

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

STATED MEETING

----- X

10-7-2021
Start: 2:12 P.M.
Recess: 3:36 P.M.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO

COUNCIL MEMBERS: MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO
ADRIENNE ADAMS
ALICKA AMPRY-SAMUEL
DIANA AYALA
INEZ BARRON
JUSTIN BRANNAN
SELVENA BROOKS-POWERS
FERNANDO CABRERA
ROBERT CORNEGY
DARMA DIAZ
RUBEN DIAZ
ERIC DINOWITZ
DANIEL DROMM
MATHIEU EUGENE
OSWALD FELIZ
JAMES GENNARO
VENESSA GIBSON
MARK GJONAJ
BARRY GRODENCHIK
ROBERT HOLDEN
BEN KALLOS

PETER KOO
KAREN KOSLOWITZ
BRAD LANDER
STEVEN LEVIN
MARK LEVINE
FARAH LOUIS
ALAN MAISEL
STEVEN MATTEO
CARLOS MENCHACA
I. DANEEK MILLER
KEITH POWERS
ANTONIO REYNOSO
KEVIN RILEY
CARLINA RIVERA
DEBORAH ROSE
HELEN ROSENTHAL
RAFAEL SALAMANCA
MARK TREYGER
PAUL VALLONE
JAMES VAN BRAMER
KALMAN YEGER
STEVEN MATTEO
SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON
COSTA CONSTANTINIDES (guest)

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

1 STATED MEETING

4

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 STATED MEETING

5

2 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Good
3 afternoon and welcome to the State Meeting of October
4 7, 2021. I am Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo, and I'd
5 like to thank all of you for joining us today. If
6 you could like to follow along, the agenda for
7 today's meeting is posted on our website.

8 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Please join us for
9 the Pledge of Allegiance.

10 SGT. AT ARMS: All rise.

11 LEGISLATIVE CLERK AND ALL: I Pledge
12 Allegiance to the flag of the United States of
13 America and to the Republic for which it stands, one
14 nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and
15 justice for all.

16 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.
17 Roll call.

18 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Adams.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Present.

20 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Present.

22 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Ayala.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Present.

24 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Barron.

25

1 STATED MEETING

6

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Blessed and
3 present.

4 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Borelli, Brannan.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Here.

6 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Brooks-Powers.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Present.

8 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Cabrera.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

10 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Chin, Cornegy.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aqui.

12 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Darma Diaz.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DARMA DIAZ: Aqui.

14 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Ruben Diaz.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RUBEN DIAZ: Presente.

16 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Dinowitz.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Here.

18 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Dromm.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

20 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Eugene.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER EGUENE: Present.

22 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Feliz.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Here.

24 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Gennaro.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.

1 STATED MEETING

7

2 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Gibson.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER Gibson: Present.

4 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Gjonaj.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER Gjonaj: Present.

6 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Grodenchik.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Here.

8 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Holden.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here.

10 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Kallos.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.

12 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Koo.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER Koo: Present.

14 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Koslowitz.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

16 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Lander.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

18 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Levin.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

20 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Levine.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

22 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Louis.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Here.

24 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Maisel.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Here.

1 STATED MEETING

8

2 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Menchaca.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.

4 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Miller.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Present.

6 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Moya. Perkins.

7 Powers.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Here.

9 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Reynoso.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Here.

11 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Riley.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Present.

13 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Rivera.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Present.

15 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Rodriguez. Rose.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

17 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Rosenthal.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

19 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Salamanca.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.

21 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Treyger.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

23 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Ulrich. Vallone.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

25 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Van Bramer.

1 STATED MEETING

9

2 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

3 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Feliz.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Here.

5 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Yeger.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here.

7 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Matteo. Cumbo.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Present.

9 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Here.

11 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Matteo

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. We

14 will now have today's invocation which will be

15 delivered by Father Michael Callaghan, Pastor and

16 Spiritual Leader at the Brooklyn Oratory Parishes and

17 New York Disaster Interfaith Services, located at 64

18 Middagh Street, in Brooklyn New York.

19 SGT. AT ARMS: All rise.

20 FATHER MICHAEL CALLAGHAN: As we gather

21 today, I just want to say thank you for allowing me

22 to be here. I am also a Board member of NYTIS (SP?)

23 and I serve as the President of the Emergency Shelter

24 Network which is a network of respite care sites

25 hosted by communities of faith working across

2 sectarian identities to care for homeless and
3 vulnerable women and men across our five boroughs.
4 As we gather today, I pray on behalf of our members
5 and the guests that we service to encourage the work
6 of this city council. Let us pray. Oh God, who is
7 beyond our naming, yet not beyond our lives, we
8 gather here today to seek blessing and grace for
9 members of this city council who serve the varied and
10 diverse communities of our city. We thank you for
11 their service, dedication, and the many hours they
12 give to their districts in the greater interest of
13 New York City. Having fashioned us each in your own
14 likeness, you invite us to be collaborators with you
15 in the care and stewardship of daily life. God, you
16 know how complicated life can be, and how many are
17 the needs, the ideas, the hopes, and yes, the fears
18 of our neighbors. We ask today that give the members
19 of this council and all who work with them eyes to
20 see the needs of the communities they represent as
21 well as the needs of communities different from their
22 own. Open their ears and hearts to listen to voices,
23 both resonant and dissonant as they grapple with the
24 issues of governance. Enlighten their minds with
25 understanding, compassion, and creativity, and

1 STATED MEETING

11

2 provide them the conviction to act for the benefit of
3 all people in our city, and we ask this in your Holy
4 Name, Amen.

5 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Amen.

6 Thank you so much. That was a very beautiful prayer,
7 and we appreciate Father Michael Callaghan being here
8 with us today, and we thank you for all of your
9 service where most of it happens outside of your
10 congregation and outside of the church walls, and so
11 we certainly thank you for the work that you do, and
12 we will now have Council Member Steve Levin to spread
13 the innovation onto the record.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Madame Majority
15 Leader, I'd like to make a motion to spread the
16 innovation as a whole upon the record.

17 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Motion
18 accepted.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you very
20 much, Madame Majority Leader. Father Michael
21 Callaghan is a priest of the Brooklyn Oratory of St.
22 Phillip Mary. He has served in ordained ministry for
23 nearly 33 years. He's a graduate of Loyola
24 University in Maryland with a BA as a double major in
25 Political Science and Philosophy, Pre-Law program

1 STATED MEETING

12

2 track. He continued his education in graduate
3 studies at Marquette University in Philosophy. After
4 several years in the business sector, Father Michael
5 pursued Seminary studies at Catholic University in
6 St. Mary's Seminary and University, completing his
7 STB and Master of Divinity degrees. He also holds a
8 Master of Non-Profit Administration from the Mendoza
9 College of Business at the University of Notre Dame.
10 Father Michael has served in a variety of ministries
11 over the years including Parishes, Ministry with the
12 Deaf, Hospice Chaplaincy, Housing, Education, and
13 Food Security. He served as Executive Director of
14 Nazareth Housing for over a decade and has been an
15 advocate for affordable housing for many years. He
16 served for five years on the Board of Directors for
17 Homeless Services United, four of those as President,
18 and that's the capacity where I met him. A founding
19 member of LES Ready on the lower east side. He has
20 worked to help communities build resiliency after the
21 impacts of Hurricane Sandy. Supporting outreach
22 prevention and impact of domestic violence and
23 intimate partner violence issues in the Bronx, he
24 helped found and co-chaired the Bronx Domestic
25 Violence roundtable. He is currently the Managing

1 STATED MEETING

13

2 Director of Project Haiti, supporting education and
3 development in the Artibonite Department of Haiti and
4 is an Almoner for the Haven's Relief Society here in
5 New York City. Father Callaghan is also a member of
6 the Board of Directors of New York Disaster
7 Interfaith Services and is the President of the Board
8 of Directors for Emergency Shelter Network. In his
9 present ministry, he serves as Pastor at Assumption
10 Parish in Brooklyn Heights, where his parish hosts a
11 respite bed site for homeless New Yorkers. Thank you
12 very much, Madama Majority Leader.

13 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you
14 so much, Council Member Steve Levin, and we thank you
15 so much for being here today with us, and we look
16 forward to seeing much of your work as it progresses
17 in our communities. Thank you so much, and we will
18 now have the adoption of minutes by Council Member
19 Mark Treyger.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK TREYGER: I make them
21 motion that the minutes of the stated meeting of
22 September 9, 2021, be adopted as printed.

23 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you,
24 Council Member Treyger. We'll now have messages and
25 papers from the mayor.

1 STATED MEETING 14

2 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: None.

3 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO:

4 Communication from city, county, and borough offices.

5 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: None.

6 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Petitions
7 and communications.

8 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: None.

9 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Land Use
10 call ups.

11 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: M339 through M341.

12 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Coupled on a call
13 of vote. At this time, I'm going to ask the Clerk to
14 take a roll call vote on today's Land Use call ups.
15 Again colleagues, we're just voting on the Land Use
16 call ups.

17 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Adams.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: I on all.

19 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Adams
20 votes I on all. Ampry-Samuel.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY SAMUEL: I on all.

22 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Ampry-Samuel votes I
23 on all. Ayala.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: I.

25

1 STATED MEETING 15

2 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Ayala
3 votes I on all. Barran.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote I on all.

5 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Barron
6 votes I on all. Borelli. Brannan.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: I on all.

8 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Brannan votes I on
9 all. Brooks-Powers.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: I on all.

11 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Brooks-Powers votes I
12 on all. Cabrera.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: I.

14 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member
15 Cabrera votes I. Council Member Chin. Cornegy.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I.

17 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member
18 Cornegy votes I. Darma Diaz.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DARMA DIAZ: I.

20 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Darma Diaz votes I.
21 Ruben Diaz.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RUBEN DIAZ: Si.

23 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Ruben Diaz votes si.
24 Dinowitz.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: I.

1 STATED MEETING 16

2 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member

3 Dinowitz votes I. Dromm.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Yes.

5 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Dromm

6 votes yes. Eugene.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I.

8 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Eugene

9 votes I. Feliz.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: I on all.

11 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Feliz

12 votes I on all. Gennaro.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

14 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member

15 Gennaro votes yes. Council Member Gibson.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I vote I.

17 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Gibson votes I.

18 Gjonaj.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I.

20 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Gjonaj

21 votes I. Grodenchik.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: I.

23 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member

24 Grodenchik votes I. Holden.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I on all.

1 STATED MEETING 17

2 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Holden

3 votes I on all. Kallos.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I.

5 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Kallos

6 votes I. Council Member Koo.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I on all.

8 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Koo

9 votes I on all. Koslowitz.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I.

11 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member

12 Koslowitz votes I. Lander.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I.

14 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Lander

15 votes I. Levin, Levine.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: I.

17 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Levine

18 votes I. Louis.

19 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Louis.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I.

21 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Louis

22 votes I. Maisel.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

24 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Maisel

25 votes yes. Menchaca.

1 STATED MEETING 18

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: I.

3 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member

4 Menchaca votes I. Miller.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I.

6 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member votes

7 I. Moya. Perkins. Powers.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: I.

9 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Powers

10 votes I. Reynoso.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I vote I.

12 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member

13 Reynoso votes I. Riley.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Majority Leader,

15 can I ask for the unanimous consent to permission to

16 vote on all Land Use call ups and items on the

17 general order calendar, please?

18 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Any

19 objections? Seeing none, your request is granted.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Thank you Majority

21 Leader. I vote I on all.

22 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.

23 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Rivera.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I.

25

1 STATED MEETING

19

2 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Rivera
3 votes I. Rodriguez. Rose.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I.

5 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Rose
6 votes I. Rosenthal.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I on all.

8 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member
9 Rosenthal votes I on all. Salamanca.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: I on all.

11 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member
12 Salamanca votes I on all. Treyger.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I.

14 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member
15 Treyger votes I. Ulrich. Vallone.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: I on all.

17 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member
18 Vallone votes I on all. Van Bramer.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Madame
20 Majority Leader, I would like to make a motion for
21 unanimous consent to vote on all items coupled on the
22 general orders calendar.

23 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Any
24 objections? Seeing none.

25

1 STATED MEETING

20

2 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I vote I on
3 all.

4 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.

5 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Yeger.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: I.

7 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Yeger
8 votes I. Matteo.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: I.

10 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Matteo
11 votes I. Cumbo.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I vote I.

13 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

14 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I vote I.

15 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.

16 Today's Land Use call ups have a vote of 42 in the
17 affirmative, zero in the negative, and we will now
18 have communication from Speaker Corey Johnson.

19 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Good afternoon.

20 Welcome to today's state meeting. Thank you, Madame

21 Majority Leader. Happy Thursday. I would like to

22 remind all members that masks are required to be worn

23 throughout the stated meeting, even while you are

24 speaking. Today, we're voting on 8 Bills to help our

25 city tackle its many challenges including our climate

2 crisis. We didn't need Hurricane Ida to remind us
3 that our city is not prepared for climate change.
4 Storm after storm has devastated our city and proven
5 that our infrastructure is no match for extreme
6 weather. The damage is only going to get worse,
7 which is why our city needs to more aggressively plan
8 for climate adaptation. That's why I'm so proud that
9 we are today, voting on a Bill to create a city-wide
10 climate resiliency plan and another that requires all
11 electric zero emissions school buses. We're also
12 voting to provide better pay and training to shelter
13 security guards and to work with developers to make
14 our train system more accessible to all. No one
15 should ever doubt that this council's commitment to
16 strengthening our city. Each day, it is a testament
17 to that commitment, and I'm proud of our record of
18 doing the most good for the people who need it the
19 most. October 11th is National Coming Out Day, where
20 we celebrate the power of living in your truth, and
21 we raise awareness for the LGBTQ plus community on
22 this day, no matter how you identify, be proud of who
23 you are and support LGBTQ plus quality. I came out
24 in April of 1999 when I was 16 years old. As I do in
25 every stated, I want to acknowledge the few 9-11

1 STATED MEETING

22

2 related deaths. Today, we mourn the death of retired
3 firefighter, Michael Toll who died on September 29th.
4 I also want to acknowledge those New Yorkers who have
5 died on the job. Delivery Benicar Dia (SP?), 44
6 years old died on September 25th after being struck
7 by car as she was driving this e-bike in east New
8 York in Brooklyn. Last Friday, we reached another
9 grim milestone in our battle against COVID-19. The
10 death toll of this pandemic in the United States has
11 surpassed 700,000 people. We have lost 34,334 New
12 Yorkers from COVID-19 as of October 5th. We are
13 still suffering, but we are resilient, and we will
14 recover. Let us pause for a moment of silence for
15 those New Yorkers who have died from COVID-19, from
16 9-11 related illnesses and who have died on the job,
17 we are sending our deepest condolences to their
18 family and friends. If you would rise for a moment
19 of silence. Thank you. Before we get into our
20 agenda, I want to say we are really lucky to be
21 graced today by our former colleague Council Member
22 Costa Constantinides. We are so happy to have him
23 here. (Applauding). This has been a difficult year
24 and a half for many New Yorkers, many people who work
25 at the city council, and even many council members

1 STATED MEETING

23

2 and we know that Costa has experienced some deep loss
3 over this past year, but we love him, and we love his
4 son, Nico, and we're so happy to see him looking
5 healthy and we're so glad he's here today. He was
6 and always will be an environmental champion, and
7 many of the Bills today, he was deeply, intimately
8 involved with some of the Bill were his Bill before
9 he left the city council, and so we're really, really
10 glad that he's here today. Now, onto our agenda for
11 today. From the Finance Committee, we will be voting
12 on a transparency resolution from our Land Use
13 Committee. We will be voting on an item that is
14 particularly important to me, it was a great example
15 of government working together to make our city more
16 accessible for all. We're going to be voting on the
17 plan, elevate transit, zoning for accessibility,
18 which will update and strengthen the zoning tools for
19 private developers to work with the MTA to build 88
20 accessible transit station entrances as part of new
21 development. The proposal builds on the
22 recommendations of the 2019 city council report that
23 called on the MTA and city planning to update these
24 tools to help accelerate the construction of system-
25 wide accessibility. We're also voting on the

2 Windmere, a special permit to facilitate the
3 restoration, conversion, and enlargement of an
4 existing vacant building with ground-floor retail,
5 office space, and 20 units of affordable housing at
6 400-406 West 57th Street in my district. We will be
7 modifying this application to eliminate a hotel
8 option. This is a building that has been (inaudible)
9 for almost 20 years, an eye sore and Hell's Kitchen,
10 so, I'm very, very glad we're doing this today. 2840
11 Knapp Street rezoning will facilitate the interior
12 renovations which will result in increased floor area
13 for an existing six-story nursing home in council
14 district 48. 307 Kent Avenue will facilitate the
15 redevelopment of the current warehouse building into
16 a new 9-story building with commercial and community
17 space in Council Member Steven Levin's district.
18 106-02 Rockaway Beach Boulevard rezoning which will
19 facilitate the construction of a 6-story self-storage
20 facility in Council Member Eric Ulrich's district,
21 and finally, we'll be voting on the withdraw of 629-
22 639 West 142nd Street rezoning from our calendar in
23 Council Member Mark Levine's district. Moving on to
24 our legislative agenda, our first Bill comes out of
25 the Public Housing Committee, and it's sponsored by

1 STATED MEETING

25

2 Council Member Fernando Cabrera. Introduction number
3 2330-A will require 3-1-1 customer service center to
4 allow the public to contact the center to file
5 complaints or service requests relating to NYCHA in
6 the same manner as such complaints or service
7 requests are routinely accepted by 3-1-1. Those
8 complaints or service requests would be referred to
9 NYCHA. The Bill would also require data on such
10 complaints or service requests to be made public, and
11 I want to thank from the staff Audrey Son. We're
12 voting on two Bills from our Contacts Committee which
13 would provide better pay and training for security
14 and fire guards. Introduction number 1995-A
15 sponsored by Council Member Diana Ayala will provide
16 more training for security guards who work at
17 shelters. This Bill will require shelter operators
18 that contract with DHS to ensure that all security
19 guards and fire guards receive 40 hours of training
20 in addition to the minimum training required under
21 the state's general business law within 120 days of
22 being hired. From the staff, I want thank Luis
23 Cholden Brown (SP?), Alex Paunoff (SP?), Leah
24 Scripiac (SP?), and Amenta Kilowan (SP?).
25 Additionally, Introduction number 1206-A, sponsored

1 STATED MEETING

26

2 by Council Member Francisco Moya will require that
3 security guards at contracted shelters be paid
4 prevailing wages. Security guards at non-profit run
5 shelters typically earn just over the minimum wage
6 while those employed directly by the city earn \$18.45
7 an hour which can amount to \$7000.00 to \$8000.00 more
8 per year. Security guards at non-profit run sites
9 are also not provided with the same benefit afforded
10 to those employed directly the city, and often cannot
11 afford medical insurance or other benefits. This
12 Bill will require city shelter operators the contract
13 with DHS to ensure all security and fire guards are
14 paid no less than the prevailing wage, and require
15 shelter operators to submit annual certifications to
16 the DHS Commissioner and Controller that all guards
17 are paid a prevailing wage including records of the
18 days and hours worked, and wages and benefits paid to
19 each such guard, and from the staff, again, I want to
20 think Luis Cholden Brown, Alex Paunoff, Leah
21 Scripiac, and Michelle Lee. Next up, we have a Bill
22 from our Committee on Housing and Building sponsored
23 by Council Member Robert Cornegy, proposed
24 Introduction number 2261-A, will complete the most
25 recent code revision cycle by updating the New York

1 STATED MEETING

27

2 City building fuel, gas, and mechanical codes with
3 further updates to the plumbing code. Their visions
4 are based on the 2015 additions of the international
5 building, fuel, gas, mechanical, and plumbing codes
6 published by the international code council as
7 required by Local Law 33 of 2007. That Local Law
8 requires that New York City Department of Buildings
9 keep the New York City construction codes up to date
10 with the ICC. The proposed legislation improves
11 building instruction standards for new buildings and
12 resolved issued relating to the application of some
13 provisions of the new codes to the alteration of
14 existing buildings. This Bill also includes
15 amendments that promotes sustainability and
16 resiliency, enhance affordable housing, and
17 strengthen tenant protection, and from the staff, I
18 want to thank Genon Zilca (SP?), with support from
19 Audrey Son, Jose Conde (SP?), Charles Kim (SP?), and
20 a team from the Bill drafting division. The next two
21 Bills come from the report that I released in 2019
22 which was entitled growing food equity, which
23 outlined several proposals to tackle the issue.
24 Introduction 1663-A is sponsored by Council Member
25 Ben Kallos and is out of Economic Committee. It will

1 STATED MEETING

28

2 first establish an Office of Urban Agriculture within
3 the office of long-term planning and sustainability.
4 Second, it will empower the Office of Urban
5 Agriculture to conduct public education outreach to
6 promote urban agriculture, receive comments
7 pertaining to urban agriculture, make recommendations
8 to the Office of Long-Term Planning and
9 Sustainability, and other agencies to protect and
10 expand urban agriculture, and establish a program to
11 support research for advancing urban agriculture
12 legislation and policy in coordination with the
13 Office of Food Policy, the Parks Department, the
14 Department of City Planning, and other relevant
15 agencies. It will establish a 13-member urban
16 agriculture advisory board to advise the director of
17 the Office of Urban Agriculture, the mayor, and the
18 council on issues related to urban agriculture, and
19 require the urban agriculture advisory board to
20 submit recommendations to Office of Urban Agriculture
21 director, mayor and council speaker within 18 months
22 of the effective date of this law. Next, we have
23 Introduction number 1058-A sponsored by Council
24 Member Alicka Ampry-Samuel and from the Committee on
25 Land Use which will require the office of Urban

2 Agriculture to produce and urban agriculture report
3 every five years, and from the staff, I want to thank
4 Nadia Johnson (SP?), Alex Paunoff, and Nell Beakman
5 Sp. Next up, is Introduction number 455-A, sponsored
6 by the Council Member Danny Dromm, and out of the
7 Committee on Environmental Protection. Designed to
8 reduce gas emissions. This Bill will require that
9 all school buses in use by September 1st, 2035 are
10 all electric, zero emission school buses. The
11 replacement of school buses should be subject to the
12 commercial availability and reliability of all
13 electric zero emission school buses, and the
14 technical and physical availability of related
15 planned infrastructure, including but not limited to
16 charging stations and bus depots for electric zero
17 emission school buses. The legislation will also
18 require the Department of Education to report to the
19 Mayor and the Speaker on a variety of implementation
20 targets within three reporting deadlines, July 1st,
21 2023, July 1st, 2028, and July 1st, 2033. From the
22 staff, I want to thank Samira Swanston (SP?), Nadia
23 Johnson Ricky Chala (SP?), and Brad Reed (SP?), and
24 the last Bill we are voting on today is about
25 protecting our coastline. It is about environmental

2 justice. We are in a climate crisis and extreme
3 weather such as inland and costal flooding,
4 heatwaves, and several storms are, as everyone knows,
5 becoming more and more frequent. We need a plan to
6 safeguard and defend our shoreline from Rockway to
7 Riverdale, from Lower Manhattan to South Brooklyn to
8 Staten Island, and Introduction number 1620-A,
9 sponsored by the Council Member Justin Brannon, the
10 Chair of the Committee on Resiliency and Waterfronts,
11 will require that no later than September 30th, 2022,
12 so less than a year from now, and every 10 years
13 thereafter, the Office of Long-Term Planning and
14 Sustainability or another officer or agency
15 designated by OLTPS in consultation with other city
16 agencies develop and post on its website, a climate
17 adaptation plan that considers and evaluates various
18 climate hazards impacting the city and its shoreline.
19 The climate adaptation plan would include
20 recommendations for resiliency and adaptation
21 measures to protect residents, property, and
22 infrastructure in the city. Such plan would identify
23 areas that are highly vulnerable to climate hazards
24 to help determine where resiliency and adaptation
25 measure should be first implemented. Such plan would

1 STATED MEETING

31

2 also consider the potential impacts of adaptation
3 measures on environmental justice areas, and from the
4 staff, I want to thank Jessica Steinberg Alvin (SP?).
5 I know that Chair Brannan has been working on this
6 Bill for a very time, and I want to congratulate him.
7 With that, Madama Majority Leader, I turn it back
8 over to you.

9 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you
10 so much, Speaker Corey Johnson. We will now move
11 into discussion of general orders. We will begin
12 with Council Members Cabrera, Gennaro, and Kallos.
13 You want us to come back to you? You'd like to give
14 your time to Council Member Gennaro. Okay, Council
15 Member Gennaro, would you like to speak at this time?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES GENNARO: Thank you,
17 Madame Majority Leader. I just want to speak just
18 very brief about some of the great Bills that are
19 being done today. I'd like to thank in a very
20 special way, Danny Dromm, who has worked long and
21 hard for many years on this Bill to bring us to this
22 good day. We've had school bus Bills in the past
23 that were passed and didn't go anywhere in 2005.
24 There was a Bill passed. It was supposed to
25 transition the city from diesel to alternative fuels,

2 and not one school bus every got converted, but
3 because of the work of Danny and the staff, you know,
4 we have the benchmarks that the speaker spoke about.
5 This is a very, very solid Bill, and will lead to
6 full implementation. I predict also there is the
7 ability to retrofit existing buses for half of the
8 cost of what it would be to purchase a new one. You
9 know Danny, I'm sure, will talk more about that, but
10 I'm very happy about that, and Justin Brannan with
11 his Bill that was started by Costa and the ball was
12 given to Justin who did a great job in really doing
13 needs to be done in terms of a very, you know,
14 rigorous and reporting process by which we'll have,
15 you know, the best climate adaptation strategies
16 employed in New York City. With regard to the
17 billing code Bill, some folks may have heard that the
18 new building code bill would interfere with Local Law
19 97 compliance because of installation and what not,
20 and Jeff Bake (SP?) went round and round on that, and
21 I am certainly not worried that that is going to be
22 the case, so I'm very comfortable with it, and I
23 don't think it will have an adverse impact on Local
24 Law 97 compliance and will help fire safety, and last
25 but certainly not least, I'd like to pay tribute in a

1 STATED MEETING

33

2 special way to Costa whose here, who was part of my
3 time, part of my office for many, many years. I love
4 him very much. Our lives have been tracking similar,
5 you know, happiness and sadness, and we've always
6 been together, and we always will be. It's really
7 great to see him here today, and to get him to, you
8 know, like the full appreciation of his really rich
9 environmental legacy, but that's not why we love
10 Costa. We love Costa because he's Costa. So, thank
11 you all very much and great to see Costa here, and
12 God bless.

13 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you,
14 thank you, Council Member Gennaro. We'll now go to
15 Council Member Kallos.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BEN KALLOS: Council
17 Member Gennaro, I love Costa because he's an
18 environmental hero. Council Member Ben Kallos. This
19 pandemic has shown us how fragile our food network
20 is. Rather it was food shortages, toilet paper,
21 paper towels, or groceries, prices still haven't gone
22 down. New York City must have a sustainable food
23 supply. More and more, we are seeing the future of
24 agriculture is urban. That's why today, we're
25 establishing an Office of Urban Agriculture to work

2 with existing commercial urban farms expanding them
3 to remove barriers to entry across agencies through
4 the lens of social and economic justice. The Office
5 will work with NYCHA, building health communities, to
6 build farms and public housing land to offer our
7 lowest income New Yorkers access to healthy food and
8 economic opportunity. Support our vast network of
9 community gardens, not to mention expanding Grow to
10 Learn from a current 725 schools throughout the city.
11 In my own district, we've worked with Grow NYC to
12 bring planters and urban agriculture to every school
13 in the neighborhood. All this comes after years of
14 work, starting with Speaker Corey Johnson, who
15 proposed the advisory board that will also be
16 implemented by this legislation. There will be
17 representation for organizations focusing on climate,
18 restorative, and social justice with representation
19 from youth, whose voices have been leading this
20 fight. Council Member Rafael Espinal and Brooklyn
21 Borough President, Eric Adams invested \$2 million
22 dollars in partnership with the EDC to build out
23 urban agriculture in Brooklyn and originally
24 introduce this legislation to bring it city-wide. I
25 went to public high school in the Bronx on the same

1 STATED MEETING

35

2 block as Dewitt Clinton (SP?), which now boasts a
3 student-built 1300 square foot hydroponic farm
4 through Teens for Food Justice. I met students who
5 have harvested 25,000 pounds of produce, much of it
6 going to their school lunch, 30 to 60 pounds donated
7 to local food pantries and some still left over to
8 sell at farmer's markets. This isn't the only
9 program, and we need more. Introduction 1663 will
10 create the Office of Urban Agriculture and its
11 advisory board to get that done. Thank you, Speaker
12 Corey Johnson, Rafael Espinal, Borough President
13 Adams, and the Economic Development Committee staff
14 including Counsel Alex Paunoff.

15 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you,
16 Council Member Kallos. Council Member Cabrera, do
17 you wish to speak at this time? Okay, thank you very
18 much. We'll now move into the report of special
19 committees.

20 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: None.

21 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Reports of
22 standing committees.

23 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: For the Committee on
24 Contracts, Intros 1995-A and 2006-A shelter security
25 guards.

1 STATED MEETING

36

2 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Amended and
3 coupled on general orders.

4 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Report of the
5 committee on economic development, Intro 1663-A,
6 Office of Urban Agriculture.

7 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Amended and
8 coupled on general orders.

9 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Report of the
10 Committee on Environment protection, Intro 455-A,
11 electric school buses.

12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
13 general orders.

14 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Report of the
15 Committee on Finance preconsidered Reso 1752,
16 transparency resolution.

17 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
18 general orders.

19 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Report of the
20 Committee on Housing and Buildings, Intro 2261-A,
21 changes to construction codes.

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
23 general orders.

24

25

1 STATED MEETING

37

2 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Report of the
3 Committee on Land Use, Intro 1058-A Urban Agriculture
4 report.

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
6 general orders.

7 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: LU 832 and Reso 1753,
8 and LU 833 and Reso 1754, 2840 Knapp Street rezoning.

9 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
10 general orders.

11 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: LU 834, the Windmere.

12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Approved with
13 modifications and referred to the City Planning
14 Commission pursuant to Section 197D of the New York
15 City charter.

16 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: LU 836 and Reso 1755
17 and LU 837 and Reso 1756, 629-633 West 142nd Street
18 rezoning.

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled to be filed
20 pursuant to letter of withdrawal.

21 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: LU 838, elevate
22 transit.

23 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Approved with
24 modifications and referred to the City Planning

25

1 STATED MEETING

38

2 Commission pursuant to Section 197D of the New York
3 City charter.

4 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: LU 839 and Reso 1757
5 through LU 841 and Reso 1759, zoning amendments.

6 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
7 orders.

8 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Report of the
9 Committee on Public Housing, Intro 2330-A NYCHA
10 service requests.

11 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
12 general orders.

13 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Report of the
14 Committee on Resiliency and Waterfronts, Intro 1620-A
15 climate adaptation plan.

16 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
17 general orders.

18 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: General orders
19 calendar LU 834 and Reso 1760, the Windmere, and LU
20 838 and Reso 1761 elevate transit.

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
22 orders.

23 Legislative Clerk: Resolution appointing
24 various persons, Commissioner of ... (crosstalk).

25

1 STATED MEETING

39

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
3 orders, and at this time, I'm asking the Clerk to
4 take a roll call vote on all of the items that are
5 coupled on today's general orders calendar.

6 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Adams.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ADRIENNE ADAMS:

8 Permission to explain my vote?

9 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Permission
10 granted.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ADRIENNE ADAMS: I just
12 wanted to give a particular thanks to Council Member
13 Alicka Ampry-Samuel for the agriculture Bill today
14 and special recognition, once again, to our
15 colleague, the climate guru of the New York City
16 Council, Council Member Costa Constantinides. We
17 truly miss you in this body, but we sure do
18 appreciate the legacy that you are leaving. I do
19 vote I on all.

20 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.

21 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ALICKA AMORY-SAMUEL:

23 Permission to explain my vote?

24 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Permission
25 granted.

1 STATED MEETING

40

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ALICKA AMPRY-SAMUEL:

3 First, I just want to thank everybody for their
4 support of Intro 1058-A in relation to the urban
5 agricultural report itself, and I just wanted to say
6 a special thank you to our Speaker because this Bill
7 was near and dear to my heart. Everyone knows that
8 in my district we struggle with access to healthy
9 food, and this particular Bill will allow for us to
10 actually have a report that we will be able to use in
11 order receive and gain more resources for our
12 (inaudible), for our organizations that support
13 access to healthy fruits and vegetables, and so this
14 means a lot, and this is a start to making sure that
15 we put communities that are lower served at the
16 forefront, so thank you so much for everything and
17 everybody. Thank you. I vote I on all.

18 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Ayala.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DIANA AYALA: I vote I.

20 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Ayala
21 votes I. Council Member Barron.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER INEZ BARRON: I vote I.

23 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Barron
24 votes I. Brannan.

25

1 STATED MEETING

41

2 COUNCIL MEMBER JUSTIN BRANNAN:

3 Permission to explain my vote?

4 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Permission
5 granted.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER JUSTIN BRANNAN: Thank
7 you, Majority Leader. Costa, I don't like relaxed
8 and happy you look now that you left, but it's good
9 to see you back. Thank you to all the advocates who
10 worked so hard to get the five borough resiliency
11 plan done, and everyone that worked hard on the A-
12 version of this Bill over the past couple of weeks,
13 especially Chief of Staff, Jason Goldman and Speaker
14 Corey Johnson for really prioritizing a Bill that had
15 been sitting around for quite awhile that should have
16 been done a long time ago, by making sure that the 15
17 lives that we lost during Hurricane Ida were not in
18 vain or for granted, and their honor and their
19 memory, we pass this five borough resiliency plan,
20 and it's just start, but some of that should have
21 been done a long time ago, but it's a start, and
22 something that we'll finally take into account
23 holistically, the entire city of New York and the
24 impacts and the vulnerabilities, the climate change
25 with an eye on environmental justice communities and

1 STATED MEETING

42

2 prioritizing the areas that need it most. So,
3 congratulations Costa and Chair Gennaro as well.
4 Thank you. I vote I.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

6 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Brooks-Powers.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER SELVANA BROOKS-POWERS:

8 Permission to explain my vote?

9 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Permission
10 granted.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER SELVANA BROOKS-POWERS:

12 So, I wanted to take moment to congratulate and
13 recognize the hard work of my colleagues, in
14 particular Council Member Alicka Ampry-Samuel on this
15 much needed report. Similarly, South East Queens is
16 a food desert, and we need to continue to find ways
17 to address this pressing need. Also, I would love to
18 recognize former Council Member Costa for the
19 groundwork that was laid for this much needed
20 legislation around resiliency and waterfront with
21 Intro 1620-A and for Council Member Brannan and Chair
22 Gennaro for quarterbacking and making this a reality,
23 recognizing the need to look holistically in our
24 boroughs in additional to Manhattan when we talk
25 about resiliency, and coming from a costal district

1 STATED MEETING

43

2 in South East Queens and the Rockaways, I'm so
3 honored to be a co-sponsor on that legislation, and
4 lastly, I wanted to recognize Council Member Moya and
5 setting the bar with our shelter workers as well and
6 legislation, and so with that being said, I vote I on
7 all. Thank you.

8 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.

9 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Cabrera.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER FERNANDO CABRERA:

11 Permission to explain my vote?

12 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Yes.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER FERNANDO CABRERA: Thank
14 you so much. I just want to take a moment to thank
15 every single one of you in support of my Bill 2330-A,
16 the 3-1-1 NYCHA Bill that would finally track
17 complaints and requests for services received. It's
18 time to hold NYCHA accountable. I want to thank the
19 Speaker. I want to especially thank Jason Goldman
20 for all your support, and Chair Ampry-Samuel and
21 council staff Audrey Son and the administration.
22 Thank you so much.

23 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER FERNANDO CABRERA: And I
25 vote I.

1 STATED MEETING

44

2 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Cornegy.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ROBERT CORNEGY:

4 Permission to explain my vote?

5 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Permission
6 granted. Council Member Cornegy. Council Member
7 Cornegy.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ROBERT CORNEGY: Yes.

9 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Can you
10 look this way?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROBERT CORNEGY: Thank
12 you, Madame Majority Leader.

13 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Yes.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ROBERT CORNEGY: I just
15 want to say congratulations to all my colleagues who
16 are passing legislation today. It's good to know
17 that we, although we are coming to the end of our
18 legislative session, we have members still working
19 diligently on behalf of all of our members. I wanted
20 to say thank you my friend, Costa. It is great to
21 see you. You're incredibly missed. Back in the days
22 on the back row, we had a very good collegial
23 environment. COVID has robbed us that, but you
24 remind of what we used to be able to do back on the
25 back row. I want to say a special thank you to

1 STATED MEETING

45

2 Alicka Ampry-Samuel for her Bill today, and I'm
3 looking forward to making sure that that Bill
4 includes a lot of the non-profits who are on the
5 ground with gardens who are ready to provide
6 substance to food and help us fight food insecurity,
7 so thank you.

8 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.

9 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Darma Diaz.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER DARMA DIAZ: I.

11 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Darma
12 Diaz votes I. Ruben Diaz.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RUBEN DIAZ: Si.

14 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Thank you Council
15 Member Diaz. Dinowitz.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ERIC DINOWITZ: Permission
17 to explain my vote?

18 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Permission
19 granted.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ERIC DINOWITZ: I just
21 want to take a moment to express my gratitude towards
22 Council Member Brannan and Council Member
23 Constantinides. We never got to serve together, but,
24 and I feel like I'm missing out on a lot, and I just
25 want to thank you because our city was so hearted by

1 STATED MEETING

46

2 Ida. We're going to keep getting hit by storms.
3 Buildings in my district were flooded. The major
4 (inaudible) Parkway, and what's so important about
5 this Bill is it doesn't just, the climate resiliency
6 Bill, it's not just about lower Manhattan flooded.
7 We're an entire city and feel value that that
8 commitment to climate resiliency is throughout the
9 entire city, especially districts like mine that were
10 hard hit, and the people in my district that were
11 hard hit. So, thank you, thank you, and with that I
12 vote on all.

13 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.

14 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member
15 Cornegy, just to verify.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROBERT CORNEGY: I vote I.

17 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member
18 Cornegy votes I, thank you, sir. Dromm.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DANIEL DROMM: Permission
20 to explain my vote?

21 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Permission
22 granted.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DANIEL DROMM: Thank you
24 very much, Madame Majority Leader. I want to just
25 say thank you to our Speaker for advancing the

1 STATED MEETING

47

2 legislation on the electric school buses. This is
3 kind of a big deal for me, you know, I was a New York
4 City Public School teacher for 25 years before I got
5 elected to the council, and I sat on those school
6 buses that have fumes. I always, when I took a
7 school trip, had to bring a barf bag with me because
8 inevitably, one student would throw up on the bus
9 because of the fumes, so this is a big deal for New
10 York City and for the students. As I said, I want to
11 thank the Speaker for moving this forward. I want to
12 thank Council Member and Chair Gennaro as well for
13 moving it forward. I also want to thank former
14 Council Member Costa Constantinides because he
15 originally heard this Bill in 2017, and so today is a
16 great day for New York City and for those school
17 children, and I just urge my colleagues to vote yes,
18 as do I. I vote yes on all matters today. Thank
19 you.

20 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.

21 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Eugene.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MATHIEU EUGENE: I vote I.

23 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Eugene
24 votes I. Feliz.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER OSWALDO FELIZ: I.

1 STATED MEETING

48

2 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Feliz
3 votes I. Gennaro.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES GENNARO: Yes.

5 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member
6 Gennaro votes yes. Gibson.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER VANESSA GIBSON:
8 Permission to explain?

9 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Permission
10 granted.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER VANESSA GIBSON: Thank
12 you, Madame Majority Leader. I want to echo the
13 sentiments of all of my colleagues in congratulating
14 those colleagues that have important legislation on
15 today's agenda. I want to thank Council Member Ayala
16 and Council Member Moya for recognizing that we have
17 provide more opportunities for our security guard and
18 fire guard workers that work in our New York City
19 shelters taking care of vulnerable families. These
20 Bills are going raise the wage standards and provide
21 more healthcare as well as necessary training, and I
22 also want to recognize my sister, Council Member
23 Ampry-Samuel for her legislation dedicated to
24 creating the Office of Urban Agriculture and advisory
25 board because many of us represent those food

1 STATED MEETING

49

2 deserts, and during COVID, we were remind of the
3 inequity of so many families that go to bed hungry
4 every night, so access and opportunity and green
5 space and community gardens and green thumbs, farmers
6 and green markets is exactly what all communities
7 need, no matter where they are. I want to recognize
8 Chair Brannan as well as good friend Costa
9 Constantinides on their incredible work addressing
10 climate change with this city-wide resiliency plan
11 because as Eric Dinowitz has said, the Bronx was hit
12 extremely hard, and you saw literally, cars swimming
13 in water, and it was very dangerous, and so we have
14 to have short and long term plans, and I want to
15 thank everyone again for all of the great
16 legislation. Today is a good day, and I feel like
17 these Bills just bring us one step closer to creating
18 that equitable city that everyone rightfully deserves
19 that lives in our city. So, I am proud to vote on I,
20 and I want to send my congratulations to all of my
21 colleagues. Thank you.

22 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.

23 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Gjonaj.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK GJONAJ: Permission
25 to explain my vote, Majority Leader?

1 STATED MEETING

50

2 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Permission
3 granted.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK GJONAJ: I just want
5 to thank all those that did not explain their vote
6 today, and with that, I vote I.

7 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Grodenchik.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRY GRODENCHIK: Brief
9 permission to explain my vote? Do I get, thank you
10 for a short explanation? I just want to congratulate
11 the sponsors of the food related legislation today.
12 As I said during the vote, I represent a district
13 that has the older working farm in the state of New
14 York. New York City spread out almost 200,000 acres,
15 and while much of that is built upon, much of it
16 isn't, and there isn't no reason that we can't be
17 doing more locally; if for no other reason, than to
18 teach our young people where food comes from and to
19 appreciate it, and to make sure that they respect it
20 and that nobody goes hungry. The mission of this
21 council, and I want to thank the speaker for this,
22 has been to make sure that no New Yorker goes hungry.
23 It's something that I've worked on in my time here,
24 and I hope that the people that succeed us will
25 continue to work towards that goal, but the Bills

1 STATED MEETING

51

2 that we are passing today will help and they'll
3 educate. I also want to thank the council for their
4 support in building an education center at the Queens
5 County Farm and helping to allocate \$26 million
6 dollar to that goal which will be built, God willing,
7 in the near future, and to my friend, Danny Dromm. I
8 was on those buses too, Danny, but I wasn't smart
9 enough to bring one of those bags, and Costa, it's
10 always good to see you here. Thank you all, and with
11 that, I vote I on all.

12 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.

13 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Holden.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ROBERT HOLDEN: I vote I
15 on all.

16 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Holden
17 votes I on all. Kallos.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BEN KALLOS:
19 Congratulations to Alicka, Brannan, Costa. I on all.

20 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.

21 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Koo.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER PETER KOO: I vote I on
23 all.

24 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Koo
25 votes I on all. Koslowitz.

1 STATED MEETING

52

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KAREN KOSLOWITZ: I vote I
3 and I love Costa.

4 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member
5 Koslowitz on all and loves Costa. Lander.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BRAD LANDER: Request for
7 permission to explain my vote?

8 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Permission
9 granted.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BRAD LANDER: I'll join
11 the Costa Constantinides appreciation session. It's
12 especially good to have you and to be helping you
13 onto that great economic development corporation
14 where I know you're going to fight to do good at the
15 same that we are passing all these great
16 environmental Bills, so it's nice to have you here
17 now. With real congratulations to the folks moving
18 forward, their resiliency and electric school bus and
19 food security Bills. I do want to say let's keep
20 going and pushing. There are a couple more Bills
21 that would really make a big different on
22 environmental issues. Alicka Ampry-Samuel has a
23 dynamite, all electric NYC, stop hooking up to gas
24 Bill. Let's move that to the floor. Speaker has a
25 dynamite Bill that would require comprehensive

1 STATED MEETING

53

2 planning, Intro 2186, please sign on that one. We've
3 just got a couple of months left this session here,
4 is a great step forward. Let's keep going and do all
5 we can before we get across the finish line. I vote
6 I on all, thank you.

7 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.

8 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Levin.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER STEPHEN LEVIN: I just
10 want to congratulate all the sponsors of the
11 legislation we're passing today. Welcome our friend,
12 Costa Constantinides back here to the Chambers, and
13 thank him for all that he contributed to this body
14 over the years, and to the environmental health of
15 this city, and with that, I vote I on all, thank you.

16 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.

17 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Levine.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK LEVINE: I on all.

19 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Levine
20 votes I on all. Council Member Louis.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER FARRAH LOUIS: Permission
22 to explain.

23 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Permission
24 granted.

25

1 STATED MEETING

54

2 COUNCIL MEMBER FARRAH LOUIS: Thank you,
3 Madame Majority Leader. Sorry, I have to sit. I
4 can't stand too long, and I'm wearing heels, but I
5 can't stand too long, but I wanted to congratulate
6 Council Member Ampry-Samuel. Our districts border
7 one another, and I want to say that your Bill and the
8 fruits of your labor and your leadership supports
9 districts like mine and everyone else's that here, so
10 I want to say thank you so much for your leadership
11 on this, and I want to also congratulate all other
12 Bill sponsors that are continuing the conversation on
13 resiliency. Thank you so much, and I vote I on all.

14 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.

15 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Maisel.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ALAN MAISEL: Yes.

17 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Maisel
18 votes yes. Menchaca.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CARLOS MENCHACA:

20 Permission to explain my vote?

21 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Permission
22 granted.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CARLOS MENCHACA: Hello
24 colleagues. I want to say thank you to Speaker
25 Johnson for bringing the coming out celebration that

1 STATED MEETING

55

2 we do for so many reasons. It's so important that we
3 do that work, and that we do that work here in this
4 council. For the last few months now, almost eight
5 weeks, we've been dealing an issue in the district of
6 PS 295, where mural that was done by Ground Swell,
7 one of our Costa grants, \$20,000 created this
8 beautiful mural with a black and brown pair of young
9 girls that were carrying signs that say, "Your
10 silence will not protect you", an Audrey Lord (SP?)
11 inspired quote, and the girl holding a sign that
12 said, "What else is possible?" Destroyed by three
13 administrators. There's an investigation. We're
14 working on it, but no resolution. Things are still
15 happening today. Anti-blackness, xenophobia,
16 transphobia, homophobia, still happening today. So,
17 it's really beautiful to see all these flags here
18 cause I feel good. Two weeks ago, at last stated,
19 there was a member who took my flag; this is a flag
20 that carry in front of my desk, you see it, put it in
21 someone's coke can, really confusing for me. I
22 didn't know what to do. Was it just a joke? I know
23 the guy, you know, I was holding that for a while,
24 and I got mad, but I said something. I spoke up. He
25 apologized, so I just want you to know we're kind of

1 STATED MEETING

56

2 okay, now, but these things still happen, and we have
3 to speak up, we have to stand up, and it's just so
4 beautiful that we can do that here. While we
5 resolved what happened on the council stated floor
6 between colleagues, we still haven't resolved the DOE
7 thing. So, this is for everyone that's at home
8 listening, watching us here with pride, allies, let's
9 keep doing this work, but let's speak up and this is
10 an Arabic translation, but in any voice, in any
11 language, you're silence will not protect you. Speak
12 up. I vote I on all. Thank you.

13 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.

14 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Miller.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER I. DANEEK MILLER: Yes.

16 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Okay, thank you.

17 Moya.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER FRANCISCO MOYA:

19 Permission to explain my vote?

20 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Permission
21 granted.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER FRANCISCO MOYA: Thank
23 you, Madame Majority Leader. Today, I am once again
24 proud to be part of a body that fights for working
25 class New Yorkers. It fights for the very

1 STATED MEETING

57

2 communities see disproportionately impacted time and
3 time again. My Bill, Intro 2006, as part of the
4 safety and our shelter's act to establish prevailing
5 wage for shelter security guards and fire guards is
6 another step forward to correct the inequities that
7 ravaged our black and brown communities. As we
8 continue to fight for our recovery, we need to
9 continue to fight for every New Yorker that stood up
10 for those that needed it the most. New York City
11 cannot be the capital of the world if our own don't
12 have an economic capital if our owners are struggling
13 to put food on the table and keep a roof over the
14 heads. Prevailing wages for these workers are one
15 way we can move towards creating an equitable
16 standard of life that everyone deserves and should
17 have, no matter where you come from or where you live
18 or where you work. I want to applaud the member of
19 32BJ for their tireless dedication and partnership in
20 our fight to build a fair and more equitable city,
21 but in particular, I want to thank Speaker Corey
22 Johnson for his great work, my sister councilwoman,
23 Diana Ayala, of course, Jason Goldman, the staff, and
24 my Chief of Staff, Megan Tadio (SP?), and all my

25

1 STATED MEETING

58

2 colleagues for supporting and voting to pass Intro
3 2006. Thank you. I vote I on all.

4 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.

5 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Thank you. Just to
6 clarify for the record, Council Member Miller votes
7 yes. Power.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KEITH POWERS: I.

9 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Powers
10 votes I. Reynoso.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ANTONIO REYNOSO: I vote I
12 on all.

13 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member
14 Reynoso votes I on all. Rivera.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CAROLINA RIVERA:

16 Permission to explain my vote?

17 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Permission
18 granted.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CAROLINA RIVERA: So, I
20 must disclose for the council record that the NYPD is
21 being funded and today's transparency resolution, and
22 my mother is an NYPD civilian employee. With that, I
23 want to say congratulations to all of my colleagues,
24 and it is so good to see you, Costa. Thanks
25 everyone. I vote I.

1 STATED MEETING

59

2 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Rodriguez.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER YDANIS RODRIGUEZ: I.

4 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member

5 Rodriguez votes I. Council Member Rose.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DEBORAH ROSE: I.

7 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Rose

8 votes I. Rosenthal.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER HELEN ROSENTHAL: I vote I

10 on all.

11 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member

12 Rosenthal votes I on all. Salamanca.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RAFAEL SALAMANCA: I on

14 all.

15 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member

16 Salamanca votes I on all. Treyger.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK TREYGER: I.

18 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member

19 Treyger votes I. Vallone.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER PAUL VALLONE: I on all.

21 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member

22 Vallone votes I on all. Yeger.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KALMAN YEGER: I.

24 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Yeger

25 votes I. Matteo.

1 STATED MEETING

60

2 MINORITY LEADER STEVEN MATTEO: Thank
3 you. I vote no on 455, no on 2006, and I on the
4 rest.

5 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Cumbo.

6 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: I'm voting
7 I on all, but I want to say with the elevate transit
8 zoning for accessibility, I'm in support of it, but I
9 am disappointed that the text amendment for the art
10 inclusion in the elevate transit was eliminated
11 because I understand some members saw it as either
12 selecting accessibility or having the arts, and the
13 arts are so often forced into a place of making a
14 decision, either we have accessibility or we have the
15 arts. Either the students take Math class or they
16 can't have the arts, and it's always this dynamic
17 where we are excluding the arts from everyday life,
18 and the arts are essentially the backbone of New York
19 City and they are what identifies New York City and
20 makes it the place that it is today, and people come
21 from all over the world to see our culture, our art,
22 our history, and it also gives artists an opportunity
23 to create, also to get paid, and to be able to afford
24 to continue to live in New York City. So, I hope we
25 move forward in the next council, that does not

1 STATED MEETING

61

2 continue to see the arts as an either or, but also an
3 and and a to. They should be included in the fiber
4 of every single thing we do, and with that, I vote I
5 on all.

6 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Thank you, Speaker
7 Johnson.

8 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: I vote I on all.

9 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: All right.
10 All items on today's general calendar adopted by 45
11 in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and zero
12 abstentions. With the exception of Intro 455-A which
13 was adopted by a vote of 44 in the affirmative, one
14 negative, and zero abstentions, and Intro 2006-A
15 which was adopted by a vote of 44 in the affirmative,
16 one negative, and zero abstentions. We'll now go
17 into, at this time, the introduction and reading of
18 Bills.

19 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: All Bills are
20 referred to Committees as indicated on today's
21 agenda.

22 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.
23 There are no Resolutions on today's calendar, so we
24 will move into General Discussion. We have Council

25

1 STATED MEETING

62

2 Member Louis, Adams, Kallos, Barron, and Yeger, and
3 Council Member Miller.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER FARRAH LOUIS: Thank you,
5 Madame Majority Leader Cumbo. I would like to thank
6 all of you here today for the outstanding levels of
7 compassion, understanding, and support for the people
8 of Haiti as they suffer through all forms of natural
9 and unnatural catastrophes. I would personally like
10 to thank Madame Majority Leader Cumbo, Council Member
11 Brooks-Powers who made calls and during stated
12 meeting made remarks while I was not able to attend
13 the last stated as I traveled to the southern border
14 to assess the migrant crisis and support families
15 with many young children, and some unaccompanied
16 minors in Texas. I also want to recognize the BLAC
17 for using their platform to express our collective
18 outrage towards the treatment of migrants and
19 demanding accountability. We are on the verge of
20 another calamity as tens of thousands more migrants
21 move through Central America towards our borders in
22 search of safety and opportunity. We cannot ignore
23 the consequences stemming from years of racism,
24 economic oppression and unjust immigration policies.
25 We must as a nation agree that deporting thousands of

1 STATED MEETING

63

2 men, women, and children to a nation that is
3 politically unstable, ravaged by gangs, and gender
4 violence and overrun by COVID-19 is definitely
5 unmoral. The images and mistreatment that we've all
6 seen in the media and on social media, the ongoing
7 racism that persists within our nation is terrible.
8 This is not an issue about Haitians or with Haitians.
9 This is black people problem, seeking refuge and fair
10 human treatment. Our nation would not be where it is
11 today without the sacrifices of Haitians. Haitians
12 are black. The first Black Lives Matter movement, we
13 should not repay our debt of gratitude with
14 deportation, but compassion for the injustices that
15 we have watched and failed to act on. October is a
16 month for remembrance, awareness, but also action to
17 make our city safer, fight for birth equity, and to
18 echo our message of solidarity that all genders are
19 welcome here, all people are welcome here, all black
20 people are welcomed here. We wear ribbons of light
21 pink, purple, light blue, and baby blue as a symbol
22 of support to encourage survivors of gender-based
23 violence, breast cancer, and families who have
24 experienced infant and pregnancy loss. In addition,
25 I would remisified and say this month, the LGBT

1 STATED MEETING

64

2 community looks back on their own troubled history
3 within our community and our city, which is the site
4 of the stonewall riots 52 years ago which ignited the
5 gay rights movement. We must continue to utilize our
6 platforms to support marginalized communities that
7 includes black people, and we need all people to
8 support black people. Thank you so much.

9 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you,
10 Council Member Louis, and thank you so much for
11 seeing the horrific images in Texas and getting on a
12 plane to fly to the belly of the beast at such
13 horrific conditions to help the people there. Thank
14 you so much. Council Member Adams followed by
15 Council Member Kallos.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ADRIENNE ADAMS: Thank
17 you, Madame Majority Leader. Last week the black,
18 Latino, and Asian caucus, co-chaired by I. Deneek
19 Miller and myself, announced the acquisition of \$10
20 million dollars for the Education Equity Action Plan
21 in partnership with the coalition of black educators
22 and advocates. As a child growing up in south east
23 Queens, I didn't learn about the history, the
24 contributions, the impact or the legacy of African
25 civilizations. More broadly, peoples of the African

2 diaspora are transported not just to American, but to
3 various countries in the world. It wasn't until
4 Madame Majority Leader that I, like you, were a
5 student at Spelman college, a historically black, all
6 women's college that I gained a deeper education of
7 rich history of African civilizations and the impacts
8 of Africans and Afro peoples across the world. Fast
9 forward to today, when students still don't have the
10 opportunity to see themselves reflected in the
11 textbooks they read and the curriculum they're taught
12 in school. It's been said of late by one of our
13 coalition educators, "Why did I have to go to the
14 movies to learn that a black woman was instrumental
15 in putting a man on the moon?" This should be in our
16 textbooks. The tragedy of black Wallstreet should be
17 in our textbooks, and so much more. When the BLAC
18 heard the presentation from the coalition regarding
19 the development of a K-12 black studies curriculum to
20 implement in New York City, we knew that we had to
21 champion this initiative, and I'm very proud to say
22 that we secured the funding, not just to develop a
23 uniform black studies curriculum, but to also
24 implement a profession development program where
25 teachers are equipped to teach the curriculum in our

1 STATED MEETING

66

2 class rooms. This is an initiative that's long
3 overdue, but I'm so glad that this council will make
4 it happen. We're not just bringing history to our
5 children; we are making history with this curriculum.
6 So, thank you Speaker Corey Johnson, thank you Jason
7 Goldman, thank you finance guru Gina Plureta Ryan
8 (SP?), and thank you city council colleagues, thank
9 you BLAC members for supporting this historic plan
10 for the children of the city of New York. Thank you,
11 Madame Majority Leader.

12 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Thank you,
13 Council Member Adams. I'm so glad we got this done
14 together. You and Council Member Miller were key,
15 and I'm really proud of the council. It's a historic
16 thing that we were able to do. So, thank you for
17 your leadership.

18 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you
19 and congratulations. Council Member Kallos.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BEN KALLOS: Half a
21 million New Yorkers still have no internet in their
22 homes. Two of the worst neighborhoods for internet
23 connectivity are Borough Park Brooklyn, and Community
24 Borough 12 and here in Manhattan, in east Harlem
25 where one-quarter of households have no internet. A

1 STATED MEETING

67

2 recent a study published by the centers for disease
3 control found that, "COVID-19 vaccination was
4 significantly associated with household internet
5 access in New York City at the zip code level".
6 Every New Yorkers in every New York City apartment
7 comes with heat, hot water, electricity, and phone
8 line. It's time to add internet so it's there and
9 just works when a tenant moves in. We can finally
10 end the digital divide and bridge the homework gap by
11 making sure every apartment in New York City comes
12 with internet. You can't get a vaccine if you can't
13 get online to schedule or even find an appointment,
14 and this pandemic has showed internet is necessity.
15 Under Introduction 2418, all new construction in New
16 York City would have to wired for internet with all
17 existing municipal dwellings with 10 or more units
18 required to provide free broadband internet to
19 tenants within three years. This legislative is
20 supportive by the authors of the CDC study, countless
21 technology leaders, and I hope it will be supported
22 by you too. Thank you.

23 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you
24 Council Member Kallos. Council Member Barron,
25 followed by Council Member Yeger, then Miller.

1 STATED MEETING

68

2 CM INEZ BARRON: Thank you, Madame
3 Majority Leader. First of all, I want to announce
4 that today's is husband's birthday, so we're
5 extending birthday greetings. Charles Barron,
6 Assembly Member Charles Barron, and I concur with the
7 comments, of the remarks of my colleague Council
8 Member Louis and support what it is that she has
9 said, and we need to make sure that we take action
10 and make a stand, but I'm particularly standing here
11 today because, you know, this body, through the BLAC
12 has called for the removal of that statue, and I know
13 the Speaker and his staff are working on getting it
14 removed, but I just want to give people a little
15 background information about one of the reasons why
16 it should be removed. Council Member Miller said
17 that a student came to the Chambers on one of his
18 school trips, and looked up and said, "Is that a
19 statue of Thomas Jefferson?" He was shocked that the
20 person was honored with this position in the New York
21 City Council of having his statue here. So, on
22 January 1, 1794, this is first level information,
23 prior source rather, Jefferson calls negros inferior,
24 quote, "comparing them, negros, by their faculties of
25 memory, reason, and imagination, it appears to me

1 STATED MEETING

69

2 that in memory, they are equal to the whites, in
3 reason, much inferior, as I think one would
4 scarlessly found to be capable of chasing and
5 comprehending the investigations of Euclid", I guess
6 he never saw the pyramids, "and that in imagination,
7 they are dull, and could not produce anything.
8 Religion, indeed, has produced Phyllis Wheatley
9 (SP?), but it could not produce a poet. The
10 compositions published under her name are below the
11 dignity of criticism. I ranted therefore, as a
12 suspicion only, that the blacks were originally a
13 distinct race or made distinct by time and
14 circumstances are inferior to the whites in the
15 endowments of both body and mind", so that's a just a
16 tidbit of part of the reason why that statue needs to
17 be removed from this body's chambers. Thank you.

18 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you,
19 Council Member Barron. Council Member Yeger.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KALMAN YEGER: Thank you,
21 Madame President. I rise today because I'm
22 introducing a Bill with the support of almost 30
23 percent of this council, and it would reform a
24 portion of how we do our budget. Today, as things
25 stand, and for the last 30 years, it's been the same.

1 STATED MEETING

70

2 The campaign finance board prepares its budget, sends
3 it over to the mayor, the mayor inserts it into the
4 executive budget, sends it over to us and it gets
5 adopted by us. We don't have the opportunity to
6 change the budget, we don't have the opportunity to
7 hold a hearing on the preliminary budget, we don't
8 have any opportunity to ask the campaign finance
9 board why it is that they need the money that they
10 say they do. Now, this is not about the election
11 financing, which is a different conversation, and we
12 can have that a different time, about the \$110 or so
13 million dollars that the campaign finance board has
14 already spent this year on campaigns so that
15 candidates can send out glossy fliers to New Yorkers.
16 This is about the campaign finance board's actually
17 operating budget. The money they spend on staff, on
18 rent, on an industrial potato peeler if that's what
19 they choose. With zero oversight by the mayor or by
20 us. My Bill would require the campaign finance board
21 to send its budget over one month earlier instead of
22 March, in February, and would allow us to have
23 hearings on it as we do with every single other
24 agency in this city. Why are they special? Who says
25 their special other than them? So, it's a good

1 STATED MEETING

71

2 government Bill. It's a transparency Bill and it's
3 something that we should do right now before the end
4 of the year so that when the new council and the new
5 mayor come in in January, the campaign finance board
6 knows that it has until February 10th to send us a
7 budget so that we can take a look at how they're
8 spending the city's money. Thank you very much.
9 Introduction 2429; I really hope that folks sign onto
10 this. It's actually something that we can and be
11 proud of doing together and getting it down by the
12 end the of year. Thank you.

13 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Council
14 Member Miller, followed by Holden and then Eugene.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER I. DANEEK MILLER: Thank
16 you, Madame Majority Leader. I wanted to use this
17 time to actually talk about the atrocities at the
18 Texas border and the crises and the atrocities of the
19 Haitian immigrants that my colleagues so
20 appropriately articulated those atrocities and her
21 experience there, and I wanted to talk a little bit
22 about the education and equity victory that my
23 colleague spoke so eloquently about that. As I
24 looked up and was reminded about Mr. Jefferson in
25 these calls, and how he does not deserve to be here,

2 but once again, my colleague so eloquently
3 articulated that. Then I thought as a Chair of Civil
4 Service and Labor that I had a responsibility to
5 respond the New York Times article that talked the
6 racism that continues to exists within the fire
7 department, and that we have failed to address that,
8 and that there are some Bills that have lingered in
9 this council that have yet to be heard that would
10 govern and address that, and so, I hope that those
11 Bills, we can get those to the floor in the very near
12 future. So, that left me simply to say, as we come
13 to a close of Hispanic heritage month, that I want to
14 just take a moment to honor the contributions of more
15 than 60 million Americans and highlight the issues
16 and adversity of our community. While we have made
17 tremendous strides over the past years, (inaudible)
18 appointments to the cabinet in Washington D.C.,
19 Latinos here happen to be the fastest growing
20 nationally ethnic group economically in terms of home
21 ownership, not just last year, but the past six
22 years, continue to grow, yet locally, we have
23 struggle to elevate Latinos into positions of
24 influence and authority, and unfortunately have been
25 impacted by COVID-19, and so many other things, and

1 STATED MEETING

73

2 there's a lot of work to do there, but I would like
3 say that we are very proud as a body here. We should
4 all be proud, and particularly the BLAC in ensuring
5 that our story gets told. The budgets for Puerto
6 Rican studies, Dominican studies, Mexican studies
7 have been gutted. This budget reflects that we did
8 put that back, and that our story is being told. So,
9 I want to thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank
10 the members of the core because I want to thank this
11 body for supporting such a budget that allows us to
12 tell our story. Thank you.

13 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank
14 you. Council Member Holden and Council Member
15 Eugene, and we will conclude with Council Member
16 Grodenchik.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ROBERT HOLDEN: Thank you,
18 Madame Majority Leader. I just want briefly to talk
19 about two Bills I'm introducing today. One will
20 prohibit triple tours of duty by our Department of
21 Correction Officers, and having visiting Riker's
22 recently, it's difficult to even stay there for a few
23 hours, much less 24 hours. So, I would ask my
24 colleagues to support this Bill, that's Intro 2416,
25 and the second Bill, which is, I think, it's a no-

2 brainer. If you think about what's going on in the
3 city of New York now, this Bill, 2417, will prohibit
4 the sale or distribution of materials that obscure
5 license plates. Right now, you can order online
6 these, again, there's a number of devices, some have
7 a curtain that comes down over the license plate,
8 I've seen that by someone driving in the wrong
9 direction at a great rate of speed, and I did speak
10 to Amazon about this because Amazon, you could buy
11 this on Amazon unfortunately, but you can't buy mace
12 and send it to the city of New York, but you can buy
13 license plate things, things that obscure license
14 plates or distort the imagine. So, that's again Inro
15 2417, I would love that my colleagues sign onto this,
16 and it gets into law by the end of this year. Thank
17 you. Thank you so much.

18 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you,
19 and we now have Council Member Mathieu Eugene.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MATHIEU EUGENE: Thank you
21 very much Madame Majority Leader. Thank you. I just
22 want to take the opportunity to thank the Speaker,
23 Speaker Johnson, and also the BLAC caucus for your
24 effort, for providing funding for the black study
25 curriculum. This is very, very important, and I

2 honestly, I want to thank you for that, and I want to
3 thank you on behalf of all black people, and all
4 Americans because it is very important that people
5 know that everybody contributed to the greatest of
6 the United States of America, black people, and
7 people from all colors, from all countries. We have
8 to tell the story of these people, especially the
9 black young people that got to know where they come
10 from, the struggle that the black people went
11 through, and also the contribution of the black
12 people to this United States of America, and I want
13 to take the opportunity also to thank Farrah, thank
14 you very much for your wonderful words. With respect
15 to the Asian people, the picture that we saw in the
16 newspaper, the TV, they were (inaudible) and that
17 sent a very long message about America, what American
18 should be, and what America is about. People from
19 all over the world, every time they come to the
20 United States seeking freedom, a better life for
21 themselves and their children, their families, people
22 from all over the world, and this is the ideal of
23 America. This is what America is about, the land of
24 hope and opportunities, of freedom, but the way the
25 Haitian people were treated at the border, was

2 horrible, unacceptable, but let me remind you that,
3 this is not what Haitian is about. That cannot
4 define Haitian. We are the people who used to go
5 everywhere in the world to tread all the people who
6 was seeking freedom and liberty. We fought at
7 (inaudible) for United State independence. We have
8 Simon Bolivar and (inaudible) of the Haitian people
9 is huge, is powerful. I'm going conclude by saying
10 that (inaudible) is part of the United States of
11 America today, it is because of the abolition of
12 Haitian, and Haitian people come to (inaudible) for
13 the independence of the United States. If you go to
14 Louisiana, you're going to see the monuments
15 contributed to Haitian people. I don't want to talk
16 too much, but I want to take the opportunity to
17 invite you to (inaudible) in known as the father of
18 Chicago. It's the one who settled first in Chicago
19 and created Chicago according to the historian. I'm
20 saying that not only respond of the event, but that
21 was planned two years ago. You are invited to join
22 the Haitian community, the elected officials from the
23 city, state, and federal government and leader from
24 all other communities to (inaudible). What do
25 immigrant people do when they come to the United

1 STATED MEETING

77

2 States? They contribute. They make America great.
3 Thank you so very much.

4 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you
5 so much. Council Member Grodenchik will close this
6 out.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRY: Thank you, Madame
8 Majority, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't going to speak
9 today, but I didn't want to let it pass. I was
10 inspired by the words of Council Member Farrah Louis,
11 and just now by Council Member Eugene, and I want the
12 members of the council who are Haitian of decent, who
13 are African descent to know that you and other New
14 Yorkers are not alone. I stand here, a survivor. My
15 entire family, outside of English and the United
16 States was murdered in the holocaust. We say never
17 again, and we don't mean that just for Jewish people,
18 we mean that for every single human being created in
19 God's image. So, for those who are struggling,
20 rather they are Haitian or where ever they may come
21 from, this city council, above all, above every
22 single city in the world has be a home plate of
23 freedom, and we have to remember that woman in the
24 harbor, a gift from the people of France to the
25 people of New York whose words inspire me each and

1 STATED MEETING

78

2 every day, so please know that you're not alone, not
3 here in this council, or where ever you may be in New
4 York City, where ever you may be in the United States
5 or the world, the New York City council stands with
6 you. This council member does, and I am sure that
7 all my colleagues do. Thank you for the time today,
8 Majority Leader. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

9 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you
10 Council Member Grodenchik for your very powerful and
11 inclusive words at this time. I'll now call on
12 Speaker Corey Johnson to close today's meeting.

13 SPEAKER JOHNSON: The stated meeting of
14 October 7th, 2021, is hereby adjourned.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

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 <INSERT TRANSCRIPTION DATE>