

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
STATED MEETING

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May 19, 2022
Start: 2:09 P.M.
Recess: 4:04 P.M.

HELD AT: Hybrid Hearing - Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E: Adrienne Adams, SPEAKER

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Shaun Abreu
Joann Ariola
Alexa Avilés
Diana Ayala
Charles Barron
Joseph C. Borelli
Erik D. Bottcher
Justin L. Brannan
Gale A. Brewer
Selvena N. Brooks-Powers
Tiffany Cabán
David M. Carr
Carmen N. De La Rosa
Eric Dinowitz
Amanda Farías
Oswald Feliz
James F. Gennaro
Jennifer Gutiérrez

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

Shahana K. Hanif
Kamillah Hanks
Robert F. Holden
Crystal Hudson
Kristin Richardson-Jordan
Rita C. Joseph
Ari Kagan
Shekar Krishnan
Linda Lee
Farah N. Louis
Christopher Marte
Darlene Mealy
Julie Menin
Francisco P. Moya
Mercedes Narcisse
Sandy Nurse
Chi A. Ossé
Vickie Paladino
Keith Powers
Lincoln Restler
Kevin C. Riley
Carlina Rivera
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.
Pierina Ana Sanchez
Lynn C. Schulman
Althea V. Stevens
Sandra Ung
Marjorie Velázquez
Inna Vernikov
Nantasha M. Williams
Julie Won
Kalman Yeger

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Thank you and good afternoon. And welcome to today's hybrid New York City Council Stated Meeting. At this time, would all Council Members and staff please turn on their video? To minimize disruption, please place electronic devices on vibrate or silent mode. Thank you for your cooperation. We are ready to begin.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ladies and gentlemen, at this time, please place all electronic devices, all electronic devices to vibrate. Mr. Majority Leader?

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Good afternoon and welcome everyone. Good to see you. Welcome to the Stated Meeting of May 19th, 2022. I'm Majority Leader Keith Powers. I'd like to thank everyone for joining us here today. If you are following along, the agenda for our meeting today is posted on the City Council's website.

COUNCIL CLERK: Please join us for the Pledge of Allegiance.

[pledge]

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Roll call.

COUNCIL CLERK: Abreu?

COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ariola?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Avilés?

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Presente.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala? Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Bottcher?

COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Brannan?

COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: I'm here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Yes, here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Brooks-Powers? Cabán?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Carr?

COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: De La Rosa?

COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Dinowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Farías?

COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Feliz?

COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Gennaro?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Gutiérrez?
COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Presente.
COUNCIL CLERK: Hanif?
COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Hanks?
COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: Holden?
COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Hudson?
COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Joseph?
COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: Kagan?
COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: Krishnan?
COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Lee?
COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Louis?
COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: Marte?
COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Menin?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Moya? Narcisse?

COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Nurse?

COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ossé?

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Paladino?

COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala? Restler?

COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Richardson Jordan?

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN:
Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Riley?

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Salamanca?

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Sanchez?

COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Present.

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Schulman?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Here.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Stevens?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Here.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Ung?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Present.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Velázquez?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Here.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Vernikov?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Present.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Williams?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Present.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Won?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Present.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Yeger?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Borelli?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Present.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Powers?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Unlike the

22 Minority Leader, I'm not at a bar, and I'm present.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Adams?

24 SPEAKER ADAMS: I am here with the

25 Majority Leader. I'm present.

[laughter]

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We're now going to have today's invocation which will be delivered by Denise Rhrissorrakrai, the Executive Pastor of Hope Astoria Church located at 3614 35th Street in Astoria, Queens. Welcome. You can come on up.

DENISE RHRISSORRAKRAI: Good afternoon. As I pray today, I'm mindful of other faith traditions in the room. I'll be praying from the perspective of a Christian. Let's pray together. Father God, we thank you for giving us life, purpose, and the chance today to serve others in a meaningful way. God, we thank you for our home, for New York City. We thank you that you know and love every person in this City. Each one of them is known by name by you, and you care about their wellbeing. We remember before you as well, and take a moment of silence to remember those who lost their lives in the recent Buffalo shooting and all who have been injured or killed by violence in our city. Today, we pray that you would help us to join in the work that you are doing to renew all things and to bring about what is just and good. Have your way in us, in our

1 actions and our decisions, in our words, and in the
2 attitudes of our hearts, that what is pleasing to you
3 would be accomplished. Lord, we thank you for our
4 elected officials and for all who serve the people of
5 this city. We pray for your protection, your wisdom,
6 your leadership, and your covering over them and
7 their families. We pray for your grace over their
8 efforts today, that they would accomplish much good
9 for all the people of this City. We pray also for
10 your mercy and grace over New York City, that our
11 city and all its people and all their beautiful
12 diversity could thrive. We know that in all things,
13 Lord, you are sovereign and you are good. We praise
14 you for who you are. You are holy, and we thank you
15 for your love for us. We pray in Jesus name, amen.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you,
18 Pastor, and thank you for being here today. We're
19 going to now ask Council Member Julie Won to spread
20 the invocation on the record.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Thank you, Majority
22 Leader Powers and Pastor Rhrissorrakrai who has
23 served in my community in my district for almost two
24 years in Astoria from Hope Astoria Church, and the
25 church network of Hope Church which has eight

1 churches across the city, but before I do anything
2 else, I just want to acknowledge the victims of the
3 Buffalo supermarket shooting by name, Celestine
4 Chaney, Roberta Drury, Andre Mackneil, Katherine
5 Massey, Margus Morrison, Heyward Patterson, Aaron
6 Salter, Jr., Geraldine Talley, Ruth Whitfield, Pearl
7 Young. In-- and I would also like to acknowledge all
8 the women, the Korean women, who have been shot, yet
9 their names are much harder to find from the Texas
10 shooting as well. In a time of such darkness, I am
11 thankful for our invocations where we can continue to
12 ground each other in all of our shared space to
13 remember that we have been elected to serve in
14 vulnerability as well as with faith to remember to
15 serve those who are most vulnerable and those who are
16 hurting and those who have lost their lives. And
17 just to acknowledge Hope Church, Astoria in my
18 district, throughout the pandemic they have served to
19 make sure that people have food on the table through
20 Ravenswood, NYCHA, as well as in the local hospitals
21 and all the work that they're doing just to serve the
22 community and I am just grateful and honored to bring
23 Pastor Denise here today to speak before the Council
24 and the City, and I make a motion for unanimous
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1 consent to spread the invocation in full upon the
2 record. Thank you.

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4 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you,
5 Council Member. We're now going to have the adoption
6 of minutes by Council Member Kamillah Hanks.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Thank you,
8 Majority Leader Powers. I make a motion that the
9 minutes of the stated meeting of April 28th, 2022 be
10 adopted as printed.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We're
12 going to move to messages and papers from the Mayor.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Communication
15 from City, County, and Borough offices.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: M62 City Planning
17 Commission appointment.

18 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Filed pursuant to
19 letter of withdrawal.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: M63 discount rate.

21 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Finance.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Pre-considered M64 and
23 65, budget modifications.

24 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Finance.
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2 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Petitions and
3 communications.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Land Use call-
6 ups.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: M66 EMS Station.

8 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Coupled on call-up
9 vote. I would now ask that the clerk take a roll
10 call vote on today's Land Use call-up.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Abreu?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Ariola?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Aye.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Avilés? Land Use call-
16 ups.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Yes.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Ayala?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Barron?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: This is just the
22 Land Use call-ups, it's not Pre-considered M62,
23 correct?

24 COUNCIL CLERK: You're correct, Land Use
25 call-ups.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Alright.

COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Bottcher?

COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Brannan?

COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Brooks-Powers?

COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Cabán?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Carr?

COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: De La Rosa?

COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Dinowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Farías?

COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Feliz?

COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Gennaro?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Gutiérrez?

1 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye.
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3 COUNCIL CLERK: Hanif?
4 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.
5 COUNCIL CLERK: Hanks?
6 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Aye.
7 COUNCIL CLERK: Holden?
8 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye.
9 COUNCIL CLERK: Hudson?
10 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye.
11 COUNCIL CLERK: Joseph?
12 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye.
13 COUNCIL CLERK: Kagan?
14 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Aye.
15 COUNCIL CLERK: Krishnan?
16 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye.
17 COUNCIL CLERK: Lee?
18 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye.
19 COUNCIL CLERK: Louis?
20 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye.
21 COUNCIL CLERK: Marte?
22 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye.
23 COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy?
24 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.
25 COUNCIL CLERK: Menin?

1 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye.
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3 COUNCIL CLERK: Moya?
4 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Aye.
5 COUNCIL CLERK: Narcisse?
6 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye.
7 COUNCIL CLERK: Nurse?
8 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Aye.
9 COUNCIL CLERK: Ossé?
10 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Aye.
11 COUNCIL CLERK: Paladino?
12 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Aye.
13 COUNCIL CLERK: Restler?
14 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye.
15 COUNCIL CLERK: Richardson Jordan?
16 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: Aye.
17 COUNCIL CLERK: Riley?
18 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye.
19 COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera?
20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.
21 COUNCIL CLERK: Salamanca?
22 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: I vote aye.
23 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Sanchez?
24 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye.
25 COUNCIL CLERK: Schulman?

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COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Stevens?
COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Ung?
COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Velázquez?
COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Vernikov?
COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: [inaudible]
COUNCIL CLERK: Williams?
COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Won?
COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Yeger?
COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Borelli?
COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Powers?
COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Adams?
SPEAKER ADAMS: Aye.
COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Today's Land Use
call-ups are adopted by a vote of 51 in the

1 affirmative and 0 in the negative. We'll now hear--
2 have communication from Speaker Adrienne Adams.

3
4 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Majority
5 Leader. Good afternoon everyone. It is great to see
6 you and it is great to be seen. As a reminder, masks
7 are highly encouraged to be worn throughout the
8 Stated Meeting in these chambers. Let's take the
9 necessary precautions to keep ourselves and our
10 fellow New Yorkers safe. Today, we are voting on
11 several legislative Land Use and Finance items.
12 Before we begin, though, I would like to discuss what
13 unfolded last Saturday. White supremacists violence
14 inflicted on Buffalo, New York's black community. It
15 took the lives of 10 community members and injured
16 three others in what was the deadliest mass shooting
17 of this year, and today we wear black ribbons. Thank
18 you, Council Member Farías for ensuring that we have
19 these in commemoration of those victims. Because we
20 lost mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers, aunts
21 and uncles, grandmothers and grandfathers on
22 Saturday. They were caretakers, public servants, and
23 writers. Each of them were valued members of the
24 Buffalo community, each with their own unique
25 experiences and stories. We must continue to show

1 support and send our strength to the families and
2 communities impacted by this act of terror and
3 violence. We pray for the community and survivor's
4 recovery from physical and emotional trauma, as well
5 as the health and safety of the people of Buffalo
6 during these trying times. This racist violence is
7 so traumatic for so many of us. The pain and
8 suffering caused by the stain of racism, and white
9 supremacy is all too familiar for so many black
10 families and communities. Its history in this
11 country is long, and the ideology that perpetuates it
12 is once again being mainstreamed to a target-- to
13 target us and so many others, but we can't let that
14 happen. In fact, the hateful belief that seeks
15 otherize [sic] black people, immigrants and people of
16 color more broadly to cast us as threats is vile and
17 it's dangerous, and we see its effect in last
18 weekend's tragedy. The anti-Semitism, anti-Muslim,
19 anti-them within that ideology must be denounced.
20 The impact is not just what we saw in Buffalo last
21 week. It is the increase in hate crimes and violence
22 that we're experiencing right here in our own city.
23 This hate violence that has targeted our diverse
24 communities is intended to strike fear and make us
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1
2 feel unsafe, but we won't let it. Our Asian, Jewish,
3 LGBTQ, Sikh, Muslim, and black communities have been
4 the targets of this hate and despicable act. We must
5 be untied as New Yorkers in standing against all of
6 it, leaving no space for it to take root and grow.

7 As the most diverse City Council in our City's
8 history, we have a responsibility to lead in ensuring
9 our city prevents and responds to hate crimes.

10 That's why we've called for this budget to include at
11 least five million dollars to support its focus by
12 the city and community-based programs. We must root
13 out hate in all of its forms. Social media companies
14 also have a responsibility. Hate has been allowed to
15 fester, spread, and disseminate on social media and
16 online gaming platforms with not enough action taken
17 to ensure these companies don't make space to profit
18 from them. These companies have responsibility to do
19 more and should be held accountable. They are
20 allowing dangerous and irresponsible content to reach
21 those most susceptible, including our children and
22 youth and influence them with the. And we see how it
23 can quickly manifest into violence and harm. As a
24 country we must address the irresponsible and
25 dangerous proliferation of guns that fuels the

1 violence hurting our communities. The overwhelming
2 access and presence of guns in this nation is
3 literally killing us. It makes all of the violence
4 more deadly whether it's interpersonal or hate
5 driven. Guns are not manufactured in New York City,
6 and we have some of the toughest gun laws, but they
7 still flow into our communities. The Federal
8 Government, in partnership with the state and city
9 partners, must take stronger action to enact sensible
10 laws that curb this violence and protect public
11 safety. Inaction will only lead to further tragedies
12 and deaths, and our communities are tired. They've
13 had enough of this violence. In the last two weeks
14 alone, our own Council Member Pierina Sanchez and her
15 team were forced to run for cover because shots were
16 fired near her district office in the Bronx.
17 Thankfully, they weren't physically harmed, but
18 someone else in the community was. Neighbors ran for
19 their lives. Parents held their children close and
20 everyone was left with trauma, whether it was
21 immediately recognized or not. Council Member
22 Sanchez, you said it best when you said, "We
23 shouldn't have to think twice about walking down our
24 own block, whether our kids can play in the garden."

1
2 And we're so glad that you're here today. We must
3 all be outraged by this continued violence. Earlier
4 this week, we lost 11-year-old Kierra Tay [sp?] to a
5 senseless shooting in Council Member Salamanca's
6 district in the Bronx. This precious little girl was
7 struck and killed by a stray bullet from someone who
8 was out to inflict harm on another person that day.
9 We mourn Kierra's loss. We grieve with her family
10 and we send our love to the traumatized residents of
11 the Bronx. We've also learned more about the death
12 of nine-year-old Shalom Gefarro [sp?] in Crown
13 Heights, Brooklyn, who was reportedly abused in her
14 very own home. She was helpless as she was beaten,
15 and investigation is underway, but what we do know is
16 that this harm to our children is unacceptable. It
17 speaks to a lack of wellbeing and means that our city
18 failed this child and failed her family. We have to
19 work to ensure nothing like this happens again by
20 protecting our babies, our children, our future. As
21 I've said in the past, violence is a public health
22 crisis and we must treat it with urgency and bold
23 solutions. The safety and wellbeing of our children,
24 families and communities are at stake, and we all
25 deserve to live in peace, not in fear. Last week our

1 country reached the grim and tragic milestone of
2 surpassing one million COVID-19 deaths. Most of us,
3 myself included, have lost loved ones, friends,
4 neighbors, and community members to this virus, and
5 we will always remember that. We must continue to
6 protect ourselves and each other through this
7 pandemic, but we also need healing from trauma and
8 grief caused by COVID. As we reflect on the one
9 million Americans who we've lost, and millions more
10 around the world, we honor their memories now and
11 always. Finally, I want to take a moment to
12 acknowledge that our city has lost several New
13 Yorkers to workplace violence. Zi Won Yang [sp?], a
14 food delivery worker in Forest Hill, Council Member
15 Schulman's district, was killed during a delivery on
16 April 30th. Curtis Rippy [sp?], a security guard
17 from Corona was fatally stabbed during an argument
18 with two men at a gas station, and Ula Beck Gilazof
19 [sp?], a grocery worker in Midwood was stabbed during
20 an argument that broke out inside a supermarket just
21 two days ago. We also mourn the passing of retired
22 FDNY Lieutenant John Vigliotti [sp?] of Engine
23 Company 159, a lifelong Staten Island resident who
24 served our city in the Fire Department for 30 years.
25

1 We pray for their families, and we stand with workers
2 and our partners in labor who advocate for better and
3 safer working conditions for all. Let us now stand
4 for a moment of silence to remember the 10
5 individuals taken from us in Buffalo, the one million
6 lives lost to COVID-19, the children who have been
7 harmed by violence, and the workers who lost their
8 lives while on the job.

9 [moment of silence]

10 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you. Okay, so on a
11 lighter and happier note, we're going to pick it up.
12 I want to congratulate Council Member Lincoln Restler
13 on his wedding earlier this month. And I also want to
14 congratulate my special Counsel Carlos Biatso [sp?]
15 on his wedding to the beautiful Zoe [sp?].
16 Congratulations to both of you. This month we're
17 observing a number of holidays and celebrations,
18 including Haitian Flag Day. A day to celebrate the
19 culture and heritage of Haiti IC [sic], one of the
20 first countries in the Caribbean to gain independence
21 from colonial rule [inaudible]. May is Mental Health
22 Awareness Month which is an important reminder to all
23 of us that we must continue to provide the support
24 and resources for people with mental health
25

1 challenges and their families. It is imperative that
2 we end the stigma around mental health that has
3 prevented the appropriate care in our communities for
4 far too long. It is also Lupus Awareness Month, a
5 time when we raise awareness around the physical and
6 emotional toll of Lupus. To that end, I want to
7 thank Council Member Shahana Hanif for all of the
8 incredible work she's done to inform fellow New
9 Yorkers about the impact of this chronic illness.
10 Thank you, Council Member. I also want to
11 acknowledge that May is National Foster Care Month.
12 More than 407,000 children in the United States are
13 in foster care, and I want to thank all of the foster
14 parents, mentors, childcare professionals, and others
15 who assist our foster youth find permanent homes and
16 stability. Thank you, Council Member Gale Brewer.
17 Additionally, I'd like to thank Deputy Speaker Diana
18 Ayala for partnering with Children's Aid and my staff
19 to host Foster Youth Shadow Day, allowing foster
20 youth to meet Council Members and learn about the
21 importance of local government. Thank you Deputy
22 Speaker. And one final announcement, I must inform
23 you all of a major departure from our team and
24 central staff, it is the incomparable Raju Mann
25

1 [sp?], heavy sigh. Yes, Raju, Deputy Chief of Staff
2 and Director of the Land Use Division will be leaving
3 the Council at the end of this month after eight
4 energetic and eventful years of service. Raju came
5 on board in 2014 as the only second individual to
6 serve as Director of the Land Use Division in the
7 history of the New York City Council since 1999.
8 From guiding members through countless negotiations
9 on neighborhood rezonings and private development
10 proposals, to pushing administrations to advance and
11 improve crucial citywide policies on affordable
12 housing, economic development, infrastructure and
13 planning. Raju has served the Council and the City
14 of New York with a rare combination of policy
15 brilliance and political savvy and he's done it well.
16 Raju, you will be greatly missed by our team. Nobody
17 can fill those shoes, Raju, but we're looking for
18 that perfect sign [sic]. In the meantime, we must
19 move on. So, now, let's go ahead and dive into our
20 agenda for the day. We will be voting on the
21 following Land Use items: Broadway Triangle-Bartlett
22 Crossing Development, an application by HPD to
23 facilitate the construction of a nine-story 100
24 percent affordable residential building with 29 units
25

1 in Council Member Restler's district. 2300 Cropsey
2 Avenue rezoning will facilitate the construction of a
3 new 23-story mixed-use building and allow ground
4 floor commercial use in the rezoning area in Council
5 Member Brannan's district. 35-01 Vernon Boulevard
6 rezoning will facilitate the development of a nine-
7 story mixed-use building with 107 dwelling units of
8 which 26 will be affordable in Council Member Won's
9 district. Thank you staff, which includes Brian
10 Hall, James Catone [sp?], and Tim Andersen [sp?]. We
11 will also be voting on the following Finance items.
12 Transparency Resolution number 13 of Fiscal Year
13 2022, sponsored by Council Member Brannan, approving
14 the new designation and changes of the designation of
15 certain organizations receiving funding in the
16 Expense Budget. And Expense Budget modification that
17 represents proposed movements of city funds within
18 and among city agencies in Fiscal 2022 to implement
19 changes in the City's Expense Budget, but leaves the
20 overall level of city funds unchanged. A Revenue
21 Budget modification that seeks to appropriate new
22 city revenues in Fiscal Year 2022 in the amount of
23 1.36 billion dollars. The 1.36 billion of new
24 revenues combined with an adjustment to the General
25

1 Reserve will be used to pre-pay 1.54 billion dollars
2 of Fiscal Year 2023 expenses in Fiscal Year 2022. A
3 Pre-considered Resolution that approves and exemption
4 from real property taxes from property located at 788
5 Fox Street in the Bronx in Deputy Speaker Ayala's
6 district. The project is a five-story mixed building
7 with five commercial spaces which closed in 2017 with
8 a construction loan it used to do a moderate
9 rehabilitation in the building. There are 52 units
10 and all are currently rate stabilized with AMIs
11 ranging from 50 percent to 80 percent. We thank the
12 staff, Malcolm Buttehorn [sp?], the multitasking
13 Malcolm Buttehorn. Next, we will vote on the
14 following appointments: David Do, Commissioner of the
15 New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission and
16 Robert Hogan, member of the New York City Civilian
17 Complaint Review Board. Thank you to our staff,
18 Lance Pollidy [sp?]. Finally, we will be voting on
19 the following legislation: First on the legislative
20 agenda, Resolution 121 sponsored by Council Member
21 Nantasha Williams would call on the New York State
22 Legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act, which would
23 automatically seal conviction records after someone
24 has completed their sentence, is off parole or
25

1
2 probation, has not incurred any new charges or
3 convictions in New York State during a set number of
4 years, and the conviction to be sealed is not a sex
5 offense. In New York, more than 2.3 million people
6 have old conviction records which often block them
7 from accessing housing, education, employment and
8 other economic opportunities. The Clean Slate Act
9 would not only remove this barrier, opening up doors
10 of opportunity for millions of New Yorkers. It would
11 also boost the state's economy. We lose out on two
12 billion dollars in lost wages each year by blocking
13 people with old records from jobs. It makes no sense
14 for public safety or the economy to sand and obstruct
15 people from opportunities to move forward in their
16 lives after exiting the justice system. That's why
17 the state bill has broad and diverse support from
18 criminal justice advocates, labor unions, and the
19 business community. We look forward to the State
20 Legislature passing Clean Slate during this
21 legislative session, and we'd like to thank staff,
22 Gisari Kaputi [sp?] for your hard work. Today, we're
23 also voting on four home rule messages relating to
24 pensions. New Yorkers work night and day to ensure
25 the City keeps moving and stays safe. We must invest

1 in these hardworking New Yorker's futures. The first
2 home rule relates to member retirement program
3 contributions for some members under age 57, who due
4 to their enrollment date cannot meet the 25-year
5 service requirements for using specific benefits for
6 which they make contributions. This bill would
7 address that disparity and exempt members who are
8 unable to receive benefits from the requirement to
9 make additional contributions. The second relates to
10 automotive members of the NYC Employee Retirement
11 System. This would provide automotive members of the
12 New York City Employees' Retirement system, or
13 NYCERS, who begin their careers later in the life
14 with the ability to receive vested retirement
15 benefit. The third relates to allowing police fire
16 members-- police or fire members of the FDNY pension
17 fund should get credit for EMT service. This will
18 give tier three members of the New York City Fire
19 Department pension Fund who have prior creditable
20 service as an EMT with the FDNY, the ability to
21 receive Fire Department pension service credit for
22 their service. It would also allow members to apply
23 up to three prior years of service as a NYCERS EMT to
24 their Fire Pension Retirement as long as the service
25

1 years with NYCERS directly precedes their current
2 membership in the fire pension. And finally, the
3 fourth home rule would create a 25-year plan for Fire
4 Protection Inspectors. It would also provide
5 uniformed fire service personnel the opportunity to
6 retire with a full pension after 25 years of service.
7 It would grant them parity with other uniformed
8 service personnel who perform essential tasks,
9 including police officers, fire fighters, EMTs and
10 other uniformed service employees. I'm very happy
11 that the state is moving on these items, and I'm
12 proud to support them. Thank you Staff Members,
13 Rachel Cordero [sp?] and Gysari Gutapathi [sp?] for
14 your work. Finally, we will vote on a legislative
15 package concerning fire safety that seeks to address
16 outstanding issues discovered from investigation into
17 the tragedy our city and the Bronx experienced at the
18 beginning of the year. As we saw earlier this year
19 in Council Member Feliz's district and adjacent to
20 Council Member Sanchez's district, the tragic fire at
21 the 19-story Twin Parks Northwest apartment building
22 in the Fordham section of the Bronx claimed the lives
23 of 17 New Yorkers, including eight children. It was
24 one of the worst tragedies in the history of our
25

1 city, and the City's worst fire in 30 years.

2 Investigators discovered several violations and flaws
3 that led to it to have such a disastrous result. If

4 proper measures were put in place, our fellow New

5 Yorkers would still be with us today. And as a

6 result, the Council established the Twin Parks

7 Citywide Taskforce for Fire Safety led by Council

8 Member Feliz which has worked with other communities

9 to address these many, many issues. Our city has

10 experienced an uptake in devastating fires in all

11 five boroughs, including another blaze in the Bronx

12 just this month not far from the Twin Parks apartment

13 building that claimed of beloved 73-year-old

14 grandmother and injured nine other people. This

15 package of legislation will help decrease the

16 likelihood that tragedies like the Twin Parks fire

17 occur again. In honor of those we lost we will

18 continue to correct these wrongs, and I'd like to

19 thank Council Members Feliz, Sanchez, Hanif, and Carr

20 for their leadership on this critical issue.

21 Introduction 104A sponsored by Council Member Oswald

22 Feliz, Chair of the Twin Parks Citywide Taskforce of

23 Fire Prevention would establish a definition for the

24 term self-closing door so it is clear that applicable
25

1 doors must return to the closed position and latched
2 shut when opened and released. Introduction 105A,
3 also sponsored by Chair Feliz, would make same
4 modifications to the enforcement of Local Law 111
5 which required that doors providing access to
6 interior corridors or stairs be self-closing or
7 equipped with devices to ensure closing after having
8 been opened. That Local Law also placed
9 responsibility on owners of multiple dwellings to
10 keep and maintain self-closing doors in good repair,
11 and made failure to do so an immediately hazardous
12 violation. First, Introduction 105A amends the
13 correction period from 21 days to 14 days and
14 requires the Department of Housing Preservation and
15 Development to conduct a follow-up inspection within
16 20 business days following the correction period.
17 Second, the bill increases the civil penalty for
18 self-closing door violations to \$250 to \$500, and an
19 additional \$250 per day for each day the violation
20 condition remains after the deadline to correct.
21 Third, Introduction 105A increases the penalty for
22 false certification of correction of a hazardous
23 violation to \$250 to \$500 and an immediately
24 hazardous violation to \$500 to \$1000. Lastly, the
25

1
2 bill clarifies that self-closing doors must return to
3 the closed position and self-latch when opened and
4 released. Introduction 106A, sponsored by Council
5 Member Shahana Hanif, would prohibit the sale of
6 portable electric space heaters without certain
7 safety features that are designed to mitigate the
8 fire risk posed by operation of such devices.
9 Specifically, any such device would have to be
10 equipped with a thermostat and automatic function
11 that disables the device upon tip-over or
12 overheating, and by a nationally recognized testing
13 laboratory. Anyone who violates the ban would face
14 civil penalties that escalate upon subsequent
15 violations. Introduction 131A, sponsored by Council
16 Member Pierina Sanchez, would amend current
17 requirements relating to the Fire Department's
18 efforts to conduct fire safety education and outreach
19 for residential buildings by requiring that such
20 activities include dissemination of relevant
21 information pertaining to the safe operation of
22 electric space heaters in residential settings.
23 Additionally, the bill requires that any written
24 material disseminated by FDNY pertaining to fire
25 safety education must be made available in the top 10

languages most commonly spoken within the City.

Introduction 155A, sponsored by Council Member David Carr, would waive permit filing fees for owners of a one-to-three family home who are looking to repair the damage caused by a fire and to correct any construction defects discovered following the fire.

The waiver would apply to other dwellings in the same homeowners or cooperative association with the same construction defect. Thank you to staff Rachel Cordero [sp?], Joshua Kingsley, William Hungatch [sp?], Brian Reed [sp?], Audrey Sun [sp?], Jose Conde [sp?], and Charles Kim [sp?]. Thank you colleagues for your attention. Now will turn it back into the hands of the Majority Leader.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We're going to head into General Orders. I just want to also say a very big wording to both my condolences and congratulations to our friend Raju Mann who has been an outstanding part of this City Council for the last five years since I've been here, and who I've worked very, very close with on a number of items including East Midtown rezoning and a number of large scale projects, and I already told him I'm very upset with him, and he knows that, but I'm also

1
2 very happy for him, too. We are now going to move
3 into General Orders, and we're going to start with
4 Council Member Carr.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Thank you, Majority
6 Leader. I just wanted to mention a number of thank
7 yous in anticipation of the passage of my legislation
8 today. This was introduced because of a terrible
9 fire that took place on Staten Island where it was
10 discovered after the fact that the fire was
11 facilitated or caused by a defect in the building
12 that also affected the rest of the condominium
13 development. And so this in the legislation is
14 intended to help victims of fire as well as those who
15 are looking to correct defects that they discovered
16 due to fire in their neighbor's homes and get the
17 free permit that they should get in order to
18 facilitate that kind of work. So I want to thank the
19 speaker for her support, Minority Leader Borelli for
20 all of his support and guidance as always, Chair
21 Sanchez, Ariola, and Feliz for their leadership on
22 this issue as well as their respective team's
23 support, Peter Spencer from the Minority Leader's
24 office, my Chief of Staff Giuseppe Desario [sp?],
25 Audrey Son from the Committee on Housing and

1 Buildings, Jeff Baker, and on the admin side Jay
2 Capastranin [sp?]. I urge all my colleagues to vote
3 yes.
4

5 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We'll
6 go to Council Member Abreu.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Thank you,
8 Majority Leader. Today, we'll be voting on four home
9 rules passed this morning out of the state and
10 Federal Legislation Committee, which I proudly Chair.
11 They call on the state to pass and the Governor to
12 sign legislation supporting the pension and
13 retirement system for essential workers. These home
14 rules would authorize emergency responders to obtain
15 credit for service as EMT members, exempt public
16 servants from having to make contributions that they
17 would not be in service long enough to benefit from,
18 allow automotive workers who began their careers late
19 in life to pass and give fire service personnel
20 parity with other uniformed service personnel. These
21 home rules will give-- would help give hardworking
22 New Yorkers the retirement benefits that they
23 deserve. I call on this body to pass them. I'd like
24 to thank Speaker Adams and Special Counsel Carlos
25 Biado [sp?]. Additionally, I'd like to thank

1
2 Committee Staff Jay Azry [sp?], Ghanapathi Weinduri
3 [sp?], Hector Herman [sp?], and my Deputy Chief of
4 Staff, Julisa Quigley [sp?]. Majority Leader, back
5 to you.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: I accept. We'll
7 go to Council Member Feliz, and then Council Member
8 Restler.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Thank you,
10 Majority Leader. Fire safety continues to be a
11 challenge affecting our entire city, our entire city
12 and especially my home of the Bronx, a borough that
13 has been plagued with fires for so many years and so
14 many decades. We have so much work to do on that
15 topic, including first, tackling all the causes of
16 fire, including, as we're doing today, the use of
17 space heaters. Tackling all the cause, but also
18 number two, ensuring that if there is a fire families
19 have all the tools to safely escape. There was one
20 tool that prevented that devastating, unspeakable
21 tragedy in Twin Parks, one tool, properly working
22 self-closing doors. Had those self-closing doors
23 worked, smoke wouldn't have filled that 19-story high
24 rise. Families would have been able to safely escape
25 the fire and the tragedy. The defective self-closing

1
2 doors allowed this fire which occurred in a fire-
3 proof building, allowed that fire to turn into the
4 tragedy that we saw, wherein we lost 17 angels, 17
5 innocent lives. These bills will help ensure that
6 another tragedy like the one that we saw that ugly
7 Sunday morning in the Bronx. It'll help ensure that
8 another tragedy never happens again, not in the
9 Bronx, not anywhere in the City of New York. These
10 bills will help ensure that self-closing door laws
11 are being scrupulously followed, honored, and
12 enforced by ensuring that first landlords fix
13 violations within 14 days, and also after that 14-day
14 period, there's a mandatory inspection to confirm
15 that that self-closing door violations has been
16 fixed. And also increasing civil penalties and fines
17 for bad actors, including landlords who falsely state
18 that they have fixed self-closing doors violations.
19 Self-closing doors can save lives. They prevent fire
20 and smoke from spreading. They prevent fires and
21 smoke from harming others. Mr. Majority, I see my
22 time is up. I'd like to briefly conclude.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Yes, go ahead.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: So today we're
25 taking action to make sure that these doors are

1 closing to protect our families. And briefly, I want
2 to thank everyone that helped make these bill
3 possible. First, I want to thank our Speaker,
4 Adrienne Adams. Thank you so much for making fire
5 safety a priority for this City Council. I also want
6 to thank our Fire Safety taskforce including Council
7 Members Sanchez, Ariola, Avilés and Farías. I also
8 want to thank everyone who was working behind the
9 scenes. Jeremy Jon, it's been such a pleasure
10 working with you on these bills. Thank you for all
11 the help. Also, my entire team including my General
12 Counsel Lieu ant Laura Gonzales [sp?]. Prior to me
13 getting elected to City Council, he and I were
14 housing lawyers defending tenants in Bronx Housing
15 Court. Also, last but not least, I want to thank
16 those that were on the ground helping those affected
17 families including the Gambian Youth Organization,
18 including Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson,
19 including Congress Member Ritchie Torres. Thank you
20 so much.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: thank you,
23 Council Member.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: These bills will
25 save lives. Thank you so much.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: We'll go to
3 Council Member Restler and then Council Member
4 Brooks-Powers.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Thank you,
6 Majority Leader. Thank you, Madam Speaker for the
7 kind words, and also just want to echo the sentiment.
8 Raju you've done a superb job. We're going to miss
9 you a lot. I couldn't be prouder that the first land
10 Use action that I have a chance to vote on from the
11 33rd Council District is the Broadway Triangle. Now,
12 14 years ago, boss, then Brooklyn machine boss Vito
13 Lopez [sp?] struck a sweetheart corrupt deal with HPD
14 that was discriminatory to redevelop the largest open
15 site I all of north Brooklyn, the Broadway Triangle.
16 We decided to fight back. We set up weekly meetings
17 where I met a young lawyer who was still I think a
18 law student at the time, a gangly kid named Shaker
19 Krishnan who went on to represent us. I met a junior
20 staffer to the local Council Member named Antonio
21 Reynoso. Broadway Triangle Community Coalition was
22 chaired by Jaun Ramos who now leads Losarais [sp?]
23 and Rob Celanno [sp?]. Many great community
24 activists were there. We met every week. We
25 organized. Ultimately, we litigated and thanks in

1
2 part to Shaker's great leadership, we won. When I
3 had the privilege of working in the previous
4 Administration, I worked on the settlement deal to
5 ensure that there was a good outcome for both the
6 Williamsburg and the Bedford-Stuyvesant communities
7 of the Broadway Triangle, and I am incredibly proud
8 that I had the opportunity to help work on the RFP
9 that was ultimately put out to ensure that Latino and
10 Jewish and diverse organizations all work together to
11 redevelop this site. So we have the leading
12 community-based organizations in our community, and
13 this site is the crossroads of Council Member
14 Gutiérrez and Council Member Ossé and my districts
15 the 30th where Williamsburg and Bushwick and Bed-Stuy
16 all come together, and the diversity of our community
17 is going to redevelop this site, high-quality,
18 nonprofit, community development corporation. This
19 is the largest open site in north Brooklyn, and we
20 are now ensuring, finally, after 14 years of
21 fighting, that this site is going to be a place where
22 Jews and Latinos and African-Americans all live
23 together, because that's what Brooklyn's about and
24 that's what we're achieving with Broadway Triangle,
25 and I really want to thank everybody who contributed

1
2 to the activism to make this happen. Thank you so
3 much.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you, and
5 we're going to Council Member last [sic], Council
6 Member Brooks-Powers.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you,
8 Majority Leader. I'd like to speak briefly in
9 support of David Do's appointment as Chair of the
10 Taxi and Limousine Commission. I have spoken with
11 David about his prospective experience and vision for
12 the Commission, and I believe he will serve as TLC
13 Chair working to address the pressing economic issues
14 facing our city taxi cab and for-hire drivers. I'd
15 also like to speak in support of Robert Hogan's
16 appointment to the Civilian Complaint Review Board.
17 As a long-time advocate for Southeast Queens working
18 at Life Camp and overseeing Cure Violence and crisis
19 management system program, Robert will bring
20 extensive experience and good judgement to his new
21 position. I look forward to seeing him work to
22 ensure that our Police Department is accountable to
23 all New Yorkers. I'd also like to voice my support
24 for Reso 121 calling on the state to pass the Clean
25 Slate Act. Once a person serves a sentence, it's

1
2 only right that their conviction shouldn't hang over
3 their head keeping them locked out of economic
4 opportunity in connection with their community. This
5 is particularly true for people of color who bear the
6 worst outcome of this system. This meaningful
7 legislation will change New Yorker's lives for the
8 better. Thank you.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We're
10 now going to move into the Report of Special
11 Committees.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Report of
14 Standing Committees.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee
16 on Finance Pre-considered Reso 160, transparency
17 resolution.

18 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General
19 Orders.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Pre-considered M64 and
21 Reso 175, and Pre-considered M65 and Reso 176, budget
22 modifications.

23 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General
24 orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Pre-considered LU 60 and Reso 177, tax exemption.

SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on Fire and Emergency Management, Intros 106A and 131A, electric space heaters.

SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on Housing and Buildings, Intros 104A and 105A, self-closing doors.

SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Intro 155A, permit filing fees.

SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and coupled and General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land Use, LU39 146-93 Guy Brewer Boulevard rezoning.

SPEAKER ADAMS: Approved with modifications and referred to the City Planning Commission pursuant to Section 197-D [sic] of the New York City Charter.

1 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 46

2 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 40 and Reso 178, 14693
3 Guy Brewer Boulevard rezoning.

4 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled to be field
5 pursuant to letter of withdrawal.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: LU's 41 and 42, 103 Lee
7 Avenue.

8 SPEAKER ADAMS: Approved with
9 modifications and referred to the City Planning
10 Commission pursuant to Section 197-D of the New York
11 City Charter.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 46 and Reso 179
13 Broadway Triangle.

14 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General
15 Orders.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 47 and Reso 180, 2300
17 Cropsey Avenue.

18 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General
19 Orders.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 48 and Reso 181 and LU
21 49 and Reso 182, 3501 Vernon Boulevard rezoning.

22 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General
23 Orders.

24

25

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee
3 on Rules, Privileges, and Election, M49 and Reso 183,
4 approving the appointment of David Do, TLC.

5 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General
6 Orders.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: M60 and Reso 184,
8 approving the appointment of Robert Hogan, CCRB.

9 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General
10 Orders.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee
12 on State and Federal Legislation, Pre-considered
13 SLR's 1-4.

14 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General
15 Orders.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Resolution appointing
17 various persons, Commissioner of Deeds.

18 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General
19 Orders, and I would now ask that the Clerk take a
20 roll call vote on all of the items coupled on today's
21 General Orders Calendar.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Holden?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Majority Leader,
24 I'd like to make a motion for unanimous consent to
25

1
2 vote on all Land Use items and all items on the
3 General Order calendar.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: You can go ahead
5 and vote.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I vote aye on
7 all.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Moya?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye on all.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Salamanca?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Permission to
12 explain my vote?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Go ahead.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: thank you, Mr.
15 Majority Leader. First, I would like to recognize a
16 great loss in the Council and that is Mr. Raju Mann.
17 The Speaker said it best, Raju being able to work
18 with all of my colleagues and myself and getting
19 projects to the finish line was masterful, and you
20 will be missed, and I just want to say thank you,
21 Raju. Second, on a sad note, Monday at 4:50 p.m.,
22 the family of Kierra Kay [sp?] was coming to terms
23 with the unimaginable. Their baby, an innocent 11-
24 year-old child was not coming home. While walking
25 down the street with a family member during the broad

1 daylight, a bright promising child who had her whole
2 life to live, was shot and killed in the long [sic]
3 section of the Bronx. The culprits, individuals who
4 decided they would turn our city streets into a war
5 zone with gun violence. As a father and a product of
6 the South Bronx, I am heartbroken, and I am angry. I
7 am heartbroken for the parents who have to do
8 something no parent should ever have to do by burying
9 their child, and I am angry because people who have
10 no business being in our streets are taking our
11 friends, family, and community members away from us.
12 Just last month, another innocent 16-year-old Angelie
13 Yambo [sp?] was killed as she walked home from school
14 with her friends in my council district. We can no
15 longer just offer these families our thoughts and
16 prayers. We need to give them justice. In black and
17 brown communities we are suffering from an epidemic
18 that other neighborhoods in the city only hear about
19 in the news. The epidemic: illegal guns and gun
20 violence. The current system is broken, and my
21 constituents are paying the consequences with their
22 lives. If we really do value human life as a
23 society, we must demand action to close the revolving
24
25

1 door of the criminal justice system. Thank you, Mr.
2 Majority Leader.
3

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Abreu?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Ariola?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Aye on all.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Avilés: Aye on all.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Barron?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: May be excused to
13 explain my vote? I did have my hand raised to speak
14 during the discussion on the General Order calendar.
15 It was not acknowledged.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: My apologies.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Did you not see
18 it?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: You can go ahead.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I'm going to
21 take a few more minutes. But first, I would like to
22 acknowledge that the Speaker neglected to mention the
23 birthday of one of our greatest leaders, El-Hajj
24 Malik Shabazz, Malcolm X, the picture that adorns my
25 wall in the back, a portrait of him. Malcolm X was

1
2 one of our greatest leaders, and we should never ever
3 not mention the work he's done. I'll mention more
4 about that during discussion time, but Malcolm X
5 joined-- he would have been 97 years old today, and
6 he joins his lovely wife, powerful sister, Doctor
7 Betty Shabazz, and his daughter Malukah Shabazz who
8 died recently. So we must always honor Malcolm X.
9 We should never leave him out. I want to-- on the
10 Pre-considered M64, the transfer of money, my
11 colleagues, I know they all voted for it in the
12 Finance Committee, but you got to watch this one. If
13 you read the whole thing, the amount of money that's
14 being transferred from every agency, including 100
15 million dollars from CUNY, including 100 million plus
16 from the Department of Education, money is being
17 transferred. And then they, in a slick way, transfer
18 a small amount of money from the Police Department,
19 but then when you read the second part of it, it says
20 from all these agencies, and then to over 300 million
21 dollars is being transferred to the Police Department
22 right under your nose, and this transfer resolution,
23 we should all vote against that, and let's take the
24 budget to its final conclusion and not have him
25 transfer money from vital agencies, Department of

2 Agency, Department of-- I mean, Aging, Health, all of
3 that. This M64 Reso 175 transfers money. Read it
4 yourself. Don't take my word for it. Read it
5 yourself. It'll say from--

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: [interposing] Time
7 expired.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: a whole bunch of
9 agencies, and it'll say to. The only agency that has
10 an increase of 200 million dollars is the NYPD. We
11 should not vote for this.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: [interposing]
13 Thank you, Council Member. We need your vote.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: We should vote
15 this down. So I am voting no on that, and then I'm
16 also voting no on LU 48 Reso 182, LU 49 Reso-- I mean
17 181 and LU 49, 182. It's only 25 percent affordable,
18 and then I'm abstaining from M49 Reso 183 and M60
19 Reso 184, I abstain.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Salamanca,
21 can you verify your vote, please?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Yes, I vote
23 aye on all. Thank you.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you, sir.
25 Bottcher?

COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Brannan?

COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye, and I'm impressed with the two people who were nominated TLC and the CCRB. Thank you.

COUNCIL CLERK: Brooks-Powers?

COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: I vote aye, and I wish to congratulate in advance Council Member Williams on the passage of the Clean Slate bill. Thank you.

COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Cabán?

UNIDENTIFIED: Can we come back to her?

COUNCIL CLERK: Sure.

UNIDENTIFIED: She had to step out.

COUNCIL CLERK: Carr?

COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: De La Rosa?

COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Dinowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Farías?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER FARIÁS: I vote aye on
3 all.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Feliz?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye on all.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Gennaro?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I vote aye, and
8 I wish to be associated with remarks of Council
9 Member Salamanca regarding closing the revolving door
10 in criminal justice system. I mourn for his
11 constituents who suffered violence and for mine as
12 well and all of us who have suffered violence in our
13 districts. As I said, I vote aye on all.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Gutiérrez?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye on all,
16 and we'll miss you, Raju. Good luck.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Hanif?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Permission to
19 explain my vote?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Yep, go ahead.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: I'm excited to be
22 voting on my first piece of local legislation today.
23 If passed, Intro 106A will ensure that space heaters
24 are as safe as possible in order to prevent future
25 tragedy. This legislation will require all space

1 heaters sold in New York City to be equipped with
2 one, a thermostat; two, an automatic function that
3 disables the heater upon overheating or tipping over,
4 and three safety certification from a nationally
5 recognized testing laboratory. These safety measures
6 would significantly reduce the risk of a heater
7 causing a horrific fire as happened in the tragic and
8 avoidable Twin Parks fire. Along with the other
9 bills on today's agenda, this legislation would
10 further our collective mission of creating a safer
11 city. Thank you Speaker Adams for including Intro.
12 106A on today's agenda. Thank you to Public Advocate
13 Williams and Council Member Sanchez, Powers, and
14 Feliz for introducing this bill with me, and to
15 Council Member Feliz, specifically, for your
16 continued leadership on this issue in the face of
17 immeasurable pain and grief. Thank you to Council
18 Member Ariola for shepherding this bill through the
19 Fire and Emergency Management Committee, and thank
20 you to a majority of the Council for signing on as
21 sponsors. I'm going to thank my Legislative Director
22 Alex Liau [sp?], Communications Director Michael
23 Whitesides [sp?], and Chief of Staff Nora Brickner
24 [sp?] for their work. And thank you to Council Staff
25

1 including Chris Pepe [sp?], Rachel Cordero [sp?], and
2 Josh Kingsley for their critical support throughout
3 the legislative process. Finally, I'm going to thank
4 the advocacy and work of the grassroots community
5 groups like the Gambian Youth Organization that
6 sprang into action after the fire and all others
7 across the City to support the residents. They've
8 been tireless advocates for meeting the needs of
9 those affected and addressing the root causes of this
10 avoidable tragedy. I vote aye on all. Thank you.

11
12 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Council
13 Member Cabán?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Yes, thank you. I
15 am voting aye on all with the exception of Pre-
16 considered M64 and M65 on which I abstain.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Hanks?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Aye on all.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Hudson?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye on all.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Joseph?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye on all.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Kagan?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Aye on all.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Krishnan?

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

4 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Go ahead.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Thank you.
6 First, with regards to Pre-considered Resolution 160,
7 I wish to make a disclosure that my wife is an
8 employee of the Bronx Defenders. And on-- more
9 meaningfully, on Land Use 46, which Council Member
10 Restler spoke about, is very meaningful to vote on
11 this today for all the reasons that Council Member
12 Restler mentioned. The Broadway Triangle litigation
13 was my first case out of law school that stayed with
14 me for 13 years, and through the incredibly inspiring
15 work of the Broadway Triangle Community Coalition, we
16 reached the landmark settlement under the Fair
17 Housing Act that produced the project that we're
18 voting on today. That also led to the racial impact
19 study in the City of New York. And I was so
20 fortunate through it to work closely with Council
21 Member Restler, Council Member Gutiérrez, Borough
22 President Reynoso, and of course, meaningfully too,
23 is how I met Raju Mann as well in the Council. So,
24 thank you for your work, too, and sad to see you go,
25 but I appreciate all you've done and congrats on your

1 next step, too. And with that in mind, I vote yes,
2 aye on all.
3

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Lee?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye on all.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Louis?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye on all and
8 congratulations to Council Member Williams for the
9 passage of the bill.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Marte?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye on all.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Menin?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye on all.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Narcisse?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Nurse?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Aye on all, and
20 abstain on M64 and Reso 175.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Ossé?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Aye on all.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Paladino?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Aye on all.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Restler?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye on all, and
3 I was remiss in just failing to properly thank and
4 recognize Council Member Gutiérrez for all of her
5 great work on the Broadway Triangle Community
6 Coalition as well. Thank you, Jen.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Richardson Jordan?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: So,
9 I'm also going to be a no on 64 and 65, aye on all
10 the rest.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Riley?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Sanchez?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: I vote aye.

17 Permission to explain my vote?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Go ahead.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: I just want to
20 congratulate Council Member Hanif and Council Member
21 Feliz for passage of the first package of bills
22 relating to the tragic fire at Twin Parks Northwest,
23 and I also want to say that, you know, we continue to
24 work as a council on this legislation. These bills
25 that are passing today are addressing the approximate

2 causes, the immediate causes, space heater, self-
3 closing door violations. They're addressing the
4 immediate the causes, and we're going to continue to
5 work on this problem, holding landlords accountable,
6 modernizing our fire and building codes, and ensuring
7 adequate code enforcement is really working for all
8 New Yorkers. Thank you.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Schulman?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye on all.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Stevens?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye on all.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Ung?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye on all.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Velázquez?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Aye on all.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Vernikov?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye on all.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Williams?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Permission to

21 briefly explain my vote?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Go ahead.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I just wanted

24 to say for the record how excited I am and privileged

25 to vote to appoint Mr. Hogan who was my camp

1 director. He reminded me when I was eight years old,
2 not ten years old. It's just a full circle moment.
3 And with that, I vote aye on all.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Won?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Aye on all.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Yeger?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Borelli?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye on all.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Powers?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye on all.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Adams?

13 SPEAKER ADAMS: Aye on all.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Sanchez?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Thank you so
16 much. I just wanted to disclose on the record that my
17 brother is an adjunct lecturer at CUNY. Thank you.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Before I announce
19 the vote, I just want to-- I think we got to go to
20 Council Member Williams and then Council Member Carr.
21 Go to Council Member Williams first.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I know, I wish
23 we could just say for all things CUNY, for the
24 record, I am a student.
25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Active [sic], one
3 of the best CUNY schools of them all. I might know
4 it. We'll also go to Council Member Carr. Council
5 Member Carr? We'll let him come back. I think we
6 have Council Member Feliz.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: I too would like
8 to disclose that I'm an adjunct professor in the CUNY
9 system, Hostos Community College in the Bronx. Thank
10 you.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. Do we
12 have Council Member Carr here to make a disclosure?
13 Does anybody else want to disclose something? We
14 have Council Member Stevens.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Yes, I would
16 like to also disclose that my daughter is a fulltime
17 CUNY student at Baruch College.

18 UNIDENTIFIED: Do we have to all open up
19 that we went to CUNY? I went to CUNY, too. Do we
20 all [inaudible].

21 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Okay, we'll go
22 ahead and read the vote. Okay, we're going to go
23 ahead. All items on today's General Order calendar
24 are adopted by a vote of 51 in the affirmative, 0 in
25 the negative with the exception of Pre-considered M64

1
2 and Resolution 175, those were adopted by a vote of
3 47 in the affirmative, 2 in the negative, 2
4 abstention, Land Use vote 48 and 49 with accompanying
5 resolutions, 49 in the affirmative, 1 in the
6 negative-- 50 in the affirmative, 1 in the negative,
7 apologies. M49 and 60 with accompanying Resolution,
8 50 in the affirmative, 1 in the negative; M65 and
9 Resolution 176 adopted by a vote of 49 in the
10 affirmative, 1 in the negative, and 1 abstention. We
11 are now going to move into the discussion of
12 resolutions. We have one member signed up. We're
13 going to go to Council Member Williams who I think
14 has gone to the bathroom. Then in that case we will
15 move into the voice vote on today's Resolution. If
16 you wish to vote against or abstain from today's
17 Resolution, please notify the legislative documents
18 unit by email or approaching the dais before the
19 vote. Anybody would like to speak, we'll give them a
20 moment to sign up or raise their hand. We're now
21 going to read today's resolutions into the record.
22 Resolution 121 calls on the New York State
23 Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign, Senate
24 bill 1553C and Assembly Bill number 6399B, the Clean
25 Slate Act. All those in favor please say aye.

2 COUNCIL MEMBERS AS A WHOLE: Aye.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: All opposed

4 please say-- all opposed please say nay. Any
5 abstentions? The ayes have it. We're now going to--
6 we are now just going to clarify for the record M49--
7 just going to hold on for one second. Just
8 clarifying, M49 and M60 with accompanying resolutions
9 was 50 in the affirmative and 1 abstention. We're
10 now going to move in to today's General Discussion.
11 We have a long list. I'm going to enforce the two
12 minutes. So please when you hear that bell, it's the
13 time coming. Please begin to wrap up. We're going
14 to start with Council Member Kagan followed by
15 Council Member Riley.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Thank you. For
17 many years, New York City Housing Authority leaders
18 and property managers explained all issues and
19 problems of their troubled agency by chronic
20 disinvestment of public housing by Federal
21 Government. It is true that NYCHA needs billions of
22 dollars from-- assistance from Washington, D.C. for
23 its capital needs, but lack of funding cannot explain
24 or excuse countless examples of ignorance,
25 incompetence, pure laziness, or complete disregard of

1 tenants' complaints, requests, or concerns, lack of
2 proper notifications, lack of attention to simple
3 questions about basic repairs, or lack of presence by
4 NYCHA managers at some tenant association meetings. I
5 represent Coney Island and also Marlboro Houses, and
6 continued to be frustrated and outraged. We're
7 receiving daily complaints from New York City Housing
8 Authority residents about broken elevators, locks,
9 [inaudible] systems, and mailboxes, lack of heat and
10 hot water and cooking gas, mold and water, leaks in
11 apartments. Even simple requests are ignored and
12 getting any response only after aggressive
13 intervention by myself or my tireless staff. It is
14 absolutely unacceptable. This is why I introduced
15 resolution NYCHA Accountability Act co-sponsored by
16 many of my great colleagues, and it calls for New
17 York State Legislature and for HUD to make NYCHA
18 property accountable. Without any accountability and
19 transparency, NYCHA will not reform itself. Thank
20 you.

21
22 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We'll
23 hear from Council Member Riley. Then we'll hear from
24 Council Member Lee.

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Thank you,

Majority Leader. Roberta Drury, Margus Morrison, Andre Mackneil, Aaron Salter, Jr., Geraldine Talley, Celestine Chaney, Heyward Patterson, Katherine Massey, Pearl Young, and Ruth Whitfield. They were mothers, fathers, wives, husbands, daughters, sons, sisters, and brothers. They were family and friends. They were members of our community. On May 14th, a routine visit to the neighborhood supermarket turned into tragedy by this terror attack blatantly targeting people that looked just like me. On behalf of the BLAC caucus, we pray for the victims of this horrific attack. We pray for the safety and healing of those injured. We pray for the support of family, friends, and loved ones, and all those affected, and we want to say enough is enough. This country's deep-rooted history of racism, hate and with no present unified counteraction continues to make room for these domestic attacks. White supremacy is terrorism, and there is a vicious cycle where mass shootings, domestic terrorism, and hate crimes continue to live within our country. We are tired. Black people tired. More must be done as a society to denounce racism, white supremacy, and domestic

1 terrorism. The Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act
2 passed by the house on Wednesday is a step in the
3 right direction, but an unsure one of the country
4 remains divided. Mass attacks must not continually
5 be coddled as mental illness or written off under the
6 rights to bear arms. Resources funds and unified
7 visibility against racism and domestic terrorism must
8 be amplified across the levels of government, and the
9 BLAC would like to stand with their neighbors in
10 Buffalo during this hard time. And I am introducing
11 Intro 421 today which is requiring the Department of
12 Homeless Services to report on families with children
13 in shelter, and I'll just briefly just say I am proud
14 to introduce this legislation today. To produce a
15 regular report including-- I'll be short, MJ-- but
16 not limited to the total numbers of families with
17 children entering the shelter system. The average
18 length of stay and the total numbers of families
19 leaving the shelter system. I'd just like to
20 encourage all my colleagues to sign onto this bill.
21 Thank you.

22
23 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Council Member
24 Riley. We'll now go to Council Member Lee followed
25 by Nurse.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Good afternoon,
3 Madam Speaker, Majority Leader, and my fellow Council
4 Members. In honor of AAPI Heritage Month and the 1.1
5 million Asian American and Pacific Islanders who call
6 New York City home, it is my privilege to introduce
7 Resos 163 and 164 alongside Council Members Ung,
8 Krishnan, Won, and Hanif, which would require our
9 schools to teach AAPI history, and also another
10 resolution to recognize Diwali as a holiday. And
11 with the rising increase in hate crimes in the Asian
12 American community, I feel like education is one of
13 the keys ways to teach and fostering-- and fostering
14 respect and understanding for our community within
15 the public school system. And also, we cannot fully
16 appreciate the gorgeous mosaic of New York City when
17 one-fifth of our public students observe Diwali but
18 still have to make the painful choice between
19 celebrating with their families at home or going to
20 school. I'm also introducing Reso 162 today which
21 calls for amendments to the New York State Public
22 Service Law to address utility rate spikes. Average
23 New Yorkers are already fighting through the pandemic
24 and tough economy, and they should not have to
25 struggle to keep the lights on and water running for

1
2 their families. This resolution calls for the Public
3 Service Commission to cap yearly increases in utility
4 rates and to stop companies from passing on the bill
5 to consumers. And finally, lastly I'm introducing
6 Intro. 404 which would track the 256 million dollars
7 in settlement funds that New York City will receive
8 thanks to the recent settlement reached by New York
9 State Attorney General Tish James with opioid
10 manufacturers and distributors. One New Yorker dies
11 in-- one New Yorker dies of opioid overdose every
12 four hours, and over 100,000 Americans died in 2021
13 alone. And New Yorkers deserve to know how every
14 cent of these settlements will be put to work as the
15 Administration fights this epidemic with opioid
16 prevention and treatment programs. The bill will
17 require the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
18 or any other agency administering funds to release a
19 monthly report on the opioid settlement funds with
20 details about the total money withdrawn from the
21 settlement fund where the money is being spent. I
22 encourage my colleagues to co-sponsor and sign this
23 legislation and appreciate the Speaker's leadership
24 in helping me bring these items to the floor. Thank
25 you.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you,
3 Council Member Lee. We'll go to Council Member Nurse
4 followed by Council Member Barron.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Hi, afternoon,
6 colleagues. I'll keep it short. I just wanted to
7 make a little pitch for some bills we're introducing.
8 One is a bill on keeping and tracking yellow and
9 brown grease. We want to keep that out of our
10 waterways and make sure it's disposed properly. All
11 that French fry grease, let's keep it out of our
12 water system. Pretty easy. The next one I'm
13 introducing with Council Member Jen Gutiérrez, which
14 is a resolution asking the state and governor to pass
15 a bottle bill which would increase the redemption
16 fine from -- redemption fee from five cents to go up
17 to 10 cents which will really go a long way in
18 helping our canning community which is mostly women
19 of color, undocumented folks. These are
20 environmental justice workers doing some of the most
21 aggressive recycling out there. So really asking for
22 your support on that. And then I am proud to co-prime
23 a couple bills with Council Member Ossé on rat
24 reporting. I'll let you introduce that more fully,
25 and then a pitch for a registration of community

1 gardens with Council Member Menin, which I'll know
2 she'll also introduce. So thank you.

3
4 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We
5 now go to Council Member Barron followed by Council
6 Member Cabán.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: My colleagues, I
8 know everybody's expressing their condolences on
9 buffalo and going to say all the right things, and we
10 should, but what outraged me most is this consistent
11 behavior of the police when these white racist
12 murders kill our people. Remember Dylan Roof, 2014,
13 in the church in South Carolina killed nine people.
14 When they rolled up on his car, the police had their
15 guns drawn, and they asked him politely to get out of
16 the car. He did, and then they put their hands
17 softly on his back, hand-cuffed him while he was
18 still yet standing, and since they had a two-hour
19 drive to the police precinct where he was going, they
20 took him to a fast food place. And then this guy,
21 Peyton Gendron, 18 years old, he murders 10 of us.
22 What do they do to him? He's down on the ground with
23 a gun pointed to himself like he was going to take
24 his own live, and they say, "Please don't. Please
25 don't." He gets up, they put their hands gently on

1 his back. He stands up and then they arrest him
2 politely, still alive. Amadu Dialo [sp?] didn't have
3 a gun, didn't commit a crime, dead, 41 bullets.
4 George Floyd didn't have a gun, didn't commit a
5 crime, dead, knee in his neck and killed him. Sean
6 Bell, didn't have a gun, not committing a crime, 50
7 bullets killed him. Tamir Rice [sp?], a toy gun,
8 thought it was real, killed him. Michael Brown, no
9 gun, no crime. They murder us and kid glove those
10 who murder us as well. What signal are they saying
11 to us? As we honor Malcolm X today-- and if I take
12 another minute speaker it's only because I was denied
13 one. I want to read what Malcolm X said to us, and
14 this is critical. He said, "We declare our right on
15 this earth to be a human being, to be respected as
16 human beings--

17
18 SERGEANT AT ARMS: [interposing] Time
19 expired.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: given the rights
21 of human beings in this society, on this earth, in
22 this day, which we intend to bring into existence by
23 any means necessary. We're going to have some
24 emergency meetings in our community--
25

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: [interposing]

Thank you, Council Member.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: on security for us when we go to church. Security for us when we go shopping. So, it's time for black people to stand up, and we have a God-given right and a constitutional right to--

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: [interposing]

Council Member Barron, thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: protect ourselves especially when this government isn't.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. Now go to Council Member Cabán followed by Council Member Joseph.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Thank you. I want to start by saying all too often we give our institutions of policing and incarceration unquestioning deference, even when they conceal the outcomes of programs they claim are data-driven, and that's why today I'm introducing part one of the Light of Day legislative package aimed at bringing accountability and transparency to the criminal legal system. The first bill in which I'm grateful for the partnership of our Majority Leader, Keith Powers,

1 would require the Department of Corrections to
2 provide us with data on the educational programming,
3 mental health services, and other community-based
4 supports we provide to empower our neighbors in and
5 returning from custody to reduce their risk of
6 winding up in custody again. The second bill, on
7 which I'm grateful for the partnership of Queens
8 Borough President Donovan Richards, would require the
9 NYPD to produce monthly reports on police misconduct
10 complaints they receive and actions they take in
11 response and to send those reports to the Council and
12 Mayor and to post them on the NYPD website. New
13 Yorkers deserve accountability and transparency, and
14 these bills will help chip away at the wall of
15 secrecy the NYPD and DOC have built around their
16 operations. So, I encourage my colleagues to sign
17 on. Thank you.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you,
20 Council Member Cabán. We'll go to Council Member
21 Joseph followed by Council Member Ossé.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Thank you,
23 Majority Leader. Introduction-- I'm introducing four
24 bills today. Introduction 399 will ban the use and
25 sale of diesel powered leaf blowers and lawn mowers.

1 This is an important step towards achieving the
2 City's goal of reducing our emission by 70 percent by
3 2030. These landscaping tools are not subject to
4 federal emissions standards, and they emit extremely
5 high level of pollutants into the air. More than 100
6 cities around our country have banned the use and
7 sale of gasoline powered leaf blowers and lawn mowers
8 for the exact reason. And besides the real health
9 hazard they pose to air quality, machinery can also
10 cause hearing loss as machinery produces noise
11 pollution that reaches 100 decibels. As we move into
12 warmer weather, it's easy to forget how temperature
13 drop in the winter. Introduction 402 will codify the
14 availability of warming centers when City issues a
15 code blue, warning for dangerously low temperature.
16 Introduction 401 mandates the Department of
17 Transportation to create speed bumps on roadways
18 surrounding parks to have an area of one acre or
19 greater. We must create physical barriers in order
20 to reduce vehicles speeding. We know that cars
21 speeds all over the City, and we have to do more to
22 protect New Yorkers, especially children.
23 Introduction 402 requires the Department of
24 Education, Department of Parks, and Department of
25

1 Youth to establish a program of universal summer and
2 youth programming for our city's youth. And lastly,
3 I want to give a shout out to my co-prime sponsors,
4 Council Member Lynn Schulman and Council Member
5 Althea Stevens in Introduction 403, which requires
6 the Department of Education to distribute application
7 for IDNYC cards to all high schoolers at the
8 beginning of the school years. There's some really
9 great benefits that come with this ID card and want
10 to make sure all of our young people can access the
11 free annual membership to all wonderful cultural
12 institutions who are IDNYC partners. Thank you, and
13 I ask for my colleagues to sign onto this important
14 bill. Also, I wanted to wish a happy Haitian Flag
15 Day to all that are celebrating, 219 years of
16 humanity, dignity, and black excellence. Thank you.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We'll
19 now go to Council Member Ossé followed by Council
20 Member Restler.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Thank you, Majority
22 Leader. Rats are a serious issue in our city, posing
23 as a huge public health risk to our communities,
24 especially black and brown communities who are
25 disproportionately impacted by rat infestations. In

1
2 2017, the former Mayor released a rat mitigation zone
3 plan to reduce the City's rat population in three of
4 most infested parts of the city. One area being
5 Bedford-Stuyvesant, the neighborhood I represent in
6 the 36th District. Despite this plan, rats still
7 remain as a huge issue in our city. In 2021 alone,
8 311 received more than 21,000 complaints of rat
9 sightings, and I know there's a lot more because I've
10 never called 311 about seeing the rats. And in my
11 office rat sightings and infestations are one of the
12 top issues my constituents have concerns about. We
13 as a city need to do more and to fully understand the
14 programs and initiatives undertaken to combat this
15 public health issue. Today, I'm proud to introduce
16 Intro 414 along with Council Members Nurse, Bottcher,
17 Menin, Farías, Williams, Richardson Jordan, Avilés,
18 and Hanif. Under Intro 414, the Department of
19 Sanitation will be required to report on their
20 progress and work in the city's rat mitigation zones
21 to the Mayor and the Speaker. This reporting
22 requirement will allow us to understand the efficacy
23 of the rat mitigation program and to help us address
24 any shortcomings of the program. Our constituents
25 deserve safe and clean neighborhoods where they can

1
2 live, work, and thrive in, and to do this we need to
3 fully address the rat infestation issues in this
4 city. I urge you all to sign on and pass Intro 414 so
5 we as a Council can work towards making our
6 communities cleaner and safer for all. Thank you.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: thank you. We'll
8 now hear from Council Member Restler followed by
9 Council Member Stevens.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Great. Thank
11 you very much Majority Leader. Today, we biked--
12 that's Council Members Hanif, Hudson, Won, Gutiérrez,
13 Cabán, Powers, Marte, a couple Borough Presidents and
14 a Comptroller. We all biked in to work in the rain
15 to lift up the need for safe streets. And earlier
16 this month, though, traffic violence killed six New
17 Yorkers in just three days. The streets plan can't
18 come soon enough, but even with promised funding,
19 implementation will be far too slow. That's why I'm
20 introducing legislation at the request of Brooklyn
21 Borough President Antonio Reynoso and a coalition of
22 19 Council Members and four Borough Presidents, that
23 we streamline the process of implementing new bike
24 lanes. Intro 417 would give Council Members and
25 Community Boards a meaningful opportunity to provide

1 input on proposed bike lanes, and then allow the
2 Department of Transportation to move forward
3 expeditiously once the public review phase is
4 completed, removing an unnecessary 45-day wait
5 period. In my district on Summerhorn [sp?] Street,
6 one of the worst bike lanes in New York City, they
7 are-- DOT is presenting to the Community Board
8 tonight, and we need them to get to work tomorrow.
9 I'd also like to mention a resolution I'm introducing
10 today. I'm joined on that by Queens Borough
11 President and former Environmental Protection Chair
12 Donovan Richards, current Environmental Protection
13 Chair, Jim Gennaro [sp?], BLAC Co-Chair Kevin Riley,
14 and my colleagues in leadership in the Progressive
15 Caucus, Council Members Hanif, De La Rosa, and
16 Gutiérrez, Resolution 169, the Climate Plan to
17 Protect New York. New York State doesn't have
18 emissions reductions goals, we have mandates. They
19 are the strictest in the nation. To get there we can
20 take no half measures. This resolution calls on the
21 State Climate Action Council which is drafting the
22 plan to meet those mandates to take City Council
23 measures like Local Law 97, the gas ban hook-ups,
24 statewide, centering equity and prioritizing EJ [sic]
25

1
2 communities and refusing to slow down for fossil fuel
3 companies. The climate crisis is the existential
4 threat of our time, and this is our opportunity to
5 lead. I hope you'll join me in co-sponsoring both.
6 Thank you.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We'll
8 now hear from Council Member Stevens followed by
9 Council Member [inaudible].

10 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Good afternoon.
11 It is my pleasure to introduce three pieces of
12 legislation today that will center around young
13 people. In Intro 437 will improve young people adult
14 access to voter registration material by requiring
15 Department of Education and the Board of Elections to
16 provide students with registration material in
17 diverse languages. This legislation is important to
18 continue the fight to get young people civically
19 engaged. We want young people to be involved in the
20 democratic process, we need to make the process more
21 open and accessible for young people. When I work
22 with young people, many of them felt that their
23 voices didn't matter, or the candidates didn't care
24 about them. Today I'm here to tell them and young
25 people across the City that all of your voices

1 matter, and you do have a voice with your elected
2 officials, and we're here to fight with you and make
3 sure your voices are heard. I'm also pleased to
4 introduce Intro 438 with Council Member Gutiérrez,
5 Brewer, Feliz to waive park permit fees for schools
6 and children in daycare centers across the city so
7 young people have better access to learn and grow
8 outside. And Intro 436 to create a juvenile
9 detention advisory board to ensure that justice-
10 involved youth and their families have a seat at the
11 table when decisions are made about them. And
12 lastly, on one of my school visits this week I had an
13 elementary-- with elementary school students, the
14 young people asked me to do something about the
15 violence in their community because they felt scared
16 and they don't feel safe. This hurt my heart,
17 because for the last 20 years I have spent my life to
18 ensure that young people felt safe, loved, and heard,
19 but if-- but at the moment I was unable to comfort
20 them. As we are in the thick of budget season, let's
21 remember to invest in our communities to ensure that
22 our young people feel safe and heard throughout our
23 city. Thank you.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you.

3 We'll hear from Council Member Hanif followed by
4 Council Member Brewer.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you. Today
6 I'm proud to join with Council Member Krishnan and
7 Public Advocate Williams in introducing resolution
8 161 in support of Assembly Member Epstein and State
9 Senator Kavanagh's legislation in Albany that would
10 allow for the safe retrofitting and legalization of
11 basement apartments in New York City. Right now
12 there are thousands of New Yorkers living in basement
13 apartments currently classified as illegal. The vast
14 majority of these residents are working-class
15 immigrant New Yorkers who cannot afford other types
16 of housing. Because these units are illegal, these
17 tenants often do not report unsafe conditions out of
18 fear that they will lose their homes. This dynamic
19 has devastating results as we last September when
20 flooding caused by Hurricane Ida killed 11 people who
21 were living in basement apartments. As we head into
22 the summer and the threat of more storms loom on the
23 horizon, we must do everything we can to prevent a
24 repeat of this tragedy. The state bill in question
25 will allow for a citywide program to bring these

1 units into compliance with critical safety standards
2 and their illegal status. This is a win for all
3 involved which is why so many stakeholders including
4 Mayor Adams, AARP New York, TYA [sic] CDC, and
5 Housing Justice for All have given their bill their
6 full support. I strongly encourage my colleagues to
7 sign on to this resolution.
8

9 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We'll
10 hear now from Council Member Brewer followed by
11 Council Member Brooks-Powers.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very
13 much. I too want to wish Raju Mann well and thank
14 him. I remember when you came from Community Board
15 number five and you were great there and you were
16 great here, and we're going to miss you. And I along
17 with I think Council Member Sanchez, we were at the
18 Bethel Gospel Assembly Church when Speaker Adams
19 spoke so well about Buffalo, and I just want to thank
20 you for that. So there are three bills. One would--
21 382 is an intro, and again, it would add to the
22 language support for small businesses so that when
23 they are dealing with the city there is enough
24 language access available. Number two is 383, and
25 this is building on vacancy of commercial

1 storefronts, and I passed a bill a long time ago that
2 said that the Department of finance, Storefront
3 Property Dataset, and it is a dataset, but it has
4 many defects, and this would hopefully make them more
5 able to be updated, information that would
6 significantly make it more helpful to business
7 owners, policy makers, and community members so that
8 people would know where, when square footage, last
9 rent, etcetera. And third, with Council Member
10 Stevens, Gutiérrez and Feliz, the issue of nonprofits
11 working in schools. It is a challenge when you have
12 to pay a ridiculously high permit fee and it makes no
13 sense for the nonprofit in the school, and we want to
14 have an online system for school permit applications.
15 There's so many issues regarding the use of public
16 schools. It makes no sense. Thank you very much.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: thank you, and
19 I'll go to Council Member Brooks-Powers followed by
20 Council Member Sanchez. We'll move to Council Member
21 Sanchez and the we'll get back to Ms. Powers.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: thank you,
23 Majority Leader. Today I'm introducing legislation
24 alongside Council Member Stevens, Farías, and De La
25 Rosa, codifying and expanding the heat sensor pilot

1 program that passed in this council in 2019. Intro
2 434 would require the Department of Housing,
3 Preservation and Development to identify 150 Class A
4 multiple dwellings per borough based on factors
5 including the number of temperature violations, heat
6 related complaints every two years. And I don't want
7 to go too long, but just to say that the pilot that
8 Council Member Ritchie Torres and then Brooklyn
9 Borough President Eric Adams passed was extremely
10 successful. Fifty-six percent of buildings that--
11 sorry, it's just like you lose your breath when you
12 got the kid in you. Okay, but the pilot was very
13 successful, and both buildings that complied and
14 installed the heat sensors reduced-- saw huge
15 reductions in the number of heat violations and also
16 even the buildings that did not comply saw huge
17 interventions or reductions in the number of heat
18 violations. So I want to ask my colleagues to join me
19 her. This is a behavioral intervention on these
20 buildings that could make meaningful difference for
21 tenants.
22

23 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We'll
24 go to Council Member Won and then we'll come back to
25 Council Member Brooks-Powers.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Thank you so much.

3 Today, I'm introducing two bills, Intro 440 with
4 Council Members Menin and Gutiérrez, and 441 with
5 Council Member Williams, Menin and Gutiérrez as well.

6 Intro-- both of them are going to make our city more
7 technologically accessible and a connective place,
8 despite anyone's income level. Intro 440 would

9 mandate the City do a full review of public spaces
10 such as museums, libraries, hospitals, or schools

11 under its purview to recommend locations that are
12 suitable for free, secure, and quality internet to

13 anybody who needs it. And Intro 441 would require

14 that the City identify users for user research as
15 well as feedback for digital applications that are

16 developed and perform comprehensive user testing to
17 ensure that the applications function appropriately

18 and it's easy to use for anyone that needs it. So,

19 any sort of app or services, benefits that are served
20 on the internet, on the website, or on the mobile

21 will have to have user research that is documented
22 and made public for transparency to make sure that

23 the applications on the websites that we create are
24 digitally literate and easy for anybody to use

25 despite their level of digital literacy, as well as

1 making sure that they are mindful of language access
2 for second language speakers, and make sure that the
3 apps are actually built for the intended user at-
4 hand. So, I would like to call upon my colleagues to
5 sign on to both Intro 440 and 441 to start our city's
6 journey to take responsibility for connecting our
7 communities to the internet and make sure that the
8 applications that we create are actually serving the
9 people that need them. Thank you.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you.

12 Council Member Brooks-Powers followed by Council
13 Member Rivera.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you.

15 First and foremost I'd like to address the tragic
16 news out of Buffalo this week where a shooter killed
17 10 people and injured three others. We know that
18 this horrific shooting was racially motivated,
19 targeted innocent black people in a predominantly
20 black neighborhood and spurred [sic] on by conspiracy
21 theory rooted in white supremacy. Not only are these
22 forces destabilizing our nation's politics, they are
23 inflicting unspeakable violence on our nation's
24 communities of color. We must recognize these
25 actions for what they are, and we must condemn them

1 in the strongest possible term. This violence must
2 be stopped and we cannot allow this to happen here.
3 I'd also like to acknowledge a bill I introduced this
4 week with Council Members Lee, Ossé, and Louis which
5 would create an Office of the Homeowner Advocate
6 within HPD. This office will help homeowners get
7 answers to their financial questions and get the help
8 need from city agencies. As I have always said, home
9 ownership is the cornerstone of the American dream
10 and a key step in the process to building and passing
11 along generational wealth, and this particularly true
12 for families of color who have been historically
13 locked out of wealth-building opportunities. This
14 council must pursue every avenue to support our
15 city's homeowner, and I urge my colleagues to join us
16 and making this office a reality. Thank you.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We'll
19 go to Council Member Rivera followed by Council
20 Member Gennaro.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you so
22 much. New Yorkers are [inaudible] but there is no
23 question that we are some of the hardest working
24 people around. In New York City our work is our
25 community, our family, friends, our union. Working

1
2 New Yorkers are as critical to the fabric and
3 function of this city as something like the subway.
4 Today, I'm introducing legislation to support our
5 city's workers. My Freelance and Domestic Workers'
6 Safety Training Bill will direct the Department of
7 Consumer and Worker Protections to create a program
8 providing certain workers with safety training from
9 everything to first aid, NCPD training, to
10 information on protective equipment and cleaning
11 hazards. The second requires the Department of
12 Health and Mental Hygiene to inform low-wage workers
13 throughout New York City about health insurance in an
14 effort to increase enrollment. To further protect
15 these worker, I'm also introducing legislation
16 calling on our state and federal colleagues to take
17 action. One resolution urges Congress to pass
18 legislation that would guarantee domestic workers
19 receive the same protections and rights as all other
20 workers under the Occupational Safety and Health Act
21 of 1970. The second calls on the State Legislature
22 to pass an act amending the insurance law requiring
23 every individual or group policy that covers
24 maternity care also make a provision for abortion
25 care. New York has set the curve for supporting our

1 most marginalized workers. I hope you will join me in
2 continuing to honor that precedent by signing onto
3 this legislation to keep them safe. New Yorkers work
4 for our city. We must ensure that our city works for
5 them. Thank you.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. Now
8 we'll hear from Council Member Gennaro followed by
9 Council Member Williams.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you, Mr.
11 Majority Leader. Everyone knows that this week
12 President Biden made the appointment of Karine Jean-
13 Pierre as Whitehouse Press Secretary. Which my
14 colleagues don't know which I want to tell you about
15 is that she started her career at the New York City
16 Council. She was an environmentalist early in her
17 career and her first job was with us. She worked for
18 me when I was, you know, Chair of the Committee back
19 then in 2004, 05, and 06. She did a great job.
20 She's, you know, very historic on many, many levels,
21 and in her 2019 memoir she talked about her time at
22 the City Council. I guess it's only Council Member
23 Brewer and Barron that actually were around and
24 worked with her, but she was a great asset in the
25 Council and then she's gone on to be Whitehouse Press

1 Secretary, and I guess it's only appropriate that she
2 was appointed in the same week as Haitian Flag Day.
3 So, I just want my colleagues to know that this great
4 woman came from the Council. That's where it all
5 started. So, thank you very much. I also wish to
6 thank Council Member Restler for his leadership with
7 regard to the Reso on the CLCPA. That's very
8 important, and I appreciate his great leadership.
9 Thank you.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We'll
12 go to Council Member Williams followed by Council
13 Member Krishnan.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: With just weeks
15 remaining in this year's legislative session we are
16 asking our state law makers to prioritize this urgent
17 legislation, Clean Slate, as a means of economic
18 justice. Our state has built a criminal justice
19 system that treats people as disposable and has led
20 to mass incarceration. As we know, mass
21 incarceration disproportionately affects people of
22 color in low-income communities leading to systematic
23 racial disparities in every aspect of our society.
24 Because of racism in policing and prosecution, 80
25 percent of New Yorkers with conviction records are

1 black or Latinx and face lifelong discrimination in
2 jobs, housing and education. Today, when a person
3 successfully completes their sentence, they return to
4 their community only to find that doors are closed to
5 them in perpetuity because of their conviction
6 record. This makes it difficult for them to find
7 employment or housing and creates instability at home
8 which can lead people back into crime. Clean Slate is
9 an issue of economic justice and opportunity. New
10 York collectively loses two billion dollars in wages
11 annually because formerly incarcerated individuals
12 are barred from entering the workforce. That is why
13 Fortune 500 companies like Verizon, JP Morgan Chase,
14 and Microsoft support Clean Slate, alongside many
15 labor unions and advocates. Clean Slate will be
16 transformative for the 2.3 million New Yorkers who
17 have been disproportionately impacted by
18 criminalization, especially those who face barriers
19 to employment due to these convictions. The Clean
20 Slate Act will strengthen families, communities,
21 decrease recidivism and increase safety. It will
22 restore balance by providing opportunities for people
23 with criminal records who have served their time and
24 are ready to be productive members of our society.
25

1
2 As Chair of the Civil and Human Rights Committee, I'm
3 proud to be the sponsor of Reso 121 that you all passed,
4 that we all passed, that will provide individuals
5 fair opportunity at education, housing, and an
6 equitable chance in the job market. They are ready
7 to be productive members of society. I want to thank
8 central staff Jay Sarie [sp?], Jeff Baker, state
9 sponsors Senator Myrie, Assembly Member Cruz, and
10 Speaker Adams for her leadership, and lastly Public
11 Advocate Jumaane Williams for requesting this
12 resolution to be brought before the City Council.
13 It's time to end perpetual punishment. Thank you,
14 Majority Leader.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We'll
16 now hear from Council Member Krishnan followed by
17 Council Member Menin.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Thank you so
19 much, Majority Leader. I just wanted to speak briefly
20 about two resolutions. Resolution 161, introduced by
21 my colleague and prime sponsor Council Member Hanif,
22 as well as Public Advocate Williams, is a crucial
23 measure to actually provide and create badly-needed
24 affordable housing in our city by legalizing basement
25 apartments, and the state legislature enacting this

1 bill. It is a way to not only create affordable
2 housing but to protect tenants so many, especially
3 immigrant families like in my district the Jackson
4 Heights and Elmhurst who are already living in
5 basement apartments with no protection whatsoever.
6 From storms that we faced to issues of tenant
7 harassment, it is clear that tenants in basement
8 apartments need protections, and to do so would also
9 help small homeowners as well pay their mortgages,
10 too. So legalizing basement apartments benefits
11 everybody, and it's a crucial housing protection
12 that's needed. And so we are urging our colleagues
13 in state government to ensure this legislation passes
14 as soon as possible. Finally, I just want to add my
15 support and excitement about the resolution
16 introduced by Council Member Lee and others calling
17 on the Department of Education to make Diwali a
18 school holiday. It is something obviously very
19 personally to-- and meaningful to me, as the first
20 Indian American in New York City Council. Diwali is
21 such a special holiday across our South Asian
22 communities symbolizing light over darkness for many
23 New Year as well and so many other meanings across
24 the South Asian community. This is a key way to
25

1 ensure that so many children, like I was once myself,
2 who didn't have the opportunity to celebrate this
3 holiday during the school year now have the
4 opportunity to finally do so. So, I would urge the
5 DOE to adopt this as a school holiday. It is very
6 special for our South Asian communities. Thank you.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. Now,
9 we'll hear from Council Member Menin followed by
10 Council Member Louis.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: thank you,
12 Majority Leader Powers. I'll be very brief. We have
13 all had vacant, derelict lots in our district that
14 have become an eyesore for the community. The bill
15 I'm introducing today, Intro 411 along with Council
16 Member Nurse, would allow third-party entities like
17 civic organizations and not-for-profits to register
18 private property vacant land with the Parks
19 Department to create community gardens. After the
20 owner of a vacant lot would give consent, the
21 location could be include in Green Thumb Community
22 Garden programs. Expanding New Yorker's open spaces
23 is of utmost and paramount importance, and what
24 better way to beautify these abandoned lots then to
25 create a community garden. I am also introducing

1
2 Reso. 166 along with Council Member Brannan and Abreu
3 which calls upon New York State to implement a
4 temporary sales tax holiday for New York City. The
5 temporary suspension of sale tax would increase small
6 business revenues by decreasing the price that
7 consumers are paying for certain products. This is
8 not without precedent. This was done after 9/11 to
9 help Lower Manhattan small businesses, and this would
10 truly help small businesses recover from the
11 pandemic. So I urge my colleagues to sign on to Reso
12 166 and Intro 411. Thank you.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: thank you. We're
14 going to hear from Council Member Louis now, followed
15 by Council Member Farías, and if anyone else wants to
16 sign up, they can raise their hand on Zoom or come up
17 and let us know. So we'll now hear from Council
18 Member Louis.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Thank you,
20 Majority Leader. Today I would like to briefly
21 discuss three pieces of critical legislation that I'm
22 introducing today on maternal mortality and
23 morbidity, and that we're calling on the New York
24 State Legislature to make necessary provisions for
25 survivors of domestic violence. And the last one,

1 sitings of city facilities. The first Introduction
2 is Introduction 409, a Local Law to amend the
3 administrative code of the City of New York in
4 relation to increasing access to data and maternal
5 mortality and morbidity. According to the maternal
6 morbidity review of New York City, our city suffers
7 the highest rates of maternal morbidity in the
8 history of the country at a rate of 26.6 percent
9 compared to New York State with a rate of 18.1
10 percent. This bill would provide valuable insight
11 into the issues birthing New Yorkers have endured due
12 to disparities and inequalities of maternal
13 healthcare that will help identify areas where we
14 need to provide equity, resources, support for our
15 birthing people and their families. Resolution 165
16 calls on the State Legislature to pass and the
17 Governor to sign authorizing certain shelters for
18 victims of domestic violence to be reimbursed for any
19 payment differential or housing a single individual
20 in a room intended for double occupancy. This is
21 important to me because as a survivor of domestic
22 violence I proudly-- I profoundly understand the pain
23 and uncertainty lived by victims of these crimes. I
24 have therefore made it my mission and priority to
25

1 champion for victims of domestic violence. People
2 experiencing domestic violence often become prisoners
3 within the confines of their homes. I was one of
4 them. Allowing survivors of domestic violence a
5 pathway to freedom from constraints, fear, and
6 inability should be a priority not only for the
7 Council but for our partners upstate. And the last
8 bill is Introduction 405, a Local Law to amend--

9
10 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: the New York City
12 Charter in relation to creating an online posting
13 requirement for statements outlining consistency or
14 inconsistency within the criteria established for the
15 sitings of City facilities. The key measure is trust
16 and transparency. Let's no longer hide our city's
17 processes. As such, it is our duty to make sure all
18 siting fulfill City standards equitably. I urge my
19 colleagues to sign onto Intros 409, 405, and Reso
20 165. Thank you.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. Well
22 hear from Council Member Farías and then we'll hear
23 from Council Member Richardson Jordan. Thanks.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Thank you,
25 Majority Leader. I just rally quickly wanted to

1 highlight two of my colleagues' efforts this week,
2 Council Members Schulman and Menin who put together a
3 letter regarding baby formula and urging the Mayor to
4 sign an emergency Executive Order that can suspend
5 procurement laws and regulations to expedite the
6 purchasing of infant formula, and to send city
7 inspectors to retail stores to ensure there aren't
8 any price gouging in our community. Right now we are
9 seeing this massive impact for not only women, but
10 our families, and I just wanted to highlight their
11 efforts as women's caucus members and putting
12 together a bipartisan letter to the Mayor and urge
13 the rest of our colleagues to reach out to either one
14 of their offices to sign on and push efforts. I
15 received photos from families and saw them myself in
16 my local stores that there are no formulas on the
17 shelves, and it is an urgent need and will only
18 continue to be exacerbated if we do not act. So,
19 please, I urge all of you to help us push this effort
20 towards the Mayor. Thank you.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We'll
23 finally hear last, unless anybody else signs up--
24 we'll hear from Council Member Richardson Jordan.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: Thank
3 you. I am excited to introduce a slew of legislation
4 today, two I'm co-prime on, so I'll echo some of
5 what's already come up with Council Member Nurse.
6 413 which is going to allow us to track and ensure
7 the follow-up and enforcement of-- for the disposal
8 of harmful grease. It sounds small, but it is going
9 to have an environmental impact. And in that same
10 vein, I'm also co-prime on 414 which Council Member
11 Ossé already spoke eloquently about how we're going
12 to address the onslaught of the rats. And I'm also
13 proud to introduce 420 which is going to eliminate
14 costs associated with installing solar panels. We
15 should address the economic disparity and racial
16 disparity when it comes environmental justice, make
17 it so solar panels-- there's just access to that
18 green technology for everyone. Introducing 419 which
19 ensures that HRA and HASA working in conjunction
20 together to update and publicize HIV/AIDS services.
21 So this is a little bit technical, but this is a
22 vulnerable population, those who are in need of
23 service and HIV/AIDS survivors were definitely also
24 impacted by the pandemic. So let's not forget about
25 that group. And 418 is to establish a drag laureate.

1 This is an ambassador for LGBTQ nightlife. As a
2 black queer woman, I know what it is to fee;
3 invisible. Let's do the work to make sure that all
4 corners of our city can be seen, be heard, be
5 visible, and be incorporated. So this is an effort
6 to really have an ambassador for that part of our
7 LGBTQ community. And that's it in terms of bills. I
8 will just urge my colleagues to please sign on to a
9 letter that me and Council Member Carmen De La Rosa
10 have worked on for tills [sic]. Till buildings are
11 in need of support. This is a program. This was a
12 promise to residents to be able to won and rehab
13 their buildings, and we should fulfill the promise.
14 Thank you.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you,
17 Council Member. I'll now call on Speaker Adrienne
18 Adams to close out today's Stated Meeting.

19 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Majority
20 Leader. The Stated Meeting of May 19th, 2022 stands
21 in recess.

22 [gavel]

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NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date July 14, 2022