

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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October 13, 2010
Start: 2:40pm
Recess: 4:06pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
CHRISTINE C. QUINN
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Council Member Maria del Carmen Arroyo
- Council Member Charles Barron
- Council Member Gale A. Brewer
- Council Member Fernando Cabrera
- Council Member Margaret S. Chin
- Council Member Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
- Council Member Inez E. Dickens
- Council Member Erik Martin Dilan
- Council Member Daniel Dromm
- Council Member Mathieu Eugene
- Council Member Julissa Ferreras
- Council Member Lewis A. Fidler
- Council Member Helen D. Foster

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council Member Daniel R. Garodnick
Council Member James F. Gennaro
Council Member Vincent J. Gentile
Council Member Sara M. Gonzalez
Council Member David G. Greenfield
Council Member Daniel J. Halloran III
Council Member Vincent M. Ignizio
Council Member Robert Jackson
Council Member Letitia James
Council Member Peter A. Koo
Council Member G. Oliver Koppell
Council Member Karen Koslowitz
Council Member Brad S. Lander
Council Member Jessica S. Lappin
Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito
Council Member Darlene Mealy
Council Member Rosie Mendez
Council Member Michael C. Nelson
Council Member James S. Oddo
Council Member Annabel Palma
Council Member Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.
Council Member Diana Reyna
Council Member Joel Rivera
Council Member Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Council Member Deborah L. Rose
Council Member James Sanders, Jr.
Council Member Larry B. Seabrook
Council Member Eric A. Ulrich
Council Member James Vacca
Council Member Peter F. Vallone, Jr.
Council Member James G. Van Bramer
Council Member Albert Vann
Council Member Mark S. Weprin
Council Member Jumaane D. Williams

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

Jeff Meltzer
Coach, Lady Knights
James Madison High School

Joeletha Ferguson
Principal
PSIS 262, El Hajj Malik El Shabazz School

Laverne Nimmons
Principal
PS 335, Granville T. Woods School

Unknown Male Speaker
Representative
First Chinese Presbyterian Church of New York City

Laura Jervis
Reverend
First Chinese Presbyterian Church of New York City

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: All right, we're
3 going to get the ceremonial started, and the first
4 one is going to be led by our Assistant Majority
5 Leader, Lew Fidler, and that is the Madison High
6 School Girls Softball PSAL Champions. Yay, come
7 on up, Lew. [applause] [off mic] Dan and Chuck,
8 just move out of the way, please.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Where,
10 where is Oddo? Where are Oddo and--Okay. James?
11 Where's Ignizio? Let's go, we had a deal here.
12 We had a deal here. Come on up Lady Knights.
13 [pause, background noise] And I know that we're
14 also going to be joined by our Staten Island
15 Council Delegation, we had a little wager here.
16 [pause, background noise] Get up here, let's go.
17 All right, get up here! Come on, be a real person
18 here. All right. So, I don't hold, I don't bring
19 many groups here for a ceremonial, but I have to
20 tell you I watched every inning of this
21 championship game on TV, and as a Mets fan it was
22 the best sports event I've seen in a long time.
23 It was a great game, they beat Tottenville High
24 School from Staten Island, the great borough of
25 Staten Island. [applause] Had won 88 straight

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2 games in six PSAL championships, and they came
3 back with a rally at the end of the game to do it.
4 It was a great game, it was a great event, I can't
5 tell you how proud we all are of these young
6 ladies, Principal Gogliormella, Athletic Director
7 Ross, Coach Meltzer, and all of these young ladies
8 that are here with me, they are the City champions
9 for women's softball. [cheers, applause] So.
10 Now, in order to get Council Members Oddo and
11 Ignizio from Staten Island to stand up here with
12 us, and to be the good sports that they're being,
13 to congratulate the champions, these young ladies
14 have agreed to take on the City Council's softball
15 team in a grudge match, and we will find an
16 appropriate and legitimate and legal wager to make
17 the game even more important. But young ladies,
18 my pride is on the line here, so I am counting on
19 you to be as good in that game as you were when
20 you played Tottenville, and I know that you are
21 going to win that game. So, maybe you could say,
22 Coach Meltzer maybe say a couple of words, or--
23 [background comment] Oh, first we're going to
24 have the Clerk read the proclamation.

25 CLERK: Council, City of New York

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2 Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of
3 New York is proud to honor the Lady Knights, the
4 2009/2010 Girls Varsity Softball Team at James
5 Madison High School for their outstanding teamwork
6 and victory in the 2010 New York City PSAL
7 Championship. And whereas, the members of the
8 2009/2010 Girls Varsity Softball Team at James
9 Madison High School include: Breanna DePasquale,
10 Becky Ganley, Caitlin Ganley, Gina Girone, Kayla
11 Hill, Jenny Hosty, Shilanda Jacobs, Maria
12 Mentagis, Lashanda Miller, Patrice Mistreta,
13 Brittany O'Brian, Marie Onetto, Nicki Panero, and
14 Samantha Rodriguez [phonetic], collectively they
15 are known as the Lady Knights. And whereas on
16 June 6, 2010, the Lady Knights played against the
17 formidable Tottenville Pirates in the PSAL
18 Championship at St. John's University in Queens.
19 Both teams gave it their all and the crowd was in
20 complete suspense before Lady Knights staged
21 seventh and eighth inning rallies to secure a 5 to
22 2 victory and their first ever crown. And
23 whereas, with the unwavering support of Principal
24 Joseph Gogliormella, Athletic Director Steven Ross
25 and Coach Jeff Meltzer, the Lady Knights have

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2 exemplified the two elements needed to become a
3 championship team: talent and teamwork. Now
4 therefore be it known that the Council of the City
5 of New York honors the Lady Knights, James Madison
6 High School 2009/2010 Girls Varsity Softball Team
7 for their outstanding teamwork and victory in the
8 2010 New York City PSAL Championships. Christine
9 C. Quinn, Speaker for the Entire Council; Lewis A.
10 Fidler, Council Member, 46th District, Brooklyn.

11 [applause]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: And we have
13 citations for each one of these girls, I just want
14 to warn Councilman Oddo, don't let Nicki come up
15 in the late innings, because she hit the most
16 clutch home run I have ever seen. So, yeah
17 [laughter] no guts, no glory. Coach, you want to
18 say a few words for the team? [background noise]

19 JEFF MELTZER: I just want to thank
20 everyone here, Councilman Fidler. It was a great,
21 great time, these are a terrific bunch of girls,
22 they're well deserved. Principal, Mr. Ross, Mr.
23 Gogliormella, I'm just going to cut it short
24 'cause everyone's been waiting, but thank you very
25 much for this great honor, and hopefully we could

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2 be back here next June or afterwards, and take
3 another award. Thank you. [applause]

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Does the captain
5 want to speak? The team captain?

6 MALE VOICE: [off mic] The team
7 captain or the principal?

8 SPEAKER QUINN: Does the team
9 captain want to speak, or--[background voices]
10 Oh, well thank you then. [laughter]

11 Congratulation, Lady Knights, take care.

12 [applause] All right, and our next--thank you
13 very much, thought I don't know why we have this--
14 our next ceremonial is going to be led by our
15 Majority Whip, Al Vann, the PS 262 High School
16 Math and Reading Test Scores and PS 335 on being
17 named a Blue Ribbon School, if Majority Leader, oh
18 he's right here.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Thank you.

20 Thank you, Madam Speaker. We'll wait till the
21 Knights make their way. Congratulation, Knights.
22 Ladies and gentlemen, Speaker, if we could have PS
23 262, El Hajj Malik El Shabazz School, Principal
24 Ferguson and her supporters, if you would come up.
25 I know there were supporters from the Browns--Bed-

1
2 Stuy Brownstoners, to join. While they're coming
3 up, you know, there've been a lot of controversy
4 around the new standards that the State put in
5 place, and the impact that it made throughout the
6 State and New York City in particular, where many,
7 many, most schools dropped double digit. And
8 it's--it's been of great concern citywide. And I
9 can understand that. The new proficiency rates at
10 most schools throughout the City and State went
11 down by double digits under this new standard.
12 However, everyone in Brooklyn should be very, very
13 proud because under the new State's proficiency
14 standards, at PS 262 their English language arts
15 proficiency rate went up, to 83 percent, and their
16 math proficiency rate went down only one percent.
17 But it went down to 90 percent. [applause] PS
18 262, El Hajj Malik Shabazz. I am really thrilled
19 beyond words, I'm elated, we all recognize how
20 important we all are as we advocate for the public
21 school system in our City, all the support
22 resources that we can provide for them, and all we
23 want is for our children to do well, for our
24 children to achieve. And this is extraordinary
25 because several years ago, PS 262 was an

1
2 underachieving school. But then Principal
3 Ferguson, Joeletha Ferguson, came on board. She's
4 been working hard with our leadership, commitment,
5 love and skill and support of our community
6 partners, and now they are, they have excelled.
7 So very honored to thank Principal Ferguson, and
8 all associated with PS 262. Thank you. [cheers,
9 applause] You want to read the proc?

10 CLERK: Council, City of New York
11 Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of
12 New York is very proud to honor PS 335, Granville
13 T. Wood School for its outstanding--

14 MULTIPLE: Wong school, wrong one.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: 262, my man.

16 CLERK: Oh, I'm sorry. Sorry about
17 that. I beg your pardon.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: They're,
19 they're next, they also excelled. [background
20 comment] They're slightly different. It's just,
21 we'll do the other two together, though.

22 CLERK: Okay.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: We'll do the
24 other two together.

25 CLERK: The Council of the City of

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2 New York is proud to honor PSIS 262, El Hajj Malik
3 El Shabazz School for its outstanding academic
4 achievements. And whereas, PSIS 262 El Hajj Malik
5 El Shabazz School, named after the late Malcolm X,
6 has been committed to providing an enriching
7 academic environment that empowers children to
8 reach their maximum potential, and achieve high
9 standards while possessing the skills necessary to
10 meet the 21st Century challenges. And whereas,
11 under the leadership of Principal Joeletha
12 Ferguson, since--

13 JOELETHA FERGUSON: Joeletha.

14 CLERK: --Joeletha Ferguson since
15 2004, thank you, the school has significantly
16 improved to achieve at a high academic level,
17 realize remarkable accomplishments and establish a
18 professional learning community with a caring,
19 collaborative environment. And whereas, PSIS 262
20 has received an A grade on their progress report
21 for three consecutive years, earning an overall
22 score better than 98 percent of the elementary
23 schools in New York City. And whereas, PSIS 262
24 has one of the highest proficiency rates in
25 English language arts and mathematics of any

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2 school in School District 16. And whereas, during
3 the school year, the school was chosen as an
4 innovation zone, I-zone school, meaning it will
5 use innovative, cutting edge approaches to
6 personalizing instruction and targeting lessons
7 for every child. And whereas, the school has
8 maintained and utilized partnerships with such
9 organizations as the Noel Pointer Foundation,
10 Chess in the Schools, and the Brownstoners of
11 Bedford-Stuyvesant, the Alvin Ailey School of
12 Dance, and many others. Now therefore be it known
13 that the Council of the City of New York most
14 gratefully honors PSIS 262 for its outstanding
15 achievements and service to the community.
16 Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the Entire
17 Council, Albert Vann, Councilmember 36th District,
18 Brooklyn. [cheers, applause]

19 JOELETHA FERGUSON: Thank you very
20 much. I'd just like to say that myself and my
21 staff are deeply honored to receive this award and
22 Councilman Al Vann, he's always been a supporter
23 of the PS 262 school community. Thank you very
24 much. [applause] [background noise]

25 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Okay. All

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2 right, my man, thanks for coming up here.

3 SPEAKER QUINN: So, I'm sorry, Al,
4 I thought we, the instructions I got had 'em all
5 as one, so I guess now we'll be bringing up PS
6 335, right?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [off mic]
8 That's right.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: Okay, great, so if
10 we could bring up PS 335, and they've been named a
11 Blue Ribbon School.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Correct,
13 thank you, Madam Speaker. 335, Dr. Nimmons, are
14 you, come up, come up, good to see you. Again,
15 ladies and gentlemen, and everybody from around
16 the City really, ought to be proud. We get such a
17 bad rep on our public schools, that it's always
18 exciting and elating when we have examples of how
19 we are dealing with that and, and overcoming all
20 of that negativity. First of all, there are two
21 proc, but we're only going to read one. Dr.
22 Laverne Nimmons was named the Outstanding Educator
23 of the Year by the Association of Black Educators
24 of New York. Let's give her a hand. [applause]
25 All right? And she has a proc specifically

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dealing with just her personal [cheers]

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achievements, of which we commend her. But in

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addition to that, or as a part of that, we're here

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to recognize PS 335, the Granville T. Woods

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School. Their fourth graders made the most gains

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on the 2009 State Math and English Language Arts

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Exam of any school in the State. [cheers,

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applause] In the State.

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SPEAKER QUINN: No the City.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: In the

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State.

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SPEAKER QUINN: In the State!

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: State.

15

Right.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Right?

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: As a

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result, they were nominated by the New York State

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Education Department to apply for a Blue Ribbon

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School Award from the U.S. Department of

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Education. And yeah, you guessed it, they got the

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designation. [cheers, applause] So we are, we

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are honored, we are truly honored that you are

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here. We thank all of you for the hard work that

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you do, the administration, the teachers, the

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2 parents, and to show the world that we may come
3 from an urban area, and there's a lot of poverty
4 in our area, but with the love, the skill and the
5 leadership, we can overcome, and we can excel.
6 Thank you and congratulations. [applause] Madam
7 Doctor, Dr. Nimmons.

8 LAVERNE NIMMONS: Thank you so
9 much, Councilman Al Vann. We are, we are just so
10 honored and so privileged to be here today to
11 receive this just magnificent award from City
12 Council. And on behalf of our children and our
13 parents and our staff, we just have to say thank
14 you. I'd like to, if I may, just introduce some
15 of my staff members and my parents that came
16 today. We have our Data Specialist, Mr.,
17 Mishpierre Michelle [phonetic], he's here today;
18 our Guidance Counselor, Ms. Forester's here today;
19 our parents, our wonderful parent who has a fifth
20 grader working with us, is a very, very brilliant
21 young man, Mrs., Ms. Hicks, thank you; Barbara
22 Hicks; and we have Ms. Bethune here, who has
23 another wonderful fifth grader; and our first
24 grade teacher, Ms. Gollard is here. We also have
25 our Coach, who works very closely with our

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2 children in literacy, who really helped us make
3 these tremendous scores, and, and that she's
4 taking pictures over there, Ms. Oliver. So, and,
5 and Ms. Langdon, our, our sets teacher who works
6 very, very closely with our special needs
7 children, who's also supported us in intervention
8 to give us the kind of, the scores that we've
9 achieved in our schools. So, I would just like to
10 make sure that I say thank you to them, and for
11 being here today. And thank you, thank you so
12 much.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [off mic]
14 You've very welcome, very welcome.

15 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you,
16 congratulations, and if we could have the Clerk
17 please read the proclamation on behalf of this
18 school. And if we could get a little quiet for
19 this and the rest of the ceremonials, thank you.

20 CLERK: Council, City of New York
21 Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of
22 New York is very proud to honor PS 335, Granville
23 T. Woods School for its outstanding academic
24 achievements that led it to be designated as a
25 Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of

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2 Education. And whereas, under the leadership of
3 Principal Dr. Laverne Nimmons, since 2003, the
4 school has established a unique environment
5 characterized by its collegial teaching and
6 learning atmosphere with a focus on professional
7 development for staff and effective intervention
8 and instructional strategies for students. And
9 whereas, from the 2005/06 to the 2008/09 New York
10 State exams, the percentage of students in grades
11 three through, three to five, at PS 335,
12 considered proficient, increased by 44 percentage
13 points, to 97 percent in mathematics and 50
14 percentage to 87 percent in English language arts.
15 Outperforming--

16 SPEAKER QUINN: Yay!

17 CLERK: --all students within the
18 State on gains in exams in 2009. And whereas, PS
19 335 was designated as a 2010 Blue Ribbon School by
20 the U.S. Department of Education for improving
21 student achievement to high levels, making it the
22 only school in Brooklyn to receive the honor, as
23 well as only one of two public schools in New York
24 City, and one of 19 schools in the State to win
25 the award. And whereas, PS 335 has maintained and

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2 utilized partnerships with institutions and
3 organizations, such as the Marion Baptist Church,
4 Weeksville Heritage Center, and many others. Now
5 therefore be it known that the Council of the City
6 of New York most gratefully honors PS 335 for its
7 outstanding achievements and commitment to
8 education. Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the
9 Entire Council; Albert Vann, Council Member 36th
10 District, Brooklyn.

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, and
12 congratulations to all of you and thank you for
13 your great work. [applause] Thank you. Thank
14 you. [background noise] Oh, of course, sure,
15 sure, hi, how are you? [pause, background noise]
16 Thank you all and congratulations. Let me next
17 call up Council Member Chin for--Council Member
18 Chin for the, her ceremonial. Thank you. [pause]
19 There you go, Margaret.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. I
21 would like to invite up the congregation, the
22 pastor from the Chinese Presbyterian Church, would
23 you please come up and join me? I have the honor
24 of joining the First Chinese Presbyterian Church
25 Community Celebration in Chinatown this summer.

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2 And so I invited them down to City Hall to really
3 honor them for their milestone. [applause] Come
4 on up. I remember reading about Reverend Huie
5 Kin, the founding pastor of the Church in 1910, a
6 hundred years ago. And has worked in Chinatown,
7 helping the Chinese immigrant workers who were
8 strangers in a strange land, with all kinds of
9 needs. The church continued his spirits to this
10 day, providing community service such as
11 citizenship class, English class, homecare help,
12 housekeeping help for seniors and recent
13 immigrants. Reverend Huie Kin came to this
14 country as a teenager, searching for gold, and he
15 was able to get an excellent education, he was
16 able to serve God, and help his people. He said
17 in his writing that he had found riches that never
18 rusts, and a fortune that cannot be stolen. On
19 this 100 anniversary, I want to remember Reverend
20 Huie and congratulate and thank all the church
21 member and all the pastors and former pastors for
22 your contribution to Chinatown and to the City of
23 New York. Congratulation. [applause]

24 SPEAKER QUINN: Congratulations, if
25 we could shh. Just, we have this and two more

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2 ceremonials, if we could just get a little quiet,
3 and before we hear from the folks from the church,
4 if the Clerk could please read the proclamation.

5 CLERK: Council, City of New York
6 Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of
7 New York is proud to honor the First Chinese
8 Presbyterian Church of New York City for a century
9 of extraordinary service and leadership to the
10 community. And whereas, on December 18, 20--1910,
11 the First Chinese Presbyterian Church was
12 organized as part of the New York City Presbytery
13 and Reverend Huie Kin, a revered missionary for
14 the Chinese community, was installed as its first
15 pastor. And whereas, located in the heart of
16 Chinatown, the First Chinese Presbyterian Church
17 of New York City has deep roots in its community,
18 it can be traced back as far as 1816, when the
19 land for the current building was donated by
20 Colonel Henry Rutgers to the Dutch Reform Church.
21 And whereas, in 1864, the Dutch Reform Church
22 disbanded and the building was purchased by Hanson
23 K. Corning two years later. It was then
24 transferred to the trustees of New York Presbytery
25 to be occupied by the Church of Sea and Land,

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2 which served dockworkers and longshoremen in the
3 area. And whereas, in 1951 the First Chinese
4 Presbyterian Church moved to its current location
5 by, excuse me, by sharing the church building with
6 the Sea and Land Church. In 1966, both the church
7 building and urban pipe organ within it, were
8 officially declared historic landmarks. After the
9 Sea and Land Church dissolved in 1972, the
10 building was loaned to the First Chinese
11 Presbyterian Church to use free of charge. Two
12 years later, the Presbytery of New York City gave
13 this historic building to the First Chinese
14 Presbyterian Church in appreciation of its
15 membership growth and the success of its programs
16 that serve Chinese immigrants. And whereas, today
17 under the leadership of Reverend Laura Jervis, the
18 First Chinese Presbyterian Church of New York City
19 remains a vibrant, welcoming house of worship and
20 continues to serve as bedrock in the lives of
21 countless New Yorkers. Now therefore be it known
22 that the Council of the City of New York honors
23 the First Chinese Presbyterian Church of New York
24 City, on the glorious occasion of its 100th
25 anniversary for its outstanding service and

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2 contributions to the community. Christine C.
3 Quinn, Speaker for the Entire Council; Margaret
4 Chin, Council Member, First District, Manhattan.

5 SPEAKER QUINN: Congratulations,
6 it's quite an accomplishment with--want to say,
7 someone--

8 MALE VOICE: On behalf of the
9 members of our church, we feel both honor and
10 humble to have a chance to stand before you today.
11 As was mentioned, the church was found by Reverend
12 Huie, who started a great community outreach
13 program. And as we celebrate our hundredth
14 anniversary, we keep that in mind as our foremost
15 goal that will continue to reach out to community
16 and serve. And we hope that through this year's
17 whole celebration, it will renew our ministry for
18 years and decades to come. Thank you for the
19 opportunity. [applause]

20 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you all, and
21 congratulations. And next we're going to have
22 Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez and the Dominican
23 Studies Institute, and then last but certainly,
24 certainly not least, we'll have a ceremonial led
25 by Council Member Greenfield. Council Member

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2 Rodriguez.

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4 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank
5 you, Speaker Quinn. We would like to call on the
6 Dominican Studies Institute, especially Dr. Ramona
7 Hernandez, for their contribution in the
8 exhibition about, about Dominican and Latinos in,
9 in New York. As everyone know, there's exhibition
10 open at the Museo del Barrio, organized by, by the
11 Historical Society and the Museo del Barrio. The
12 Dominican Studies Institute play a major role,
13 helping the Historical Society and the Museo del
14 Barrio to get the information of the prior life of
15 Juan Rodriguez, who has been established as the
16 first immigrant who settled in New York City after
17 the indigeny. Juan Rodriguez came in 1613,
18 established in New York City, and after the
19 indigeny, he is the first immigrant. And the
20 exhibition that was opened by a Supreme Court
21 Sotomayor, it is known like, it is established the
22 important contribution done by the Dominican
23 Studies Institute, the Museo del Barrio, and the
24 historical society, bring the history of Latino in
25 New York City. So, today we like to recognize Dr.
Ramona Hernandez and Anthony Steven, and the

1
2 Dominican Studies Institute for their contribution
3 in the exhibition of the Latinos in New York.

4 SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic] Ask the
5 clerk to read the proclamation.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: And the
7 Clerk read the proclamation.

8 CLERK: Council, City of New York
9 Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of
10 New York is proud to honor the Dominican Studies
11 Institute of the City University of New York for
12 its pioneering work researching, preserving and
13 promoting the history of the Dominican experience,
14 and for fostering a greater understanding and
15 appreciation for it, among all New Yorkers. And
16 whereas, the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute was
17 founded in 1992 by the Council of Dominican
18 Educators, community activists and other academics
19 from CUNY, to address the lack of reputable
20 information on Dominicans available to student
21 scholars and the community at large in the United
22 States. It is the first and only university based
23 research institution in the United States focusing
24 on the study of Dominican life outside of the
25 Dominican Republic. The CUNY Dominican Studies

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2 Institute began as a pilot project in August 1992,
3 and quickly became an integral component of CUNY.
4 And whereas, the CUNY Dominical Studies Institute
5 owes much of its success to the visionary
6 leadership of Dr. Ramona Hernandez, a renowned
7 sociologist and author of many pioneering works
8 covering migration, labor and Dominican studies.
9 Dr. Hernandez's contributions are also celebrated
10 in the Dominican Republic where she has received
11 the country's highest civilian honor, the
12 Meritorious Order of Duarte, Sanchez y Mella, and
13 serves as trustee of the Instituto Globo de Altos
14 Estudios en Ciencias Sociales [cheers] now
15 therefore be it known that the Council of the City
16 of New York honors Dr. Hernandez and everyone at
17 the Dominican Studies Institute of the City
18 University of New York for fostering a greater
19 understanding and appreciation of immigration,
20 history and the Dominican experience in New York
21 City and the nation. Christine C. Quinn, Speaker
22 for the Entire Council; Ydanis Rodriguez, Council
23 Member, Tenth District, Manhattan; Fernando
24 Cabrera, Council Member, 14th District, The Bronx;
25 Julissa Ferreras, Council Member, 21st District

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2 Queens; Diana Reyna, Council Member, 34th District,
3 Brooklyn and Queens. [applause]

4 RAMONA HERNANDEZ: Allow me,
5 please, to thank Councilman Rodriguez, Diana
6 Reyna, Julissa, for this award.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Fernando

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9 RAMONA HERNANDEZ: Fernandez,
10 Cabrera, oh [Spanish] and the Speaker. Thank you.
11 On behalf of the Dominican Studies Institute. I
12 wanted to take just a minute to share with you why
13 we think we deserve this, this award. We are not
14 your typical research institute, in the sense that
15 we do not count with a, with an array of
16 researchers, professors, and things of that
17 nature. The work that we do, Madam Speaker, and
18 the rest of the honorable members of City Council,
19 relies on students, and relies on the librarian,
20 and the assistant director, and the archivist.
21 Student come from all over the United States and
22 Europe. In that sense, it takes sometimes a
23 little bit longer for the work we do to be
24 acknowledged, to be recognized by academic
25 institutions, and that is why we are extremely

1
2 grateful to the Council Members of Dominican
3 descent who took this initiative, because they
4 have spread the word about Juan Rodriguez, which
5 is the research that we are celebrating today.
6 And I'm sure that you are asking, and who is Juan
7 Rodriguez? I am pleased to tell you that he came
8 to New York in 1613, that he is the first
9 immigrant to settle here, that he is the first
10 Hispanic, and that he is the first Black, and of
11 course he's the first person of Dominican ancestry
12 to settle in this place. So, we are extremely,
13 extremely grateful, and we accept this award on
14 behalf of everybody at the Dominican Studies
15 Institute, we thank you because you validate the
16 work we are doing. And by doing this, you also
17 validate the contribution and the historical
18 legacy of the Dominican people in this country.
19 Thank you. [applause]

20 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, and
21 congratulations, and keep up the good work, thank
22 you very much. And our last ceremonial, but
23 certainly not least, will be Council Member David
24 Greenfield with four volunteer safety patrol
25 officers from the Hatzolah Ambulance, and if

1
2 Council Member Greenfield and the people who are
3 participating in the ceremonial can make their way
4 to the front. Oh, there's David. All right,
5 here's Council Member Greenfield.

6 [pause, background noise]

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: While
8 the, while the Shomrim members are coming up here,
9 just want to say I'm very excited for November 2nd,
10 we're going to have a new member of the City
11 Council. I will not be the least senior member.
12 So that way, my ceremonials will come earlier.
13 You know, first I want to thank Speaker Quinn. I
14 want to thank Speaker Quinn and Council Members
15 Recchia and Vallone and Lander and Gentile and
16 Nelson and Fidler and Eugene and Williams--I'm
17 working on seniority here, Council Member Williams
18 [laughter]--I want to thank them for, not just for
19 joining me, but for also supporting this wonderful
20 group, the Shomrim Safety Patrol. Last month,
21 these four members of the Boro Park Shomrim Safety
22 Patrol were shot while apprehending David Flores,
23 a known criminal and suspected child predator who
24 was driving through an area where over 200
25 children had gathered for a celebration. Shomrim,

1
2 which means "guardians" in Hebrew, is an unarmed,
3 all-volunteer safety patrol, and serves as the
4 vigilant eyes and ears of the community, working
5 in conjunction with the NYPD. These Shomrim
6 members risk their personal safety to ensure the
7 securities of the community, and on September men-
8 -on September 2nd--and Council Member Sara
9 Gonzalez, of course--on September 2nd, the four men
10 here today were shot while protecting their
11 communities and we are grateful for their
12 sacrifice. Today we have here Abe Kaztow, who is
13 joined by his youngest daughter Naomi. He's a
14 baker, he's a father of four. He helped found the
15 Boro Park Shomrim over 20 years ago. He was born
16 in Argentina and immigrated to the United States
17 as a child. He's responded to over 1,000 calls,
18 and we're sure he's going to continue adding to
19 that number. We have--Yes, please, give him a big
20 round of applause. [applause] And a round of
21 applause for his daughter, Naomi. Naomi, you want
22 to come up here. Come on up here, come on up. We
23 also have Joel Klein, Joel Klein is joined today
24 by his wife Goldie and his father Motty. Joel is
25 an insurance broker, a father of three, was raised

1
2 in Williamsburg, joined Shomrim two-and-a-half
3 years ago, comes from a long line of Shomrim
4 members. We have Abraham, otherwise known as
5 Motty Brauner, who's joined here today with his
6 wife Drazey [phonetic], and their nine month old
7 daughter Haya [phonetic], where is Haya? There we
8 go, she's adorable. She's absolutely adorable.
9 He's served as a member of Shomrim for eleven
10 years, he's a drycleaner, but spends his free time
11 volunteering with Shomrim members, responded to
12 over 500 calls. And last, we have Motty Perl, who
13 is joined today by his wife Nachama [phonetic], is
14 a father of three, is also a baker. This by the
15 way is part of the roots of Shomrim, they used to
16 be called the Bakery Boys. He's been with Shomrim
17 just two years, but has already responded to close
18 300 calls. I don't where he times, time to work.
19 And just days before this incident, Motty helped
20 apprehend an armed bank robber on 13th Avenue, and
21 then bravely confronted David Flores on the night
22 of September 2nd. Folks, ladies and gentlemen,
23 simply put, [applause] these men are heroes who
24 have sacrificed themselves on behalf of the
25 community, and I'm really thankful, and I thank

1
2 God, Baruch HaShem, we're all here today, and
3 they're all able to be here with us today after
4 they're completely recovered from getting shot by
5 that criminal. We want to thank you all so very
6 much. [applause]

7 SPEAKER QUINN: And if the Clerk
8 could please read the proclamation. Thank you,
9 Council Member.

10 CLERK: Council, City of New York
11 Proclamation. The Council of the City of New York
12 is proud to honor Joel Klein, Motty Perl, Abraham
13 Brauner, and Abe Kaztow, for their outstanding
14 service to the community as members of the Boro
15 Park Shomrim Safety Patrol. And whereas, the Boro
16 Park Safety Patrol is named Shomrim, the Hebrew
17 word for "guardians," for its members are true
18 stewards of their community. Working in
19 conjunction with the New York City Police
20 Department, they promote a secure neighborhood
21 environment. Serving as the vigilant eyes and
22 ears for the area, these unarmed Shomrim members
23 risk their own security to ensure the safety and
24 security of their fellow citizens. And whereas,
25 on the evening of September 2, 2010, violence

1
2 erupted near 46th Street and 10th Avenue in Boro
3 Park, when members of the Boro Park Shomrim Safety
4 Patrol were alerted to a suspected child predator,
5 later identified as a known criminal, who was
6 allegedly behaving inappropriately in an, in an
7 area where many children had gathered. The week
8 before, the suspect had allegedly preyed upon
9 groups of children in two separate incidents.
10 This time, when approached by the volunteer
11 Shomrim Safety Patrol, the driver jumped from his
12 car and started firing a gun at Shomrim members.
13 Shomrim members valiantly tackled the suspect as
14 he shot at them repeatedly. Although they
15 wrestled the weapon away from the suspect and held
16 him down until the NYPD arrived at the scene, four
17 heroic Shomrim members, Joel Klein, Motty Perl,
18 Abraham Brauner and Abe Kaztow, were struck by
19 bullets and injured during the chaos. Now
20 therefore be it known that the Council of the City
21 of New York most gratefully honors Joel Klein,
22 Motty Perl, Abraham Brauner, and Abe Kaztow for
23 their outstanding service to the community as
24 members of the Boro Park Shomrim Safety Control,
25 Safety Patrol. Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for

1
2 the Entire Council; David G. Greenfield, Council
3 Member, 44th District, Brooklyn; Peter F. Vallone,
4 Jr., Council Member, 22nd District, Queens; Brad
5 Lander, Council Member, 39th District, Brooklyn;
6 Vincent J. Gentile, Council Member, 43rd District,
7 Brooklyn; Domenic M. Recchia, Jr., Council Member,
8 47th District, Brooklyn.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you all very
10 much. [applause] And thank you Council Member
11 Greenfield. And just would like to again thank
12 all of you for your service, and just be safe.
13 And that concludes our ceremonials. Thank you,
14 Council Member. [applause] Oh, I'm sorry, I
15 apologize, I'm sorry, Council Member, yes, of
16 course, I'm sorry.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I just,
18 I just, you know, before I, I want to hand it over
19 to Simcha Bernath--

20 SPEAKER QUINN: Sorry.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: --who's
22 the coordinator, to say a few words. I just
23 really want to thank again, you know, these, these
24 folks are half the heroes, because they're hero
25 couples, and Michelle and Goldie and Drazey and

1
2 Nachema are incredible wives who support their
3 husband, and quite frankly give them the
4 permission and the ability to do what they do, so
5 I'd like to have a big round of applause for their
6 wives, as well. [applause] And I'd like to hand
7 it over to Simcha Bernath, the coordinator of Boro
8 Park Shomrim Safety Patrol.

9 SIMCHA BERNATH: Thank you, I just
10 want to take one minute of time just to thank,
11 starting with the Speaker, Ms. Quinn, and thank
12 you for, David, for right away when this happened,
13 he was right there, and all the other Council
14 Members and everybody else who gave us all the
15 support in the world, and trying to help us with
16 everything they can, I want to thank them, in the
17 name of the entire organization. And at the same
18 time, I also want to thank all the other members,
19 these four were very heroic that day, and thank
20 God they're all with us. But all the members,
21 they do a great, great job, and I just want to
22 thank everybody for all the nice work and for
23 everything they do. Thank you, thank you, David.
24 [applause]

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank

1

2 you, Simcha, thank you all.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, and David thank you for catching that omission. Thanks, guys. [pause, background noise] And that concludes today's ceremonials, thank you all very much. [pause, background noise]

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Could I have your attention, please? Could I have your attention, please? At this time, please place all cell phones, pagers, beepers, in vibrate. Thank you.

[gavel]

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All right, ladies and gentlemen, please rise for the pledge of allegiance.

[Pledge of Allegiance]

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Roll call.

CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.

CLERK: Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: [off mic]

Here.

1

CLERK: Cabrera.

2

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

3

CLERK: Chin.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

5

CLERK: Comrie. Crowley.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Here.

7

CLERK: Thank you. Crowley.

8

9 Dickens.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [off mic]

10

11 Here.

CLERK: Dilan.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Here.

13

CLERK: Dromm.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

15

CLERK: Eugene.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

17

CLERK: Ferreras.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.

19

CLERK: Fidler.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.

21

CLERK: Foster.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: [off mic]

23

24 Here.

CLERK: Garodnick.

25

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: [off

3

mic] Here.

4

CLERK: Gennaro.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: [off mic]

6

Here.

7

CLERK: Gentile.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: [off mic]

9

Here.

10

CLERK: Gonzalez.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: [off mic]

12

Here.

13

CLERK: Greenfield.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Here.

15

CLERK: Halloran.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Present.

17

CLERK: Ignizio.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.

19

CLERK: Jackson.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Here.

21

CLERK: James.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: [off mic]

23

Here.

24

CLERK: Koo.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Here.

1
2 CLERK: Koppell.
3 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.
4 CLERK: Koslowitz.
5 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.
6 CLERK: Lander.
7 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.
8 CLERK: Lappin.
9 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Here.
10 CLERK: Levin. Mark-Viverito.
11 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: [off
12 mic] Here.
13 CLERK: Mealy.
14 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Here.
15 CLERK: Mendez.
16 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.
17 CLERK: Nelson.
18 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: [off mic]
19 Here.
20 CLERK: Palma.
21 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.
22 CLERK: Recchia.
23 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Here.
24 CLERK: Reyna.
25 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.

1
2 CLERK: Rodriguez.
3 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.
4 CLERK: Rose.
5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.
6 CLERK: Sanders.
7 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Present.
8 CLERK: Seabrook.
9 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: [off mic]
10 Here.
11 CLERK: Ulrich.
12 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.
13 CLERK: Vacca.
14 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: [off mic]
15 Here.
16 CLERK: Vallone.
17 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [off mic]
18 Here.
19 CLERK: Van Bramer.
20 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.
21 CLERK: Vann.
22 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [off mic]
23 Here.
24 CLERK: Weprin.
25 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: [off mic]

1

2 Here.

3 CLERK: Williams.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [off mic]

5 Here.

6 CLERK: Oddo.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: [off mic]

8 Here.

9 CLERK: Rivera.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Here.

11 CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

12 SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic] Here.

13 CLERK: We have a quorum.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
15 very much. My colleagues, please rise for the
16 invocation being delivered by Reverend Laura
17 Jervis, from the First Chinese Presbyterian
18 Church.

19 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: All rise.

20 LAURA JERVIS: I invite you to
21 prayer. Gracious God, we thank you for this day,
22 for the work you have given us to do, and
23 especially we thank you for this City, which is
24 our chosen home, and whose foundation is built
25 upon tolerance, acceptance, and the promise of a

1
2 better life. We come from many different places
3 and traditions, to serve the people of your City,
4 with the gifts you have given us. With humility
5 and gratitude, we dedicate our labors to you. We
6 thank you, oh God, for the examples of excellence
7 in education and sportswomanship you have given us
8 today. We thank you for the extraordinary example
9 of community service and heroism we have
10 witnessed. We ask that each of these individuals
11 who were honored today may go from strength to
12 strength. We are grateful for the faithful
13 witness of the First Chinese Presbyterian Church
14 over these 100 years, welcoming waves of
15 immigrants from China, and serving the Chinatown
16 community. And so, we are reminded of the
17 blessings shared by all people of faith, that in
18 this City we are free to worship as we choose, and
19 to live in a free society. We thank you for each
20 member of this Council, we recognize the personal
21 sacrifices each have made to hold public office,
22 and the great responsibilities they shoulder. We
23 ask you to enlighten their minds to know what is
24 true and just, strengthen their wills to fulfill
25 their duties, enlarge their hearts to care for the

1
2 most vulnerable among us. And we pray for the
3 staff who support the work of this body, and serve
4 the constituents in our neighborhoods with
5 diligence and patience. We lift up the Speaker,
6 Christine Quinn, and ask that you endow her with
7 wisdom and courage for the challenges she faces on
8 behalf of us all. We name before you the
9 honorable Margaret Chin, who is a source of great
10 strength and pride to our community. We thank you
11 for her keen intellect, dedicated to the pursuit
12 of justice for all, and for her commitment to
13 public service. And now, oh God, as you embrace
14 this City that you love so much, lead us all in
15 the ways of justice and peace. Amen.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Council
17 Member Chin.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Motion to
19 spread the invocation in full upon the record.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.
21 Adoption of the minutes, Council Member Halloran.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Motion to
23 make the Stated Meeting minutes of August 25, 2010
24 adopted as printed.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

1

2 Messages, messages and papers from the Mayor.

3 CLERK: M279, submitting Roberta
4 Washington for reappointment to the Landmarks
5 Preservation Commission.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: Rules, privileges
7 and elections.

8 CLERK: M280, submitting Mark
9 Gjonaj for appointment to the Taxi and Limousine
10 Commission.

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Rules, privileges
12 and elections.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:
14 Communications from the City, County and Borough
15 Offices.

16 CLERK: M281, Third Party Transfer
17 Program.

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Housing and
19 Buildings.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Petitions
21 and Communications.

22 CLERK: None.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Land Use
24 call-ups.

25 CLERK: M282 to M284.

1
2 SPEAKER QUINN: If we could please
3 get a roll call on the coupled Land Use call-ups,
4 Mr. Majority Leader.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

6 CLERK: Arroyo.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [off mic]

8 Aye.

9 CLERK: Barron.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

11 CLERK: Brewer.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: [off mic]

13 Aye.

14 CLERK: Cabrera.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

16 CLERK: Chin.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

18 CLERK: Comrie.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Present,

20 aye.

21 CLERK: Crowley. Dickens.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [off mic]

23 Aye.

24 CLERK: Dilan.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.

1

CLERK: Dromm.

2

3

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Like to vote
aye and ask for permission to vote on all General
Orders before the Council.

4

5

6

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

7

8

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: I vote aye
on all orders, thank you.

9

CLERK: Eugene.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

11

CLERK: Ferreras.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

13

CLERK: Fidler.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

15

CLERK: Foster.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: [off mic]

17

Aye.

18

CLERK: Garodnick.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

20

CLERK: Gennaro.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: [off mic]

22

Yes.

23

CLERK: Gentile.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

25

CLERK: Gonzalez.

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: [off mic]

3

Aye.

4

CLERK: Greenfield.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Yes.

6

CLERK: Halloran.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Aye.

8

CLERK: Ignizio.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.

10

CLERK: Jackson.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye.

12

CLERK: James.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: [off mic]

14

Aye.

15

CLERK: Koo.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

17

CLERK: Koppell.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: [off mic]

19

Yes.

20

CLERK: Koslowitz.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

22

CLERK: Lander.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

24

CLERK: Lappin.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Yes.

1

CLERK: Levin. Mark-Viverito.

2

3

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] Yes, aye.

4

5

CLERK: Mealy.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye. Can I have permission to vote on all Land Use call-ups?

7

8

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Thank--Aye.

10

CLERK: Mendez.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

12

CLERK: Nelson.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: [off mic] I vote aye - - [on mic] consent to vote aye on all General Order calendar items.

14

15

16

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Thank you.

18

CLERK: Palma.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

20

CLERK: Recchia.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.

22

CLERK: Reyna.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.

24

CLERK: Rodriguez.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

1

CLERK: Rose.

2

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

3

CLERK: Sanders.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye.

5

CLERK: Seabrook.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Yes, with

7

anonymous consent, I'd like to vote on all Land

8

Use call-ups and general call-ups.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: I vote

11

aye.

12

CLERK: Mealy.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Vote aye on

14

all general call-ups.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: And orders,

17

aye.

18

CLERK: Ulrich.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye on all.

20

CLERK: Vacca.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

22

CLERK: Vallone.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [off mic]

24

Aye.

25

1

CLERK: Van Bramer.

2

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

3

CLERK: Vann.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

5

CLERK: Weprin.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye and I'd

7

like to request unanimous consent on voting on all

8

the call-ups and coupled general order items.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Thank you,

11

I vote aye on all.

12

CLERK: Williams.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [off mic]

14

Aye.

15

CLERK: Oddo.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: [off mic]

17

Yes.

18

CLERK: Rivera.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

20

CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

21

SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic] Aye.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Today's

23

Land Use call-ups were adopted by a vote of 48 in

24

the affirmative, with zero in the negative.

25

1

2

Communications from the Speaker.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much, Mr. Majority Leader. I first want to thank all of my colleague for wearing the "I Am Anti-Violence" wrist bracelets today. I want to thank in particular Council Member Helen Foster whose idea it was to make sure that we did something at today's Stated Council meeting to stand in solidarity with the victims of what I think is the most horrible hate crime I can remember in the history of the City of New York, and by simply wearing these bracelets I think we send a message of thanks to those victims who were brave enough to come forward and tell the police what happened to them, which is a very difficult thing to do. They're bravery has enabled the police to get dangerous individuals off the streets and protect other New Yorkers. I think we also send those victims a message of support, hopefully to let them know that all of us in the City Council and the City of New York are praying for them and rooting for their swift recovery. We also send a message that we in the City Council take hate crimes incredibly seriously. And that they are

1
2 quite simply just something we will not tolerate
3 in our City, and want to make it clear that the
4 actions of the individuals who perpetrated this
5 most heinous of hate crimes do not represent the
6 majority of the opinions of the citizens of the
7 City of New York, which is a City built and is
8 made great by its diversity. So I want to thank
9 everyone for participating in this today. We are
10 voting today on a package of important pieces of
11 legislation, which relate to our ongoing efforts
12 of greening this City of New York, and our ongoing
13 work to take the Green Codes Taskforce
14 recommendations and make them the laws of our
15 City. I want to thank Laura Popa and Bob Hom and
16 Jeff Haberman and Ben Goodman and Samara Swanson
17 and Robert Newman and Margaret Nelson for their
18 work on this package of legislation today. I also
19 want to thank Chairperson Dilan, the Chair of our
20 Housing and Buildings Committee, which shepherded
21 this package through his Committee, so thank you
22 very much, Chair Dilan. I also want to thank
23 Chair Gennaro for his ongoing work on
24 environmental legislation in and out of his
25 Committee. I want to thank the sponsors of these

1
2 bills: Council Member Inez Dickens, Council
3 Member Mathieu Eugene, Council Member Brad Lander,
4 and Council Member Jessica Lappin. Intros 236,
5 264, 268 and 271, all A versions together
6 represent the most significant water conservation
7 steps the City of New York has ever taken. Every
8 New Yorker uses about 125 gallons of water a day.
9 When these bills become law, the first year that
10 they are in effect they will enable us to save
11 close to a billion gallons of water. Just to give
12 you an idea, that is the equivalent of the
13 reservoir in Central Park. Taking these steps,
14 upgrading the cooling systems we use when we build
15 new buildings or renovate buildings, changing the
16 type of water fountains we use when we build
17 buildings or update buildings, moving forward with
18 changing and enabling New Yorkers to have greater
19 choice in the type of toilets they use and having
20 a alarm system so building owners know when water
21 is leaking. All of those together, as I said, are
22 going to save a tremendous amount of water. And
23 often in the City of New York, we take water for
24 granted. But the truth is, water is a scarce
25 resource, it's something that other parts of the

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2 State and other parts of the Country and certainly
3 other parts of the world, struggle every day to
4 provide to their citizens. So not only are we
5 going to save water and make our City a more
6 environmentally friendly City, we are literally
7 going to help the world meet the water needs of
8 its people. And I want to thank everyone for
9 working on this legislation, again particularly
10 the Chair of our Housing and Buildings Committee,
11 Eric Dilan. Let me first call on the, I'm going
12 to call on all of the sponsors of the bill, but
13 let me start with Council Member Inez Dickens,
14 then we'll hear from Dr. Eugene, Council Member
15 Lander and Council Member Lappin.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you,
17 Madam Speaker. I want to commend Speaker Quinn
18 and Mayor Bloomberg for their collaborative
19 efforts in convening the Green Codes Taskforce, to
20 explore conservation measures. I want to also
21 thank Russell Unger, the Executive Director of the
22 Urban Green Council for his hard work in chairing
23 the Green Codes Taskforce. I cannot forget the
24 dedicated staffers who put in long hours in
25 preparing this comprehensive legislative package.

1
2 The future of our children, the future of our
3 planet depends in large part on what we do today
4 to conserve and preserve our natural resources.
5 Water is one of our most significant natural
6 resources. Future generations will not survive
7 without adequate water supplies. These bills will
8 help make our City more water efficient. Intro
9 263-A, addressing water usage with regards to
10 industrial use and commercial structures, is a
11 significant step that will conserve millions of
12 gallons of water. I thank my colleagues for
13 supporting this legislative conservation measure.
14 Thank you.

15 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
16 much, Assistant Majority Leader Dickens. Next let
17 me, we're going to call on Council Member Eugene,
18 who is also a sponsor of the legislation.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you,
20 Madam Chair. Intro 264-A is a bill that will help
21 substantially reduce the amount of plastic waste
22 produced from bottled water. Currently,
23 commercial establishment are required to provide a
24 certain amount of drinking fountain, depending on
25 the number of occupant, with the exception of

1
2 restaurants. However, commercial establishment
3 are allowed to substitute up to 50 percent of the
4 drinking fountain requirement with other machines
5 or devices capable of dispensing water.

6 Unfortunately, many buildings owners and managers
7 choose to substitute drinking fountain not with
8 water coolers or other alternative that provide
9 free water, but with bottled water dispensers or
10 soda machine that often put individual in a
11 position to pay for water. This bill will address
12 this issue by removing bottled water dispensers as
13 a substitute for all new commercial establishment
14 and those undergoing major renovations. In
15 addition, this bill also clarified the definition
16 of drinking fountain to include a separate faucet
17 at least ten inches high above the water basin, in
18 order to allow people who wish to freely fill up a
19 container of their own bottle, the ability to do
20 so. If enacted, this bill will not only help
21 reduce the significant amount of plastic waste we
22 use when purchasing bottle of water, but also
23 encourage people, encourage more people to drink
24 water as a healthy and sustainable choice. New
25 York City drinking water remain one of the

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cleanest and well regarded in the world. And I'm proud to work on this legislation, which will make our conception of water more energy efficient and less damaging our environment. Finally, I want to thank the Speaker, my colleagues, and the legislative staff, to do, for the support and assistance on this critical piece of legislation, and also for the City Council commitment to enacting legislation that will protect our environment. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much, Council Member Eugene. Council Member Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This bill is a win-win-win, by installing alarms that'll notify owners and building managers when large systems are leaking, like a water tank on the roof, or a swimming pool leaks, that might otherwise go unnoticed or cause substantial amounts of both water leakage and damage to buildings, can be stopped quickly, saving water, saving the owners money, and saving tenants and enormous headache. As the Speaker said earlier, just a small leak from a faucet,

1
2 from a toilet that might otherwise go unnoticed,
3 can leak thousands of gallons of water, of water a
4 week or a month, and this bill will help make sure
5 that stops here and now. I want to thank the
6 speaker for her leadership and Chairman Dilan, and
7 say that I'm honored that the first bill that I'm
8 sponsoring is part of this broader effort as part
9 of the Green Codes Taskforce, which I really think
10 has been a model process for making comprehensive
11 change to our building code, to bring it into the
12 21st Century, make it sustainable on water issues
13 today, on energy issues earlier. Very technical,
14 very comprehensive, but done in a thorough way
15 with all stakeholders at the table, and one I'm
16 proud to be a part of. Thank you.

17 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
18 much, Council Member Lander. And our final
19 sponsor is Council Member Lappin.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Thank you,
21 Madam Speaker. Our population in this City is
22 growing and our water supply is not. So, I'm
23 happy to be part of this package that can service,
24 conserves our precious, delicious, fabulous New
25 York City drinking water.

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
3 much, and I want to thank Chair Comrie for his
4 work on the Land Use items, and that concludes
5 communications from the Speaker.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All right,
7 thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Discussion of
8 General Orders. Seeing none, we're going to move
9 on to reports of special committees.

10 CLERK: None.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Reports of
12 standing committees.

13 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
14 Finance, Preconsidered Reso 479, organization
15 funding.

16 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
17 Orders.

18 CLERK: Preconsidered LU 226 and
19 Reso 483 through LU 228 and Reso 485.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
21 Orders.

22 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
23 Housing and Buildings, Intro 263-A, reducing waste
24 of potable water.

25 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled

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on General Orders.

CLERK: Intro 264-A, in relation to drinking foundations.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on General Orders.

CLERK: Intro 268-A, preventing water waste in buildings.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on General Orders.

CLERK: Intro 271-A, enhancing water efficiency.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on General Orders.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land Use, LU 177 to LU 193 on page seven.

SPEAKER QUINN: Approved with modifications and referred to the City Planning Commission, pursuant to Rule 11.70(b) of the Rules of the Council, and Section 197-(d) of the New York City Charter.

CLERK: LU 194 and Reso 486 through LU 196 and Reso 488.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

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2 CLERK: LU 209 and Reso 489 and LU
3 210 and Reso 490, various UDAAPs.

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
5 Orders.

6 CLERK: LU 213 and Reso 491, zoning
7 map amendment.

8 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
9 Orders.

10 CLERK: LU 214 and Reso 492 through
11 LU 216 and Reso 494.

12 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled to be filed
13 pursuant to a letter of withdrawal.

14 CLERK: LU 218 and Reso 495, UDAAP
15 Bronx.

16 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
17 Orders.

18 CLERK: LU 219 and Reso 496 through
19 LU 224 and Reso 501, zoning map changes.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
21 Orders.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: General
23 Order calendar.

24 CLERK: Resolution appointment
25 various persons Commission of Deeds.

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
3 Orders and this, at this point, Mr. Majority
4 Leader, I'd ask for a roll call on all the items
5 that have been coupled on the General Order
6 calendar, please.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

8 CLERK: Arroyo.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

10 CLERK: Barron.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [off mic]

12 Aye.

13 CLERK: Brewer.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: [off mic]

15 Aye.

16 CLERK: Cabrera.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

18 CLERK: Chin.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

20 CLERK: Comrie.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Yes to all.

22 CLERK: Dickens.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

24 CLERK: Dilan.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye on all.

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CLERK: Eugene.

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COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

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CLERK: Ferreras.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

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CLERK: Fidler.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

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CLERK: Foster.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye on all.

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CLERK: Garodnick.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

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CLERK: Gennaro.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

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CLERK: Gentile.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye on

15

16 all.

CLERK: Gonzalez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: [off mic]

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19 Aye on all.

CLERK: Greenfield.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: With a

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22 heavy heart, I give up the water pressure in my

22

23 future showers, in the interests of saving New

23

24 York's most viable resource, I vote aye on all.

24

CLERK: Halloran.

25

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

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: I will
6 vote aye to all except Intros 264 and 271. Once
7 again we are in the business now of regulating
8 crap. And I think there is a huge amount of it
9 being shoveled on our homeowners. And it
10 continues to happen at this Council from top to
11 bottom. We keep forgetting that every time we
12 impose one of these restrictive regulations,
13 anyone doing so much as a bathroom remodeling are
14 now subject to these rules. And we just spent
15 millions of dollars installing smart water meters
16 so that we can nickel and dime every homeowner out
17 of every flush that they have and every drink that
18 they take. Furthermore, commercial
19 establishments, which are providing a service to
20 the public, by providing and affording water
21 fountains for people to be able to drink out of,
22 now have to pay extra money in order to comply
23 with this rule and ensure that there is an
24 additional tap so that people can fill up their
25 canteens at these public watering holes. It's

1
2 absurd. The government has many more important
3 things to be doing, and certainly since water
4 usage has actually decreased in the City of New
5 York, almost 40 percent over the last ten years,
6 and we have nonetheless charged more and more to
7 each of our consumers to use the water of the City
8 of New York, despite the fact that they have done
9 what we've asked of them--conserved water--and
10 done it the right way, we still charge them more.
11 I think it's laughable, and these things are not
12 going to have a long term impact on water usage,
13 because the important places where our water is
14 wasted are still going to continue to waste those,
15 waste the water, and what we're going to wind up
16 doing is charging our homeowners and our business
17 owners who are willing to provide public services
18 and provide fountains and provide facilities for
19 the public, are going to turn around and say,
20 "It's not worth the effort anymore." So I vote
21 absolutely no to 264 and 271, aye to the rest.

22 CLERK: Ignizio.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: May I
24 explain my vote?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes, you

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2 can.

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Thank you.

4

I just wanted to dovetail my comments for that of

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my colleague, and basically speak of the water

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rates and the water bills. The concern here is

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when we continue the conservation movement, it

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continues to fly in the face of the homeowners.

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The bills continue to go up, and when the DEP

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stands before us, and the water board stands

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before us, they say, "The reason why they have to

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go up ten, 13, 15, 19 percent, is because you're

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conserving water." And here we have a bill that

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ostensibly is needed to conserve water, which that

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is in question from, from my, my own mind as well.

16

So what we're effectively doing here is voting on

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a bill that does what? That increases the water

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bills of the people of the City of New York who

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can least afford it now. Continually we are faced

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with the question of why now? There is a serious

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economic concern in this City of New York right

22

now with people being able to stay in their homes,

23

with people being able to keep their jobs, and yet

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we insist upon imposing additional government

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regulations, which will cost them money and force

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2 them to lose and to have to leave the City. So,
3 with that I vote no on 264-A and no on 271, aye on
4 all others. Thank you.

5 CLERK: Jackson.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I pass.

7 CLERK: James.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye on all.

9 CLERK: Koo.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye on all.

11 CLERK: Koppell.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Request
13 permission to explain my vote.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: I wasn't
16 going to speak, but in light of Mr. Halloran's
17 statements, I wish to indicate that his view is a
18 very shortsighted one. In the short run, reducing
19 consumption will somewhat reduce the revenues of
20 the Water Authority, and thereby it could be
21 argued increase rates; however, in the long run,
22 if we don't introduce conservation measures as the
23 population of the City increases and the demands
24 in the City increase, clearly additional
25 facilities will have to be built. It's actually

1
2 the facilities that we're building, including the
3 filtration plant that's being built in my
4 district, that is ama--that there's a much larger
5 source of increases in water rates, than
6 conservation. And in the long run, if we don't
7 conserve, we'll do two things: number one, we'll
8 increase the need to build new facilities and new
9 sources. And the second thing we'll do is
10 increase the possibility of having drought related
11 shortages, which we've had in the past, on a
12 number of occasions, and to the extent that we
13 don't conserve, we will have in the future. So
14 frankly speaking, it's a very shortsighted view
15 that he, that he expresses. I think I take a much
16 longer view and one that makes much more sense
17 from the long term, both physical and financial
18 health of the City. So I withdraw my request, and
19 I vote aye on all.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Point of
21 personal privilege.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: No.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: No, we, we
24 don't do that, Council Member. We don't fall
25 Robert's Rules of Orders.

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COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Oh.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: [laughs]

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CLERK: Koslowitz.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye on

6

all.

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CLERK: Lander.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye on all.

9

CLERK: Lappin. Lappin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Yes.

11

CLERK: Levin. Mark-Viverito.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: [off

13

mic] Aye on all.

14

CLERK: Mendez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

16

CLERK: Palma.

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

18

CLERK: Recchia.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: [off mic]

20

Aye.

21

CLERK: Reyna.

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye on all.

23

CLERK: Rodriguez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: May I

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explain my vote?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes, you

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may.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I will

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vote aye, but I also would like to say something

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about the LU 194 and 196. This project is so

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important for the northern Manhattan area. With

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that project, we will be able to build 124

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affordable housing. But also we are building a

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new Children's Museum for the northern Manhattan

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area, and also a childhood program in our

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community, where many program they have 300

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families in the waiting list. And I vote aye.

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CLERK: Rose.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye on all.

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CLERK: Sanders.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye on

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all.

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CLERK: Ulrich.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye on all.

21

CLERK: Vacca.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I'd like to

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explain my vote. I'm going to vote aye on all

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because I believe in water conservation. And I

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believe that part of our effort to green New York

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2 has to revolve around water conservation. But the
3 water rates in this City have gotten out of
4 control. And there's no getting around that
5 reality. Every year, ten to 12 percent increases
6 on people who can least afford it, on senior
7 citizens, on disabled homeowners, every year. And
8 there's no end in sight, because the Water Board
9 of the City of New York has imposed water rate
10 that are unaffordable and indeed confiscatory. We
11 have to address the reality that when the water
12 meters were installed and the homeowners were
13 given water meters, they were told that if you
14 saved water, your rates would go down. Well, let
15 me tell you something, the homeowners could die of
16 dehydration and their rates would go up. That's
17 where water rates stand in the City of New York,
18 so I'm going to vote yes, but I think we have to
19 tackle this issue. Enough is enough already. I
20 do not accept that no end is in sight. I have to
21 believe that we as a Council, working with the
22 Administration, can do something to make sure that
23 our homeowners in this City do not continue to pay
24 ten to 12 percent increases every year. It is
25 wrong. How can we on one hand say we're

1
2 conserving water, and then the City of New York
3 does not incentivize saving water. That does not
4 go to the principal and the basis of our
5 strategies here at the Council, when it comes to
6 greening our City. So, that's my explanation.

7 [applause]

8 CLERK: Vallone.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Permission
10 to explain.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you.
13 I'm going to vote against 271-A and 264-A. I
14 think the goals are, are noble, water
15 conservation, but as Jimmy Vacca just so
16 eloquently stated, the Water Board came before our
17 Committee and said that they were raising rates
18 due to less usage. They said that. And they have
19 raised rates 50 percent in the last four years. I
20 cannot in good conscience give them another reason
21 to, to raise rates at this point. In 264-A, with
22 the drinking fountains, I have no problem filling
23 my container up from the fountain that exists
24 right now. I don't need a special fountain
25 designed for that, I don't think government needs

1

2 to be involved in that. And in fact, my water
3 bottle is made of biodegradable corn plastic with
4 a filter. And I recommend the filter that takes
5 out chlorine and fluoride. Until they take out
6 chlorine and fluoride, I can't recommend drinking
7 fountains. Years from now you'll say, "Pete
8 Vallone said if first, what, I don't, I thought he
9 was crazy when he said it." Chlorine and fluoride
10 absolutely bad for you in our drinking water right
11 now. So I'm going to vote against 264-A and 271-
12 A, and aye on the rest.

13 CLERK: Van Bramer.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

15 CLERK: Vann.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Explain my
17 vote.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: In view of
20 the impassioned discussion around this issue, I
21 remind my colleagues that the reauthorization of
22 the Water Tax Lien will be before us shortly.
23 There is a bill where we can preserve our senior
24 citizens or look after those who are disabled, to
25 make sure that they are exempt from these rates.

1
2 We have an opportunity to make it a fair playing
3 field for the rest of the citizens of New York
4 City as related to water rates. So, please take
5 advantage of that. I withdraw my request, and
6 vote aye.

7 CLERK: Williams.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Excuse to
9 explain my vote.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote
12 aye on all, but I, I do think this is a, at the
13 same time, I think this is a huge issue. And I
14 know we're talking a lot now, I'm waiting to be,
15 to hear about how we're going to fix the problem,
16 because I, too, think it is ridiculous that the
17 water rates keep going up. My mom, other
18 constituents, myself, continually have to get
19 these rates up no matter what happens. We need to
20 definitely address this issue.

21 CLERK: Jackson.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: May I be
23 excused to explain my vote?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: yes.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you.

1
2 I passed earlier because I was talking to my
3 colleague about this exact issue that we're voting
4 on, and especially regarding the four res--four
5 introduction bills that were under the Housing and
6 Buildings Committee. And I've signed on as a
7 cosponsor on all of these bills, because when you
8 look at New York City, and you look at our
9 situation as far as our water, and obviously we
10 all need to conserve as much water as possible.
11 But with the excessive uses of water, obviously
12 our City water system has to be expanded and
13 protected, so that all of the 8.4 or 8.5 million
14 New Yorkers could drink some of the best water in
15 our State and in the world. But I do understand
16 some of the concerns that were raised by some of
17 my colleague, as far as homeowners, and their
18 bills going up. But I think in the long run,
19 these bills will do what is necessary to conserve
20 water, and to hopefully keep the price of water
21 down. One of the issues, I guess, that I thought
22 about, while sitting here and listening to my
23 colleagues, is the excessive amount of water that
24 is wasted with hydrants being open all over our
25 City during the summer. And as you know, when

1
2 hydrants are open, they pour out thousands and
3 thousands of gallons per minute. And so, we need
4 to work on that in order to serve probably over a
5 billion gallons of water, billions every single
6 summer, when the hydrants are pouring out all over
7 the City. And I know that, because where I live
8 in Northern Manhattan, I see it all the time, I
9 call 311, and obviously we need to educate the
10 populace about that, how important it is to
11 preserve water. And obviously, most people don't
12 know what it is until you actually lose it, and
13 you wonder how precious water is. I vote aye on
14 all.

15 CLERK: Oddo.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: May I be
17 temporarily excused to explain my vote?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: I will vote
20 no on Intro 264-A and 271, and yes on all others.
21 And let me respond to the comments by the Council
22 Member responding to Council Member Halloran's
23 comments. Notice how I did that without
24 mentioning anyone's name. [laughter] Yeah. Let
25 me be clear, everyone in the Republican delegation

1
2 here in this wonderful aisle is in favor of
3 conservation. We believe the words of Dave
4 Matthews, it's one sweet world. We want to get to
5 the same place you folks want to get to, we just
6 disagree as to how. And I know this may sound
7 odd, coming from the guy, who along with Lew
8 Fidler and some of your help, banned aluminum
9 bats, but it's this constant mandating every
10 aspect of our lives, which has this particular row
11 a bit concerned. And so, let, lest anyone take
12 from this meeting that the Republicans aren't in
13 favor of conserving water or conserving the
14 natural resources, that's not the point, it's how
15 we get there. And it seems that with every turn,
16 every aspect of building, every aspect of
17 breathing, and now those glorious moments in one
18 of the rooms in your home, government is coming
19 and knocking on the door and saying, "We want to
20 check out the throne." So this is what it's
21 about, it's not about conservation. This is not a
22 discussion of conservation, 'cause there is no
23 debate. This is about how we get to where we all
24 want to be. And some of us are growing a little
25 weary of it. And that's why we voted the way we

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2 did. Thank you.

3

CLERK: Rivera.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

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CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

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SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic] Aye on

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all.

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[pause]

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All items

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on today's General Order calendar were adopted by

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a vote of 48 in the affirmative, zero in the

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negative and zero abstentions, with the exception

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of Intro 264-A, which was adopted by a vote of 44

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in the affirmative and four in the negative, with

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zero abstentions; and Intro 271-A which was

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adopted by a vote of 44 in the affirmative, four

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in the negative and zero abstentions. Discussion

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of resolutions. Since there are no resolutions,

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we're going to move on to Introdu--oh,

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Introduction and reading of the bills, - - .

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SPEAKER QUINN: All bills are

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referred to committees as indicated on the agenda.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: And now,

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since there are no resolutions, we'll move on to

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general discussion. First we have Council Member

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2 Dilan.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Yeah, I just
4 want to say I appreciate the, the tone and the
5 tenor of the discussion that we just had on the,
6 the water conservation package. I just would,
7 would like to, to state at this time, that I think
8 it's important that we desegregate what these
9 bills do in technicality a to the frustration that
10 we all collectively feel about the water rates. I
11 think I've had many discussions with many of my
12 colleagues on both sides of the aisle, on the
13 frustration that we all share with how the City of
14 New York goes about dispensing the water rates to
15 our constituents and the frustration that we have
16 in trying to collect this long term problem.
17 That's a problem that I'm committed to, and
18 committed to working with others, including
19 Council Member Vann, who does have some bills that
20 deal with the lien sales. But I think it's
21 important to desegregate the need for
22 conservation. And I also want to clear the record
23 that a lot of these bills apply to new
24 construction. I just want to make that clear for
25 the record, I think my colleagues did understand

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2 that, I don't want to suggest that they didn't
3 understand it. But it does come into play for
4 alterations. Now, I'm of the opinion, if you're
5 going to do a alterat--and you're going to spend
6 money anyway, it's your choice to make the
7 alteration, not government's choice to make that
8 alteration. So if you're going to spend money
9 anyway, it's just our list of suggestions of how
10 you should do it, so that we can conserve water,
11 and we can go forward. Now, look, my friends on
12 the other side of the aisle know well, and even
13 some of my friends on the democratic side of the
14 aisle know well, you know, I'm, I am a democrat,
15 but I am concerned about government's intrusion
16 into people's lives. They've heard me talk about
17 that all the time. So, I am concerned about that,
18 and I'm mindful of that. But you know,
19 respectfully, and I mean this with all respect, we
20 have two members of the other aisle on the Housing
21 and Buildings Committee, we heard no objection, or
22 none of these concerns, prior to this bill being
23 brought to the floor here today. Now, I don't
24 mean that as attack, gentlemen. The only
25 suggestion that I have is if you have these

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2 concern, I'm mindful of these concerns, I'd like a
3 heads up beforehand so that we can bring it back,
4 take it to the table, so that we can review these
5 concerns, and that I don't have to hear it, or the
6 Speaker has to hear these types of things on the
7 floor, and we can work on 'em. We're mindful of
8 that. I'm mindful of it as a Chair. I've
9 privately fought with her internally on a lot of
10 these issues. But I think that need to be brought
11 up then and there that, so where we can actually
12 do something about it. And I'm committed to that,
13 gentlemen, and to, to my friends on the Democratic
14 side, as well, that, that did vote against it, you
15 know, I have no problem with anybody voting
16 against anything if it's against their core
17 beliefs, but you know, let us know about it
18 beforehand, maybe we can fix it, maybe we can't,
19 and then we can have a debate about it at that
20 time. So, again, I appreciate the spirit of the
21 debate. Water conservation is important. I think
22 these bills will get us there. Will be naïve and
23 say they won't cost anybody anything? No, they're
24 going to cost people, it's going to cost some
25 money, but understand the alteration is done at

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2 the choice of the end user, not at the choice of
3 government, and new construction is done at the
4 choice of the end user, and not at the, the
5 request of government. So I just want to make my
6 comments clear there. Thank you.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
very much. Council Member Fidler.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Yeah, I
propose a water debate. I mean, regardless of
what was said at the hearing, I just want to point
out that so long as the City of New York is
charging rent to the Water Board, that's the
reason why water rates are, are unnecessarily
high. We shouldn't forget that. I do want to
point out, apropos of the anti-violence tone that
was set at the beginning of this meeting, that I
will be joining the Sandy Family on Friday morning
at 11:00 o'clock at Plum Beach, to dedicate a park
bench in memory of Michael Sandy, a young gay male
[applause] who was lured by the internet to Plum
Beach and chased to his death. Apropos of that, I
am introducing today Intro 363, which will direct
the Human Rights Commission to develop a
curriculum for the Department of Education to use

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2 on cyber-bullying. I am sure that we all are
3 aware of the recent horrible incident at Rutgers,
4 where the internet was used in the most atrocious,
5 vile way, that resulted, in my opinion, in the
6 death of a young male. We can't, because the
7 State law direct the Department of Education--
8 directly, to include cyber-bullying in their
9 curriculum. But we can, under the law, direct the
10 Human Rights Commission to develop a curriculum
11 for them. So, I am urging everybody, particularly
12 in the spirit of today's meeting, so sign on to
13 Intro 363 so that we can get ahead of the curve on
14 what is clearly becoming a rampant abuse, and the
15 new technology for bullying young people in the
16 City of New York and in this world.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Council

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Member Vacca.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Yes, I rise

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to ask my colleagues to sign on to Intro 379,

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which provides that building permits will be

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denied to owners who owe substantial fees or fines

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to the City of New York. Right now, if you want

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to build a home, a house, an apartment building, a

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multi-family unit, and you owe two, three,

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2 \$400,000 to the City in uncollected real estate or
3 water bills, you can go ahead and get that permit
4 and build more. And build more, and build more.
5 If we're talking about fairness, I believe that
6 people should pay the City what they owe. And
7 I'm, I want to empower the Buildings Department
8 and the Department of Finance, to tell anyone who
9 owes money beyond a certain threshold, that until
10 they pay that money, or enter into an agreement
11 with the City of New York to do so, under a
12 specific schedule, those permits will not be
13 granted. Those permits being granted often end up
14 only compounding the arrears and the money owed.
15 This will produce revenue for the City of New
16 York, it is a positive revenue producer. But in
17 all fairness, everyone should pay, whether it be
18 an HPD emergency repair bill, whether it be an ECB
19 violation, whether it's a water bill or a real
20 estate bill. When we give permits, that's our
21 opportunity to collect this money that's owed,
22 that through the years we've not been able to
23 collect. I hope that my colleagues will sign on
24 to Intro 379.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you

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2 very much. We'll move on to Council Member
3 Brewer.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you
5 very much, I first want to tell everyone that this
6 hearing is being webcast, and I want to thank the
7 gentleman who's doing it, and Una Cortiz
8 [phonetic] from the Speaker's Office, we've been
9 talking about it for a long time. Thank you,
10 Ramon Martinez, who promised it a long time ago.
11 Number two, we have a couple of legislations,
12 pieces of legislation I'm bringing to your
13 attention. One has to do with putting more
14 material up on the web. I have Intro 362, but
15 there are two others that Council Member Mark-
16 Viverito and the Speaker are interested in. And
17 it's going to, they will all come before the
18 Government Operations Committee October 25th.
19 Number two, Intro 361, which I'm cosponsoring with
20 Council Member Halloran, Council Member James and
21 others, would bring to the attention those who
22 harass by calling 311. People do, unfortunately,
23 use 311 as a harasser. And we are making sure
24 that that does not happen. So you can read it or
25 ask us any questions. And then just finally, I

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2 want to mention that we have several interns here
3 today. We have Caitlin O'Hagan [phonetic] who is
4 here from McCauley CUNY. And we have Joey Fong
5 and Nina Sullivan from Baruch College. Thank you
6 very much.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Seeing no
others, at this point in time, this meeting is
adjourned. Thank you.

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[gavel]

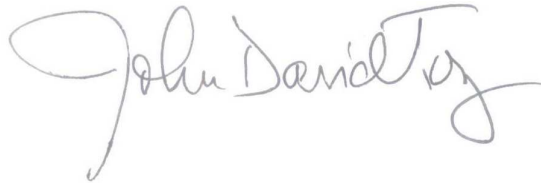
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, JOHN DAVID TONG certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John David Tong". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Signature_____

Date October 28, 2010