

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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April 20, 2016
Start: 1:42 p.m.
Recess: 4:00 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: LETITIA JAMES
Public Advocate

MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO
Speaker for the Council

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Inez D. Barron
Joseph C. Borelli
Fernando Cabrera
Margaret S. Chin
Andrew Cohen
Costa G. Constantinides
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
Elizabeth S. Crowley
Laurie A. Cumbo
Chaim M. Deutsch
Inez E. Dickens
Daniel Dromm
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.
Mathieu Eugene
Julissa Ferreras-Copeland
Daniel R. Garodnick
Vincent J. Gentile
Vanessa L. Gibson
David G. Greenfield

Barry S. Grodenchik
Corey D. Johnson
Ben Kallos
Andy L. King
Peter A. Koo
Karen Koslowitz
Rory I. Lancman
Brad S. Lander
Stephen T. Levin
Mark Levine
Alan N. Maisel
Steven Matteo
Darlene Mealy
Carlos Menchaca
Rosie Mendez
I. Daneek Miller
Annabel Palma
Antonio Reynoso
Donovan J. Richards
Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Deborah L. Rose
Helen K. Rosenthal
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.
Ritchie J. Torres
Mark Treyger
Eric A. Ulrich
James Vacca
Paul A. Vallone
James G. Van Bramer
Jumaane D. Williams
Ruben Wills

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

Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, Rabbi Emeritus
Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun
125 East 85th Street, New York, N.Y. 10028

2 [sound check, background, pause]

3 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay, we're going
4 to start our ceremonials. We have three today.

5 Thank you all for joining us. We're going to start
6 off with Council Member Gibson. Well, Dickens.

7 Okay, well Gibson is here. [background comments]

8 Okay, all right. So, Council Member Dickens who is
9 giving a proclamation to the Franciscan Hand Maids of
10 the Most Pure Heart of Mary [cheers] the 100--on
11 their 100th Anniversary, and I will hand it off to
12 the Council Member.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [off mic] We've
14 got them here. Come on up here, yeah. [on mic] Come
15 on up. Come on up, sisters. Come on up, sisters.
16 Come on, come on, come on. This is--this is our
17 Speaker. This is Melissa Mark-Viverito. Come on up,
18 sisters. Come on up. [pause, background comments]
19 Come on. You're go in all types. Go on all sizes.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Come on up. Come
21 on. [background comments] This is the second--this
22 is the second--come on up--this is the second oldest
23 order of African-American--the third--of African-
24 American nuns in the United States.

25 [cheers/applause] It is my honor to present this

2 proclamation to the Superior General Sister Gertrude
3 Lilly Ihenacho on behalf of the Franciscan Hand Maids
4 of the Most Pure Heart of Mary for their 100 years of
5 exemplary service to my belived--beloved Village of
6 Harlem and to Staten Island. [cheers] The Order
7 yes, yes, yep, yep, give it up for Staten Island.
8 [cheers/applause] The Order of Black nuns was
9 founded in 1916 in Savannah, Georgia by Elizabeth
10 Theodore Williams and Reverend Ignatius Listener
11 (sp?) in the wake of proposed legislation that would
12 forbid white teachers from instructing black
13 children. In 1923, they established their residents
14 and the Saint Benedict's day nursery for children in
15 Harlem. In 1929, they also form a Staten Island
16 novitiate training of sisters entering the order and
17 food pantry.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: That's right.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Council member
20 will you--Debbie Rose, would you continue.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Okay and so the
22 novitiate--the novitiate continues to existing in
23 Staten Island and that same and with a food pantry
24 now operated at Mount Loretto, which is the Center
25 for Catholic Charities, which currently serves over

2 20,000 families every year. The Franciscan Hand
3 Maidens deserve to be acknowledged and lauded for
4 their tireless work in the community, and I just want
5 to say that this--they can't--Saint Edwards has
6 served all of the children from New York City, and
7 it's a wonderful--a wonderful location, and we can't
8 thank you enough for your dedication, and I now call
9 the clerk to read the proclamation. [applause]

10 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down.

11 CLERK: Council City of New York
12 Proclamation.

13 Whereas, the Franciscan Handmaids of the
14 Most Pure Heart of Mary, FHM, an order of Black nuns
15 is the only--is the--is one of only three original
16 orders of this kind in the United States. FHM was
17 founded in 1916 in Savannah, Georgia by Reverend
18 Ignatius Listener in the wake of propose--proposed
19 legislation that would forbid white teachers from
20 instruction black children. To thwart the plan,
21 Father Listener enlisted the help of Ms. Barbara
22 Williams, a black woman from Baton Rouge. Working
23 together, they founded a religious order of black
24 women with a social justice miss--mission, educating
25 black children and providing pastoral care of the

2 back--black community. Although the bill never
3 passed, the sisters found little support; and

4 Whereas, in 1924 at the request of
5 Cardinal Patrick Hayes the sisters relocated the
6 Village--to the Village of Harlem where it has
7 remained ever since. After their arrival, they
8 launched, they launched one of the first pre-school
9 educational programs in the United States. Saint
10 Benedict Day Nursery continues to uphold its legacy
11 of excellence, and now serves 80 children annually.
12 Since 1928, FHM has also operate Saint Edwards Pantry
13 on Staten Island. Today, they continue to feed the
14 hungry and provide clothing as well as Christmas
15 gifts and toys, and serve more than 20,000 families
16 each year. The nuns also continue to provide altar
17 bread to many parishes, and since 2000, have led
18 several preventative care medical missions to Nigeria
19 servicing 2,000 people per mission; and

20 Whereas, after a century of vital
21 assistance to our community the sisters of FHM remain
22 little known beyond New York, but they are truly one
23 of our city's treasures, and we wish them even
24 greater success in the years ahead.

2 Now, therefore, be it known that the
3 Council of the City of New York gratefully honors the
4 Franciscan Handmaids of the Most Pure Heart of Mary
5 in celebration of their 100th Anniversary. Melissa
6 Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the Entire Council; Inez
7 E. Dickens, Council Member, Ninth District Manhattan;
8 and many other council members.

9 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right.
10 [cheers/applause] All right. I want to--I want to
11 thank Council Member Dickens for presenting this
12 proclamation. One of the things that I love about
13 our city and also about this job is--and--and these
14 opportunities we really get to learn about the
15 vibrancy and the richness that the city has to offer.
16 I did not know about the order, and so it's really
17 great, though, to really hear about that deep history
18 that it has. So, thank you for recognizing them,
19 Council Member Dickens, and for allowing us to also
20 share in something that has been part of this city
21 for almost 100 years. Well, 100 years. We're
22 celebrating a 100 years. So, I--I think we are
23 going to hear from Superior General of the Franciscan
24 Handmaids of the Most Pure Heart of Mary who is
25 Sister Gertrude Lilly Ithenacho. Am I pronouncing it

2 correctly. Okay. All right. [laughs] [applause]
3 All right, here we go, and I'll hold it for you.

4 SISTER GERTRUDE LILLY IHENACHO: This has
5 been a great honor for the whole community, the
6 Franciscan Handmaids of Mary, and we are very
7 grateful to God and for you, Councilwoman Inez--

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [off mic]
9 [interposing] Thank you.

10 SISTER GERTRUDE LILLY IHENACHO: --and
11 all of the Councilors, which are here at the City
12 Hall. This year we celebrate our 100th Anniversary,
13 and it's nota closure of an era, but a beginning--

14 COUNCIL MEMBER: [off mic] [interposing]
15 All right.

16 SISTER GERTRUDE LILLY IHENACHO: --of a
17 new 100, another 100 years. And we hope we'll call
18 upon you to help us realize that revitalization. We
19 hope to implement some relative then rosary (sic) is
20 going to revital--be revitalized--revitalized. The
21 food pantry is going to be restructured and
22 revitalized, and we are adding a new initiative,
23 homeless youth project.

24 COUNCIL MEMBERS: (in unison) Amen.

2 SISTER GERTRUDE LILLY IHENACHO: Right
3 now, we are working on [applause] it, and we hope--
4 and we hope--and we hope we are going to focus on
5 this homeless youth with great potential especially
6 those that have outgrown their foster care settings.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER: [applause] Amem, amem.

8 SISTER GERTRUDE LILLY IHENACHO: So I
9 hope everyone hearing me today will recognize when I
10 come asking for help [laughter] that these are those
11 nuns that were here today, April 20, 2016 to announce
12 and to receive the Proclamation for our 100th
13 Anniversary. May God be all--my all God be--bless
14 you all, and we thank the Speaker and everyone that
15 has brought us to the point. Thank you.

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] Yeah,
17 right, right. [cheers/applause]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Well, thank you.

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Did you take the
20 photo? [background comments]

21 MAKE SPEAKER: Thank you.

22 SISTER GERTRUDE LILLY IHENACHO: Thank
23 you.

24 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you all so
25 much.

2 SISTER GERTRUDE LILLY IHENACHO: Thank
3 you. Thank you.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: It's really
5 great.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Down this way.

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I know nothing
8 about that. Thank you for your service, and what you
9 do. [background comments] All right, the next
10 proclamation is by Council Member Gibson. If those
11 that are being honored can come up. We have Council
12 Member Gibson giving a proclamation for the Garifuna
13 American Heritage Month.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Okay.

15 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [off mic] Quiet. Keep
16 it down, please. Keep it down.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Good afternoon,
18 ladies and gentlemen. [Speaking Spanish] It's a
19 great pleasure to welcome all of you to City Hall. I
20 am Council Member Vanessa Gibson of the Sixteenth
21 District in the Boogey Down Bronx, and I am so
22 honored to be here to present this proclamation to
23 the Garifuna Coalition U.S.A. declaring March 11th
24 through April 12th and Garifuna American Heritage
25 Month.

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] [off
3 mic] Quiet please.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Celebrating
5 events both past and present Garifuna American
6 Heritage Month pays tribute to the resiliency of the
7 Garifuna people, and longstanding friendship between
8 their community and the United States. Commemorating
9 their past, this Garifuna American Heritage Month
10 observes the 219th anniversary of the forcible
11 deportation of the Garifuna from Saint Vincent and
12 the Grenadines, and commemorates the first Garifuna
13 settlement in Central America on April 12, 1789.
14 Today, in the city of New York, we are so proud to be
15 home to the larger Garifuna community outside of
16 Central America, and I am proud that a significant
17 part of this community resides in my council
18 district. Through my position as a former member of
19 the State Assembly and now as a council member, I
20 have come to count so many of our friends in the
21 Garifuna community as proud residents of our
22 community. I want to thank our Speaker, the entire
23 City Council, the Bronx Delegation for their support
24 of the Garifuna-American community. And I want to
25 recognize all of their significant contributions to

2 our great city. I want to recognize Jose Avila,
3 Rosemary Odanis-Jenkins, Sarah Nunez-Mahia, Rosita
4 Alvarez, Dorito (sp?)Martinez, Luiz Torres, Dahlia
5 James and Todd Lee James. In recognition of the 8th
6 Annual Garifuna-American Heritage month, I am proud
7 to present this proclamation on behalf of the New
8 York City Council in commemoration of this great
9 occasion in which we call Garifuna American Heritage
10 Month. [Speaking Spanish] Thank you so much for all
11 that you have done, and now we're going to have our
12 clerk read the proclamation on behalf of the New York
13 City Council.

14 CLERK: Council City of New York
15 Proclamation.

16 Whereas, the Council of the City of New
17 York is proud to pay tribute to members of the
18 Garifuna community for their great contributions to
19 New York City; and

20 Whereas, the Garifuna and ethnic group of
21 mixed an--ancestry descendants of Caribbean; Arawak
22 and African people living along the Caribbean Coast
23 in Baliz, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras and Saint
24 Vincent and Grenadines; and

2 Whereas, during World War II, Garifunas
3 began to immigrate--began migrating to the United
4 States in significant numbers as merchant marines in
5 search of a better life, but their numbers were
6 virtually obscured in New York City until March 25,
7 1990. On that tragic date someone set fire to the
8 Happy Land Social Club and committed the most
9 horrific mass murder our city had ever known until
10 9/11. Fifty-nine of the 87 victims were Honduran.
11 More than 70% of the Honduran victims were also of
12 Garifuna descent; and

13 Whereas, in the 26 years since the Happy
14 Land Social Club fire, the Garifuna community has
15 grown stronger while promoting its wide range of
16 political, economic and social issues, and cultural
17 contributions. In 2001, the United Nations
18 Educational Scientificate--Scientific and Cultural
19 Organization UESCO, proclaimed the Garifuna language,
20 dance and music as a masterpiece of the oral and
21 intangible heritage of humanity; and

22 Whereas, today, New York City is proud to
23 be home to the largest Garifuna population outside of
24 Central America with more than 200,000 living in the
25 South Bronx--Browns--Brownsville and East New York

2 and Brooklyn, and the Village of Harlem. The
3 Garifuna Coalition has been working to raise
4 awareness and appreciation of this community, and its
5 contributions to our city's culture and society, and
6 we are proud to support those efforts on this
7 occasion.

8 Now, therefore, be it know that the
9 Council of the City of New York including all the
10 members of the Bronx Delegation is proud to celebrate
11 Garifuna American Heritage and the enduring bond that
12 connect the Unites States and Garifuna countries of
13 origin. Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaking for the
14 Entire Council, Vanessa L. Gibson, Council Member
15 16th District, Bronx and the rest of the members of
16 the Bronx Delegation.

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right. I
18 want to [cheers/applause]--I want to thank Council
19 Member Gibson for--for presenting this proclamation.
20 I also represent a number of Garifunas in my
21 district. I'm very proud to work alongside the
22 organizations that provide service, and thank you for
23 all the work that you've been doing over the years.
24 I think you are going to speak on behalf of all those

2 that are represented here today, but again, thank you
3 very much.

4 GARIFUNA REPRESENTATIVE: Thank you,
5 Madam Speaker. Thank you Madam Council Member. This
6 is indeed a great moment considering the fact that
7 again we're celebrating the 219th Anniversary of the
8 Exile, and we're here. But I'm not going to dwell on
9 that. As talked about the fact that we've been here
10 in New York City for over 80 years, and actually the
11 older Garifuna organization was settled in 1946.
12 That's what? 70 years ago since it was established.
13 But I also want to share a little know fact, and it's
14 the fact that in 1823, William Henry Brown wrote what
15 is recognized as the first African-American play, the
16 Drama of King Shotaway right here in New York City.
17 The them of that play is actually the exile of the
18 Garifuna people from Saint Vincent in the Grenadines.
19 So our history is tied to New York for now for over
20 193 years. Council Member, on behalf of the Garifuna
21 community, Madam Speaker, thank you for this
22 privilege. Thank you for giving us the opportunity
23 to share that experience, the fact that again even
24 though we have been here for 70 years, our culture
25 has contributed to the vibrant culture life of New

2 York City for 193 years. Thank you. [Speaking
3 Garifuna language.]

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you so
5 much. [cheers/applause] Perfect. Thank you, again.
6 Nice to see you guys happy.

7 FEMALE SPEAKER: Thank you.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Everyone, thank
9 you? Nice to see you and thank you for being here.

10 FEMALE SPEAKER: Thank you, Council man.
11 [background comments, pause]

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay. The last--

13 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Keep it
14 down, please. Keep it down.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: The last
16 proclamation if we could ask is for a very special
17 person. Juan Gonzalez, if we could ask you to come
18 up, please. [cheers/applause] [pause] [applause]
19 [background comments] Oh, so we're learning
20 something new here. So, people have heard that Juan
21 Gonzalez is a--is going to be retiring from the Daily
22 News [background comments] after many, many years,
23 but let me--let just tell a little story how our
24 world all comes together. I--I came to--to New York
25 at the age of 18 to go to Columbia University, and I

2 graduated in 1991. It really was at Columbia that I
3 really got--my political activism and engagement
4 really kind of blossomed during those years, and I
5 had the pleasure to be part of an organization called
6 [Speaking Spanish]. I had the pleasure to meet
7 Richie Perez during that time, and really to be
8 inspired by the level of engagement and activism of
9 the Puerto Rican community here in New York. Well,
10 my graduation--when I graduated in 1991, Juan
11 Gonzalez was recommended to be the commencement
12 speaker at that graduating class, and the
13 administration did not want him to give the
14 commencement because of his activism at Columbia
15 University in the 1960s during the Vietnam War. At
16 that, we pushed back obviously, those of us engaged,
17 and really pushed back hard, and he did give the
18 commencement speech at Columbia University, right
19 that year? [cheers/applause] And I remember--again,
20 because this was a time that I really was coming to
21 my own into my political engagement and starting to
22 become involved. I was very, very moved by his
23 speech and it really touched me personally, and
24 that's kind of what it--it--all of that kind of led
25 me to the path that I'm down now. So, I want to

2 thank Juan for his years of service. We all know how
3 he utilizes and his articles [cheers/applause].

4 FEMALE SPEAKER: [off mic] We're going to
5 miss him.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: And--and as an
7 activist, he is a co-host and has been co-host of
8 democracy now for about 20 years. [applause] Again,
9 another connection. I--I did with WBAI Radio, which
10 is where Democracy now started. It became a
11 national--it has become an incredibly international--
12 international platform of independent media, and all
13 the work that he's done in the Daily News, right,
14 over the years with City Time, [laughs]
15 [cheers/applause] and 9/11 and the health effects,
16 and obviously charter schools and investigating that.
17 So it really is--is incredible the contributions he
18 has done over the years, and obviously-- If we can
19 keep it down a minute, please?

20 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [off mic]
21 [interposing] Keep it down, please. Quiet down.

22 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: But obviously as
23 a Puerto Rican who was very proud of my identity and
24 my heritage, he was obviously one of the leaders of
25 the Young Lords Movement as well, and that was an

2 important--important political organization that
3 exited in this city, and made a lot--a lot of change
4 happen. So his--we'll hear about it all in the
5 proclamation, but personally, this is very
6 significant as well, although I've been the--on the
7 receiving end sometimes of--of some of the criticism.
8 [background comments] We can [laughs]--we can
9 understand obviously deeply that we're more aligned
10 than anything else and that Juan Gonzalez is someone
11 to definitely be recognized for his contributions,
12 and we're deeply appreciative of everything you've
13 done not only for the Puerto--the Puerto Rican
14 community, but also for New York City as a whole.
15 So, with that, I'll ask the clerk to read the
16 proclamation and then we--you know, we'll ask Juan to
17 say a few words.

18 CLERK: Council City of New York

19 Proclamation.

20 The Council of the City of New York is
21 proud to honor Juan Gonzalez upon his departure from
22 the New York Daily News in recognition of his career
23 and extraordinary service and contributions; and

24 Whereas, Mr. Gonzalez was born in Ponce,
25 Puerto Rico, and grew up in East Harlem and in

2 Brooklyn, after a time editing his high school
3 newspaper, the Lane Reporter, he attended Columbia
4 University in the mid-1960s. Long before he became a
5 journalist, however, he was an activist. He joined
6 the Anti-Vietnam War Movement, and in the early 1970s
7 was a founder and leaders of the Young Lords, and
8 later became the first president of the National
9 Congress for Puerto Rican Rights; and

10 Whereas, although Mr. Gonzales embarked
11 on his journalism career in 1978, his passion for
12 activism has remained. With his sharp eye and
13 insightful commentary, he has been an unflinching
14 champion for one cause, the truth. With this
15 commitment for the last 38 years, he has become one
16 of our nation's best know, Latino Journalists, and
17 public intellectuals; and

18 Whereas, Mr. Gonzalez has been a staff
19 columnist for the New York Daily news since 1987, and
20 a co-host with Amy Goodman of Democracy now for 20
21 years. Throughout his incredible tenure, he has
22 reported on every imaginable issue, his columns and
23 the labor movement, the environment, race relations,
24 public education and urban policy have garnered

2 numerous accolades including two George Polk Awards
3 for Commentary--

4 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Quiet,
5 please,

6 CLERK: --and 2004 Leadership Award from
7 the National Hispanic Heritage Foundation; and

8 Whereas, New York City like the nation
9 has changed tremendously over the years, but Mr.
10 Gonzalez's commitment to speaking out against
11 injustice has never waivered. Examples of his work
12 can be found in every year of his career, but several
13 of his most well known investigative reports
14 completely altered the previously accepted
15 narratives. These include his work on the health
16 hazards at Ground Zero, the 2006 shoot of Shaun Bell,
17 the City Time Project and more. The impact of his
18 hard-hitting has been wide--felt widely and deeply
19 and often led to substantial improvements in
20 government; and

21 Whereas, beyond his work at the Daily
22 News, Mr. Gonzalez has authored four books to date
23 including *News for All the People: The Epic Story of*
24 *Race and the American Media; Fallout: The*
25 *Environmental Consequences of the World Trade Center*

2 *Collapse; and Roll Down Your Window: Stories from a*
3 *Forgotten America.* His groundbreaking work *Harvest*
4 *of Empire, a History of Latinos In America* has been
5 required reading for many years in colleges across
6 the country. In addition to be a founder and past
7 president of the National Association of Hispanic
8 Journalists, he was inducted into the New York
9 Journalism Hall of Fame in 2014; and

10 Whereas, upon his transitions from his
11 full-time role at the Daily News he can be proud
12 knowing that his work has had a tremendously positive
13 impact not only on many institutions, but also in the
14 lives of his readers, his colleagues and many
15 emerging reporters. We are confident that he will
16 continue to be an excellent mentor in 2017 where he
17 begins his next role, Professor of Professional
18 Practice in the School of Communications and
19 Information at Rut--Rutgers University. [cheers]

20 Now, therefore, be it known [applause]
21 that the Council of the City of New York is proud to
22 honor Juan Gonzalez for his outstanding achievements
23 in [cheers] journalism and his enduring contributions
24 to New York City. Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for
25 the Entire Council. [cheers/applause]

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: And let me--let
3 me just say one more thing before I hand it off to--
4 to Juan, and I want to thank Erica Gonzalez, who also
5 has a longstanding relationship [cheers] with Juan
6 for helping us put this together. One of the things
7 that I've been saying recently, you know, we need to
8 utilize the platforms that we have to really kind of
9 amplify the voice of justice, right. And I said that
10 about Manuel Miranda recently that he's talked about
11 the crisis in Puerto Rico and utilize the platform
12 that his notoriety has provide. But Juan had done
13 that consistently, and with In Democracy Now I think
14 s one of the few independent media venues that is
15 really talking about the issue of Puerto Rico in a
16 way that has been deeply ignored by mainstream media.

17 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [off mic] Quiet down.

18 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: So I want to
19 thank him personally for that, and for utilizing that
20 platform consistently for--for justice, and
21 particularly the issues of Puerto Rico. So with that
22 I'll hand it off to Juan Gonzalez.

23 JUAN GONZALEZ: [cheers/applause] Well,
24 thank you to the Speaker and the members of the
25 Council and to the Public Advocate Tish James. Next

2 week is my last week at the--at the Daily News after
3 29 years there, and 38 years in the daily journalism
4 business, and it's been a pleasure and a privilege to
5 cover events in this great city and the work of this
6 Council. During all those years dating back to 1987
7 when Andrew Stein was the President of the Council
8 and Ed Koch was the Mayor of--of this city. I've
9 always respected the difficult work that you and the
10 Council performed, and I've endeavored to try to
11 cover you as fairly as possible. I made it my
12 business, however, to go beyond your press releases
13 and your official votes [laughter] and rummage
14 through those obscure recesses of municipal agencies
15 trying to sift nuggets of important news from those
16 voluminous budget documents from the back pages of
17 vendor contracts and from the footnotes of land
18 deals--

19 FEMALE SPEAKER: [interposing] Right.

20 JUAN GONZALEZ: --that even you who vote
21 to approve them rarely have the time to read and
22 analyze.

23 FEMALE SPEAKER: [off mic] [interposing]
24 It's a lot of jobs. Thank you.

2 JUAN GONZALEZ: As both a--a critic and a
3 weather vain, I've been fortunate to spend all these
4 years being paid to learn. Then distilling my
5 discoveries to the public, but I knew it was time to
6 move on when some of those who I came to know as my
7 college students or as young community activists like
8 Jumaane Williams [laughter], like Rosie Mendez and
9 like Melissa Mark-Viverito who actually rose to the
10 decision making powers where they got to pass those
11 budgets, and--and approve those laws. So I've
12 decided to move on, and to try to train another
13 generation of would-be journalists to dig deep, to
14 ask the tough questions and to expose abuse and
15 injustice wherever they find it. So thank you for
16 this affirmation that my work was not in vain, and I
17 urge you to continue your work as the most diverse
18 and progressive Council in the history of this city.
19 [cheers/applause] [pause]

20 [background comments]

21 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Ladies and gentlemen,
22 can I have your attention, please. Quiet on the
23 floor, please. Quiet on the floor. Can I have your
24 attention, please.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet on the
3 floor. [shushing for quiet]

4 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [off mic] Quiet,
5 please. Quiet, please.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Everyone please
7 have a seat.

8 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: At this time, please
9 place all electronic devices, all electronic devices
10 to vibrate. Will all non-Council employees, non-
11 Council employees please leave the main floor of the
12 Chambers. Find a seat upstairs in the balcony.
13 Thank you. [pause]

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Okay. Quiet in
15 the chambers. Everyone, please have your seat.

16 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [off mic] Quiet,
17 please. Quiet.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Gentlemen, please
19 remove your hats as we say the Pledge of Allegiance.
20 Everyone rise.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All rise.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please remove
23 your hats. [Pledge of Allegiance] Please be seated
24 Roll call. [background comments] Quiet in the

2 chambers, quiet in the chambers, quiet in the
3 chambers. [background comments]

4 MALE SPEAKER: Everybody move.

5 CLERK: Barron.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

7 CLERK: Borelli.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: [off mic]

9 Present.

10 CLERK: Cabrera. Chin.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for
13 quiet]

14 CLERK: Cohen.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: [off mic] Here.

16 [background comments]

17 MALE SPEAKER: Someone is sick.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Is some one sick?

19 MALE SPEAKER: Someone is sick, right.

20 FEMALE SPEAKER: [off mic] Yes, and

21 actually she's having a seizure. (sic)

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Okay. We'll get
23 some medical attention. Thank you. Thank you so
24 much.

25 CLERK: Constantinides.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Here.

3 CLERK: Cornegy. Crowley.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [off mic] Here.

5 CLERK: Cumbo. Deutsch.

6 CLERK: Deutsch.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.

8 CLERK: Dickens.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.

10 CLERK: Dromm.

11 [background noise]

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Oh, okay.

13 Everyone--

14 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Let's give her some
15 room.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: --everyone give
17 her room. Please take your seat. Give her room.

18 She's having a seizure. Give her room. [background
19 comments] Get it quick.

20 [background comments and crowding
21 yelling]

22 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Just everyone relax.

23 Relax.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Everyone relax.

25 Please give them room.

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Would everyone relax?

3 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Give them room,
4 and please take your seats.

5 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: She's breathing.
6 She's okay.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: She's okay.

8 [background comments] Could you clear the aisles?
9 Could you clear the aisles? Gentlemen, could you
10 please have your seats? Gentlemen, please have your
11 seats and clear the aisle. Thank you.

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Please, I'm going
13 to ask that the staff please pay attention. We
14 called 911, but I'm going to ask the rest of the
15 balcony to be cleared. [background comments/noise]
16 While we handle this situation, we would like to ask
17 people to please leave. [background comments]

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Excuse me.
19 Everyone in the balcony please clear the balcony.
20 [background comments/noise] Please clear the
21 balcony.

22 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [background
23 comments/noise] They--they can--they're going to
24 handle. I'm sure they're fine with that, but I just
25 want--[background comments/noise]

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Just wait a few
3 minutes. Please clear the balcony. Thank you so
4 much. [pause] May we have a glass or water to the
5 balcony? A glass of water to the balcony. Please
6 move in an orderly fashion. Thank you. Please move
7 in an orderly fashion. [background comments/noise]
8 Thank you.

9 MALE SPEAKER: My daughter told me.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
11 They've got it. Thank you so much. [background
12 comments] We've got it. Everyone please take their
13 seats. Thank you. We appreciate that. [background
14 comments] Thank you. Let's us continue with roll
15 call.

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Hold on--hold on
17 a second. If we can hold on. [pause]

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [background
19 comments] Can we continue with roll call?

20 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I just want to
21 wait until the EMS gets here and then we can start.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Okay. [pause]
23 [background comments]

24 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet, please.

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right, I want
3 to thank my colleagues. That was Rachel. She's
4 obviously being tended well by the staff, and--and
5 she'll be tended now by EMS. So, thank you all, and--
6 I guess we can proceed.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Proceed with roll
8 call. Quiet in the chambers, please.

9 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Medical and police are
10 here. (sic)

11 CLERK: Espinal.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: [off mic] Here.

13 CLERK: Eugene.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: [off mic] Here.

15 CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER: Yes.

17 CLERK: Garodnick.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

19 CLERK: Gentile.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

21 CLERK: Gibson

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: [off mic] Here.

23 CLERK: Greenfield.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [off mic]

25 Here.

2 CLERK: Grodenchik.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: [off mic]

4 Here.

5 CLERK: Johnson.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Here.

7 CLERK: Kallos.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.

9 CLERK: King. Koo.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: [off mic] Here.

11 CLERK: Koslowitz.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off mic]

13 Here.

14 CLERK: Lancman.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: [off mic] Here.

16 CLERK: Lander.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [off mic] Here.

18 CLERK: Levin.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: [off mic] Here.

20 CLERK: Levine.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

22 CLERK: Maisel.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Here.

24 CLERK: Mealy. Menchaca.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.

3 [laughter]

4 CLERK: Thank you. Menchaca.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.

6 CLERK: Mendez.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

8 CLERK: Miller.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Here.

10 CLERK: Palma.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: [off mic] Here.

12 CLERK: Reynoso.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: [off mic] Here.

14 CLERK: Richards.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

16 CLERK: Rodriguez. Rose.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: [off mic] Here.

18 CLERK: Rosenthal.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [off mic]

20 Here.

21 CLERK: Salamanca.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: [off mic]

23 Present.

24 CLERK: Torres.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Present.

2 CLERK: Treyger.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

4 CLERK: Ulrich.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.

6 CLERK: Vacca.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

8 CLERK: Vallone.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [off mic] Here.

10 CLERK: Williams.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [off mic] Here.

12 CLERK: Rodriguez.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

14 CLERK: Wills. Matteo.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Present.

16 CLERK: Van Bramer. Speaker Mark-

17 Viverito.

18 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] Here.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All rise.

20 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: All rise.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: For the

22 invocation delivered by Rabbi Haskel Lookstein the

23 Rabbi Emeritus, Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun, 125

24 East 85th Street, New York, N.Y. 10028. Quiet in the

25 chambers.

2 RABBI HASKEL LOOKSTEIN: Eternal God
3 [speaking foreign language] heal us and we will be
4 healed. First, we pray for the health of the woman
5 who just took ill, and who made us all realize our
6 vulnerability at all times and in all places. Rabbi
7 Hanina (sp?) the Deputy High Priest said, "Pray for
8 the welfare of the government for were it not for
9 respect for it, people would swallow one another
10 alive." Eternal God, we thank you for those who
11 dedicate their lives to the peaceful ordering of
12 society here in New York City. We thank you for the
13 commitment to justice, fairness and equity for all.
14 For their devotion to the American ideals of
15 democracy, freedom and equality for all people
16 regardless of race, religion or national origin, and
17 for their concern for the safety of our citizenry in
18 a world in which the opponents of those ideals use
19 violence and terror to, in the words of Rabbi Hanina,
20 "Swallow us alive and destroy our way of life."
21 [Speaking foreign language] Dear God, on the eve of
22 Passover bless this Council and all its members with
23 health and wellbeing. May their deliberations and
24 decisions enable all of us to live in a world of

2 freedom, happiness, prosperity and peace, and let us
3 say, amen.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please be seated.
5 Council Member Garodnick.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank you very
7 much, Madam Public Advocate. It is a great pleasure
8 for me to welcome--

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
10 Excuse me, Council Member. Quite in the chambers
11 please.

12 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Try to
13 keep it down.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
15 chambers. I apologize.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: It is a please
17 to welcome the distinguished rabbi, Emeritus Haskel
18 Lookstein to our Stated Meeting today. Rabbi
19 Lookstein has led congregation Kehilath Jeshurun as
20 the Senior Rabbi since 1979 when he took over the
21 seat that his father had filled. He has led the
22 congregation ably and well. Some of you may recall
23 the events of five years ago when a four alarm fire
24 nearly burned the 110-year-old building down. Rabbi
25 Lookstein was there to lead the process, the long

2 process of rebuilding keeping his community tied
3 together even as they sought temporary places to
4 worship. Rabbi Lookstein not only restored the
5 original buildings, but also added more space for the
6 Ramaz (sp?) making space for four new classrooms and
7 a new wing for art and music. Throughout his life,
8 Rabbi Lookstein has pushed to increase his
9 community's social consciousness, and to make a warm
10 and welcoming atmosphere for all. He has been a
11 visible leader in pushing to expand civil rights, and
12 economic opportunities for New Yorkers and his strong
13 voice and advocacy have contributed a great deal to
14 this ongoing work. He is also, of course, well known
15 for officially welcoming Ivanka Trump to the tribe.
16 Well done, Rabbi. This--this January he also passed
17 the torch to Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz, making the first
18 time in about a century that the Lookstein family is
19 not at the helm of the congregation. This will give
20 the Rabbi Emeritus more time to spend on basketball,
21 though I've heard that his set shot is just about
22 perfect at this point. I want to thank the rabbi for
23 his devotion to our community and for his service to
24 all New Yorkers. I understand that he is on his way
25 to Israel for Passover today. We wish him safe

2 travels and a good holiday, and we are very honored
3 to have him today, and with that I move to spread the
4 invocation in full upon the record.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: So moved.
6 Council Member Barron.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you Madam
8 Public Advocate [pause]

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Adoption of
10 minutes, Council Member Barron.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. I
12 move that we adopt the minutes as they have been
13 submitted. Thank you.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
15 Messages and Papers from the Mayor.

16 CLERK: Preconsidered M 392 submitted
17 Manuel Miranda for appointment to the Art Commission.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Communication
19 from--

20 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [interposing]
21 Rules, Privileges and Elections.

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

24 CLERK: None.

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Petitions and
3 Communications.

4 CLERK: None.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Land Use Call-
6 Ups.

7 CLERK: M-393.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Roll call.

9 CLERK: Mealy.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
11 Mealy.

12 CLERK: Ulrich.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I ask for
14 unanimous consent to vote on all Land Use items and
15 items on the General Order Calendar and resolutions?

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

19 CLERK: Mealy. [background comments]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I would like to
21 vote on all Land Use and all Call-Ups.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: And I vote aye on
24 all.

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Thanks.

3 CLERK: Barron.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

5 CLERK: Borelli.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: [off mic] Aye.

7 CLERK: Chin.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

9 CLERK: Cohen. Constantindides.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

11 CLERK: Rodriguez.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye, and I

13 would like to ask permission to vote on all General--

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]

15 Yes.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: --especially

17 on the Car-Free Day Resolution.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes. [laughs]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

21 CLERK: Cornegy.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

23 CLERK: Crowley.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [off mic] Aye.

25 CLERK: Cumbo.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.

3 CLERK: Deutsch.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

5 CLERK: Dickens.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

7 CLERK: Dromm.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

9 CLERK: Espinal.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.

11 CLERK: Eugene.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

13 CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: [off

15 mic] Aye.

16 CLERK: Garodnick.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

18 CLERK: Gentile.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: AYE.

20 CLERK: Gibson.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Aye.

22 CLERK: Greenfield.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

24 CLERK: Grodenchik.

25

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: [off mic]

3 Aye.

4 CLERK: Johnson.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: [off mic] Aye.

6 CLERK: Kallos.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

8 CLERK: Koslowitz.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off mic] Aye.

10 CLERK: Lancman.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: [off mic] Aye.

12 CLERK: Lander.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [off mic] Aye.

14 CLERK: Levin.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

16 CLERK: Levine.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

18 CLERK: Maisel.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: [off mic] Yes.

20 CLERK: Menchaca.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: [off mic] Aye.

22 CLERK: Mendez.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Yes, aye.

24 CLERK: Miller.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.

2 CLERK: Palma.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: [off mic] Aye.

4 CLERK: Reynoso.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: [off mic] Aye.

6 CLERK: Richards.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.

8 CLERK: Rose.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: [off mic] Aye.

10 CLERK: Rosenthal.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [off mic] Aye.

12 [on mic] Oh, wait a minute. Sorry. I would like to

13 vote aye on all Call-ups with permission, I'd like to

14 vote on all coupled general orders and resolutions.

15 I vote aye. Thank you.

16 CLERK: Salamanca.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: [off mic]

18 Yes.

19 CLERK: Torres.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye.

21 CLERK: Treyger.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.

23 CLERK: Vacca.

24

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I vote aye, and
3 I'd like permission to vote aye on all general call-
4 up items and resolutions.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Okay.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I vote aye.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

8 CLERK: Vallone.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

10 CLERK: Williams

11 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Good morning,

12 sir. (sic)

13 CLERK: Matteo. Speaker Mark-Viverito.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I vote aye.

15 [background comments]

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
17 chambers. We'll now hear--

18 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Please
19 keep it down.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
21 chambers. Today's Land Use Call-ups were adopted by
22 a vote of 45 in the affirmative and 0 in the
23 negative, and now we will hear from the Speaker
24 Melissa Mark-Viverito.

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: So I want to say
3 good afternoon to all my colleagues and I--I know the
4 Rabbi has left, but I thank him for the Invocation
5 and for reminding us that we--at least Rachel, who I
6 mentioned is the--is the woman who had the seizure
7 upstairs is being taken care of and so I definitely
8 on behalf of the Council wish her this--a good
9 recovery. I'll be following up with her tomorrow,
10 and as we all know this past week, we had a horrible
11 earthquake in Ecuador where over 400 lives were lost.
12 There was also an earthquake in Japan where at least
13 32 people were killed. In the case of Ecuador,
14 obviously thousands more were injured. A lot of
15 devastation that has happened in both. So I want to
16 ask my colleagues that you recognize and remember and
17 keep those in our thoughts, those who were killed,
18 injured or otherwise impacted by these two recent
19 earthquakes in Ecuador and Japan and definitely our
20 thoughts and prayers over all the victims of both
21 these tragic disasters. So today on our agenda,
22 we're going to be voting on legislation, which will
23 amend the filing fees for permits from the Department
24 of Buildings. Under this bill, permit fees would
25 decrease for one, two or three-family homes, and

2 increase for larger building. In addition, this law
3 will allow the Department of Buildings to increase
4 permit fees in the future offset future costs.
5 Additionally, the Council will be voting on two bills
6 to extend the tax exemption and abatement program for
7 renovations in residential buildings. The program
8 commonly known as J51 expired on June 30th of 2015.
9 These bills will extend the program through June 30th
10 of 2019.

11 On staff--for the staff I want to thank
12 Jeffrey Baker, ED Adkin, Jim Wilcox, Megan Chin,
13 Diego Patino, Jose Conde, Sara Gastelum, and Council
14 Williams as the sponsor of both bills, and I'll ask
15 him to say a few words.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER Williams. Thank you Madam
17 Speaker for your leadership on--on all of these
18 bills. I'm pleased to sponsor Intro No. 831 and
19 Intro 1118 and 1119, also at the--the request of
20 Mayor. Intro 831 essentially reduces fine and permit
21 fees [coughs] to DOB for smaller buildings, increased
22 fees for larger ones. They said in the press
23 conference decreasing new buildings and alteration
24 filing fees will lessen the financial burden on the
25 smaller building owners, and encourage the

2 maintenance of their properties. There is an
3 increase in fees for larger developments including as
4 what--included as well. Permit fees have not been
5 addressed or touched or even looked at since 1991.
6 It was about time that they were looked at and
7 adjusted particularly for the amount of work that is
8 done in the DOB and the amount of--amount of
9 continued work that we ask for them to do. In doing
10 so would modernize the fee structure without
11 burdening our small building owners. I want to thank
12 Speaker and her team along with the staff of the
13 Housing Committee for moving the bills, including
14 Laura Popa, Matt Gewolb, Jeff Baker, Ed Adkin, Jen
15 Alcox. [background noise] Megan Chin, Guillermo
16 Patino, Jose Conde. I also want to thank Nick Smith,
17 my Deputy Chief of Staff from my office. I'm also
18 pleased about J51. It reduces the taxable assessed
19 value, which is the basis for calculating real
20 estates and reduces the tax--actual tax that has been
21 charged against a property. As we are passing this
22 today, it's important for me to note that I--I very
23 much look forward to quickly continuing the
24 conversation with the Administration and stakeholders
25 on how we can improve the program. I look forward to

2 having that discussion very soon. I want to thank
3 the Speaker and her team and the Housing Committee
4 including all the people I already mentioned. Thank
5 you very much.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you and
7 next we're going to be voting on legislation to Amend
8 the Displaced Building Service Workers Law, a policy
9 that was enacted in 2002 in response to the September
10 11th attacks. This law protects the job security of
11 building service workers whose jobs may be at risk
12 from buildings that change ownership. The current
13 law requires employers or building service workers to
14 retain their workers for 90 days when there is any
15 change in ownership of the building, or in the
16 contract of providing services. After 90 days
17 workers must be evaluated and those workers deemed
18 satisfactory must be offered continued
19 employment. This legislation would also amend the
20 law to cover employers who are tenants in these
21 buildings. Additionally, as this law has not been
22 updated in 14 years, this bill increases the maximum
23 amount that an employee can make and still be covered
24 by this law from \$25 per hour to \$35 per hour, and
25 requires that this number be annually adjusted for

2 inflation. For the staff, I want to thank Matt
3 Carlin, Gafar Zaaloff, Candice(sic) Stephenson and
4 Robert and Robert Newman. Robert Cornegy is the lead
5 sponsor of this bill, and I would ask him to say a
6 few words.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: [off mic] Wait,
8 wait. [on mic] thank you, Madam Speaker. The
9 original Displaced Building Service Workers Act
10 passed in 2002 and has been cited as a model for
11 other legislation in New York City and across the
12 country. But like key pieces of physical
13 infrastructure, important laws sometimes need
14 maintenance to remain strong. Intro 1004 will update
15 the Displaced Building Service Workers Act to ensure
16 that it remains effective in the years to come.
17 Building service workers and their families are still
18 working of and in need of reasonable protections to
19 keep their jobs secure at times of transition. This
20 bill takes into account the higher cost of living
21 that building service workers and all New Yorkers are
22 affected by, and extends displacement protections to
23 cover workers earning up to \$35 an hour. It also
24 expands the types of workplaces covered by adding
25 major commercial lessees and transitions into in-

2 sourcing and/or outsource of maintenance work. I'm
3 proud to be the bill's prime sponsor, and that this
4 Council has acted to ensure that this model law does
5 not become obsolete. It's also wonderful that a
6 total of 40 members have signed on as sponsors and
7 that's a landslide. I'd like to thank Speaker
8 Melissa Mark-Viverito and Civil Service and Labor
9 Committee Chair Daneek Miller for supporting this
10 bill and for devoting staff resources to bringing it
11 to the floor. In particular, Matt Carlin's work on
12 this bill was instrumental in getting us to this
13 place and, of course, I relied on the assistance of
14 my own Legislative Director Dinah Shore Gross.
15 Finally, I'd like to recognize and congratulate 32BJ
16 members, leadership and staff. You are united in
17 fighting for these changes, and I'm so proud to have
18 worked alongside you and your be--and on your behalf
19 to get it done. Thank you.

20 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you. Next,
21 we're voting on legislation to require support
22 services--service agencies such as the Human
23 Resources Administration, Department of Homeless
24 Services and Department of Education to develop a
25 coordinated multi-agency plan to provide services in

2 priority areas. [coughs] Often times, underlying
3 problems in a community such as homelessness,
4 unemployment and drug and alcohol abuse contribute to
5 higher crime rates. Residents in these communities
6 may face extra difficulties maintaining independence
7 or improving quality of life without supportive and
8 coordinated support services. The hope is by
9 addressing the underlying problems, crime levels will
10 decrease. This legislation will help agencies target
11 areas most in need, and will ensure that sufficient
12 support services are available where they are most
13 needed. Under the bill, the New York City Police
14 Department would annually identify the top 35
15 priority areas in the city where issues such as
16 homelessness or drug abuse are contributing to high
17 levels of crime, and share that information with the
18 Mayor, the Council and support service agencies.
19 This information will be used in developing a
20 strategy to better serve the needs of those
21 communities. Staff, I want to thank Deepa Ambekar,
22 Beth Golub, Laurie--Laurie Wenn and Ellen Eng, and
23 Council Member Gibson is the sponsor of this bill and
24 I would ask her to say a few words.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you very
3 much, Madam Speaker, Madam Public Advocate,
4 colleagues. Good afternoon. I am truly proud to
5 sponsor Intro 809-A, and I'm thankful for the Speaker
6 and all of my colleagues and staff who have truly
7 worked extremely hard on this important bill. This
8 bill will require the development and implementation
9 of a multi-agency plan to further drive down crime by
10 coordinating targeted social services in many of our
11 most vulnerable neighborhoods across our city. We
12 know that decreasing crime in our community goes way
13 beyond the traditional work of law enforcement. We
14 know also that criminal activity does not happen in a
15 vacuum, and occurs more frequently in areas of high
16 poverty and low opportunity. By examining city
17 agencies' work in high crime areas, and legislating
18 their increased coordination, this bill and this City
19 Council will be innovating a new method of fighting
20 crime that will yield a safer and healthier city of
21 New York. Specifically, Intro 809-A will create a
22 multi-step plan that will be carried out annually by
23 the NYPD, the City Council the Mayor's Office and
24 relevant city agencies. First, the NYPD will
25 identify the top 35 areas within our city that have

2 experienced the highest number of major felonies in
3 the previous year. Using this data, support service
4 agencies will then be required to report on the
5 services offered in the identified high crime
6 neighborhoods in which greater than 20% of the
7 population is below the poverty line. The
8 Administration will use this information to provide
9 increased social support, and better coordinate anti-
10 crime and anti-poverty efforts within these high
11 crime areas addressing the root underlying causes of
12 crime and improving the overall quality of life. I'm
13 extremely proud to sponsor this bill, and certainly
14 working with all of my colleagues spearheading our
15 ongoing efforts to ensure that public safety remains
16 a top priority. I thank our Speaker Melissa Mark-
17 Viverito for her commitment to a holistic approach to
18 criminal justice and all of my colleagues who have
19 sponsored this bill. I especially want to recognize
20 Council Member Ritchie Torres for his continued
21 support. I want to thank our City Council
22 Legislative staff including Laura Popa, Matt Gewolb,
23 Rachel Cordero, Deepa Ambekar, Beth Golub, Laurie
24 Wenn, Ellen Eng, Rob Calandra, Theo Moore, Faiza Ali,
25 Brian Crow, and my staff Kaitlyn O'Hagan and Dana Wax

2 for their efforts in getting this bill to the floor.
3 I thank all of my colleagues for their sponsorship
4 and certainly urge all of you to support this measure
5 in our ongoing efforts to recognize the need for
6 important oversight and coordination in our efforts
7 to ensure that public safety is a reality for every
8 New Yorker regardless of the neighborhood they live
9 in. Thank you once again for your support, Madam
10 Speaker.

11 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you.
12 Additionally, we're going to be voting on a modified
13 rezoning plan for East New York. This is a plan that
14 was developed of a significant period of time through
15 collaboration between the Council and the
16 Administration, local community boards in East New
17 York and residents of the neighborhood. The end
18 result is a plan that we can be very proud of. This
19 plan will significantly increase affordable housing
20 commitments in the neighborhood and will include for
21 the first time mandatory inclusionary housing. The
22 plan also includes a quarter billion dollars in
23 capital investments for the city for improving
24 schools, infrastructure and community spaces for the
25 residents of East New York. I definitely want to

2 thank Raju Mann, the Land Use Department division for
3 all of their help and will ask Council Member
4 Espinal, whose--the zoning this is in, the district
5 and--and Council Member Greenfield and Richards to
6 then say a few words starting off with Council Member
7 Espinal.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Thank you, Madam
9 Speaker. The East New York Community Plan that we
10 are voting on today is not the plan that was proposed
11 by City Planning so many months ago. It is a much,
12 much better plan and it was made better by the
13 tireless advocacy of my community including the
14 Coalition for Community Advancement who worked from
15 day one to make sure the Administration explored
16 every option to increase affordability and prevent
17 displacement. This process is deeply personal to me
18 because as many of you are already aware, I'm not just
19 an elected official who represents this community in
20 the Council, I have also lived in Cypress Hills my
21 entire life and continue to do so. My family story
22 is very similar to a lot of those who live in the
23 community. My parents immigrated to this country
24 from the Dominican Republic and worked as government
25 workers in industrial business areas making an

2 average of \$30 to \$40,000 a year where they were able
3 to save up money and buy a two-family home and raise
4 six children in Cypress Hills of East New York. Over
5 the years, I alongside my neighbors lived to witness
6 decades of disinvestment by city and state
7 administrations. But through the struggles of drugs
8 and crime, I was able to see the strength and
9 resilience of a close knit community who came
10 together to keep our neighborhoods going. A
11 community that historically has been the place where
12 working class and immigrant families can achieve the
13 American dream and call home. Today, our community
14 continues to be tested. The reality is that our
15 families are facing difficult times. The cost of
16 rent and mortgages are rising quickly. Because of
17 this, illegal basement apartments are a norm. Our
18 roads are in constant disrespect--disrepair, our
19 schools are overcrowded, and kids are taught in
20 trailers instead of classrooms. Unemployment in East
21 New York is double that of other neighborhoods
22 throughout Brooklyn and the City. People say this
23 plan will only speed up gentrification, but
24 gentrification is already knocking on our door. And
25 if I stood here today and announced this plan,

2 current market pressures will continue to push people
3 out. This plan is an anti-gentrification plan
4 because it invests in our communities so that our
5 residents are better protected and better prepared as
6 change inevitably comes to East New York. This will
7 provide my constituents with the tools they need to
8 stay in the neighborhood they call home. It isn't
9 just about building affordable housing, but about
10 rebuilding a neighborhood that has been neglected for
11 decades, and that takes more than just housing. It
12 takes investments in our infrastructure, parks, and
13 schools and support for our small homeowners and
14 local businesses. I fought for a better plan, and
15 I'm proud that we are going--we are voting on today
16 is a comprehensive plan that addresses the main
17 priorities. First, we are creating affordable
18 housing that's affordable to our community today. I
19 fought hard for very deep affordability. These will
20 be the most affordable units HPD has ever committed
21 to in the city, and as a result the new plan now
22 includes more units for families making below \$30,000
23 a year on public sites, an additional--an additional
24 public site where more than 100 units of affordable
25 housing will be built. A plan to make homeless

2 families making below 30% AMI back to their community
3 by funding 500 LINC vouchers, which will get them out
4 of the homeless shelters and into housing. A
5 commitment to close a homeless shelter and two
6 cluster sites and convert them to permanent
7 affordable housing, and a deep affordability option
8 at MIH ensuring that more residents at extremely low
9 incomes can get permanent affordable housing.
10 Second, we are preventing displacement by preserving
11 the affordable housing we already have, ending
12 landlord harassment and supporting our small
13 homeowners. HPD is aggressively working to renew
14 regulatory agreements for the 1,100 units that will
15 expire in the next five years, and launching a
16 Community Retrofit NYC Campaign to boost
17 participation in greenhousing preservation program
18 for small buildings. To combat tenant harassment,
19 the Administration has agreed to extend the legal
20 services offered to tenants from two years to five
21 years. To support my small homeowners who make up
22 the majority of my community, the Administration has
23 agreed to a homeowner help desk specifically for East
24 New York with financial and legal counselors to help
25 homeowners modify mortgages, prevent foreclosures,

2 access home repair and weatherization loans, and
3 address scams such a deed thefts. They have also
4 committed--they have also committed convening a
5 working group to study how to legalize basement units
6 in East New York and with it \$12 million to fund
7 conversions or other home repairs. They are boosting
8 programs that assist with water (sic) relief, and
9 down payment assistance for low-income home buyers,
10 and they are supporting our effort to establish a
11 cease and desist zone to stop harassment of
12 homeowners by unscrupulous speculators.

13 Third, I said this plan was to protect
14 our small businesses and create good quality jobs.
15 This plan includes funding to improve our commercial
16 corridors, legal assistance for small businesses to
17 help them renew long-term leases; a retail
18 preservation program by providing affordable
19 commercial spaces for mom and pop shops, something
20 we've never seen in this city. Support for high road
21 retailers; a Workforce 1 Center located in East New
22 York to link our residents to jobs opportunities and
23 training, and \$16 million to improve and expand the
24 East New York Industrial Business Zone, already home
25 to 3,000 good paying jobs, with the goal that these

2 investments can create 4,000 new jobs. Finally, I
3 made it clear that we must invest in the
4 infrastructure and services every community needs,
5 our schools, our road, our community centers, and
6 parks. This plan includes more than a quarter
7 billion dollars in capital improvements to the
8 neighborhood, up over \$100 million from what was--was
9 originally proposed. It's a long list with a lot of
10 details, which everyone can read because what made
11 be--what may be the biggest concern of all is making
12 sure that all of this actually gets done. As also,
13 but this has also been addressed through this
14 process. The Administration will be working with the
15 Council to post commitments online, and allow the
16 public to check track the progress. That track--that
17 tracking mechanism combined with the legislation
18 introduced by the Speaker and the Public Advocate and
19 myself will ensure this is just not the largest
20 rezoning in New York City, but the most transparent.
21 Finally, I can't end here without thanking the
22 Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and the Council Members
23 Richards and Greenfield for their continued support
24 throughout this entire process. You guys had my back
25 when negotiations got tough, and truly play a

2 significant role in ensuring East New York got the
3 best possible deal. My community including Community
4 Boards 5 and 15, the Coalition, and many individual
5 constituents who throughout--who took valuable--
6 their--sorry. Who through their valuable input
7 helped make this plan the best possible plan we could
8 produce for the district. I would also like to thank
9 the Borough President for his support, and for his
10 many helpful suggestions. I would extend a very
11 special thanks to the Council Land Use Division
12 especially Raju Mann who I kept saying throughout the
13 process, "He's the man." James Lloyd, who have--who
14 both have worked tirelessly on this proposal as well
15 as Ramon--Ramon Martinez for his guidance, and my
16 staff Courtney Patterson, James Lloyd, Louis Brown
17 (sic) for their many, many hours of work on this
18 project, and my friends and family. And finally I
19 would--I would like to thank the Administration for
20 working with me over the last two years, and for
21 agreeing to my many requests. This is the most
22 comprehensive plan the city has ever undertaken, and
23 one that we will use as a template around the five
24 boroughs. This is the beginning of a new day for us.
25 I am confident that this plan will make our

2 neighborhood the greatest and most diverse
3 neighborhood in Brooklyn. I ask my colleagues to
4 please vote aye.

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

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you,
8 Madam Speaker. You know, there's so much good in
9 this plan that we could literally all day speaking
10 about it, and not to worry, we will not. I just want
11 to highlight some of the--some of the really fabulous
12 things that Council Member Espinal negotiated, and I
13 really want to reiterate the thanks to the Speaker
14 for her support, and especially for dispatching her
15 trusted aid Ramon Martinez in the course of the
16 negotiations. You know, when you look at--when you
17 look at this plan, and you look at the fact that
18 there are going to be 1,300 units of deeply
19 affordable housing, and that housing is going to be
20 built first before any other housing, that alone is
21 unprecedented. Then, if you look at the fact that
22 50% of the housing on the public sites will be under
23 50% AMI, never had that before in the city. When
24 you're talking about the fact that 15% of those will
25 be under 30 AMI, where a working mom is making \$11.00

2 an hour and works 40 hours a week, can rent a brand
3 new two-bedroom apartment for \$600 a month, that's
4 really--that's really astounding. And once again, I
5 really want to acknowledge the hard work and the
6 sleepless nights of Council Member Rafael Espinal who
7 really consistently worked and pushed. And it came
8 to a point where we hit such low levels of
9 affordability that we actually heard from not-for-
10 profits affordable housing developers who told us we
11 simply can't go any lower. And that--that just
12 speaks to the level of achievement over here. We
13 literally have done as much as we could. And the
14 other thing I think is worth flagging as well, and to
15 me this is--a critical point is there is going to be
16 \$267 million in capital improvements to these
17 communities. These are communities that incidentally
18 have been ignored for decades by a variety of
19 different administrations, and today Council Member
20 Espinal and this Council and the Speaker are righting
21 that wrong by bringing the necessary improvements to
22 those neighborhoods that quite frankly have not seen
23 improvements that they've needed for years. So I
24 really want to congratulate Council Member Espinal.
25 I want to thank the Speaker for her leadership. I

2 also would like to thank our outstanding Land Use
3 staff including Raju Mann and Amy Levitan and Julie
4 Lubin and Dylan Casey and James Lloyd. I will just
5 say that Council Member Espinal is fortunate to have
6 two fabulous staff members, Courtney Patterson and
7 Lloyd Louis Brown (sic) is working with them. I
8 think it's also important to acknowledge that this is
9 not in an vacuum. This is over a decade of work by
10 the Department of City Planning. I want to thank
11 Win--Winston Von Engel, who is actually the original
12 architect of this plan, and currently the director as
13 well. And also, would like to reiterate my thanks to
14 Ramon Martinez for his support, and also to Emma Wolf
15 and John Paul Lupo for negotiating with us in good
16 faith. This literally is the best affordable housing
17 plan for a community in the history of the city of
18 New York, and I'm proud to have been a part of this.
19 Thank you.

20 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
21 Council Member. Council Member Richards.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Thank you so
23 much, Speaker, and I just want to congratulate
24 Council Member Espinal, who really went to the very
25 end of the earth to make sure that East New York was

2 going to receive the particular capital improvement
3 that they've deserved a long time ago like so many
4 other communities of color in this city. Most of us
5 know where all the money was going in the past. It
6 was going to Manhattan. No offense to Manhattan.
7 Well, certain parts of Manhattan, but the--the
8 disinvestment in communities like East New York. And
9 remember touring with Council Member Espinal some
10 time last year, and just seeing how much the city
11 abandoned this particular part of Brooklyn, and now
12 to see today that we are righting that wrong is much
13 more than a step in the right direction. We're not
14 just building housing here. We are investing in what
15 most communities and--and in every particular person
16 wants in this city, good--good schools, more schools,
17 more infrastructure, good parks, and it's not too
18 much to ask for. So I'm very happy to stand with
19 Espinal. I just want to acknowledge our unsung
20 heroes who really were in the room fighting tooth and
21 nail to make sure that we got the best deal for this
22 community and that Raju Mann and that the Land--and
23 all of the Land Use staff, Ramon Martinez, Land Use
24 Chair David Greenfield. And today, once again, we
25 are righting a wrong and this is the first step in

2 the right direction in moving money to communities
3 like this. We have a lot more re-zonings to go, and
4 we don't--we're not going to take our feet off the
5 pedal here in ensuring that we right the wrongs that
6 have been happening in this city for a long time.
7 God bless you, Council Member Espinal, and you did
8 not gentrify your neighborhood. You harnessed it and
9 captured a lot of the affordability that would have
10 been lost if we did nothing here in the first place.
11 Congratulations.

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
13 Council Member, and finally, we're voting on
14 legislation that will require automated external
15 defibrillators to be present at any city-owned field
16 where youth leagues play baseball games. These
17 defibrillators as well as training in their use, will
18 be provided to the leagues by the city. The leading
19 cause of death among young athletes is cardiac
20 arrest, and automatic external defibrillators help
21 return the heart to a normal rhythm and save lives.
22 It's especially important to have these devices at
23 baseball fields because cardiac arrest for young
24 people can be caused by blunt trauma such as when a
25 player is hit in the chest by a baseball. Under this

2 bill, youth leagues would be required to bring
3 defibrillators to games and practices as well as to
4 make efforts to ensure that a trained coach or umpire
5 is present. This is a bill that can save lives, and
6 that's more than just an abstract concept. About a
7 year ago, the son of a Council staffer was hit by a
8 pitch while playing baseball and went into cardiac
9 arrest. Thankfully, there was a defibrillator
10 available at the field and trained coaches ready to
11 respond. His coaches used the defibrillator and save
12 his life, but we need to ensure that other young
13 athletes in our city have this life saving tool
14 available, and that's why we're bringing this
15 legislation to a vote today. I want to thank David
16 Seitzer, Crystal Pond, Robert Newman, Janette
17 Merrill. Steve Matteo, our Minority Leader, has been
18 a really strong advocate, and leader on this matter,
19 and I'm very proud that we're standing with him today
20 on this. I would like him to say a few words about
21 the bill followed by Council Member Johnson, Chair of
22 our Public--of Health Committee.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Thank you, Madam
24 Speaker. Today, we are voting on Intro 902-A, a life
25 saving piece of legislation, which will dramatically

2 expand access of AEDs at baseball games and practice
3 fields held on city-owned fields. Unfortunately,
4 many of us have read or heard of stories of
5 individuals falling victim to cardiac arrest on a
6 field of public space. Since the beginning of the
7 last decade, this Council has been the leading in New
8 York on expanding access to life saving AEDs. My
9 predecessor announced Staten Island Borough President
10 James Oddo will champion this cause as media reports
11 of people dying from cardiac arrest began to mount.
12 That caused looked lost with the City's acquisition
13 of AEDs was cut post 9/11, but he persevered. He
14 authored and passed Local Law 20 of '05, which
15 required the installation of AEDs across public
16 places. Unfortunately, at the time, part of through
17 a compromise with the Bloomberg Administration so
18 Parks Department fields were mostly exempted from
19 these requirements. Even in the fields the agency
20 chose for AED placement, the AEDs were often locked
21 away in administrative buildings beyond the reach of
22 teams playing or practicing on parks' fields. This
23 Council began to address that in--inequity last year
24 by funding my suggested Beating Hearts Initiative,
25 which is successfully providing over 200 AEDs and

2 training sessions to all not-for-profit leagues
3 throughout the city. However, since '05 we have seen
4 some young people die on fields and others saved due
5 to league specific requirements for AEDs in training.
6 The sad fact is that the youngest are statistically
7 more likely than any other age demographic to fall
8 victim to cardiac arrest and those playing baseball
9 are even more so. It makes sense that with limited
10 resources, we target our efforts toward the
11 population that are most in need of this public
12 health investment. Time is of the essence in
13 situations like these. A trained person on scene
14 with AED can truly mean the difference between life
15 and death, and children are vulnerable when it--it is
16 a league game or just the practice. The chance for
17 someone to get hurt does not change just because an
18 umpire happens to be on the field. We have a moral
19 obligation to our kids when they're on public fields
20 to provide them with the security they need to plain
21 safety and in health. Much like Local Law 20, this
22 legislation does not meet the entire public health
23 challenge that this issue represents, but it does
24 build on existing foundations. It is an excellent
25 first step after the success of past legislation

2 towards making AEDs accessible where they are most
3 needed. It is my hope that we can work together with
4 the Administration to do more in the future, but I
5 believe that Intro 902-A is a victory for public
6 health and young people in New York. With the
7 passage of this legislation, we will finally start
8 again to bridge the AED gap. The City will mandate
9 the presence of AEDs and trained individuals at
10 baseball games and practices held at parks and DCAS
11 owned baseball fields. It will also provide the
12 funding for AEDs and trainings so that Little Leagues
13 run mostly by parent volunteers will not bear the
14 cost. We struggled for many months to make this bill
15 the right fit for the need we knew was there. The
16 placement of AEDs on baseball fields could see the
17 devices fall victim to vandals or the elements or
18 forcing agencies to constantly check for maintenance
19 issues like replacing the pads and batteries. It
20 created a logistical nightmare. At the same time, we
21 did not want to saddle leagues often run by parents
22 and volunteers with the cost of purchasing AEDs and
23 setting up training sessions. Thanks to a
24 cooperative effort, we have a program that creates
25 AED access on the city-owned fields without burdening

2 leagues with the expense, or at the same time not
3 saddling the city with the onerous logistical
4 responsibilities of ensuring the presence, security
5 and accessibility of AEDs in good working order at
6 every site. There are many people I want to thank.
7 First and foremost, this legislation was made
8 possible in large part because of the leadership and
9 early and constant support of my good friend, Health
10 Committee Chair Corey Johnson who co-sponsored this
11 Intro with me, and made this cause his own as much as
12 much as it was mine. I want to thank our Speaker for
13 her backing on this issue from day one, her support
14 in ensuring this legislation got the attention it
15 deserved. I also have to thank the Administration
16 for working with me to make this program a reality,
17 and ensuring that this will be fully funded by the
18 next fiscal year. Finally, I want to thank the staff
19 that put their time and energy into this effort.
20 From my office David Carr and Peter Spencer, Chair
21 Johnson's Legislative Director Louis Brown and, of
22 course from our central staff Rob Newman, David
23 Seitzer and Matt Gewolb. Rob's son was saved not too
24 long ago because of an AED, and I am glad that I have
25 chance to work with him on this issue as both a

2 staffer and now as a member. This legislation is
3 very simple. It's about saving lives. I hope and
4 ask that you vote in favor of this bill, and I thank
5 you in advance for your support.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Council Member
7 Johnson.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam
9 Speaker. [coughs] Today the City Council under the
10 leadership of our colleague Council Member and
11 Minority Leader Steve Matteo is taking action on an
12 important issue of public health. The simple fact
13 that requiring defibrillators at baseball fields
14 where youth leagues play will save lives. The
15 American Academy of Pediatrics finds that children
16 between the ages of 5 and 14 years of age may be
17 uniquely vulnerable to blunt chest impact because
18 their chest walls are more elastic and more easily
19 compressed. An AED is the only effective treatment
20 for restoring irregular heart rhythm during sudden
21 cardiac arrest, and it's an easy to operate tool for
22 someone with no medical background. Having an AED
23 available can mean the difference between life and
24 death. For each minute defibrillation is delayed,
25 the chance of survival is reduced by approximately

2 10%. As the Minority Leader mentioned, a Council
3 staffer's son approximately a year ago was hit in the
4 chest at a baseball game in Central Park, and luckily
5 there was an AED on site. If there was not an AED on
6 site that day, the consequences could have been very,
7 very dire. Last year, on opening day many of us in
8 the Council went to our Little League Opening Days a
9 few weeks ago on opening day on the South Shore of
10 Staten Island--the South Shore of Staten Island
11 Little League a young man named Claudio Bono was hit
12 in the chest with a baseball, and suffered a heart
13 attack and passed away. This legislation is in him--
14 his memory in order to prevent additional tragedies.
15 As the Minority Leader said, the Council took action
16 on this over a decade ago under now Borough President
17 Jimmy Oddo, then Minority Leader Council Member
18 Matteo was his Chief of Staff, and worked on this
19 legislation then, and I really thank him for his
20 friendship, and for being able to work on this
21 together. I believe that we're going to save lives,
22 and I think the Council should be very proud of this
23 day. I also want to thank my Legislative Director
24 Louis Cholden-Brown; Committee Counsel David Seitzer;
25 Committee Analyst Crystal Pond, Matt Gewolb, Laura

2 Popa and Rob Newman from the Legislative Division,
3 and from the Minority Leader's Office, Peter Spencer
4 and his Chief of Staff David Carr. I urge my
5 colleagues to vote aye.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
7 Council Member. We have one addition bit of news
8 today. As I'm sure most of you know, this Friday is
9 Earth Day, and as we prepare to celebrate Earth Day,
10 I'm proud to announce that the Council is beginning a
11 pilot program to reduce paper and integrate more
12 technology into public hearings. The first phase
13 will involve the use of Tablets to load committee
14 reports, legislation and physical impact statements.
15 As all of you know, these documents can be dozens and
16 dozens of pages long. Our first test run of this
17 will be made third at the Technology Committee
18 hearing chaired by Council Member Vacca. This is
19 something we're all very excited about, and I look
20 forward to the day in the future where we can do all
21 of our business with minimal paper use. I want to
22 thank our Public Technology Division, our Information
23 Technology Division, Legislative Division, our
24 Sergeants-at-Arms, Legislative Document Division of
25 the Office of the General Counsel for helping us make

2 this pro--pilot program a reality. It's going to be
3 out of Council Member Vacca's committee, and I'd like
4 him to say a few words. Is he here? Did he--did he
5 leave?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER: [off mic] Right.

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Oh, he left.

8 Sorry. Okay. And other news today--or another news,
9 Treasury Secretary Jack Lew announced plans today to
10 redesign the \$20 bill to feature Harriet Tubman. I
11 gave the \$10---[cheers/applause] The \$10 bill has
12 officially been off limits, but now we're talking
13 about the \$20 bill and Harriet Tubman was an African-
14 American woman born into slavery, as we all know, in
15 1822 who escaped and spent years helping others find
16 their way to freedom on a path known, most known as
17 the Underground Railroad. Ms. Tubman will be a
18 welcome addition to the \$20 bill as the first woman
19 and first person of color on our paper currently.
20 Way overdue. And finally the Jewish Holiday of
21 Passover begins on Friday and lasts until Saturday,
22 April 30th. The eight-day festival of Passover
23 commemorates the freeing of the Israelites from
24 Egypt, and is one of the most important holidays in
25 the Jewith--Jewish faith. So for everyone who will

2 be celebrating Passover starting on Friday night, my
3 best wishes for a joyous and meaningful Passover, and
4 [Speaking foreign language] to everyone. Thank you
5 every very much, and that ends Communication from the
6 Speaker.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
8 Harriet Tubman was truly a very inspiring woman.
9 Now, discussion of General Orders. Seeing none,
10 Report of Special Committees.

11 CLERK: None.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reports of
13 Standing Committees.

14 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Civil
15 Service and Labor, Intro 1004-A, Displaced Building
16 Service workers.

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and
18 coupled on General Orders.

19 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
20 Finance, Preconsidered Reso 1040, Organization
21 funding.

22 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
23 General Orders.

24

25

2 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
3 Health, Intro 902-A, Defibri--Defibrillators at
4 baseball fields.

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

7 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
8 Housing and Buildings Intro 831-A, Permit Filing
9 Fees.

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

12 CLERK: Intro 1118, Multiple Dwellings
13 Tax Exemption.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
15 General Orders.

16 CLERK: Intro 1119, Tax Abatement.

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
18 General Orders.

19 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land
20 Use, LU 341 through LU 344, East New York Rezoning.

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Approved and
22 modifications and referred to the City Planning
23 Commission pursuant to Rule 11.70-b of the Rules of
24 the Council and Section 197-d of the New York City
25 Charter.

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2 CLERK: [coughs] Excuse me. LU 348 and
3 Reso 1043, Lease Disposition.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
5 General Orders.

6 CLERK: LU 349 and Reso 1044, HPD
7 Application.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
9 General Orders.

10 CLERK: LU 353 and Reso 1045--

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
12 [shushing for quiet]

13 CLERK: --Property Tax Exemption.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
15 General Orders.

16 CLERK: LU 354 and Reso 1046, Sidewalk
17 Cafe.

18 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
19 General Orders.

20 CLERK: LU 355 and Reso 1047, Zoning
21 Amendment.

22 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
23 General Orders.

24 CLERK: LU 356 and Reso 1048, Property
25 Tax Exemption.

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2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
3 General Orders.

4 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Public
5 Safety, Intro 809-A, Delivery of Social Services.

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

8 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Rules,
9 Privileges and Elections, M 388 and Reso 1049
10 approving the re-appointment of Frank V. Caron, Taxi
11 and Limousine Commission.

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
13 General Orders.

14 CLERK: M 389 and Reso 1050 approving the
15 Lauvienska Palanco, Taxi and Limousine Commission.

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
17 General Orders.

18 CLERK: M 390 and Reso 1051 approving the
19 appointment of Jeanne Lutfy to the Landmarks
20 Preservation Commission.

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
22 General Orders.

23 CLERK: Preconsidered M 392 and Reso 1052
24 approving the appointment of Manuel Miranda, Art
25 Commission.

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2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
3 General Orders.

4 CLERK: Preconsidered M 394--

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
6 [shushing for quiet]

7 CLERK: --and Reso 1053 approving the re-
8 designation of Joseph A. Puma, Civilian Complaint
9 Review Board.

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
11 General Orders.

12 CLERK: General Order Calendar, LU 341
13 and Reso 1054 through LU 344 and Reso 1057.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
15 General Orders.

16 CLERK: Resolution appointing various
17 persons commissioner of deeds.

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

22 CLERK: Espinal.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I vote aye on
24 all.

25 CLERK: Barron.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: May I be excused
3 to explain my vote?

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. I do
6 want to commend my colleague Council Member Espinal
7 and the staff that has worked so diligently to get
8 some accommodations to the original plan, but this
9 plan that's designed for half of the 6,000 units that
10 are coming in that you are designating as affordable
11 does not go deep enough nor--

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
13 [shushing for quiet]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: --nor include
15 those--

16 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [off mic] Quiet
17 please.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: --efforts of my
19 community that they have stated numerous times they
20 want to see. About four years ago, the feds paid for
21 the study that they called this a sus--a sustainable
22 study of the Transit Hub, and in their report, which
23 is included in HPD's documents, they said that these
24 programs result in the fact that there is an increase
25 in the terms of the--what we call re-gentrification.

2 The report itself says that that is a bi-product of
3 these kinds of studies. In my community we have high
4 measures of homelessness. There's the working homes.
5 There's the rent burden, which is 82% of my
6 community, and this plan does not go deep enough in
7 that 25% of my community earns less than \$15,000, and
8 they would not be reached by this plan. And this
9 plan will go up as high as \$90,000 in this scam of
10 what they say they need to do to counteract what's at
11 the lower end. The community board has not accepted
12 the plan. The set--the FEIS still has elements in it
13 that are not remediated, which you can look at and
14 you can see what that is. And there is no guarantee
15 that developers will participate in building
16 affordable housing if they don't want those
17 subsidies. So, for those reasons, I'm voting in the
18 negative for 341 with Reso 1054 and Land Use 344 with
19 Reso 1057. Thank you.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

21 CLERK: Borelli.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye on all
23 except Intro 1004, and I just want to say how happy I
24 am we've taken the \$10 bill for a--a good Republican
25 so

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [laughs]

3 CLERK: Chin.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye on all.

5 CLERK: Cohen.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: I vote aye on all

7 Call-Ups and all General Orders. Than you.

8 CLERK: Constantinides.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye on
10 all.

11 CLERK: Cornegy.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye on all.

13 CLERK: Crowley.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye on all.

15 CLERK: Cumbo.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.

17 CLERK: Deutsch.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye on all.

19 CLERK: Dickens.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

21 CLERK: Dromm.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

23 CLERK: Eugene.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

25 CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: With
3 permission, I'd like to explain my vote.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: I just
6 wanted to first thank--congratulate Council Member
7 Espinal for his vote--for his project today, and
8 being able to put this forth in the Council. And
9 Land Use processes are complicated, and I'm sure that
10 there are those that are unhappy with this plan, but
11 he worked on a plan that was the most beneficial for
12 his community. But I'd also like to take this
13 opportunity to thank our Minority Leader who really
14 led the efforts with the AED. Just last week some
15 firefighters saved a community leader in my community
16 who began to have a heart attack, and was saved by
17 the AED unit that the fire--that the firefighters
18 were able to use on him. And because of that, a week
19 later we celebrated his 69th birthday. So I think
20 these are life saving measures and very important,
21 and I'm glad to be able to have the--be able to work
22 with him, and on this budget process so that we're
23 able to save lives. Thank you and I vote aye.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

25 CLERK: Garodnick.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

3 CLERK: Gentile.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye on all.

5 CLERK: Gibson.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Permission to
7 explain my vote.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you, Madam
10 Public Advocate. I, too, want to recognize and
11 congratulate all of our colleagues who are passing
12 bills today, Council Member Cornegy, Minority Leaders
13 Matteo, Council Member Johnson and Council Member
14 Williams, and certainly as it relates to the East New
15 York Neighborhood Rezoning, I certainly want to thank
16 Chair Greenfield and Chair Richards and certainly
17 Council Member Espinal. It's not a--an easy process,
18 but certainly Council Member Espinal remained
19 committed, consistent and compassionate in
20 recognizing--

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
22 [shushing for quiet]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: --that this plan
24 is not just about building housing, but certainly
25 building communities and making sure that residents

2 that were born and raised in East New York have the
3 ability to remain. So, I know it was not easy.
4 Thank you, colleague, for starting us on the process.
5 For those that have neighborhood re-zonings coming
6 down the pipeline, this is certainly a great model
7 that many of us are going to be looking at as we work
8 with all stakeholders to develop our own neighborhood
9 re-zonings to make sure that affordability is
10 realized for many families across our city. So
11 congratulations, Council Member Espinal, and I am
12 proud to vote ayes on all. Thank you.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

14 CLERK: Greenfield.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thanks. May
16 I explain my vote?

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you
19 very much. I, too, would like to congratulate
20 Council Members Cornegy, Johnson and Williams for
21 their legislation, and I especially want to
22 congratulate our Minor--Minority Leader Steve Matteo.
23 It's not every day that we pass life saving
24 legislation around here. So that's really fantastic.
25 I also want to acknowledge that in the appointments

2 and reappointments we have an exceptionally qualified
3 individual in Frank Carone and his reappointment to
4 the TLC. I want to congratulate him, and I was very
5 impressed having met with Jean Lutfy and her
6 appointment to the Landmarks Preservation Commission.
7 I want to thank everyone. I want to congratulate
8 once again my dear friend Council Member Rafael
9 Espinal for his historic achievement, and I wish
10 everybody a happy Passover [Speaking foreign
11 language] and I vote aye on all.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

13 CLERK: Grodenchik.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: [off mic]

15 Aye.

16 CLERK: Johnson.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Permission,
18 please?

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: I want to
21 congratulate my colleague and good friend Council
22 Member Rafael Espinal. He worked doggedly throughout
23 this process, and today is a big achievement, but I
24 really want to highlight I think one of the--the
25 nominees that we are voting on today for the Civilian

2 Complaint Review Board. Joseph Puma is one of the
3 members who has been recommended by the Manhattan
4 Delegation. He is an openly gay man. He is a
5 resident of public housing. He lives in Council
6 Member Mendez's district. I think he has been a
7 great addition to the CCRB--

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
9 [shushing for quiet]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: --and I'm really
11 glad that we are getting him back on the CCRB. He is
12 a great, great person who I think is a--just the
13 right type of choice that we should have on the CCRB.
14 With that, I vote aye on all.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

16 CLERK: Kallos.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Permission to
18 explain my vote?

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I just want to
21 congratulate Council Member Espinal on negotiating a
22 very strong rezoning. I think on e particular piece
23 that most New Yorkers are afraid of is that the
24 rezoning comes in and in--in with the rezoning come
25 the super scrapers and the overdevelopment, and I

2 just want to congratulate him on getting contextual
3 zoning. Additionally, as part of development we also
4 end up seeing overcrowding, and in addition he's also
5 fought to get 1,000 new school seats. In addition,
6 he's also fought for deeper affordability for all to
7 protect his community, and for those reasons, I vote
8 aye on all, and I wish everyone a [Speaking foreign
9 language] Passover. This coming Friday evening on
10 Earth Day is the Jewish holiday for freedom from when
11 we had our exodus from slavery in Egypt. And so, we
12 will be singing and celebrating and hope that all
13 enjoy their Passover.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

15 CLERK: Koslowitz.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I vote--vote
17 aye.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

19 CLERK: Lancman. Lander.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Congratulations
21 Council Members Espinal, Cornegy and especially to
22 Matteo and Johnson, and thanks to them for working
23 with us to make sure that the defibrillator bill
24 would work for the all-volunteer leagues like those
25 in Prospect Park where it will continue to be life

2 saving. I really appreciate that. I found Cokie
3 Roberts' Op-Ed this morning. It said Elizabeth
4 Schuyler (sp?) should be the Hamilton on the \$10
5 bill. Very persuasive. It seems to me women could
6 probably have two, but congrats to Harriet Tubman as
7 well. I vote aye on all.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

9 CLERK: Levin.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I vote aye and
11 with sincere congratulations to my colleagues Rafael
12 Espinal who took on a very difficult and very large
13 rezoning project, and he took it on with--with a
14 thoroughness, and--and admiration for--I--I admire
15 him for the--for the--the thoroughness and the--the
16 responsibility they took on this issue with--to his
17 community, the community that he grew up in and that
18 his family still lives in to ensure that--that this
19 rezoning will produce the community benefits that are
20 long-term and sustainable, and--and will make a
21 difference for generations. And so, I want to
22 congratulate Council Member Espinal. I also want to
23 congratulate Council Members Matteo, and Johnson as--
24 as well as my other colleagues on the legislation
25 today, and with that, I vote aye on all.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

3 CLERK: Levine.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Permission to
5 very briefly explain my vote?

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: I want to
8 congratulate all the sponsors today including
9 Minority Leader Matteo, Council Member Johnson and
10 particularly Council Member Espinal. The amount of
11 affordability you won for your district is awe-
12 inspiring, and the way you carried yourself as a
13 leader with smarts, determination and poise. You
14 really have set a very high bar for all the many
15 colleagues who will be following you in rezonings of
16 their own districts. I want to remind Jewish Caucus
17 members we'll be meeting very briefly after the
18 State, and I want to wish everyone a [Speaking
19 foreign language] Happy Passover and [Speaking
20 foreign language]. Thank you.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

22 CLERK: Maisel.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: [off mic]

24 CLERK: Menchaca.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

3 CLERK: Mendez.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

6 CLERK: Miller.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

9 CLERK: Palma.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: [off mic] Aye.

11 CLERK: Reynoso.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Permission to
13 explain my vote?

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I offer
16 congratulations to Council Member Rafael Espinal. I
17 just want to make sure that the rest of the council
18 members that are still here know that there is a
19 debate that's going to happen right after this by a
20 school in Brooklyn and a school in the Bronx.
21 [cheers] It's going to happen right next door.
22 They're upstairs. They're a middle school MS 50 in
23 my district and MS 45 in Ritchie Torres' district.
24 So please join us, and see these spectacular kids go.

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Thank you.

3 [pause] How do you vote? [background comments] Do
4 you vote aye?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I vote aye.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you, sir.

7 CLERK: Richards.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Thank you. I
9 just want to say thank you to Harriet Tubman for
10 liberating us, liberating the \$20 bill to day, and I
11 also want to once again just congratulate Council
12 Member Espinal, and all my colleagues on a great job
13 today. With that being said, I vote aye.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

15 CLERK: Rose.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye and
17 congratulations to Council Member Matteo, and to
18 Council Member Espinal. You did a phenomenal job,
19 and set the bar really high. Thank you for your
20 effort.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

22 CLERK: Salamanca.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

25 CLERK: Torres.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Congratulations
3 to Council Member Espinal on a historic community
4 affordable housing plan, and to Brooklyn be ready for
5 defeat in the debate. [background comments/cheers]
6 With that said, I vote aye.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [laughs]

8 CLERK: Treyger.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Don't count
10 Brooklyn out.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Ah-ha.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: --says the
13 Brooklyn Delegation Co-Chair.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [laughs]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I want to
16 congratulate my colleagues on--on their very
17 important pieces of legislation today--

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
19 [shushing for quiet]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: --and I want to
21 commend Council Member Espinal for not accepting the
22 status quo, and really help usher forward a plan that
23 really is a neighborhood plan, and I truly commend
24 him for his leadership, and with that, I vote aye on
25 all.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

3 CLERK: Vallone.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on all.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

6 CLERK: Williams.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Permission to
8 explain my vote?

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Sorry.

11 [laughs] Excuse me. The--Brooklyn is definitely
12 going to win. Thank you, but I do want to
13 congratulate all the rest of my colleagues that have
14 bills today. I want to just talk about two, and my
15 congratulations to Council Member Gibson and Torres.
16 That's a fantastic bill--

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]

18 [shushing for quiet]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: --and the way
20 many of us--many of us have been discussing it, we
21 should be talking about public safety as not just a
22 law enforcement issue. So congratulate the--
23 congratulate--congratulations on that. The City
24 Council should be very proud of what you and Torres
25 did, and thank you, Speaker, for your leadership on

2 those issues. I'm voting aye on all. I do want to
3 congratulate Espinal for the work that he did. It's
4 important to note that while, of course, it's not as
5 good as--as many people want it, it actually is the
6 best that we've seen in terms of rezoning. I think
7 Council Member Espinal used actually all of the tools
8 to his disposal. There weren't additional tools
9 available for him to use. We can argue of whether
10 those tools are sharp enough or enough, but what he
11 had, it is actually a--a pretty good deal. I'm not
12 sure what else he could have gotten. Even with my
13 issues with MIH, Council Member Espinal chose two
14 options that actually did include the lowest amount
15 of AMIs that were possible. So I congratulate him on
16 that and with that I vote aye on all.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

18 CLERK: Matteo.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Thank you.

20 Today we voted on a reso--a transparency res that I'd
21 like to make a disclosure on. My brother works at
22 Richmond Universe--Richmond University Medical
23 Center. So I just want to put that on the record
24 that we funded them, and I'm vote no on Intro 1004-A
25 and aye on the rest.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

3 CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

5 [pause]

6 CLERK: The votes.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Okay. Thank you.

8 All items on today's General Order Calendar were
9 adopted by a vote of 46 in the affirmative, 0
10 negative and 0 abstentions with the exception of
11 Intro 1004-A, which was adopted by a vote of 44 in
12 the affirmative, 2 negative and 0 abstentions, and
13 Land Use 341 and Resolution 1054, which was adopted
14 by a vote of 45 in the affirmative, 1 negative and 0
15 abstentions, and Land Use 344 and Resolution 1057,
16 which was adopted by a vote of 45 in the affirmative,
17 1 negative, and 0 abstentions. The Revised Land Use
18 Call-Ups is [background comments]. Okay. The--the
19 Revised Land Use Call-Ups vote if 46 in the
20 affirmative, 0 negative and Council Member Salamanca,
21 do you want to disclose?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Yeah, I just
23 want to disclose that my wife works with the Parks
24 Department and in terms and legal and your IMO if the
25 modification.

2 FEMALE SPEAKER: On the reso.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: On the Reso.

4 I'm sorry.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Okay. Thank you.

6 Introduction and Reading of Bills.

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All bills are
8 referred to committees as indicated on the Agenda.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you, and
10 now discussion of resolutions beginning with
11 Resolution 375, a resolution calling upon New York
12 State Department of Education to include lessons on
13 climate change in K through 12 schools--schools
14 curriculum. Council Member Constantinides.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Thank
16 you, Madam Public Advocate. I'll be very brief. I
17 want to thank our Speaker for her strong
18 environmental leadership and our--and Education Chair
19 Danny Dromm--

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
21 [shushing for quiet]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: --for his
23 strong leadership in his committee. As we celebrate
24 Earth Day on Friday, we recognize that climate change
25 is one of the most serious issues facing New Yorkers

2 today. Fifteen of the hottest 16 years on record
3 have occurred after year 2000, and no one born after
4 1985 has ever known a full month below average global
5 climate. As the global temperature rises, our
6 winters and summers become longer and more extreme,
7 hurricanes and tornadoes become more powerful, and
8 higher sea levels will quite poss--possibly swallow
9 up close to homes and towns. The overwhelming
10 consensus upon scientists is that our planet is
11 warming, and that the higher temperature will cause
12 extreme and dangerous weather--extreme and more
13 dangerous weather. That is why climate changed
14 education for our children to give them the tools for
15 the 21st Century is so important. That's why we need
16 climate education in K through 12, and as President
17 Obama said, we're the first generation--

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
19 [shushing for quiet]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: --that's
21 going to be--that feels the effective climate change,
22 and we'll be the last to do anything about it. So
23 giving our children the tools that they need to
24 combat the 21st Century challenge of the climate

2 change will go a long way in training those leasers.
3 So thank you.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. We're
5 still in session. Seeing no other, now Resolution
6 1013-A, an amended resolution calling upon the city
7 of New York to make Earth Day 2016 a Car-Free Day for
8 private and all non-essential city services. Seeing
9 no speakers, we'll be--we'll first vote on Resolution
10 375 about the K through 12 school curriculum to
11 include lessons on climate change. All of those in
12 favor say aye.

13 COUNCIL MEMBERS: (in unison) Aye.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All of those
15 opposed? Any abstentions? The ayes have it. And
16 now Resolution 1013, again making Earth Day 2016 a
17 Car-Free Day. All those in favor say aye.

18 COUNCIL MEMBERS: (in unison) Aye.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All--any opposed?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: No.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [laughs] Any
22 abstentions? The ayes definitely have it. And now
23 the general discussion. I'd like to encourage my
24 colleagues to sign onto Intro No. 1171, a bill that I
25 am sponsoring with Council Member Williams. This

2 bill is part of the package of bills aimed to address
3 many of the problems that surround Three-Quarter
4 housing in New York City. This bill in particular
5 will ease access to transitional housing for
6 individuals in need of such services. I'd like to
7 thank the sponsors of the other bills in the
8 packages--in the package, Council Member Johnson,
9 Council Member Torres and Council Member Richards
10 along with a coalition of advocates who have assisted
11 in providing--inputting expertise on these bills--on
12 these bills. I urge my colleagues to sign on, and
13 now the general discussions beginning with Council
14 Member Dickens.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you Madam
16 Public Advocate. I want to draw my colleagues'--

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
18 [shushing for quiet]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: -attention to
20 Reso 1037--

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
22 [shushing for quiet] Gentlemen, we're still in
23 session. Thank you.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: --a resolution
25 introduced by Council Member Cornegy and myself.

2 Resolution 1037 calls upon the State Legislature to
3 pass, and the Governor to sign legislation that would
4 create a tax incentive for small businesses to hire
5 from within the communities in which they are
6 located. In order to provide our residents of the
7 local communities to have more opportunities to have
8 more opportunities we need to encourage the
9 surrounding businesses to hire from within. We need
10 to aggressively address unemployment in the city and
11 promote economic development within our very own
12 neighborhoods. By creating this tax incentive, small
13 businesses would be inclined to participate in hiring
14 locally. Let's strengthen our great city's diverse
15 neighborhoods and deepen commercial residence
16 investment and commitment in their communities by
17 call on the state to do their fair share, and create
18 this tax incentive. I want to thank Finances'
19 Rebecca Chasen for her work in drafting this
20 resolution, and urge my colleagues to sign onto
21 Resolution 1037. Thank you.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
23 Barron.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [pause] Once
25 again, black people have witnessed the outcome of the

2 judicial processes that places the life of a black
3 man below that of a cat or a dog. Akai Gurley's
4 convicted killer Peter Liang will serve no jail time.
5 If Police Officer Peter Liang had kicked a cat or
6 sponsored a dog fight, then perhaps a district
7 attorney and judge would have seen fit to give him
8 jail time. But no jail time is sought for killing an
9 innocent unarmed black man. This is not a tragedy
10 but a travesty. Brooklyn District Attorney Ken
11 Thompson obtained an indictment for second degree
12 manslaughter. A jury delivered a guilty verd--
13 verdict that in a shocking unprecedented move, DA
14 Thompson asked for no jail time. The family of Akai
15 Gurley says that they feel betrayed. The
16 recommendation for no jail time flies in the face of
17 a call for accountability. The fact is that Peter
18 Liang unconsciously and knowingly violated police
19 procedure by unholstering and firing his gun, causing
20 the death of an innocent unarmed black man. So even
21 though Peter Liang took a life, he should not lose
22 his liberty? Then Danny Chung does a one upmans--
23 upmanship and reduces the conviction from
24 manslaughter to criminally negligent homicide.
25 reportedly saying Peter Liang was not conscious of

2 his actions. Liang was not in a coma or a stupor when
3 he deliberately unholstered his gun, and placed his
4 finger on the trigger. He was fully aware. After
5 seeing Akai Gurley, he showed no compassion, offered
6 no assistance for medical help, and not words of
7 solace. His concerns were for himself. We expect
8 that this case would be judged on the facts specific
9 to this case: Guilty as charged with the appropriate
10 jail time. Yet, there is in this instance we see a
11 pattern. Regardless of civilian eye witnesses, video
12 footage or admissions, police officers do not go to
13 jail for killing or choking or causing the death of
14 innocent unarmed black men. Here again, we see this
15 historic system that continues the racist policies
16 and practices that devalue black life, has
17 perpetrators in all colors and ethnicities. We say
18 that justice has not been rendered, and yet again,
19 those that are placed under this system have peaked
20 under the blindfold of impartiality and objective--
21 objectivity, and placed their thumbs on the scales
22 and skewed the results against black people. We are
23 not confused.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]

25 Council Member, please conclude your remarks.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.

3 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Uh-huh.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: We do not equate
5 vengeance with justice. We say it's not fair that
6 Peter Liang should have his liberty in exchange for
7 taking the life of Akai Gurley. We're watching and
8 we want to see what recommendations the D.A. makes
9 the next time a black person is convicted of a felony
10 comes before sentence. And finally, as we talk about
11 Harriet Tubman, she has a very famous quote. She
12 said, "I freed thousands of slaves. I could have
13 freed more if they knew they were slaves."

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
15 Council Member Cornegy.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I just wanted to
17 comment on Reso 1037. I'm proud to join Council
18 Member Dickens as an original co-sponsor of the
19 resolution to authorize a new tax credit for small
20 businesses that hire locally. She's always been a
21 champion for small businesses, particularly MBEs and
22 this resolution is the latest example. I want to
23 point out that we're not expecting that this tax
24 credit would greatly change small business behavior.
25 Small businesses already tend to hire where they're

2 located because it benefits them to do so. So we
3 won't be creating any new burdens or limiting hiring
4 in any way. Rather, this resolution would
5 meaningfully recognize the important work small
6 businesses do by providing jobs to local residents
7 and reward them for it. This idea is both resident
8 and small business supportive, and I'm proud to--to
9 be advocating for it. I hope many of my colleagues--
10 colleagues will join us by signing on today.

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

13 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you. I
14 want to call my colleagues to Intro 1171, I'm proud
15 to sponsor this package of legislation-- I'm sorry.
16 Intro 1170. Public Advocate I spoke about 1171. I'm
17 proud to sponsor this bill with Council Member
18 Eugene, legislation to require the Department of
19 Education to report the agency's compliance with
20 American's with Disabilities. The ADA applies to all
21 programs, activities offered by school. We must make
22 sure the students in our schools are protected, and
23 the only way to know is to know for sure. So DOH
24 will report the compliance. I do want to talk about
25 the elections that occurred. My hope is that we as a

2 body will also try to find answers about what
3 happened to the elections yesterday. Both
4 Republicans and Democrats were disenfranchised and
5 it's very unfortunate. I wanted to piggyback on some
6 of the words that were said by Council Barron. She
7 was angered and disappointed by what the judge
8 lowered and already tuning an offer. I believe if it
9 had been a young white man in a building in Park
10 Avenue, there would be no question whether the police
11 officer was white or Asian. But the fact that it was
12 a--a poor black man in a NYCHA complex causes all
13 these confusions. I believe that the Asian community
14 has very good issues that they brought up. They
15 should be out of it. Everyone should be held
16 accounted. They shouldn't subtractive about people
17 not being held accountable. As a mater of fact, the
18 only person brought up on department charges that I
19 know of in the Eric Garner case is a female officer.
20 No one is saying she shouldn't be. Everyone is
21 saying that everyone should be. The fact of the
22 matter here is what I believe that DA Thompson did
23 was wrong. It set a precedent saying that this
24 person should not be held accountable. I'm one to
25 believe that 15 years definitely was not--should have

2 been the thing that was here, but no jail time sends
3 a terrible message to black people across the city
4 and indeed across the country. I guess you--you can
5 get something akin to that if you steal a high--high-
6 end pair of jeans from Bloomingdales, you can get
7 community service and you can get probation. [bell]
8 It's a terrible message that was sent. I'm
9 disappointed in everyone involved, and my hope is
10 that as the DA begins to appeal the--the lesser
11 charge, we also push for something that is sig--
12 significant to show that our lives actually make a--
13 mean something. Thank you.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
15 Council Member Eugene.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you very
17 much. First, let me thank and congratulate the
18 Speaker for her leadership in the fight for the
19 children and for the youth in New York City. And I
20 want to commend and congratulate her also my
21 colleagues for fighting for the children and the
22 youth in New York city. I want to take the
23 opportunity also to thank the Administration for the
24 expansion of SUNY. A wonderful and very important
25 program for the young people. But today, we--we

2 council members and advocates for the children and
3 the youth, we are very concerned about the cost for
4 the funding for summer program for the youth people,
5 for the youth and for the children. Last year, we
6 went through the same situation, but because we came
7 together advocating, the Mayor restored the funding.
8 I'm asking to all my colleagues to do the same thing.
9 Let's stay together to make sure that the Mayor
10 restore the funding for the summer program. Because
11 the summer programs are very, very important for the
12 children and for the youth. We all know that. I'm
13 not going to talk about that for a long time, but
14 because the summer program is very important not only
15 for the children, but also for the parents that
16 provide a safe and positive space where the children
17 can spend the summer while the parents are working.
18 And this is an opportunity for them also to continue
19 to learn skills, positive skills, critical skills
20 that they need to succeed in life. In addition to
21 that, we taught the summer program. There's a list
22 of learning, and those children who are going to be
23 affected the most are the children who come from very
24 low-income families. I think it is our moral
25 responsibility to provide for the children and for

2 the youth in New York City the opportunity--I say
3 that all the time--and to be sensitive to what they
4 need to grow up and to become positive and as
5 positive citizens. We have the moral obligation to
6 do everything that we can do [bell] to make sure that
7 we find the funding for the summer program for the
8 young people. Thank you very much.

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

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you. A
12 little less than a year ago, a group of us gathered
13 on the steps of City Hall to call for the Treasury
14 Department to place a woman on the \$20 bill. Just
15 before the Stated, we received the news that Harriet
16 Tubman will soon replace Andrew Jackson on the front
17 of the dollar--\$20 bill. Born a slave in Maryland,
18 Harriet Tubman escaped to freedom and then risked her
19 own freedom to help countless others escape to the
20 north via Underground Railroad, which ran through my
21 district in Staten Island I proudly would like to
22 say. Harriet Tubman served Union forces in the Civil
23 War as a scout, nurse and spy, but despite her years
24 of service, she never received a regular salary and
25 was for years denied compensation. She did not

2 receive a pension for--for her Civil War service
3 until 1899. More than a century later in 2016, the
4 fight for equal pay continues. The currency redesign
5 will not only add Harriet--Harriet Tubman to the \$20
6 bill, but will add images of women and civil rights
7 leaders to other bills in time for the 100th
8 Anniversary of the 19th Amendment. For years I have
9 encount--encouraged countless women to get more
10 involved in their communities and in government. For
11 them, especially our young women, role models are
12 important. Now, finally our nation will honor the
13 contributions of women and take this long overdue
14 step. We coming out of the shadows and onto the main
15 stage of history and I say it's about time. Thank
16 you, Madam.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
18 Dromm.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you very
20 much. I also want to remind my colleagues that this
21 debate that Council Member Reynoso had mentioned
22 earlier is part of the Middle-School Quality
23 Initiative, and I will be talking a little bit about
24 that later, and I want to mention that Deputy
25 Chancellor Weinberg will also be joining. The topic

2 of the debate is the influence of rap music on youth,
3 and MS50, which was Council Member Reynoso's middle
4 school will be arguing the pros of that argument
5 while MS 45 will be arguing the cons of that
6 argument. So I want to thank Council Member Reynoso,
7 Council Member Torres and Council Member Cornegy for
8 co-sponsoring this along with--with myself and also
9 to thank the Black-Latino-Asian Caucus for allowing
10 us to do this a half hour prior to their meeting. It
11 will be held right here in the Committee Room next
12 door. Thank you very much. Oh and I also want to
13 say that the students have been waiting here for the
14 whole time throughout the whole--the whole meeting
15 throughout the whole Stated meeting, and they've been
16 very patient and--and hopefully will show up to hear
17 them.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

19 Council Member Richards.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Thank you,
21 Public Advocate. I would like to bring your
22 attention to Intros No. 1165 and 1166. As a city we
23 need to ensure that we are doing everything in our
24 power to provide a hand up to the most vulnerable New
25 Yorkers, but that has not been happening for

2 residents of Three-Quarter Houses where the landlords
3 have exploited and abused recovering addicts and
4 homeless New Yorkers. The living conditions many of
5 these people deal with are not the productive
6 environments that they need to help them to
7 transition into a stable lifestyle. Cooping people
8 up like this an abomination, and does not show that
9 we care about these people. This is why today I am
10 introducing part of a Three-Quarters package, Intro
11 1166 in particular, which would require HRA to submit
12 to the Council and to post quarter reports on its
13 website that includes the number and type of
14 violations issued that Three-Quarter Houses inspected
15 by the task force comprised of inspectors from HRA,
16 the Department of Buildings, Fire Department and HPD.
17 The report would also include the number of beds at
18 each inspected building, the number of instances
19 which HRA stopped rental payments to landlords based
20 on the findings of the task force, and the number of
21 people relocated from Three-Quarter Houses including
22 whether they were given a rental subsidy and the type
23 of housing to which they were relocated. Secondly,
24 since I have 49 seconds, I will go to this week is
25 Earth Week, and as all of us are aware, New York City

2 is in a unique position to lead by example in halting
3 the effects of climate change. Today, I'm
4 introducing Intro 1166, which would basically require
5 building now moving from 50,000 square feet to
6 decreasing--to decrease buildings at 25,000 square
7 feet to now retrofit their buildings with energy
8 efficient lights by 2025, and make reports and
9 necessary upgrades to the Council as well. And
10 lastly, I just want to add my voice to the--the
11 ruling that just came on Brother Akai, and say that
12 it is a shame that this young man's life was not
13 valued, and it's shame that a-- I remember a Giants
14 player shot himself and got two years in jail, but
15 yet we have a young man who was killed unarmed in our
16 city and is--and the--and the officer is not going to
17 face any justice. So we can shoot--if a person can
18 shoot themselves and get two years, then everyone
19 should be held accountable.

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

22 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you Public
23 Advocate. Colleagues, I ask you to join me and
24 Council Members Barron, Greenfield, Johnson, Rose,
25 Grodenchik in sponsoring Resolution 1042 calling on

2 the New York State Legislature to pass and the
3 Governor to sign legislation establishing the Barbara
4 Clark Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship funded by the
5 New York Lottery. The New York Lottery previously
6 awarded a \$5,000 scholarship to one graduating senior
7 from every public and private high school in the
8 State. Citing financial hardship, they stopped
9 awarding the scholarships in 2010, and this I know a
10 person because I was teaching in 2010, and I found it
11 outrageous that the lottery, which boasts huge
12 profits, would stop such a vital program to help our
13 young people afford college. Since then, the
14 Lottery's net revenues have continued to increase to
15 over \$9 billion. The estimated program costs of the
16 leadership of--the Leaders of Tomorrow program was
17 less than one-tenth of one percent of that figure.
18 Given the--the meteoric rise in college tuition costs
19 and the increased necessity of post-secondary
20 education, I believe that now more than ever is the
21 time to reinstate a program, which helped over 10,000
22 and their families turn their dreams into reality.
23 In its new version, the Leaders of Tomorrow
24 Scholarship will be named in honor of the late
25 Assembly Member Barbara Clark of Queens a life long

2 champion and advocate for public education. I
3 respectfully urge you to sign onto this resolution in
4 support of Assembly Member Clark's legacy and the
5 future of our youth. Thank you.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you and
7 finally Council Member Gibson.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you, Madam
9 Public Advocate. I get to close. I first and
10 foremost want to wish all our colleagues who
11 celebrate, a happy Passover, and secondly, I want to
12 join Council Members Barron, Williams, and Richards
13 in certainly expressing my deep disappointment,
14 sadness, frustration and just outrage at the recent
15 decision in the Peter Liang case [coughs] recognizing
16 that, you know, not only the decision of the judge to
17 lower the conviction, but also the less
18 recommendation by DA Thompson really doesn't bring
19 justice to Akai Gurley's family, nor does it do
20 anything to restore the public's faith in the
21 Criminal Justice System. Certainly, we all recognize
22 no question that this tragedy was not intentional,
23 but we know that placing rookie officers doing
24 vertical patrols in areas that they're not familiar
25 with is not only dangerous to the officers, but is

2 dangerous to the community residents in those
3 neighborhoods. Regardless of this verdict, there are
4 truly no winners. We continue to keep Akai Gurley's
5 family and friends in our thoughts and prayers, and
6 we know that as a city we must and we should do much
7 better. The lives of all New Yorkers are significant
8 regardless of their ethnicity or your zip code, and
9 we really have to do better. I simply do not agree
10 with the judge's decision. I didn't agree with the
11 recommendation about DA Thompson. I don't believe
12 800 hours of community service and five years
13 probation is sufficient in this particular case, and
14 I really, really want to work with all of us in
15 looking at vertical patrols as a policy by the NYPD,
16 and how we can really do better to prevent these
17 types of tragedies from happening. So I join with my
18 colleagues in really asking all of us to keep this
19 family in our thoughts and prayers. Many of us know
20 that every setback is preparation for a comeback, and
21 I truly pray for this family because they will never
22 be the same again, but we as a city must and can do
23 much better. Thank you very much. [bell]

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: May the new \$20
25 bill be an ever-present reminder of Harriet Tubman's

2 example, which would--should inspire all--all of us
3 to continue to fight for equal rights and justice
4 even in the face of great odds. Let us close with
5 the Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you Madam
7 Public Advocate. Again, I know that we're wrapping
8 up, and--and as Chairman Dromm said, the young people
9 are next door. I hope some people will take some
10 time to hear them out. So with that we are adjourned
11 at 4 o'clock. [gavel]

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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 May 17, 2016