and to encourage safe riding
19 practices. In an effort to create legislation that
20 will align with Mary de Blasio's achievement of
21 Vision Zero, it is important to recognize that
22 comprehensive traffic safety requires regulations of
23 vehicles that operate on two wheels as well as four.
24 I ask that you support this bill. Thank you.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: And that is introduced also on the behalf of Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer. Thank you very much, Madam Public Advocate.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you very much, Council Members. Council Member Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Good afternoon, colleagues. I rise today to speak of what Council Member Vallone spoke of earlier. I'm going to invite my Council Member for a Day to say a few words about the Intro that makes leaving -- that makes driving without a license a felony.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: I want to urge my colleagues to sing onto a resolution that makes driving without--

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: A license.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: --a license when somebody is seriously injured or killed a felony, and not just a misdemeanor. Brianna O'Connell is here today as a Council Member for the Day, and she lives in the Community of Mastic. And recently, on Grand Avenue, we had a senior that was on her way to a Bingo game when a young driver made an illegal turn, and took the woman's life. And he

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was only given a mere slap on the wrist, which was a misdemeanor. When, he was not only driving without a license but also he made an illegal turn. So we want people think twice about getting behind a vehicle, and using that vehicle as a weapon when they do not have the license to be behind that vehicle. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you so much. Melissa Mark-Viverito, the Speaker.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Madam Public Advocate. Just for a note that I think there might have been some misinformation. The next stated is actually April 10th. I think that was communicated as April 9th. So people can make note of that. Again, congratulations to the young women that are here, to know the sky is the limit, and it's great that we could host you here today. And with that at 3:05 p.m. the meeting is --

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Before we adjourn, I want to thank the media at the Inner Circle for their roasting of the Mayor, the Speaker Mark-Viverito, Controller Stringer, and myself. I want to urge everyone to take a look at the Journal, and the caricature of all of us, including Council Member

Ferreras, Council Member Gentile, and all of his
hair. And all of the individuals who were the
subject of great humility and great laughter at the
Inner Circle. And, I also want to thank Chairs of
the Women's Caucus for bringing these intelligent,
powerful, confident young leaders to the City
Council. We now stand adjourned until April 10th.

[applause]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date April 25, 2014