

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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October 5, 2020
Start: 1:15 p.m.
Recess: 3:01 p.m.

HELD AT: Remote Hearing

B E F O R E: Corey Johnson
Speaker

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Adrienne E. Adams
Alicka Ampry-Samuel
Diana Ayala
Inez D. Barron
Joseph C. Borelli
Justin Brannan
Fernando Cabrera
Margaret S. Chin
Costa Constantinides
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
Laurie A. Cumbo
Chaim M. Deutsch
Ruben Diaz, Sr.
Daniel Dromm
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.
Mathieu Eugene
Vanessa L. Gibson
Mark Gjonaj
Barry Grodenchik
Robert Holden

Corey Johnson
Ben Kallos
Andy King
Peter Koo
Karen Koslowitz
Rory I. Lancman
Brad Lander
Stephen T. Levin
Mark Levine
Farah Louis
Alan N. Maisel
Steven Matteo
Carlos Menchaca
I. Daneek Miller
Francisco Moya
Bill Perkins
Keith Powers
Antonio Reynoso
Donovan J. Richards
Carlina Rivera
Ydanis Rodriguez
Deborah Rose
Helen K. Rosenthal
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.
Ritchie J. Torres
Mark Treyger
Eric A. Ulrich
Paul Vallone
Jimmy Van Bramer
Kalman Yeger

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

2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good afternoon,
3 everyone. Please turn all electronic devices to
4 vibrate, and all panelists please turn on your
5 videos. Thank you. Madam Majority Leader.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, Carl.
7 [gavel] Good afternoon, and welcome to the Stated
8 Meeting of October 5, 2020. I am Majority Leader
9 Laurie Cumbo, and I'd like to thank you for joining
10 us at this virtual meeting of the New York City
11 Council. If you would like to follow along, the
12 agenda for today's meeting is posted on our website.

13 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Would you please join
14 us for the Pledge of Allegiance? I pledge allegiance
15 to the flag of the United States of America, and to
16 the republic for which it stands, one nation under
17 God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. Roll
19 call.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Adams.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Present.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Present.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Present.

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2 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Barron.
3 Borelli.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Present.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Brannan.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Here.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Cabrera. Chin.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Present.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Cohen.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Constantinides.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Present.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Cornegy. Deutsch.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I was muted.

15 I'm sorry, I'm present.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you, Council
17 Member. Council Member Deutsch.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: I'm here.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Diaz.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Presente.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Dromm.

22 Eugene. Gibson.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Present.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Gjonaj.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Present.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Grodenchik.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: I am here.

4

COUNCIL CLERK: Holden.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here.

6

COUNCIL CLERK: Kallos.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.

8

COUNCIL CLERK: King.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Present.

10

COUNCIL CLERK: Koo.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

12

COUNCIL CLERK: Koslowitz.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

14

COUNCIL CLERK: Lancman.

15

UNIDENTIFIED: It says mute.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: I am present.

17

UNIDENTIFIED: No, you just, OK, now it's

18

on.

19

COUNCIL CLERK: Lancman.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: I am present,

21

and happy to report that moments ago the court upheld

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the validity, the validity of our chokehold law in

23

its entirety.

24

COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you, Council

25

Member. Council Member Lander.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I'm here.
3 COUNCIL CLERK: Levin. Levine.
4 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Present.
5 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Louis.
6 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Present.
7 COUNCIL CLERK: Maisel.
8 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Present.
9 COUNCIL CLERK: Menchaca.
10 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.
11 COUNCIL CLERK: Miller.
12 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Present.
13 COUNCIL CLERK: Moya.
14 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Present.
15 COUNCIL CLERK: Perkins.
16 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Present.
17 COUNCIL CLERK: Powers.
18 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Present.
19 COUNCIL CLERK: Reynoso.
20 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Sorry. Present.
21 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Richards.
22 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.
23 COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera.
24 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Present.
25 COUNCIL CLERK: Rodriguez.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Presente.
3 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Rose.
4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Present. Present.
5 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Rosenthal.
6 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.
7 COUNCIL CLERK: Salamanca.
8 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.
9 COUNCIL CLERK: Torres. Treyger.
10 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.
11 COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich.
12 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I am present.
13 COUNCIL CLERK: Barron.
14 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Blessed and
15 present.
16 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.
17 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.
18 COUNCIL CLERK: Vallone.
19 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Present.
20 COUNCIL CLERK: Van Bramer.
21 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.
22 COUNCIL CLERK: Yeger.
23 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here.
24 COUNCIL CLERK: Matteo.
25 MINORITY LEADER MATTEO: Here.

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Cumbo.

3 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Present.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I'm here.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Madam Majority Leader, we
7 have a quorum.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. We
9 will now have today's invocation, which will be
10 delivered by Reverend Mark E. Erson, the spiritual
11 leader at St. John's Lutheran Church, located 81
12 Christopher Street in Manhattan.

13 REVEREND ERSON: Good afternoon. As
14 autumn trees begin to blaze with the brilliance and
15 beauty of the Creator's genius we rejoice and take
16 delight. And yet the season reminds us of our
17 transient world in which there is a constant journey
18 from life to death to rebirth. And so with both awe
19 and humility we pray. Creator of the universe, we
20 give thanks for all that you have imagined, made,
21 restored, and renewed. Creating us in your image,
22 you call us to join you in creative and recreative
23 endeavors, whether art or athletics, policy or
24 products, charity or change, you invite us to join in
25 your work that enlivens your world and enriches the

2 lives of all creatures. And yet in these challenging
3 times we are called to join the psalmists and cry out
4 how long, oh Lord, as we pray for healing for those
5 suffering with COVID-19 and for comfort and peace for
6 those mourning the loss of loved ones. Give us
7 patience and strength, courage and insight, so that
8 rather than sinking into despair we might ignite hope
9 in others. Open our eyes to see those who are in
10 need, those who are hungry, those who are alone,
11 those who are oppressed. Open our hearts to show
12 compassion and mercy. Open our mouths to cry for
13 justice and to speak of peace. Bless our city.
14 Grant wisdom and courage to those who govern.
15 Comfort all with your shalom. Amen.

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so much
17 for that very beautiful prayer. I'd now like to call
18 on Speaker Johnson to spread the invocation onto the
19 record.

20 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Ah, thank you, Madam
21 Majority Leader. I want to thank, ah, Reverend Mark
22 E. Erson for being here today, and I make a motion of
23 the invocation be spread in full upon the record.
24 Ah, Reverend Mark Erson is the ninth pastor to serve
25 St. John's since its founding in 1855. He has been

2 at St. John's since 2011. He is both a cradle
3 Lutheran and a native New Yorker, having been born on
4 Staten Island while his father was serving as pastor
5 of Messiah Lutheran Church. While serving as an
6 assistant to the pastor at St. Luke's in Devon,
7 Pennsylvania, Pastor Mark earned a masters of art and
8 theater at Villanova University and began combining
9 his interest in theology and theater, writing and
10 producing plays and musicals with the willing and
11 supporting, supportive members of St. Luke. He then
12 spent several years as an actor and a theater teacher
13 before joining St. John's. Pastor Mark is an
14 integral figure in the West Village, leading St.
15 John's with acceptance and optimism, with an emphasis
16 on programming to engage the LGBTQ community. He has
17 worked tirelessly on behalf of homeless LGBTQ New
18 Yorkers, especially LGBTQ youth and, ah, this is not
19 the first time we have had Pastor Mark here, but it
20 is always a pleasure to have someone of his stature
21 and compassion to join us. He is really what makes
22 New York, ah, great. His compassion and love that he
23 shows every single day, he is a towering figure in
24 the community and anyone that you talk to would say
25 the same thing, how grateful they are that he serves

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2 our West Village neighborhood and community. So I
3 want to thank you, Pastor Mark, for being here.

4 We're so lucky to have you, and we're honored to have
5 you here today. So, again, Madam Majority Leader,
6 with that I ask the invocation be spread in full upon
7 the record.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
9 much, Speaker Corey Johnson. Now we will have the
10 adoption of minutes by Council Member Adrienne Adams.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Madam Majority
12 Leader, I move that the minutes of the Stated Meeting
13 of September 16, 2020, be adopted as printed.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.
15 Messages and papers from the mayor.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Communication
18 from city, county, and borough offices.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Petitions and
21 communications.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Land use call-
24 ups.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. We
3 will now have communication from Speaker Corey
4 Johnson.

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you all, Madam
6 Majority Leader. Ah, today is a, ah, sad day for the
7 New York City Council. Just about a year ago we here
8 and voted to suspend Council Member King for behavior
9 which, I said at the time, was intolerable and
10 unacceptable. At that time it was the second
11 determination against Council Member King of
12 violations of the council rules and policies, and we
13 are back here today considering his expulsion.
14 Section 45 of the City Charter requires us to judge
15 and sanction our own members. We cannot abdicate
16 this legal duty. However, we used a highly regarded
17 outside firm with Kerry Cohen as our special counsel
18 to both investigate and bring the current as well as
19 prior cases against Council Member King. This case
20 was brought before our Standards and Ethics
21 Committee, whose members have demonstrated over the
22 last three years how rigorous, impartial, and
23 professional they are in carrying out these charter-
24 mandated duties. Last year we debated between two
25 options: One, the harshest penalties we had ever

2 imposed on a council member, including a 30-day
3 suspension, a \$15,000, and mandatory training at the
4 council member's expense, and a permanent monitor in
5 his office, and the second, expulsion. The Standards
6 and Ethics Committee, after months of work, had
7 unanimously agreed that suspension, a substantial
8 fine, training, and a monitor were the appropriate
9 course of action at that time. The committee's
10 decision a year ago was based in no small part on a
11 reluctance to overturn the will of the voters of the
12 12th District, unless all reasonable alternatives had
13 been exhausted. The committee in recommending the
14 sanctions short of expulsion hoped that a significant
15 punishment with specialized training and the
16 permanent monitor could get Council Member King to
17 change his ways and correct the toxic environment he
18 had created in his office. I publicly called on
19 Council Member King to resign at that time, but I
20 believed we had an obligation to do everything we
21 could to attempt to remedy the situation before
22 taking a drastic action of expelling a member of this
23 legislative body. Unfortunately, all reasonable
24 alternatives have been exhausted and drastic action
25 is now our only option. As we debated the

2 appropriate sanction in 2019 and in the aftermath of
3 our imposition of the monitor in Council Member
4 King's office, something happened which I believe
5 speaks volumes about the council and the trust people
6 have had in this process. Other staffers and former
7 staffers of Council Member King came forward after
8 that last sanction occurred to our Standards and
9 Ethics Committee staff, to our special counsel, and
10 subsequently to the monitor that was put in his
11 office. These staffers raised both complaints of
12 discrimination and harassment, as well as ethics
13 complaints against Council Member King that had
14 occurred prior to the imposition of the monitor. The
15 truth is, had these claims been raised and
16 substantiated before our Stated Meeting last October
17 the outcome may very well have been different. The
18 vote to expel Council Member King very well could
19 have happened last year. But the important thing is
20 how heartening and encouraging it is that the courage
21 of the complaints, the witnesses, and our actions at
22 the time made other brave staffers and former
23 staffers feel they could safely come forward. All
24 these staffers and former staffers are really the
25 heroes of this sad case and we owe them our

2 gratitude. Based on these new allegations, almost
3 immediately after Council Member King's suspension,
4 our Standards and Ethics Committee began its third
5 investigation of Council Member King. The results of
6 that investigation are before us today in the report
7 that was sent around, and I have to say they disgust
8 me. I will let Chair Matteo outline the charges,
9 which were unanimously substantiated, and include
10 discrimination, conversion of council funds, and
11 complete disregard of much of our 2019 resolution
12 imposing corrective actions and sanctions on Council
13 Member King. But before I turn it over to the chair
14 of our Standards and Ethics Committee, who has worked
15 so hard and to whom we all owe a debt of gratitude, I
16 want to emphasize two things that really disturbed me
17 that are contained in this report, even among all the
18 disturbing evidence outlined therein. It almost goes
19 without saying that, first, telling a staffer with
20 menstrual bleeding to "put a Band-Aid on it" and,
21 second, taking \$2000 of city funds, are conduct is
22 disqualifying for public office. But what also
23 appalled me are these two things. After we put a
24 monitor in Council Member King's office and charged
25 him with doing these awful things, first he treated

2 employees who were cooperating with the committee and
3 the monitor poorly and, second, he raged and cursed
4 at the monitor for refusing to let him fire yet
5 another employee who had just requested a medical
6 accommodation. I am grateful that the monitor, who
7 has been amazing, has been there and worked
8 tirelessly to protect staff. Nevertheless, this
9 conduct, along with all of his other behavior,
10 provides, to me, that Council Member King's behavior
11 is unfixable and that if we do not take the action
12 recommended by the committee we are likely to be back
13 here again in a few months. By our rules, which
14 Council Member King has voted repeatedly to approve,
15 it was the Committee on Standards and Ethics that was
16 charged with hearing and weighing the evidence and
17 ensuring that the recommended sanctions were
18 commensurate with the violations. They held a four-
19 day hearing, at which Council Member King appeared
20 with counsel, and was afforded every opportunity to
21 make his case and challenge the evidence against him.
22 The committee deliberated for days after that and
23 meticulously reviewed all the evidence, including
24 witness testimony and documents. There is no
25 question as to the amazing caliber and care and

2 diligence they exercised and I cannot thank them
3 enough. So now I want to turn it over to the chair
4 of Standards and Ethics Committee, Chair Matteo, and
5 after Chair Matteo is done we will provide Council
6 Member King time to speak as well. I want to turn it
7 over to you, Chair Matteo.

8 CHAIR MATTEO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

9 Let me begin by saying how deeply upsetting it is
10 that we are here debating the expulsion of one of our
11 colleagues. We had hoped at the last hearing from
12 the sanctions imposed from the previous disciplinary
13 matter would have been the last time the committee
14 and the council would have to respond to Council
15 Member King's unacceptable and impermissible
16 behavior. We hoped the council member would have
17 taken the last chance we afforded him and made
18 changes, that he would have learned from suspension,
19 that the monitor's oversight would have resulted in
20 an office free from intimidation and mistreatment of
21 staff, and that the voters of the 12th District could
22 continue to be served by the council member they
23 elected. Unfortunately, this is not what happened
24 and we are here again, consistent with the duty and
25 authority set forth in Section 45 of New York City

2 Charter, which requires us to punish our members for
3 disorderly behavior and to expel any member if the
4 charges in the hearing were the concurrence of two-
5 thirds of this body. Subsequent to the hearing and
6 issuance of the report on our last matter, we learned
7 of further disturbing conduct that occurred between
8 2017 and 2019 that we had not known about and that
9 resulted in our needing to bring yet another
10 disciplinary proceeding against Council Member King.
11 We learned about additional discriminatory and
12 harassing acts he committed against a female staffer
13 prior to the imposition of the monitor. We learned
14 of a corrupt kick-back scheme that he engaged in
15 while we were investigating him in 2019. And we
16 learned that from the beginning of his return from
17 suspension he refused to comply with the most basic
18 remediation terms of the resolution. As I indicated
19 last October, I still believe expulsion was reserved
20 for those instances where there is no other viable
21 alternative. The conduct that underlies the
22 substantiated charges, which constitute Council
23 Member King's third strike before the Standards and
24 Ethics Committee, leaves us with no alternatives to
25 expulsion. I have already summarized the charges in

2 my statement following the committee vote and they
3 are detailed in the committee's report, but I will
4 briefly review them again now. The first charge
5 against the council member of discrimination and
6 harassment was based on conduct that occurred from in
7 or about September 2017 through in or about January
8 2018 and was substantiated based on testimony and
9 evidence that revealed that he treated a female
10 staffer's medical condition as a joke and told her to
11 put a Band-Aid on it when she informed him that she
12 needed to seek emergency medical treatment for
13 menstrual bleeding, that he forced the staffer to go
14 out unnecessary, indefinite, and unpaid medical leave
15 which he described as putting her [inaudible], and
16 that he refused to return her to work for almost
17 three months even after she submitted a doctor's
18 letter that she should return immediately, which
19 eventually resulted in her resigning to pursue other
20 paid employment. This additional discriminatory and
21 harassing conduct should be sufficient basis for
22 expulsion, but there was more. The second and third
23 charges related to conduct that occurred during our
24 last investigation from in or about July 2019 through
25 in or about August 2019 concerning conflicts of

2 interest and disorderly conduct. These charges were
3 substantiated based on evidence and testimony that
4 demonstrated that Council Member King engaged in a
5 corrupt kick-back scheme where in exchange for
6 providing a one-time payment of \$9500 to a staffer,
7 he directed the staffer to return \$2000 to him to be
8 misappropriated for his own personal financial gains.
9 Finally, the fourth charge against the council member
10 was substantiated based on his recent conduct, which
11 violated the terms of the resolution. The testimony
12 and evidence demonstrated that he failed to comply
13 with the most basic terms of the resolution. He has
14 not paid any of \$15,000 fine, despite being sent a
15 payment plan, and then a second, more favorable
16 payment plan, and multiple requests for payment. Nor
17 has he completed or paid for mandated training. And
18 perhaps most disturbing, he was willfully and
19 [inaudible] made every effort to circumvent the
20 monitor as well as undermine and verbally abuse her.
21 He attempted to make hiring and firing decisions,
22 which she successfully blocked, attempted to
23 intimidate his staff, and treat them adversely when
24 he believes they were cooperating with her, refused
25 to meet with her, and ignored her attempts to

2 communicate with him and subject her to profanity,
3 yelling, and sexist remarks. In flouting the
4 requirements of the resolution Council Member King
5 has made a mockery of the imposed sanctions and there
6 can be no more chances. Council Member King's
7 conduct has forced us to take this drastic but
8 necessary action of recommending his expulsion. I
9 reiterate that we substantiated the charges and
10 arrived at our recommendation gravely and solemnly
11 after a lengthy four-day hearing in which Council
12 Member King was afforded full due process and after
13 lengthy deliberations where we painstakingly reviewed
14 all the evidence. The committee was unanimous in all
15 charges. With these considerations in mind, I submit
16 to you the committee's recommendation on expulsion
17 with a heavy heart. Neither I nor any of the members
18 of committee ever wanted to be in this position. As
19 much as we would like to respect the will of those
20 who elected him we have a duty and obligation under
21 the charter to judge accused members with whom we
22 serve. Unfortunately, we have concluded the Council
23 Member King is unreformable and urge the council to
24 vote in favor of expulsion. Thank you.

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair
3 Matteo. I now want to provide Council Member King an
4 opportunity to speak during this portion of the
5 meeting. Council Member King.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Thank you, Mr.
7 Speaker, um, and thank you, Madam Chair, um, for the
8 opportunity to share, ah, a number of things that,
9 ah, that are disturbing to me as well as just having
10 us all placed in this position that we have to have
11 this conversation, let alone vote against one of our
12 own. Um, you know, last week, um, was the Day of
13 Atonement, Yom Kippur, um, as people asked for, um,
14 making [inaudible] meant to atone for their sins.
15 Um, many of us do that, um, and I am no exception to
16 making amends. Um, but what we are going to discuss
17 right now, what you're gonna hear from me, ah, is
18 something that lays to the truth and what we all have
19 to understand is that while we are, we are all
20 elected to do a job, and when it came down to 36,000
21 folks I made a commitment to serve. My commitment
22 has never waivered and I've continued to serve.
23 However, I've gone through a number of things since
24 being into the council and I'm gonna ask as we
25 continue to have this conversation that you hear what

2 I share, um, feel what I share, and understand what I
3 share. I first start, um, with a letter that I
4 received that was sent out from a resident of the
5 12th District of the Bronx. And it reads as this. I
6 am a resident of the 12th District of the, in the
7 Bronx, currently represented by Council Member Andy
8 King. I have been following the reports surrounding
9 the accusations against him. I am very confused
10 about what is going on and why. From October 2019 to
11 November 2019 I believed Mr. King was scrutinized for
12 his actions and behavior. Ultimate that resulted in
13 a vote amongst his peers to have him suspended for 30
14 days with no pay and require him to pay a \$15,000
15 fine. Now it appears that Mr. King has made the news
16 for the same accusations that were outlined in 2019,
17 which he has already disciplined for. I do not
18 believe the public is getting all the information
19 surrounding our council member. We voted, voted him
20 in, and we should know exactly why he is being voted
21 out by his peers. The ones who make up the ethics
22 committee, it is very unethical, unfair, completely
23 biased, and unjust for an in-house committee of peers
24 to come together and decide against their coworkers
25 if he should be let go or suspended as of they are

2 judge and juror to bring someone's career to an end.
3 How many of the City Council members make up the
4 ethics committee? According to my Google search, I
5 see five members make up the ethics committee, Steve
6 Matteo, Margaret Chin, Karen Koslowitz, and Steve
7 Levin, fellow Bronxite Vanessa Gibson. I find it
8 alarming and again unethical for peers to be allowed
9 to vote against their peers when the outcome is
10 severe as expulsion. Even in a classroom setting,
11 this would be unfair for students to vote to get
12 other students expelled. This is not a minor vote.
13 You're allowing five people to make a recommendations
14 on someone's career, life, ability to provide for
15 their family, and above all their character. If for
16 any reason unbeknownst to the public or press there
17 is a member of the council who may be envious of our
18 council member, don't like our council member, or
19 have any political motive to have him removed from
20 the council, would it be fair, just, or ethical for
21 them to say on the outcome of these privilege
22 proceedings. What if another member of the council
23 was facing expulsion for any reason? Could it be
24 possible that they have a buddy sitting on the ethics
25 committee and that friendship could influence votes

2 go against the motion on the table, expulsion? Of
3 course, this is not a popularity contest. This is
4 the character and life of a public official. If the
5 accusations are serious enough for recommendation of
6 expulsion then it should be serious enough for a more
7 formal setting, a third or neutral party, to address
8 the hearsay surrounding Andy King. This is hearsay.
9 Where is the evidence of Mr. King? This is not OK
10 for his friends or his foes to have a vote on a
11 motion recommended by five members, his peers, to
12 lose his job based on what's said by anyone. You've
13 punished him in 2019 and now you're going to move for
14 expulsion. How is this an example we're setting for
15 New Yorkers and how we want our families to be
16 treated and judged fairly via just the court system.
17 The vote seemed rushed against Andy King back in 2019
18 to suspend him and it wasn't, and if it wasn't then
19 why did the investigation continue to uncover more
20 evidence or hearsay to move to expulsion in 2020?
21 Shouldn't the committee have taken time to get all
22 the information and evidence in 2020, and hearsay?
23 Excuse me. Shouldn't the committee have taken time
24 to give all information, evidence, and hearsay and
25 then move forward with a reasonable punishment as

2 they've done, as they have done in the past with
3 other members? Sounds like double punishment to me.
4 In fact, this is the first time that an ethics
5 committee has moved to expulsion of [inaudible] that
6 member being convicted of a crime. Sounds unethical,
7 unjust, unfair, and wrong to me. Our council member
8 may have arguably broken some rules that were put in
9 place for city members, but up to now he has not
10 broken any laws. Any former member of the council
11 that was expelled was convicted of a crime. I find
12 it to be extremely forced, extreme force of
13 punishment to have his peers vote to expel him from
14 the City Council. His term is up in December 2021,
15 just like the majority, if not all members of the
16 council. Based on that fact, some members may overly
17 care about the outcome of the vote depending on their
18 next venture in public service, while for other
19 members it may not matter at all how the outcome
20 turns up, because they are out, out of there in over
21 little a year. But for our community, our district,
22 and our council member it is a major deal, a major
23 decision, and should not be taken lightly. The
24 process to move to expulsion of any member is
25 unethical, unjust, and unfair, and completely biased

2 with the City Council. Any motion to be expelled
3 should be coupled with a criminal charge or
4 conviction. The Committee on Standards and Ethics in
5 the, of the City Council has too much power over any
6 member's faith and public service. That is
7 unethical. What happens when accusations against a
8 particular member of the ethics committee is brought
9 to the City Council? How would the internal ethics
10 committee be able to fairly judge and recommend a
11 disciplinary action against the specific ethics
12 committee and council member? For example, how would
13 this ethics committee treat accusations of Council
14 Member Matteo, the chair of said committee? Food for
15 thought. The ideal and role of this makeshift
16 committee [inaudible] bias and designated to be a
17 fake court with four jurors placed on, placed to
18 decide to demise any bad behavior of his friends or
19 forecasts. Expulsion is extreme and important for
20 the public, for all constituents, of New York City
21 know about the unofficial internal procedures and the
22 [inaudible] implicated system within the City Council
23 that is corrupt and unethical. This should be
24 brought to light in attempt to stop any defamation of
25 character of Council Member Andy King and other

2 future council members that may be at the mercies of
3 the ethics committee in the City Council. The
4 bullying has to stop somewhere. Just like cover-ups
5 have to stop somewhere. As a New Yorker and a proud
6 Bronxite, I want any system in place to recommend any
7 kind of disciplinary action to be fair, just, and
8 unethical. I'm asking, urging New Yorkers and the
9 New York City Council to stop the vote on Monday,
10 10/6/2020, to expel Council Member Andy King.

11 Respectfully submitted by concerned 12th District
12 resident. While I thank the resident for submitting
13 that letter to me and to others, I applaud the
14 committee who's, for their work, but I also thank my
15 community who I've served, worked, and lived in all
16 my life. I start with my story of coming to become a
17 council member in 2014 when I got, 2013, 36,000
18 people voted me into the City Council, and I took
19 them down to City Council and I've worked tirelessly
20 each and every day to make sure that I do all I can
21 to make sure our seniors, our children, schools,
22 infrastructures, and be a team member in the City
23 Council to do what's best in legislation and budget
24 responsibilities for the City of New York. But
25 politics do kick in. When the politics kick in and

2 someone doesn't find faith or flavor with you, then
3 you are at the mercy of those politics. So I say to
4 you, my hits started back in 2014 when there was a
5 vote for the speaker of the City Council. And at
6 that point in time Carl Heastie was the county chair
7 and I gave my word and my commitment to stand with
8 the del Bronx delegation whoever becomes the speaker
9 I would support. The Bronx delegation was with Dan
10 Garodnick at that time, um, and then we all ended up
11 voting Melissa. After that troubles, headaches
12 started for me. While I stand true and dedicated to
13 serving, serving, I still didn't get a committee at
14 the start, and then I either lost [inaudible]
15 committee the way I was treated from time to time,
16 being ignored by the speaker, Melissa. Um, then I
17 became the chair of the BLAC where I fought
18 tirelessly to stand up for causes for black, Latinos,
19 and Asians communities. And then, then there was a
20 struggle there as then speaker again, um, tried to
21 organize, along with another member with me out of
22 being the chair of the caucus. Then I was thrown
23 underneath the bus when that didn't work by a quote
24 that someone was terminated by me, ah, because they
25 dispute my sexual advances. That started the whole

2 campaign against me to make my life challenge in the
3 City Council. And during that time I stayed strong
4 and stayed fast to protecting the house and doing the
5 job that the residents of the 12th District elected
6 me to do. I also came up with legislation, fought
7 legislation each and every day, to only get my heart
8 shattered and broken as legislations were taken care
9 of, taken away from me, and to be called a nigger by
10 a white colleague. I went and reported that in to
11 Melissa and Ramon and nothing was done, only for that
12 council member to come to me and apologize at the
13 steps that lead up into the chambers, and then later
14 on in the speaker's race come to my campaign office
15 and apologize for what he said he didn't do, but if
16 he did it he apologized. That's been my reality.
17 Ramon Martinez would call me into his office
18 regularly to say are you OK, because he knew what I
19 was going through. Even Margaret Chin, I would
20 complain to her about what I was going through being
21 the chair of this caucus, but still showing up every
22 day, showing up to City Hall, doing my job, fighting,
23 and saying what I had to do for the residents of the
24 12th District in the Bronx and beyond. That's just
25 the start of my, all of the stuff I've been trying to

2 manage at City Hall. So, yeah, in 2017 when I, in,
3 in those years I become the chair of the committee
4 of, Subcommittee on Libraries with Jimmy Van Bramer,
5 we did historical work, and getting the most money we
6 could for libraries for the first time ever. But
7 that all went south and sour when I was accused of
8 shaking somebody's hand and then inviting them to my
9 wedding anniversary and telling them to smile. While
10 it was never proven, I was found guilty of shaking
11 someone's hand, inviting them to my wedding
12 anniversary, and someone wants to constitute that as
13 sexual harassment. I say that's unfair, but if you
14 consider me a nigger then I guess it doesn't matter
15 what, what strategies you put together to make my
16 life miserable. So my heart is breaking right now
17 because after I went through that I was sent for
18 training, for sensitivity training. I went through
19 the sensitivity training. I come back out and I
20 continue to do my work in this council. I continue
21 to fight for New Yorkers. I continue to fight for
22 Bronxites. This has been my reality each and every
23 day. Only to come to a place that a staffer, a
24 staffer in 2017 gets suspended by the City Council
25 and I have no reason to understand why they were

2 getting suspended 'cause I didn't suspend them, to
3 only to find out that later on because there was some
4 anger management issues that he was suspended, that
5 staffer was suspended. So he's suspended and then
6 all of a sudden I get charged again with instructing
7 the investigation, not talking to anybody, and I'm
8 saying I didn't even do anything wrong. So now in
9 this place and time I'm being charged for something
10 that somebody else did as the chair, ah, ah, as the
11 principle of my office, OK, I have to accept
12 responsibility, I'll accept responsibility. But
13 don't say that I sexually harass people. Don't use
14 terms and words that move people emotionally that are
15 incorrect, 'cause all that does is character
16 assassination. It poises my colleagues against me.
17 It poises the public and certain communities against
18 me. For what reason? Is it political or is it fair?
19 So, again, here I stand because last time I was in,
20 having this conversation with you all in regards to
21 discrimination and unfair treatment of staff, you
22 know, I went before the, the Standards and Ethics
23 Committee, they hired an outside entity to
24 investigate. And that outside investigator, I
25 watched. I watched from the transcript how Cohen

2 made lies, finagled the, the, the, not only the
3 report that she submitted back from the last
4 investigation, but she lied to, to Chair Matteo.
5 When they told Matteo that I did not engage in this
6 process it was a falsehood, because my attorneys
7 reached out to Ben Smith, who was then at the
8 council, and they were going back and forth with
9 communications to set me up to have a conversation
10 with about all those allegations. Well, you know
11 what ended up happening? Twice they reneged on the
12 meeting that they were supposed to meet with me. The
13 first time they said the person who was coming to
14 meet me went on vacation so they canceled that
15 meeting. This was back in May of 2019. And then on
16 June, June of 2019, they scheduled another meeting
17 with me, and they make me and my attorney wait for
18 two-and-a-half to three hours. My attorney's going
19 back and forth with Ben Smith. Where is this person,
20 where is this person? They never showed up, never
21 showed up, so they never got my side of what, what
22 the accusations were. So I would have to ask the
23 question of, of Helen Rosenthal or Carlina Rivera, I
24 would like to ask you all the question. If someone
25 was to say that you did something how could they come

2 forth and say that you, you wore a red shirt and you
3 did a blue shirt and you kicked somebody when no one
4 ever talks to you to say that you actually did this.
5 Well, this is what Cohen did. Cohen put out a whole,
6 a whole report together and gave it to the Standards
7 and Ethics Committee that said this is what happened
8 with Councilman King. This is what he did. He was a
9 [inaudible] but they never talked to me about any of
10 the allegations. They never had a conversation with
11 me. I spoke to judges outside of this and they said
12 there's no way the court, court of law, would ever
13 come to a conclusion without talking to both sides.
14 But the City Council Standards and Ethics was put in
15 a position to vote on a document that was flawed and
16 that was untrue, but, more importantly, that City
17 Council voted on those, voted on, um, Cohen's report
18 to the Standards and Ethics Committee. And in turn
19 there were a number of things if the Standards and
20 Ethics and if Cohen would have talked to me would
21 have cleared things up and they wouldn't even, we
22 wouldn't even be here today because there wouldn't
23 have been a second conversation about me violating
24 ethics. But again, if you look at me as, as the N
25 word then it doesn't matter, because it's all about

2 hurting me, it's not about finding truths, it's about
3 hurting me. So we end up here today again right
4 after I returned back to work. I was suspended for
5 30 days. So let's talk about the suspension of 30
6 days. I sat down. I was told by Chuck Davis when I
7 got back that I was responsible for my office. I sat
8 down with him and the monitor. He said I was
9 responsible for my office. The only thing I'm not
10 responsible for is for hiring and firing, nothing
11 I've ever done. But I do want to back up and talk a
12 little bit about how I feel that I'm being mistreated
13 again. I have, I have a document here. This
14 document is from 2017 after there was a complaint and
15 I went through this whole process again with y'all
16 and people said I did this and I did that and I did
17 this. So I'm gonna read what it says. This is a, an
18 email that went to the Office of General Counsel from
19 a staffer, from one of my staff, in 2017 after I was
20 revealed that I was the one that was allegedly
21 sexually harass and did all this other stuff, and it
22 reads this. It reads to Ms., Mr. Davis, cc Peg Toro.
23 I want to formally inform my member as well as Ms.
24 Toro of the conversation I had with you, Charles
25 Davis, on Tuesday morning, which I made it, made a

2 complaint against whatever individuals, individual or
3 individuals, if any, chooses to inform members of the
4 press that Council Member King was the subject of a
5 committee of ethics hearings last Friday. This email
6 serves as that purpose. As discussed, I'm concerned
7 that the disclosure to the press of my council
8 member's identity or potentially discriminatory
9 towards the council member, myself, or any other
10 members of the council member staff or family and as
11 such want to feel comfortable as a City Council
12 employee that, that appropriates investigative
13 measures are taken to ensure that no employees or the
14 council or members of the council choose to target
15 our office for any reason, either personal as a
16 result of any controversial vote or policy decision,
17 etcetera. I express to you my passion for my work
18 and the need for me to feel I can do my best work
19 every day. And how dismayed I was that the council
20 member was forced to miss two youth services votes
21 early this week as a result of what to my knowledge
22 was a meeting or meetings with Office of General
23 Counsel and other central staff. I am tasked with
24 supporting the member to represent the people and I
25 felt that actions of the central staff compromised

2 both of our support, compromised both of our
3 professional responsibilities at this moment. And if
4 any staff member or member of the council went to the
5 press despite the confidential and closed-door nature
6 of the committee hearing this, this, too, can be
7 potentially seen as actions to make it more difficult
8 for me to do my job in service to the people of the
9 City of New York. If done maliciously this is
10 unacceptable behavior. I choose to disclose this
11 information at this time because I did not
12 [inaudible] the meeting with my member at any prior
13 moment and while it is my understanding I did not
14 need to do so, need to, I do not want anyone to think
15 the member asked me to make this complaint or any way
16 put me up to it. The member as well as myself, as
17 members of a protected class and as such complaint
18 does not imply I actively asserted a Title VI
19 violation has occurred, I feel it appropriate to ask
20 for a reasonable investigation, investigative
21 measures, to ensure the rights of Council Member
22 King, myself, and any other member of our staff was
23 not violated. Thank you. This was sent January,
24 excuse me, 12, December 21, 2017. As of this date
25 there never was any investigation, no follow-up to

2 the complaint that went to the Office of General
3 Counsel. However, the minute that someone says
4 anything about me my name is dragged through the mud,
5 it's dragged through the papers, all kind of
6 adjectives attached to my name, you know, and it's
7 disheartening for my family, my mother, my daughters,
8 my children, my granddaughters, and my community. So
9 I move forward to we are here today again with a
10 number of allegations and I ask everyone, there are
11 transcripts, and I continue to ask everyone to read
12 the transcripts because, again, as what Cohen did the
13 first time, the transcripts do not equal what the
14 report, summary of the reports. That's all I'm
15 asking, people to read the transcripts. And I'll go
16 into the weeds right now because it's unfair to have
17 cross-examination that brings out information and
18 then in a summary report those things are not
19 included. So let's touch on the first one that was
20 brought to light. Let's bring on the, the \$9500
21 that, that a staffer was, that received. So I say to
22 all of you, we all know that end of a budget session
23 if you have any funding left over the only thing that
24 we can do with that is give bonuses. So while they
25 present to you that a staffer got \$9500 and I

2 demanded that they give me \$2000. No, for what the,
3 that report does not tell you is that four other
4 staffers received large bonuses as well. One
5 received for \$9500, one received for \$8000, one
6 received for \$7000, and one received for \$3000. That
7 was all I was able to do. There was no kickback
8 schemes involved at all. So also in this report it
9 says that this, this staffer who received the \$9500
10 had no incentive or reason to do this. They had no
11 reason to come forth and have a conversation with
12 you. Well, I remind you what I said to you before.
13 When there was a staffer that was suspended for anger
14 management, upon his return to keep his job he was,
15 he had to sign an agreement, the staffer had to sign
16 an agreement if there was any other violations or
17 fractions he would be terminated from his job. There
18 was another infraction. This infraction happened in
19 January. Now, I was not privy in our office when it
20 happened, but he created a hostile work environment,
21 and when I returned to the office after being in the
22 field I inquired because the staff was in a buzz and
23 I asked that staffer what happened. And they, they
24 told me what did happen and they created a, and they
25 told, he told the staff, that staffer told the rest

2 of the staff not to let one staffer into the office,
3 creating a hostile work environment. Ironically
4 enough, that information went to the monitor and the
5 monitor then had the responsibility to report it in.
6 Did it get reported in? You would have to ask the
7 monitor where's that report. You will have to ask
8 the Office of General Counsel where is that report.
9 But what I do know is after listening to the, to the
10 hearing and listening, reading the transcripts, his
11 conversation with Cohen, that this staffer's
12 conversation with Cohen happened in January, during
13 the time, I reckon after that violation had occurred.
14 So if you want to find out a motivation, well there's
15 your motivation right now to come up with a story.
16 And then as it was proved that the time, the time
17 that the counsel's, the general counsel, the, the,
18 Cohen determined this happened, this happened on this
19 date, this is how the incident went down, only to
20 find out from my on cross-examine, I was in the
21 Virgin Islands at the time that the time that this,
22 this [inaudible] was happening. But yet the report
23 doesn't say any, any of all of that, it just says
24 that I, I attempted to extort a staffer. That's not
25 fair to me and that's not right because it's all

2 about proven, proving something that's not true just
3 to say you won a case as opposed to getting to the
4 truth. Well, let's move to the second thing. Let's
5 talk about the staffer that had the, the, the
6 menstrual condition. Well, I will tell you what
7 happens. I do recall the day vivid. We're at an
8 event, we're setting for [inaudible] outside, we're
9 doing our stuff. So I ask you as members, how many
10 times have you been at an event, community is coming
11 to you, asking questions, people trying to get your
12 card, people want to take a picture with you, and
13 people are just around you. I recall, I recall.
14 Staffer comes up to me and says these words, Council
15 Member, I'm bleeding. I said, put a Band-Aid on it,
16 and I walk away [inaudible] she waves her [inaudible]
17 in my hand, in, in the air, and tells me she's
18 bleeding. I only come to find out in a report come
19 February 14 that she says she complains that she
20 pointed to her vagina. Now I'm saying this to you
21 all as a father who raised a daughter who's, we had
22 to go through, as a granddaughter, witnessed as she
23 has to go through, as a brother, as a father, as, as
24 a son, there's no way in the world if a, if a mother
25 comes to me and a sister comes to me and say in my

2 ear privately and says I'm having some women issues,
3 [inaudible] issues, that I am insensitive. So it's
4 unfair for them to pick and go back to 2017 and say
5 that, and say that I did this three years ago. So I
6 am, I'm blown away again. My heart breaks because as
7 a father I would never do anything like to any women.
8 To someone who respects my momma, my, my
9 grandmothers, my aunts and uncles, why, why would I
10 do anything like that? But if you consider me again,
11 you start figuring out how kind of ways you can spin
12 a story to say how that I'm gonna hurt this black
13 man. So let's move forward to the, to the next
14 thing. The next thing that we have is that the
15 monitor says that I impeded her ability to do her
16 job. Well, during cross-examination it's on the
17 record, that's why I asked everyone, please, you
18 gotta read the transcripts, you gotta read the
19 transcripts. One staffer was asked did Council
20 Member King ever direct you not to talk to the
21 monitor. The answers was no. He even asked the
22 monitor was she ever asked, was the Council Member
23 ever told you couldn't talk to the staff? No. The
24 Council Member permit you from checking emails? No.
25 I never got in the way of her communicating with my

2 staff, never communicating any way that she wanted to
3 communicate. I never got in the middle of it. Even
4 the transcripts will tell you that I was rarely in
5 the office. So I don't understand how I got in the
6 middle of her communicating and doing her job with
7 the staff. And getting what information she wanted
8 to get, she was able to get, and she was privy to any
9 information that she wanted to have. Secondly, and
10 you, if those, if those had the opportunity to read
11 that report they said that I had hired folks without
12 her permission. Well, Chuck Davis told me if I was
13 going to hire anybody I would have to talk to the
14 monitor. The two times I considered, I was going to
15 on last base to hire somebody I said to the monitor I
16 have somebody I would like hire for legislative
17 director. I never hired him. We never got to that
18 point. But prior to that they kept telling me that I
19 hired people. Well, Camille Francis from HR
20 testified and told everybody that Council Member King
21 never hired anybody. But in a report it says that I
22 hired somebody. I tried to circumvent and I hired
23 two people. I didn't hire anybody. And even in the
24 transcripts the monitor said at the end, well, he
25 didn't hire anybody. But it leads you all to believe

2 that I was out there running amok, running afoul,
3 acting like I'm this angry black person running
4 around the world, mad at the world, and mad that I
5 had a monitor in my office. The monitor, as we all
6 know, staff do what they do to work in an office and
7 as council members we're in, where we're in having
8 meetings and we move around in the district. So it's
9 just unfair to, to paint me as this vicious person.
10 And so I go, I, I, get into the point of talking
11 about the \$15,000 that they said that I'm fined for.
12 Well, let's talk about the \$15,000. When I sat in
13 front of the general counsel, my attorney and I, we
14 spoke about the resolution and what it means. And I
15 mentioned to Ben Smith at that time, who was still
16 the counsel, I said something's not right here,
17 because you, you're asking me for \$15,000, but when
18 you're suspending me for 30 days you got \$16,000 from
19 me. It's double dipping. So actually you're fining
20 me \$30,000. I said, well, you already got the money.
21 Why I'm still, why I still got to give another
22 \$15,000? He looked at me with no answer. So in the
23 process of that my attorney at the time, my attorney
24 [inaudible] OK, let's figure how to negotiate again
25 how that we can come up with to pay, pay this bill.

2 So in the middle of the negotiations they charged me
3 with not paying the \$15,000. I, I don't understand
4 it. If someone's in negotiation how do you say that
5 they're in violation if, if their lawyers are
6 negotiating with your lawyers? And then again if you
7 don't care about me doing everything to come at me
8 'cause consider me [inaudible] I don't know. But it
9 breaks my heart because I've done nothing but work.
10 You know, I get up, I work, I read the papers, and
11 there are so many ugly terms and names that are
12 attached to my name, and I say to each and every one
13 of you, have you been walking the road that I've been
14 walking in this council? I've been discriminated
15 against. I've got legislations stolen against me. I
16 got slander thrown at me. I got reports that, that
17 don't, that contradict testimony and then you all are
18 left with saying how do we vote to create what
19 history is never been done before and anybody who's
20 been voted out of, expelled out of council, there was
21 a criminal act attached to, and the last person to
22 actually get expelled was in 1949, a Communist who
23 tried to take over the country. So that makes sense.
24 But I haven't done anything, anything that warrants
25 this, especially when none of the stuff has been

2 rightfully proven. Because people say things you
3 gotta prove stuff. You know, I'm dragging a lot of
4 weight from every two years to keep coming at me.
5 You know, some of you have said to me, you know, who
6 did you piss off? You know, you got a big target on
7 your back. You know, these are the things that
8 you've said to me, and even when the vote came in
9 last time some of you came to me and said, listen, I
10 apologize, but you know he's vindictive. So I know
11 I'm up against politics, but I'm just asking us as
12 smart, educated, independent thinkers who got elected
13 to the council look at the facts. Look at the
14 transcripts. I, I sent, I asked everybody to look at
15 a press conference that we did that clearly laid out
16 there's flaws here. So I'm asking you all, if you're
17 looking to vote, if you have not read any of the
18 transcripts, if you haven't read any of the stuff,
19 there's no way that you can make a solid informed
20 decision on the report that was given to my
21 prosecutor whose only job was, was hired to make sure
22 that she wins. Not for [inaudible] any troops. How
23 do we figure out how do we hurt a council member.
24 You know, 'cause one day's it me. The next day, you
25 know, the next day it's somebody else. Someone

2 doesn't like your politics and someone decides, you
3 know, we don't like, as I was told by one [inaudible]
4 we don't like your swag. And I'm like why I am being
5 attacked like this? All I wanted to do is serve my
6 residents when I got voted. That's all I was looking
7 to do. I do not want to be a martyr. I just want to
8 continue to serve the residents of the 12th District.
9 My heart breaks that any one of us would ever have to
10 go through what I've gone through. But you've heard
11 my story and it's not an easy story to share. As a
12 dad, as a daughter, as a husband, as a mom, before my
13 dad passed away, you know, that was one of the
14 challenges that I had when it came to bringing back
15 one of the ladies, um, who was having, the, the, the
16 sister who was having the challenge, what the
17 transcripts do not tell you is that in the time that
18 she was trying to get her job back and [inaudible] my
19 dad died. So when my dad died my focus was going to
20 Colorado, trying to help my mom, bury my dad, fly my
21 dad back to New York. I was no good for the money of
22 October, all the way to the middle of November. And
23 then when I found myself getting it back together, I
24 reached out to the staffer and asked her if she was
25 OK around the, Thanksgiving time, if she needed help,

2 a turkey or anything. She declined. Then I invited
3 her back again a couple weeks at a holiday event to
4 talk about bringing her back to work. She left the
5 event before she could talk to me to, to get her job
6 back. Then when I finally get her back, call her
7 back again, I offer her back her job. She said, you
8 know, she's working someone else. But you know what?
9 The report doesn't tell you that. But the
10 transcripts tell you all of this. That's why I'm
11 saying to us we cannot just blindly go on this report
12 that's favorable based on what Cohen put together,
13 but Cohen's only job is to win. Cohen's only job is
14 figuring out how to, that's what she did with the
15 last report. Her only job was to figure out how I
16 slant the narrative to hurt a guy who I care nothing
17 about, but again consider me other than me being a
18 father and, ah, and, and a brother and anything else,
19 then you would do things to right things up. You
20 know, I, you know, some of my neighbors and
21 constituents say, you know what, you know, you won't
22 be the only black man, the first black man, that
23 they've accused of something and then only to find
24 that he didn't do something later on. So I don't
25 want to be in opposition right now because I have a

2 family and I don't need my family to go through this,
3 you know, because I haven't done anything wrong. You
4 know, if we're, if we're talking about finding our
5 truths, I ask us to look and search for truth. I ask
6 us to ignore any politics that might be in the room.
7 I ask us to ignore any slander that's been out there
8 because the newspapers have been horrible and I know
9 many of us watch the news, see the news. The news
10 the news gets [inaudible], you know, and then when
11 they look at the transcripts, and I'm begging
12 everybody to look at the transcripts, the only way we
13 can vote is, you know, logically and smartly, is to,
14 is to look at the transcripts. I'm asking you all
15 if, if you haven't read the transcripts you only can
16 vote, you can only vote no to this resolution. You
17 can only vote no to this resolution.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member

19 King, if I could just interrupt for one moment. I'm
20 receiving messages from members, ah, who have to
21 actually leave and wanted to know, ah, approximately
22 how long do you believe, I know this is a very
23 difficult testimony, how much additional time do you
24 believe that you'll need for your testimony so that
25

2 we can have members better judge how to plan out the
3 rest of their day?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Um, I, I thank you
5 for that interruption, um, and I don't even know how
6 to answer that.

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Um-hmm.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Because if someone
9 was sitting my seat and relying on our peers how
10 would someone say, um, I gotta run away? I know if,
11 if I'm sitting, and if I wasn't sitting in this seat
12 I'd give all time and energy to make sure that my
13 colleague is protected and respected and hear every
14 word that he have to say. So I don't even know how
15 to answer that question. Um, but, um, I would like,
16 I would just defer, I'll defer my last moments to my
17 attorney, who is with me right now.

18 UNIDENTIFIED: A pleasant good afternoon
19 to the members of the New York City Council.

20 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Excuse me, excuse me,
21 hold on, hold on one second. These proceedings are
22 for members to speak only, at a Stated Meeting of the
23 City Council. Ah, your attorney had the ability to
24 speak, ah, during the trial and at the committee. It
25 is not appropriate and we have never allowed at a

2 Stated Meeting of the City Council someone who is not
3 a member of the body to speak. So I have to say,
4 Council Member King, you can continue to speak if you
5 would like to. We gave you unlimited time. But we
6 are not allowing outside folks to speak at the Stated
7 Meeting of the City Council today. It has never been
8 done and we are not starting that today. That is why
9 we had a trial and that is why we had a committee
10 process.

11 UNIDENTIFIED: Ah, I, I certainly would
12 never want, want to sound...

13 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Sir, excuse me sir.
14 No, no, no. We are not allowing non-council members
15 to speak today.

16 UNIDENTIFIED: You want me to, I could
17 just explain to you what I think needs to be said.

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Sir, I'm telling you
19 what the rules are.

20 UNIDENTIFIED: No, no, no.

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: We are not allowing...

22 UNIDENTIFIED: Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry, I'm
23 not, I'm not running afoul of the rules and most
24 respectfully, sir...

25 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Yes, you are.

2 UNIDENTIFIED: What I'm doing is...

3 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I'm telling you right
4 now, I am telling you right now, only council members
5 are allowed to speak at Stated Meetings of the New
6 York City Council.

7 UNIDENTIFIED: OK, so...

8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: That is how it has
9 always been.

10 UNIDENTIFIED: OK, so what I will do is I
11 will convey to my client what I think he needs to
12 convey...

13 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Sir, this is out of
14 order.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member
16 King, would you like to bring your comments, your
17 testimony to a close, or else we're going to have to
18 move on, ah, with the hearing.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Well, I, I...

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: If Council Member
21 King does not have any further, ah, words for his
22 testimony, we're going to have to move this
23 particular hearing on. We cannot take testimony from
24 any other members.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: And I, and I
3 understand [inaudible]. I, I, I thank you, and thank
4 you for that. As you said, this is unprecedented. It
5 hasn't happened, ever happened before. So we're all
6 treading in waters. And since it is unprecedented I
7 want to ask us not to create an unprecedented vote.
8 Because the history of the City Council no one has
9 been ever expelled other than making a criminal act.
10 I have committed no criminal acts and the only thing
11 I say to us all is that I've been going through
12 trials and tribulations and standing tall, being
13 called out of my name, getting legislations stolen
14 from me, standing strong, standing firm, Ramon, Ramon
15 Martinez always checking in with me because he know
16 the abusiveness that I was going through, the terms
17 and names I was called in the press, all the stuff
18 that was [inaudible] and knowing each and every day
19 that I was standing true with my staff. So it's not
20 fair, um, what I'm experiencing right now. So I'm
21 saying let's, let's not make anew, if no, if no one's
22 ever got expelled for not committing a crime I ask us
23 not to be that council that does that. I ask us not
24 to be that council that does that. And I ask you all
25 if you haven't read the transcripts please read the

2 transcripts, and if that means postponing the vote do
3 so. Read it, if you need more time to read those
4 transcripts I am asking, my request to the body is to
5 be [pause]

6 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Ah, thank you.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Laurie, Laurie, can
8 I just get 30 seconds? Let me just get myself
9 together, 30 seconds.

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Council Member King, we
11 have to proceed. So do you have anything else you'd
12 like to finish with before we move on?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: OK, and my final
14 words to this, as we're talking about precedence and
15 what doesn't exist, in 2006 there was Council Member
16 Jennings out of Queens that was found guilty of
17 sexual harassment of five staffers. Two
18 substantiated sexual and had been cleaning his house.
19 His fine from the City Council was \$5000 [inaudible].
20 What I've been accused of is nowhere near that. And
21 I'm asked to be kicked out of the council. I'm
22 asking us to look inside our heart and look at
23 precedence and if it doesn't, if it doesn't fit
24 please, please. Thank you, I thank you for your
25 time, um, and please, if you haven't read the

2 transcripts you can only, I only ask of you to say no
3 to the resolution. Thank you. God bless us all.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Ah, Madam Majority
5 Leader, my time is now finished. I, I, of course,
6 allowed Chair Matteo and Council Member King to
7 present. So, Majority Leader Cumbo, I am now turning
8 it back to you.

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
10 Speaker Johnson. We will now move into discussion of
11 general orders. We will recognize council members
12 who wish to speak by using the raise hand function in
13 Zoom. Please wait before you begin your remarks for
14 our Sergeant at Arms to announce he has begun the
15 countdown clock. The Sergeant at Arms will alert you
16 when your time has expired. Mr. Parliamentarian, are
17 there any council members registered to speak?

18 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Yes, Council Member Van
19 Bramer.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: We will begin
21 with Council Member Van Bramer.

22 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you.
24 Ah, this meeting should not have been necessary.
25 Andy King should have been expelled from the City

2 Council a long time ago. A year ago the council
3 discussed horrific accusations that were
4 substantiated after a lengthy investigation. I made
5 a motion to expel him. It failed. Today's report
6 contains more damaging, substantiated claims. But a
7 year ago we knew about Andy King. We knew that he
8 had already had a case of harassment substantiated
9 against him. We also knew, as a result of the second
10 investigation, that members of his own staff were
11 detained and prevented from leaving his house until
12 they shared a loyalty oath and reveal who had been
13 talking to investigators. We also knew he used
14 council funds inappropriately, forced a staff member
15 to work on personal matters, repeatedly abused and
16 tormented members of his staff, and accepted
17 intolerant, violent behavior in his office. Knowing
18 all of this, the body failed a test of leadership
19 when it was clearly needed. When the staff of the
20 council looked to us, to use our power to protect
21 them, instead the body voted to punish and monitor
22 him. Last year before I made the motion to expel I
23 asked many people if they believed that Andy King
24 would stop abusing his staff and office if he
25 continued to serve. No one said yes. But he was

2 left in a position to continue to do this. There are
3 no excuses, just an abdication of leadership. Last
4 year as we gathered in chambers to consider Andy
5 King's actions, Chloe Rivera was seated in the
6 balcony. I saw her sitting there. Chloe has bravely
7 come forward and talked about how she was harassed by
8 Andy King. I believe her. She's given me permission
9 to talk about her case. Chloe began her career as an
10 intern in my office and then worked on my committee
11 for years. I knew that Chloe was in the chambers
12 that day to challenge...

13 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: ...all of us
15 to do the right thing and take a stand against sexual
16 harassment and violence in the workplace. I would
17 not let Chloe down that day, nor the hundreds of
18 staff members watching us in their cubicles. Today's
19 vote to expel Andy King isn't a victory or triumph of
20 any kind. It's an indictment of our failure to act
21 when we knew what was the right thing to do. Thank
22 you.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
24 Council Member Van Bramer. Are there any other
25

2 members, Mr. Parliamentarian, who wish to speak at
3 this time?

4 PARLIAMENTARIAN: No, Madam Majority
5 Leader.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: We'll move on
7 then to report of special committees.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Reports of
10 standing committees.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee
12 on Standards and Ethics, preconsidered Resolution
13 number 1439, Council Member Andy King.

14 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I would now ask that
15 the clerk take a roll call vote on preconsidered
16 Resolution number 1439.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Constantinides.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Ah, Madam
19 Majority Leader, may I be allowed to explain my vote?

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
21 granted.

22 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: You know,
24 I, I take no joy in the vote today. Ah, but I have
25 heard no contrition from Council Member King at all.

2 Ever. For any of his comments. If being a council
3 member, as I said, last year, was a privilege it's
4 one that we take seriously, especially at this moment
5 when the city is hurting, when coronavirus has killed
6 so many of our residents, seen so many people lose
7 their jobs. We have not heard anything from Council
8 Member King that recognizes the severity of what his
9 conduct has meant to his staff and to all of those
10 who have come in contact with him. I have to vote
11 aye on, on this today, to stand up for those who need
12 a voice, who have been rendered voiceless by his
13 continued conduct and lack of contrition for that
14 conduct. Thank you.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Adams.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Pass.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Ampy-Samuel.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Ah, can I,
20 um, have permission to just explain my vote?

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
22 granted.

23 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: After
25 having read every single page of the report I think

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2 that at this particular time I would have to, as a
3 woman, as a former staffer, make sure that the
4 council body does the right thing, even just on
5 behalf of New Yorkers. We've been through this.
6 We've been presented with enough information. So I
7 would have to vote yes in support of the ethics
8 committee recommendation. So with that I vote yes.

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, and
10 our prayers go to you and your family at this time,
11 Council Member Ampry-Samuel.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Thank you.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: I vote aye.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Barron.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Borelli.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: I vote aye.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Brannan.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Permission to
21 explain my vote?

22 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
23 granted.

24 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: You know, we're
3 at a time in history when faith in government has
4 just about cratered, um, and it's no help when an
5 elected official engages in the kind of conduct that
6 is at issue here. And I believe it is the
7 responsibility of this body to hold up standards of
8 conduct and to take action when a member's conduct
9 falls below those standards. Um, I think the ethics
10 committee tried to do that. They tried to give the
11 council member options to correct his behavior, so
12 own up to his wrongs, and to move forward. Ah, but
13 the Council Member has continued to show zero remorse
14 for his behavior and has completely disregarded the
15 corrective actions ordered by the ethics committee,
16 um, months ago, and in the process I believe he's
17 made a mockery of the ethics committee and of this
18 body. What's most important to me as a former
19 council staffer is that we take action to protect the
20 staff who help keep the council running. While it
21 may be true that we are moving today to expel a
22 member of the council who was duly elected by his
23 constituents, the treatment of staff is not an issue
24 fit for the ballot box. Ah, the treatment of staff
25 cannot be something that we merely leave up to the

2 voters to decide. To do so would be to accept as a
3 foregone conclusion that some staff will simply be
4 mistreated until the end of the council member's
5 term. And I find that unacceptable. I think Council
6 Member King was given more than enough opportunities
7 to avoid the necessity of this vote today, and I
8 believe that unfortunately he squandered all of those
9 opportunities. I take no joy, ah, in, in having to
10 vote for this today, but I am, ah, voting aye in
11 favor of his expulsion. Thank you.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Cabrera.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Chin.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I vote aye.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Cohen.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Permission to
18 briefly explain my vote?

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
20 granted.

21 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Thank you, Madam
23 Majority Leader. I, I just want to say that I do
24 feel terrible, having read the report, ah, about what
25 the staff went through. I feel terrible that the

2 people in the 12th Council District are being
3 disenfranchised. Um, I really want to thank Chair
4 Matteo and Council Members Chin, Gibson, and
5 Koslowitz and Levin, I can't imagine how difficult it
6 was to do this work. Um, I want to say, you know,
7 the confidence I have in your recommendations, ah,
8 and with that I'm going to vote aye. Thank you.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Cornegy.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Deutsch.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Diaz. Council Member
14 Diaz.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: I respectfully vote
16 no.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Dromm.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Gibson.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I'd like to pass
23 for a second. I need a moment. Thank you.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Sure. Gjonaj.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I vote aye.

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Grodenchik.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Holden.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Kallos.

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

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
10 granted.

11 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I'm sorry I did
13 not vote to expel Council Member King in October of
14 last year. Regardless of whether we had the vote at
15 the time to expel I should have done the right thing
16 and voted to do so. We have a duty to believe women
17 and we have a duty to protect our residents, our own
18 employees, from sexual harassment and retaliation.
19 The City Council failed despite its best efforts.
20 Immediately following our vote, if you follow Council
21 Member King on social media, there was no indication
22 that he was suspended. When I saw him violating the
23 terms of his suspension I reported it. I was
24 disappointed that Council Member King did not take
25 the time provided to consider the impact of his

2 actions on his staff, receiving the training and
3 personal counseling to do the work of really
4 understanding the harm he caused, and making amends.
5 The retaliation against employees, the reprehensible
6 conduct towards a woman on his staff that violated
7 several federal laws, going so far as to suspend her
8 without pay, the games of cat and mouse alleged
9 between Council Member King and the monitor,
10 kickbacks, and the long list of improper conduct is
11 difficult to read. To the staff members, to our
12 city, please accept my apology. I understand that
13 may not be good enough if you faced unconscionable
14 conduct that occurred after our lateral vote. Today
15 I do my best to correct that mistake, past mistakes.
16 It ends now. It stops today. I vote in the
17 affirmative to expel Council Member King.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: King.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Again, I, I vote no
20 to this resolution, and I'm just saddened as I hear
21 the role come down that for words [inaudible] asked
22 to be humbled, more than humbled, and I'm being
23 humble as I can, and [inaudible] told me and I
24 apologize to anybody that got offended but the truth
25 or end of the transcript, I just ask people to make

2 the transcripts and I'm listening to people just
3 ignoring that and it's nothing more than I can say,
4 but I vote no and I'll ask all those who are voting
5 after me no, it's just not fair, it's just not fair
6 what y'all are ignoring. It's not fair. Thank you.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Koo.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Koslowitz.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I read the
11 transcripts and I listened to the witnesses and I
12 vote aye.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Lancman.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Lander.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I've explained my
17 vote in a statement that's posted online on social
18 media, anyone that would like to see it can read it
19 there. In solidarity with the staffers who found the
20 courage to speak up against harassment, I vote aye.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Um, can you come
23 back to me? I'm sorry.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Sure. Levine.
25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Yes, permission
3 to briefly explain my vote, Madam Majority Leader?

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
5 granted. Yes.

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you. I
8 first want to offer my profound admiration for the
9 survivors and witnesses who have bravely come
10 forward. My gratitude to Steven Matteo as chair and
11 the members of the ethics committee for very, very
12 diligent work on this. My gratitude to the many
13 council staffers who have fought for accountability.
14 Ah, I want to offer my own regret for not having
15 voted to expel Council Member King a year ago. But
16 it is absolutely clear, beyond a doubt, not only that
17 behavior has been reprehensible, but that he has
18 shown no empathy, no sympathy, and frankly no
19 contrition for these acts, and so I will be voting
20 aye.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Louis.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I vote aye.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Maisel.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Menchaca.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Permission to
3 explain my vote?

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
5 granted.

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Ah, colleagues,
8 ah, we're, we're here again a year later and when
9 Council Member Van Bramer introduced the resolution,
10 the amendment to the resolution, and I seconded it, I
11 was hoping that we would have a fuller conversation
12 about what was happening. We are here again a year
13 later, and I just want to think about these
14 consequences that we have that we take when we don't
15 move further than we should, and this is an example
16 of this moment. Ah, Council Member King, I've heard
17 you speak a year ago, I'm hearing you today, and I
18 will be voting in support of this resolution, ah, to
19 remove you from this, this, this body. I'm thinking
20 about the staffers. As a staffer myself, ah, for a
21 very long time, working under, ah, intense
22 conditions, and also seeing my staff work and your
23 staff, all of our staff work in intense conditions,
24 ah, they need more. They need support. They need
25 resources, ah, and they have organized, ah, in this

2 council to demand that. And I hope that we can shift
3 our focus after this vote today and make sure that
4 that happens. The survivors and their ability to
5 stand up against this injustice is not easy and so
6 that courage must be lifted and applauded. And if
7 there are more things that are happening in this
8 council or any, any legislative body or in any sector
9 that survivors continue to come out, ah, with that
10 courage because we are here and we are listening.
11 Um, the last thing I want to say is that this
12 conversation was hard and, ah, it was really hard
13 even just to be here today to listen to everything,
14 but it is important. It is critical that we listen,
15 ah, even to all sides, but that when justice is gonna
16 be served that we do that. That is our role. That
17 is what we are here to do. And whether it's in this
18 resolution or in anything that's happening in our
19 communities, whether it's budget or laws or land use
20 that we bring that, that a sense of justice.

21 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: [inaudible]
23 matter, ah, and let's move forward. I vote aye.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Miller.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I pass.

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Moya.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Perkins.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Aye.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Powers.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: I vote aye, and
8 just today is a good reminder and a good day to say
9 thank you to all staff at the City Council who work
10 extremely hard and, ah, do such great work on behalf
11 of the city. So I want to say thank you to
12 everybody, including my wonderful staff, and I vote
13 aye.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Reynoso.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Permission to
16 explain my vote?

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
18 granted.

19 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Thank you. I
21 just want to say, ah, that today we set a new
22 standard, and that's extremely important to note that
23 in the past maybe this type of stuff could have
24 happened and gone, ah, unrecognized or, ah,
25 undisciplined. Well, that is not the times that

2 we're living in now. Ah, and I'm very happy to see
3 that, ah, these, ah, these employees, um, finally saw
4 justice. I wish we would have done it a year ago.
5 Um, it didn't happen, but we're here today. So, ah,
6 I will be voting aye.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Richards.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Permission to
11 explain my vote?

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
13 granted.

14 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you. Andy
16 King must be removed from the City Council. Even in
17 the wake of the most severe sanctions our body has
18 ever issued, he has continued unconscionable abuses
19 and his staff has continued to be exposed to a
20 hostile and even violent work environment. He has
21 shown that he is unfit to hold elected official or
22 any position of power, and therefore I will be voting
23 aye for expulsion. The council members and staff of
24 the Standards and Ethics Committee have conducted
25 their work with sincerity, integrity, and commitment

2 it deserves. My trust in the council's ability to
3 enforce the committee's previous recommendations as
4 well as an understanding that the council would work
5 immediately to reform its procedures led me to vote
6 against King's expulsion last year. However, having
7 spoken with some of Council Member King's current and
8 former staffers and given the revelations in the
9 committee's most recent report, I now see that we
10 could have and should have acted much earlier, and
11 for that I sincerely apologize. This ugly chapter in
12 the council's history has demonstrated that the
13 process by which we attempt to protect our workers is
14 broken and it is time to correct this mistake. We
15 must address the failures in our process for
16 reporting and adjudicating misconduct, which enabled
17 corruption and abuse to persist, and our failure to
18 act continues to hurt our employees and constituents,
19 and it must end. Fierce advocates, like Harassment-
20 Free NYCC and Sexual Harassment Working Group, have
21 put forward recommendations as to how to reform our
22 policies and procedures. I support that platform,
23 and we should all listen to them. We need to
24 immediately begin a process to evaluate and implement
25 real changes, including having a public hearing. I

2 can't change how I voted last November, but I can and
3 will vote to expel Council Member King now. And I
4 can and will fight to make the changes necessary for
5 the council to become a better and safer work
6 environment, both because we need to lead by example
7 and because we owe it to the staff who work
8 tirelessly on behalf of all New Yorkers. We cannot
9 fail again. Enough is enough.

10 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Rodriguez.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Rose.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I had so hoped that
15 we would not have to revisit this and that there
16 would have been lessons learned, but, um, in light of
17 the fact that, ah, they were not I vote aye.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Rosenthal.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Ah, permission
20 to explain my vote?

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
22 granted.

23 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you so
25 much. Um, look, I want to start by thanking the New

2 York City Council staff and the Standards and Ethics
3 Committee members, chaired by Council Member Matteo,
4 for their tireless work to bring justice for all
5 involved. This is the third time the committee had
6 to meet to review Mr. King's behavior. We owe the
7 committee our gratitude for their thoughtful
8 consideration. As chair of the Committee on Women
9 and Gender Equity my vote is to expel Andy King if
10 his continued misconduct and continued lack of
11 contrition for his misconduct. We must use this as
12 an opportunity to revisit and deeply analyze the
13 effectiveness of these programs. As a body, we have
14 to act quickly and decisively when it comes to sexual
15 harassment. This council and the mayor came together
16 at the beginning of 2018 in response to the Me Too
17 movement to pass our historic Stop Sexual Harassment
18 in the Workplace Act, which is a package of bills
19 aimed at addressing and preventing sexual harassment
20 in the workplace, private and public sectors.
21 Implementation of several of these bills has been a
22 disappointment. The climate survey was so mediocre
23 that the findings and the next steps were irrelevant.
24 We need to aim higher and to do so immediately to end
25 workplace harassment in New York City. I look

2 forward to working with my colleagues to do so.

3 Thank you.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Salamanca.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: I vote aye.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Torres.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I vote aye.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Treyger.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Permission to
10 explain my vote?

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
12 granted.

13 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I want to thank
15 all the staffers who have bravely shared their
16 experiences over the course of these three
17 investigations, as well as the staffers who
18 cooperated with the investigations at high
19 professional risk. You deserve our gratitude and
20 commendation. For three years since the first
21 investigation, King staffers have reported to a
22 deeply precarious workplace, while our process
23 offered him the opportunity to continue his same
24 patterns of harassment and retaliation. These
25 staffers did what the council asked and required of

2 them. They reported violations of the policy and
3 cooperated with investigations. In return, did we
4 deliver real changes in their working conditions or
5 provide them with real security? This moment in our
6 history is not just defined by a single council
7 member's misdeeds. It will also be defined by our
8 institutional ability to implement our own policies
9 in a meaningful way and to ensure a workplace free
10 from harassment and discrimination. This vote is
11 long overdue, but we will miss the moral urgency of
12 the moment if we treat the expulsion of Andy King as
13 the sole corrective measure needed to overcome what
14 is fundamentally an institutional problem. This is
15 not a criticism of my colleagues on the Standards and
16 Ethics Committee who did the best they could within a
17 broken system. In order to finally close the book on
18 this chapter we need to overhaul the systems and
19 structures which enabled Andy King's abuses to
20 proceed undeterred for so many years, and with that I
21 vote aye.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Ah, I vote aye.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Vallone.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Van Bramer.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Permission to
4 briefly explain my vote?

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
6 granted.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you.

8 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: So at the
10 beginning of Council Member King's, ah, testimony I
11 think, ah, I'll call it today, he referenced, ah, one
12 of the cases, ah, against him and in so doing I
13 believe grossly mischaracterized the allegations
14 against him by a young staff member of this body, and
15 I cannot in good conscience let that stand. Um, I
16 believe that staff member. Ah, I believe her. Ah,
17 I, I know her. And it is, ah, so typical and happens
18 all the time when people harass young women and then
19 say it was just a handshake, it was just an
20 invitation to an event. Um, that does a disservice,
21 ah, to the courage of the young woman who came
22 forward. I also believe it's a lie and it's, it's
23 part of why I made the motion to expel last year.
24 It's why I vote to expel Andy King today, ah, because
25 there is no remorse, there is no sense of what is

2 right and what is wrong, and it is an outrage. My
3 entire staff is watching this meeting. Ah, we are
4 texting one another. They can't believe what they've
5 heard and what they're saying and we are not only
6 standing up for, ah, the first complainant here, ah,
7 we're standing up for all of them and also for every
8 single person on the staff of the City Council. I
9 vote aye.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Yeger.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Adams.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Explain my vote?

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
15 granted.

16 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Thank you. Thank
18 you, Madam Majority Leader. You know, I, I passed
19 for a reason. Ah, being number one on this role is
20 not an easy position, um, this body, ah, since day
21 one, even as coming in as a junior council member I
22 was, ah, became, ah, number one on this role. I
23 wanted to fully hear and understand, after hearing
24 Council Member King, of course, and the committee
25 chair, I wanted to hear as many of my colleagues

2 speak as possible to make sure that I had a full
3 perspective, ah, and a total roundedness, ah, shall
4 we say, of the situation. This is not an easy
5 position to be in for any of us. As we say, we don't
6 want to be here today making this decision. Um, like
7 Council Member Ampry-Samuel, I, too, have read the
8 transcripts, as was recommended by Council Member
9 King. I wish that I hadn't. Um, the, the situations
10 are dire to me, and as a women even more serious to
11 me. It is unfortunate and a very dark day in this
12 council that we have to do something that is
13 unprecedented. With that, I vote aye.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Gibson.

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

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
18 granted.

19 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you Madam
21 Majority Leader, and thank you colleagues, thank you
22 Speaker, thank you Chair Matteo, ah, for your
23 leadership and the members on the committee and all
24 the staff who really did a lot of work to bring us to
25 today. Ah, this has been a three-year process that's

2 been emotionally draining, exhausting, and consumed
3 many hours of our time. None of us asked to be in
4 this position, nor do we want to be here today making
5 this decision. I am upset. I'm hurt. But most of
6 all I'm disappointed. I'm saddened for the staff and
7 all the witnesses who came forward, courageous and
8 bravely and boldly to share their pain. I'm saddened
9 at the environment of discrimination and harassment
10 in which they were forced to work, which is
11 unacceptable. The bravery to come forward, knowing
12 that you could be terminated or retaliated against
13 shows strength. I've heard their stories and I
14 believe them. Unfortunately, our colleague's
15 consistent pattern of a harmful work environment that
16 he created and allowed to happen in his own office is
17 unacceptable. We all, colleagues, have a
18 responsibility to treat our constituents and staffers
19 with dignity and respect, and when we lose sight of
20 that it's a dangerous thing. I apologize to all the
21 staff and all the witnesses who came forward for what
22 you endured. I pray for your healing and your
23 strength as you all attempt to move forward in your
24 careers and put this ordeal behind you. I pray for
25 our colleague and his own family. There is a real

2 problem facing the truth and accepting responsibility
3 for his own actions and the role that he played in
4 all of this. He is the victim and everyone else is
5 wrong is not acceptable. We did not as a committee
6 come to this position lightly at all. This has been
7 three years of a very painful process, and I truly
8 hope, as many have said, that we find a learning
9 lesson in all of this and we operate better as
10 elected officials, as principles, and we make sure
11 that we continue to put policies in place that really
12 create...

13 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: ...a, a, an
15 environment that is free of harassment and
16 discrimination. Um, thank you, colleagues, and with
17 that I vote aye. Thank you.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Levin.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: [inaudible].

20 COUNCIL CLERK: My apologies, Council
21 Member, I didn't hear you.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Permission to
23 explain my vote?

24 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.
25

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Sorry, permission
3 granted.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you, Madam
5 Majority Leader. Um, so I want to, ah, first
6 associate my, my comments with the comments of
7 Council Member Gibson, ah, my colleague on the
8 committee, um, and, um, ah, express my thanks and
9 admiration to the staff members that came forward,
10 um, um, with these latest, um, allegations. Um, ah,
11 just a couple of things that I wanted to say about
12 this process, um, and, and, um, kind of in response
13 to Council Member King, um, um, highlighting that,
14 that is an extraordinary measure, um, that this has
15 never happened, at least in the last, um, 80 or 90
16 years or so in the New York City Council. Um, ah,
17 ah, that being said, um, as Council Member Brannan
18 said, um, we cannot, um, the vote, the will of the
19 voters is, is, is extremely important and almost
20 sacrosanct. We cannot, ah, allow that to be a, ah, a
21 blank check for staff to be mistreated and, um, the
22 testimony of the staff member who had been
23 discriminated against, ah, because of her medical
24 condition, um, I went back and read the transcript,
25 ah, after the trial. It was extremely compelling

2 and, um, ah, even more, ah, disturbing to me than the
3 comments of Council Member King, um, was the fact
4 that he, um, went to great lengths to require her to
5 go out on unpaid leave and then essentially ghosted
6 her and would not return her calls, um, set up an
7 expectation that she would return to work potentially
8 within two weeks, and three-and-a-half months went
9 by, um, without her being offered her job back, um,
10 nor any indication that she would or wouldn't be able
11 to return to work and therefore...

12 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: ...and therefore
14 she lost out on those wages. So, um, if I may just,
15 ah, ah, just a couple [inaudible] concluding remarks.
16 Um, and, ah, and so, um, that was extremely
17 disturbing. And then, um, in addition to, the, the
18 other charge, um, both of which, by the way, I just
19 want it for the record, um, occurred prior to us
20 making any, last year, our, our, um, ah, sanctions
21 last year, um, were subsequent to the actions that we
22 were hearing about, um, in this charges, um, and, um,
23 and with regard to the \$2000, um, paid out the
24 documentary evidence was compelling enough to meet a
25 preponderance of evidence for myself and I think the

2 members of the committee. So just to be clear, our
3 standard was basically 51%, um, we believed the
4 evidence as presented in the allegations, and that
5 standard was met, um, and, and therefore, um, the
6 appropriate sanctions of expulsion, I think, were,
7 were due. And so I want to thank, again, um, the
8 chair, um, and the members of the committee, and the
9 entire staff that worked on this, as well as Council
10 Member King's staff, who have had to endure, um, a
11 significant amount of hardship. Um, and, and lastly
12 I want to also, ah, agree with Council Member Rivera
13 that, um, we should be working with the Sexual
14 Harassment Working Group, um, and engaging with them
15 further, um, on, on how we create a better overall
16 workplace in the New York City Council, um, so that
17 we can prevent, um, things like this from happening
18 again. And with that I vote aye. Thank you.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Miller.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Matteo.

22 MINORITY LEADER MATTEO: Yes.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Cumbo.

24 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Majority Leader, are
25 you there? Majority Leader Cumbo?

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I'm here, I
3 apologize, I'm here, I apologize, I had a technical
4 difficulty.

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: It's time to vote, your
6 vote.

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Um, I vote aye.
8 This has been a very sad hearing for me, um, feeling
9 it very emotionally. I would just say to Council
10 Member King, Andy, as I consider you a colleague and
11 a friend, um, there's no doubt about your brilliance
12 and the work that you've done on behalf of your
13 community, particularly young people, particularly
14 communities of color, um, on behalf of the Bronx and
15 the City of New York. I know that part of what was
16 recommended were trainings and that sort of thing.
17 But I believe that it's, it's deeper than just a
18 training session. My hope for you, because I do
19 believe that there was a word used in terms of
20 unfixable, I feel that there's much more for you
21 still to do, um, in this city and in this world, but
22 I do believe that, um, some level of professional
23 help or support, um, professional life coaching,
24 because it just seems that you are just not very
25 aware or self-aware. Any time behavior and conduct

2 results in a hearing of this magnitude three times
3 there's something that deeply has to be addressed,
4 and I hope that you're able to address that, and I
5 hope that you know that there is life after the
6 council and I hope that you're able to move forward.
7 But to move forward in a way where you do seek the
8 level of support and help to create the
9 infrastructure so that your understanding about your,
10 how your behavior is impacting people, um, and that's
11 critical. So that is my hope for you. I, I feel you
12 owe it to your community, for the district that you
13 represent, ah, to demonstrate that you have a
14 challenge and you have an issue, but you're
15 addressing it. So unfortunately, um, I vote aye, and
16 I do hope and support that you do get the support and
17 the counsel that you need, not just a training, not
18 just a 30-hour training, but real deep long-term, um,
19 help and support. And no member in this council is
20 perfect. No member in this council can say that
21 they've never made a mistake. But it's all about how
22 we go about addressing it, and so I'll conclude with
23 that.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Speaker

25 Johnson.

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I vote aye.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: The vote on today's
4 general order calendar is 48 in the affirmative, 2 in
5 the negative, and no abstentions. Thank you.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Give me one
7 moment.

8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Madam Majority Leader,
9 it's the introduction and reading of bills.

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I'm, I'm aware.
11 Thank you, Speaker Johnson. We'll now move into the
12 discussion of reading of...

13 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Hold on, Madam Majority
14 Leader.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Yes.

16 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Is the motion adopted?
17 Is the resolution adopted?

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member
19 Miller, you're, um, not on mute.

20 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Madam Majority Leader,
21 you have to declare if the resolution has been
22 adopted or not.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: The resolution
24 has been adopted at this time.

25

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: There are no bills, ah,
3 that are being introduced today.

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: We will now move
5 at this time into the discussion of General Orders.
6 We will recognize council members who wish to, excuse
7 me, general discussion.

8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Mr. Parliamentarian.

9 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Majority Leader, there
10 are no members who wish to speak.

11 SPEAKER JOHNSON: OK.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: We will now move
13 into report of special committees.

14 SPEAKER JOHNSON: No, no, ah, Laurie,
15 we're at the end. It's, it's, ah, you call on me and
16 I close today's Stated Meeting.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I apologize. My
18 computer has shut down. Um, I'll now call on Speaker
19 Corey Johnson to close today's Stated Meeting, if
20 there are no members who are wishing to speak on
21 general discussion.

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: The Stated Meeting of
23 October 5, 2020, is hereby adjourned.

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

25 [gavel]

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STATED MEETING

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UNIDENTIFIED: OK, the live stream is now
off. Closing the meeting.

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STATED MEETING

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date October 10, 2020