

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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November 17, 2010
Start: 02:01pm
Recess: 03:34pm

HELD AT: Emigrant Savings Bank
49 - 51 Chambers St.

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Maria Del Carmen Arroyo
Charles Barron
Gale Brewer
Fernando Cabrera
Margaret Chin
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Elizabeth Crowley
Erik Martin Dilan
Daniel Dromm
Mathieu Eugene
Julissa Ferreras
Lewis A. Fidler
Helen D. Foster
Daniel R. Garodnick
James F. Gennaro
Vincent J. Gentile

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

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

Edward Norton
Member
President's Committee on the Arts & Humanities

Ellen F. Salpeter
Director
Heart of Brooklyn

Meghan McDermott
Executive Director
Global Action Project

Margo Lion
Co-Chair
President's Committee on the Arts & Humanities

Captain George M. Vujnovich
Veteran & Bronze Star Recipient
WWII

Milan Milenkovich
President of Executive Board
St. Sabbas Serbian Orthodox Cathedral

Rev. Gil Monroe
Pastor
Mt. Zion Church of God

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: If I could get
3 everybody's attention, we are going to start.
4 Ssh. So we have three ceremonials, except the
5 first two we are going to do together, so if I
6 could ask the folks from Global Action Project and
7 the Heart of Brooklyn to come up, and we'll start
8 the first ceremonial, which is being led by
9 Council Member's Jimmy Van Bramer and Brad Lander
10 and Tish James. Oh, there's Tish. I only see you
11 now out of the corner of my eye. So come on
12 forward, Global Action Project and Heart of
13 Brooklyn. And why don't folks fall in, just kind
14 of can line up behind Tish, Jimmy and Brad. If we
15 can clear the way for the folks to come on up, and
16 photographers, if you can step to the right or the
17 left until the little ones get up. Let's get the
18 little ones up front. I thought they were adults,
19 maybe step back a little bit. Adults behind,
20 children in front. There you go, there you go,
21 there you go. All right, so we're going to start
22 first with ... if I can get quiet. So both of the
23 groups that we are recognizing today were 2010
24 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program award
25 winners. Let's give them a big round of applause,

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2 and they received an award from none other than
3 Michelle Obama. So we are very honored, you are
4 gracing us with your presence, the New York City
5 Council. But let me turn the mic over first to
6 Jimmy Van Bramer and Brad Lander and then to Tish
7 James, and then we'll read the proclamations and
8 hear from the groups.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you
10 so much, Madam Speaker, it's wonderful to see you
11 guys here. We're so incredibly proud of Global
12 Action Project and Heart of Brooklyn, two dynamite
13 arts organizations that work with young people all
14 over the city, and have been appropriately
15 recognized with the 2010 National Arts and
16 Humanities Youth Program award, what used to be
17 called the Coming Up Taller award, but you guys
18 can see that these guys are coming up great. And
19 we wanted to make sure that national honor was
20 recognized at the local level as well. Global
21 Action Project brings together youth development,
22 media arts and social justice. Kids through the
23 project have done over 160 videos on immigrant
24 rights, criminal justice, gender and sexuality and
25 educational reforms, and the Brooklyn Cultural

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2 Adventures program of the Heart of Brooklyn, which
3 these great young people are a part of, is a
4 partnership of six cultural organizations in
5 central Brooklyn, Prospect Park, the Brooklyn
6 Museum, the Brooklyn Children's Museum, the
7 Brooklyn Public Library, Brooklyn Botanic Gardens
8 and the Zoo, and they do a whole series of after-
9 school and summer programs that help young people
10 develop their whole selves, something that the
11 Council has put a lot of energy into making sure
12 that arts education is part, a deep part of our
13 city. Thank you so much to Speaker Quinn, to
14 Council Member Van Bramer, to Tish and all our
15 colleagues for supporting these organizations. At
16 Heart of Brooklyn to Ellen Salpeter and Essie
17 Lash, at the Global Action Project to Meghan
18 McDermott. We're excited to have four members of
19 the President's Committee on Arts and the
20 Humanities who gave this award, some esteemed folk
21 with us today: Ed Norton - you can clap - thank
22 you for being here, Traci Slater-Rigaud, Margo
23 Lion and Liz Mann are all here from the
24 President's Council because it's important enough
25 not just to do the recognition in the White House,

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2 but to come do it here in the City Council. I
3 want to thank Caron Atlas for inspiring this idea
4 and Michael Freedman-Schnapp and Mave Johnson,
5 there's a lot of information, not just on them but
6 on all of the other New York City-based winners of
7 this award in the past, a whole great series of
8 groups, too many for me to list, but we have some
9 information about every past New York City awardee
10 of this honor, and we're thrilled to have all of
11 you here and really grateful to these
12 organizations and the young people. And now I
13 will introduce Council Member Letitia James, who
14 represents the Heart of Brooklyn.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Thank you
16 very much. So the Global Action Project, thank
17 you, and the Heart of Brooklyn were 2010 winners
18 of the 2010 National Arts and Humanities Youth
19 Program award, which is given out by the
20 President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities.
21 The organizations were honored at a ceremony with
22 the First Lady, Michelle Obama, in late October at
23 the White House. Heart of Brooklyn is a unique
24 partnership among six of Brooklyn's most treasured
25 cultural institutions, of which I am proud to

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2 represent most of them. The Botanic ... Brooklyn
3 Botanic Gardens, Brooklyn's Children's Museum,
4 Brooklyn Public Library, the Brooklyn Museum,
5 Prospect Park and the Prospect Park Zoo. Heart of
6 Brooklyn sponsors a summer program for youth
7 called the Brooklyn Cultural Adventures Program,
8 BCAP. The focus of BCAP is to encourage youth to
9 interact with their local environment and
10 community in enriching ways. Youth engage in
11 creative projects, experimentation and tours that
12 weave dramatic connections through art, culture,
13 literature, history and science. All lessons are
14 consistent with New York State learning standards
15 and are led by members of the educational staff of
16 each institution. I am proud that as the
17 representative of the 35th district and I would
18 like to say the best district in the city, is home
19 to such rich cultural institutions and home to the
20 Brooklyn Cultural Adventures Program, and it's
21 wonderful to be here with the young people. Let's
22 just, let me give you a shout out to some of my
23 good friends in some of these great organizations,
24 Scot Medbury, representing the Brooklyn Botanic
25 Gardens, Georgina Ngozi, Georgina is up here,

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2 representing the Brooklyn Children's Museum, Linda
3 Johnson, representing the Brooklyn Public Library,
4 Denise McClain, representing the Brooklyn Public
5 Zoo and a representative from the great borough
6 President, Marty Markowitz, Mr. Jason Otano,
7 welcome all of you to City Hall, the people's
8 institution. Thank you.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank
10 you very much. I want to congratulate Tish James
11 and Brad Lander for having the good sense to have
12 these wonderful organizations in your districts.
13 It is very, very shrewd of you to have such
14 wonderful institutions in your districts, and I
15 want to congratulate all the organizations and all
16 of the big mackas (phonetic) behind me, some of
17 whom we've seen in very, very prominent movies,
18 but most of all we want to congratulate the
19 children who participated in these programs. We
20 at the City Council have always understood the
21 importance of culture and the arts, particularly
22 as it relates to young people. We know that young
23 people do better in school, they perform better
24 academically, when their lives are enriched
25 through the arts and culture. I'm so proud to be

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2 the Cultural Affairs Chair of the New York City
3 Council and so proud of the young people here
4 today, let's give them a round of applause.

5 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Jimmy,
6 Tish and Brad, and now we would love to hear from
7 folks representing some of the programs and also
8 folks representing the panel that made this
9 decision. So I don't know who wants to go first.
10 All right.

11 MR. NORTON: Okay, good afternoon,
12 I'm here representing the President's Committee
13 for the Arts and Humanities, and really excited to
14 be here with the New York City Council to
15 celebrate these amazing programs and artists who
16 were awarded the National Arts and Humanities
17 Youth Award Program. Our committee is a committee
18 that advises the President and the administration
19 on matters related to the arts and humanities, and
20 works to support the arts and humanities
21 nationwide. I want to acknowledge our committee
22 chair, Margo Lion, the great theatrical producer
23 and impresario. It's an honor to serve under
24 someone as illustrious as Margo, who's been a
25 force in the New York theater for the 20 years

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2 I've been in this city and beyond, and our great
3 staff, Liz Manne and Traci Slater-Rigaud, and we
4 have an amazing committee and an amazing staff.
5 The National Arts and Humanities Youth Program
6 award is one of our really signature initiatives
7 with the committee, and it's something that every
8 year is one of the fixtures of what we do that
9 we're most proud of. It's a program that's very
10 close to our heart for, mainly because of the kids
11 that you see here, and the inspiration that they
12 provide. We really, really love having the
13 opportunity to use our platform serving the
14 President to highlight and shine a light on these
15 really excellent after-school arts and humanities
16 programs. Because we want to create awareness and
17 appreciation, not only of the incredible example,
18 the really inspiring example that these educators
19 and kids are setting for all of us, with their
20 commitment and their tenacity, but also because
21 these programs on a national level really are
22 proof positive that the arts is not just, you
23 know, a bonus feature of our society, it's a
24 really integral part of our drive to create
25 educational success and in fact it's an integral

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2 part of our economy. People don't think of the
3 arts often as one of our economic underpinnings,
4 but the young people coming out of these programs
5 really are proof positive of the central role that
6 the arts play in effective education programs and
7 in developing a strong economy, especially in
8 times like these. So even though you're local,
9 you guys have ... you're an inspiration to the whole
10 country, because you're really, really showing us
11 how important it is to make investments in the
12 arts for the long-term future of our country. So
13 this is the highest honor in the nation for such
14 programs and we're very, very thrilled to
15 celebrate these guys back home in New York. So
16 these two groups, which are making an enormous
17 difference in the lives of these young people
18 have, as already been noted, are joining a long
19 line of really outstanding youth programs that
20 have won this award from New York, since the
21 inception of the award, which was thirteen years
22 ago, 24 programs from New York City and the
23 surrounding boroughs have received this national
24 honor. So on top of everything else, one of the
25 things you guys are doing is you're helping New

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2 York continue to claim its place as the cultural
3 capital of the world and of America, and show them
4 that even our kids and teachers are, you know, the
5 maddest, most doped, most wild, madcap, hairy-
6 headed, hipster artists in all of America. Yeah,
7 so congratulations to all of you guys, we're
8 really, really excited to get, to celebrate you
9 back on home turf.

10 MS. SALPETER: All right, we'll be
11 very quick. It's hard to follow Edward Norton.
12 I'm Ellen Salpeter from the Heart of Brooklyn, and
13 this is.

14 MS. McDERMOTT: I'm Meghan
15 McDermott with Global Action Project.

16 MS. SALPETER: So we're going to be
17 really quick. Thank you, Speaker Quinn, thank you
18 Council members Lander, Tish James and Van Bramer,
19 for having us. We're delighted, and on our part,
20 on behalf of the 4,000 campers and BCAP
21 adventurers, thank you. We also want to offer a
22 special note of gratitude to Commission Kate Levin
23 and her staff and the Department of Cultural
24 Affairs, for their steadfast support. And we're
25 so delighted to have the President's Committee,

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2 all of you here today. We know you're not all
3 based here and we're really, really grateful for
4 your support and the award.

5 MS. McDERMOTT: We want to take
6 this moment to just say thank you to everyone and
7 to really let you know that programs like BCAP and
8 like Urban Voices at Global Action Project do
9 something really important, and that's that they
10 introduce critical thinking skills developing a
11 new generation of innovative leaders, artists,
12 educators, organizers, activists, visionaries, you
13 name it, it's here in New York and it's with our
14 young people, they're our future, they're our now.
15 So to succeed in a world that's increasingly
16 diverse and complicated, we know that arts are a
17 universal language, that they create connections
18 across cultures, across communities, and across
19 continents.

20 MS. SALPETER: And we both really
21 just want to thank our staff who worked so hard to
22 make all this happen, and our board and all of you
23 that are here today. Thank you.

24 MS. McDERMOTT: So thanks everyone.

25 SPEAKER QUINN: And we have one

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more speaker, why don't you step to the middle.

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MS. LION: I too, being a producer, know I'm not going to try to say too much after Edward Norton and also the two women who just spoke, they're fantastic. I know when to get off the stage. But I will say I want to bring greetings and real congratulations from Michelle Obama, the First Lady of the United States and to say to all of you in these programs, to the staff and to the people who had the ideas and to the children, how much these programs mean to the First Lady, they are truly inspirational and they are central to her idea of giving children a greater opportunity to succeed in our country. So thank you very much.

SPEAKER QUINN: Do any of you guys want to say anything? No? No? All right. Well, congratulations. Yea! Thank you all very much, thank you. Thank you all, congratulations. All right, we're going to move on to our next ceremonial, but let's give these guys a big round of applause as they ... you're going to step to the back, sweetie. Okay, thank you, congratulations. All right, if we could just have pictures step to

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2 the side, because our next ceremonial, the
3 gentleman needs to come down in a wheelchair, so
4 we need to clear the aisleway please. And if
5 Council Member Dromm and the next ceremonial could
6 come down. And if folks could exit to the left or
7 the right, please? All right, and as Council
8 Member Dromm is here, I'm going to turn the mic
9 over to him, but he has ... so we're really going to
10 ask for a little quiet. The first ceremonial
11 spoke to the importance of children in the City of
12 New York, and the next ceremonial is going to
13 speak to the importance of veterans in the City of
14 New York. So let me turn the mic over to Council
15 Member Danny Dromm.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you
17 very much, Madam Speaker. I would like to invite
18 up the members of the Veterans Committee in
19 particular, or anybody else who would like to join
20 us to make this presentation to Captain George M.
21 Vujnovich. All right, ladies and gentlemen, if we
22 could have some quiet because of the seriousness
23 of this presentation, I would be most grateful.
24 Last week our nation recognized Veterans Day, and
25 although we took from our schedules to recognize

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2 the contributions of the heroes that have fought
3 for this country and laid down their lives for
4 this country, oftentimes our veterans are
5 overlooked in terms of the contributions that they
6 have made. So we certainly did not want to let
7 this Veterans Day pass without honoring a man who
8 was not up until now able to be given an honor
9 because of the nature of the secret mission that
10 he led for this country during World War II. And
11 this story was initially brought to my attention
12 by Congressman Joseph Crowley, who made
13 arrangements to give Mr. Vujnovich a bronze star
14 medal just about three weeks ago. And Mr.
15 Vujnovich in 1944, I just want to get the name ...
16 served with the United States Office of Strategic
17 Services. Now this was the predecessor to the
18 CIA, so it was a secret mission. And what he was
19 assigned to do was to go in and rescue 512 airmen
20 who had been stranded in Yugoslavia, his native
21 country that he knew something about, because they
22 were there to destroy a pipeline, an oil pipeline
23 that Nazi Germany depended on in order to try to
24 win that war. And Captain Vujnovich went in
25 there, he freed the men, he got all 512 of them

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2 out safely, there was not one single casualty at
3 all. However, because of geopolitics this mission
4 was not allowed to be known until just recently.
5 This is stuff, my friends and colleagues, that
6 movies are made of. So today we wanted to take
7 this opportunity to commend Captain Vujnovich for
8 his tremendous contributions to our country. They
9 called the veterans of World War II the greatest
10 generation ever, and indeed those types of
11 sacrifices are sacrifices that we rarely call
12 people to make in this country. So with grateful
13 recognition for all that you've done, sir, we
14 hereby present you with this proclamation, and
15 we're going to have Speaker Quinn. Okay Captain,
16 did you want to say a few words?

17 MR. VUJNOVICH: I'm very happy to
18 be here before such a loyal patriotic crowd. In
19 my years of service I only had one thought, it was
20 country, the people and God. I hope that that
21 will remain with all the people, especially the
22 young ones, I see them here. It was a difficult
23 job, it was very trying, and I'm glad I got them
24 out. Today I am besieged with letters, donations
25 and whatever from various people who want to come

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2 and visit me, interview me, and right now I've got
3 about 100 letters I've got to answer, and it's
4 from people I haven't seen for 30, 40 and 50
5 years. But I must say I'm grateful that you're
6 all well and good, and I'm glad to be here. Thank
7 you very much, especially Councilman Daniel Dromm,
8 and all those who assisted me, and I thank you for
9 attending.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you
11 very much, and you should know that the Captain is
12 95 and a half years old. Clerk, would you please
13 read the proclamation?

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Council, City of
15 New York, proclamation. Whereas each year the
16 Council of the City of New York observes Veterans
17 Day to pay tribute to the brave men and women from
18 all walks of life who have answered the call to
19 serve our nation, and defend the ideals we hold so
20 dear, on this occasion it is a great privilege to
21 recognize one of our country's most heroic
22 veterans of World War II, Captain (Ret'd) George
23 M. Vujnovich, and whereas in 1944 Captain
24 Vujnovich served with the United States Office of
25 Strategic Services, a predecessor of the CIA,

1 while attempting to destroy Nazi Germany's most
2 important oil pipeline in occupied eastern Europe,
3 512 airmen were downed, trapped and in dire
4 straits. As a result, Mr. Vujnovich was called
5 upon to plan and execute the largest air rescue in
6 history for American soldiers behind enemy lines.
7 Under his leadership a secret air strip was
8 created inside a corn field, to allow cargo planes
9 to land and rescue the Americans. The entire
10 rescue operation, known as Operation Halyard, took
11 place without a single casualty. And whereas,
12 after World War II Captain Vujnovich became a
13 salesman in Queens, while his courageous mission
14 was kept hidden and out of our history books, due
15 to geopolitical reasons, Operation Halyard
16 remained secret until the records were
17 declassified in 1997. And whereas on October 17th,
18 2010, 66 years after his triumphant rescue
19 operation, Captain Vujnovich was awarded the
20 Bronze Star medal, the prestigious military honor
21 of decoration awarded for bravery, acts of merit
22 or meritorious service. Now therefore be it known
23 that the Council of the City of New York most
24 gratefully honors George M. Vujnovich for his
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2 extraordinary service and heroism during World War
3 II. Christine Quinn, Speaker for the entire
4 Council, Daniel Dromm, Council Member 25th
5 District, Queens.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: I just want to
7 first thank Council Member Dromm for pulling this
8 ceremonial together so we could make sure,
9 Captain, that we thanked you so incredibly,
10 sincerely for your bravery, and we're all standing
11 here just marveling, the story is overwhelming,
12 and it's the kind of story that if you saw it in a
13 movie you wouldn't believe. And you actually
14 lived it, and then had to keep it secret for most
15 of your life, and that really is a further
16 statement about what a true patriot you are and
17 how you put your country first in every way. So I
18 just want to thank you so much for honoring us
19 with your presence today, and wish you all the
20 best. Thank you very much, Captain.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: And Pastor?

22 MR. MILENKOVICH: Thank you. I'm
23 not a pastor, my name is Milan Milenkovich, I'm
24 President of the executive board of St. Sabbas
25 Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in New York City. On

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2 behalf of our community, I'd like to thank the
3 City of New York for honoring our long-time
4 parishioner and president for many years, while he
5 was younger. I think it's tremendous what the
6 City of New York is doing today to recognize
7 George. Those of us in the community, when we
8 found out about this a couple of years ago, we
9 were just scratching our heads, this story needs
10 to be told and I'm glad it's all coming out.
11 Thank you.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you
13 very much.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you all very
15 much, and that concludes our ceremonials.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Ladies and
17 gentlemen, can I have your attention please? May
18 I please have your attention? We are about to
19 begin the stated meeting. At this time can you
20 please place all cell phones and electronic
21 devices to vibrate? Thank you.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Ladies and
23 gentlemen, please rise for the Pledge of
24 Allegiance. I pledge allegiance to the flag of
25 the United States of America, and to the Republic

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2 for which it stands, one Nation, under God,
3 indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

4 Roll call.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Arroyo.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Barron.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Brewer.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Cabrera.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Chin.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Comrie.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE, JR.: Here.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Crowley.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Dickens.

20 (No response)

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Dilan.

22 (No response)

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Dromm.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene.

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COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Ferreras
COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Fidler
COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Foster.
COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Garodnick.
COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: I'm
here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Gennaro.
COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Gentile.
COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Gonzalez
COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Greenfield.
COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Halloran.
COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN III: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Ignizio.
COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Jackson.
COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Here.

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Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: James.
COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Koo.
COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Koppell.
COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Koslowitz.
COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Lander.
COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Lappin.
COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Levin.
COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Mark-Viverito.
COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy.
COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Mendez.
COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Nelson.
COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Palma.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.
3 COUNCIL CLERK: Recchia.
4 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA, JR.: Here.
5 COUNCIL CLERK: Reyna.
6 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.
7 COUNCIL CLERK: Rodriguez.
8 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.
9 COUNCIL CLERK: Rose.
10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.
11 COUNCIL CLERK: Sanders.
12 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS, JR.:
13 Present.
14 COUNCIL CLERK: Seabrook.
15 (No response)
16 COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich.
17 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.
18 COUNCIL CLERK: Vacca.
19 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.
20 COUNCIL CLERK: Vallone.
21 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE, JR.: Here.
22 COUNCIL CLERK: Van Bramer.
23 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.
24 COUNCIL CLERK: Vann.
25 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Weprin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Williams.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Oddo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

10

SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

11

COUNCIL CLERK: We have a quorum.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: A quorum is

13

present, everyone please rise for the invocation being delivered today by Pastor Gil Monroe from Mt. Zion Church of God.

14

15

16

REV. MONROSE: Let's pray. Father

17

God, we thank You, we come before Your courts

18

today, giving You honor and praise that is due

19

unto Your name. We pray God for this, we pray for

20

the Speaker, we pray for her staff, we pray for

21

every Council member, both Democrats, Republicans

22

and Independents. We thank You, God, that today

23

we pass just laws that are good, and that make

24

sense for Your people. We pray God that as we

25

1
2 discuss, that the Council members and those who
3 come before you will be able to articulate and to
4 talk about the issues that will affect all people,
5 and to pass laws that are good. We pray God that
6 this meeting may be a meeting that is productive
7 in Your sight, in Jesus' name we pray, we say
8 thank You, Amen.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
10 very much. Council Member Williams.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Yes, a
12 beautiful prayer, if I do say so myself, and I
13 motion to spread the invocation in full upon the
14 record.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.
16 Adoption of the minutes, Council Member Jackson.

17 SPEAKER QUINN: I'm sorry, Mr.
18 Majority Leader, if I could ask my colleagues to
19 please stand for another moment. On November 12th,
20 2010, Council assistant Sergeant-at-Arms Frank M.
21 Vail, 75, of Woodside, Queens, passed away after a
22 long bout with emphysema. Frank joined the
23 Council in November of 2007, after a long career
24 in the security and transportation industries. As
25 with all our sergeants-at-arms, Frank provided

1 security and assistance before, during and after
2 our meetings, assistance that helped each of us
3 perform our duties in a safe and orderly
4 environment. Frank lived in Woodside for over 50
5 years, where he and his late wife Lucy raised
6 their three children, Laura, Lawrence and
7 Christopher. He was the proud grandparent of five
8 grandchildren who, his pictures, anyone passing
9 his security post on the 15th floor would have seen
10 a great deal of, very proudly framed on his desk.
11 Also if you ever passed his security post on the
12 15th floor, you would most likely have heard Frank
13 Sinatra or some other music he was a fan of.
14 Frank's funeral was held this past Monday at
15 Resurrection Ascension Church in Rego Park. Our
16 thoughts and prayers go out to his entire family,
17 to all his friends and colleagues, especially our
18 sergeants-at-arms, and I want to take a moment to
19 thank Carl Diabla and Elias and all of the
20 sergeants-at-arms, anyone who went to the wake,
21 Frank's wake over the weekend would have noted
22 that the sergeants-at-arms stood guard at Frank's
23 coffin throughout the entire wake. And I want to
24 thank them for doing that, and make note that that
25

1
2 was an initiative they took up exclusively on
3 their own and organized themselves, and we're
4 going to invite Frank's family to our next stated,
5 or one of our next stated meetings, so we can have
6 another tribute to him. So, thank you. Thank
7 you, Mr. Majority Leader.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you,
9 Madam Speaker. Adoption of the minutes, Council
10 Member Jackson.

11 SPEAKER QUINN: A motion that the
12 minutes of the stated meeting of September 29th,
13 2010 be adopted as printed.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
15 again, Madam Speaker. Messages and papers from
16 the Mayor?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: None.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:
19 Communications from city, county and borough
20 offices.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Pre-considered M
22 311, transfer of city funds between agencies.

23 SPEAKER QUINN: Finance.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Petitions
25 and communications?

1

COUNCIL CLERK: None.

2

3

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Land use

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call-ups.

5

COUNCIL CLERK: M 312.

6

SPEAKER QUINN: If we could get a

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roll call on the land use call-up, please.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

9

COUNCIL CLERK: Arroyo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

11

COUNCIL CLERK: Barron.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I request a

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unanimous consent vote on all general order items.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote no

16

on Intro 195A, no on LU 146, accompanying Reso

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567, no on LU 147 and accompanying Reso 568, and

18

aye on all the rest.

19

COUNCIL CLERK: Brewer.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

21

COUNCIL CLERK: Cabrera.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

23

COUNCIL CLERK: Chin.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

25

COUNCIL CLERK: Comrie.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE, JR.: Aye.
3 COUNCIL CLERK: Crowley.
4 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.
5 COUNCIL CLERK: Dickens.
6 (No response)
7 COUNCIL CLERK: Dilan.
8 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.
9 COUNCIL CLERK: Dromm.
10 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.
11 COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene.
12 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.
13 COUNCIL CLERK: Ferreras
14 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.
15 COUNCIL CLERK: Fidler
16 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Yes.
17 COUNCIL CLERK: Foster.
18 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.
19 COUNCIL CLERK: Garodnick.
20 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.
21 COUNCIL CLERK: Gennaro.
22 (No response)
23 COUNCIL CLERK: Gentile.
24 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Yes.
25 COUNCIL CLERK: Gonzalez

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2

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye on

3

all.

4

COUNCIL CLERK: Greenfield.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

6

COUNCIL CLERK: Halloran.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN III: Aye.

8

COUNCIL CLERK: Ignizio.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

10

COUNCIL CLERK: Jackson.

11

(No response)

12

COUNCIL CLERK: James.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye.

14

COUNCIL CLERK: Koo.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

16

COUNCIL CLERK: Koppell.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

18

COUNCIL CLERK: Koslowitz.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Lander.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

22

COUNCIL CLERK: Lappin.

23

(No response)

24

COUNCIL CLERK: Levin.

25

(No response)

1
2 COUNCIL CLERK: Mark-Viverito.
3 (No response)
4 COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy.
5 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.
6 COUNCIL CLERK: Mendez.
7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.
8 COUNCIL CLERK: Nelson.
9 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.
10 COUNCIL CLERK: Palma.
11 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.
12 COUNCIL CLERK: Recchia.
13 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA, JR.: Aye.
14 COUNCIL CLERK: Reyna.
15 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.
16 COUNCIL CLERK: Rodriguez.
17 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.
18 COUNCIL CLERK: Rose.
19 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.
20 COUNCIL CLERK: Sanders.
21 (No response)
22 COUNCIL CLERK: Seabrook.
23 (No response)
24 COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich.
25 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

1

COUNCIL CLERK: Vacca.

2

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

3

COUNCIL CLERK: Vallone.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE, JR.: Aye.

5

COUNCIL CLERK: Van Bramer.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

7

COUNCIL CLERK: Vann.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Unanimous

9

consent to vote on all, coupled on general orders
and all land use items, all other issues before
the agenda today?

10

11

12

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye on all.

14

COUNCIL CLERK: Weprin.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

16

COUNCIL CLERK: Williams.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

18

COUNCIL CLERK: Lappin.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

20

COUNCIL CLERK: Oddo.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

22

COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

24

COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

25

1

SPEAKER QUINN: Aye.

2

3

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Today's

4

land use call-ups were adopted by a vote of 46 in

5

the affirmative and zero in the negative.

6

Communications from the Speaker?

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SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very

8

much. We have a number of important bills we're

9

voting on today. The first is Intro 195A, that's

10

a piece of legislation merging the Department of

11

Juvenile Justice and the Administration for

12

Children's Services. I want to thank Lisette

13

Camilo, Alix Pustilnik, Molly Murphy and Rob

14

Calandra who worked on this piece of legislation.

15

195A follows up on a goal Mayor Bloomberg

16

articulated in his State of the City last year.

17

He put out the proposal to merge these two

18

agencies with the goal of saving the city and

19

these agencies administrative funds, but also in

20

having a more coordinated focus on children in

21

need that the City of New York is charged with

22

serving. This at its face seemed like a good

23

idea, but obviously the devil can always be in the

24

details. And that's why we are very lucky that

25

Council Chairs Annabel Palma of our General

1
2 Welfare Committee and Chairperson Sara Gonzalez
3 conducted aggressive oversight to review the
4 provisions of 195A to make sure in fact that these
5 savings were not at the expense of services to
6 needy children in the City of New York, and I want
7 to thank Chairs Palma and Gonzalez very, very much
8 for their work on Intro 195A, and I want to call
9 on Chair Gonzalez to say a few words.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Thank
11 you, Speaker. In the Mayor's 2010 State of the
12 City address he said, "We recognize that we're not
13 going to keep every young person out of trouble,
14 but we believe we can do more to prevent a
15 troubled kid from becoming a hardened criminal."
16 Since that time, which is approximately ten and a
17 half months ago, I have been involved in meetings,
18 discussions, hearings and fact finding with
19 respect to this merger. What were the concerns?
20 Our concerns were continuation of services,
21 specifically alternatives to detention, discharge
22 planning. A plan that will insure that a child
23 can return to his or her community and never
24 return to this detention. Other services such as
25 education, the family collaborative, mental health

1
2 and of course sensitivity for certain populations
3 like the LGBTQ. I invite my colleagues to step to
4 the plate and join me in this important work to
5 rehabilitate our troubled youth to become
6 productive members of our society and our
7 potential future leaders. Let's work together to
8 tackle issues of disparity in arrest and
9 conviction rates, and let's look at police admits
10 and court protocols. Moving forward, I would like
11 to say to Mayor Bloomberg and Commissioner
12 Mattingly, we hold you to your commitment to close
13 Spofford. I fully support my Bronx colleagues'
14 plans for housing, educational, or any other
15 community usage where Spofford stands today, and I
16 acknowledge the expertise of Commissioner
17 Mattingly, his Executive Deputy Commissioner
18 Bushing and their new team for their continued
19 innovative approach, and I look forward to our
20 partnership. I listened carefully to unions and
21 advocates, I met with Local 371 President Faye
22 Moore and we heard clearly from the Commissioner
23 this merger will not warrant any loss of
24 employment. I'd like to thank a lot of folks, I
25 want to say thank you to Speaker Quinn, thank you

1
2 to the legislative staff Rob Newman, Lisette
3 Camilo, who's been incredibly instrumental, our
4 counsel. William Hongach, Andy Grossman, Isha
5 Moore, all the folks that made this possible. And
6 I want to say to Chuck, here and now, Chuck, I
7 won't call you for a few days and tell you it's
8 urgent. I assure my colleagues, the advocates and
9 the unions, we will remain vigilant. I urge my
10 colleagues to vote yes to Intro 197A. Thank you.

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
12 much, Sara. I think Chuck will miss those calls
13 nonetheless. And I just want to recognize that we
14 have been joined by Council Member-elect Ruben
15 Wills. I just wanted him to stand to be
16 recognized. And we are saving you a seat. Next I
17 want to note Intro 311A, a piece of legislation
18 that was passed out of the Parks and Recreation
19 Committee, and I want to thank Chair Melissa Mark-
20 Viverito for her work, and I also want to thank
21 the sponsor of the bill, Minority Leader Jimmy
22 Oddo. I want to thank Lyle Frank, Patrick
23 Mulvihill and Jeff Haberman for their work on this
24 piece of legislation. And this bill is really a
25 very commonsense piece of legislation. It

1
2 requires that the Parks Department of the City of
3 New York notify institutions such as schools and
4 hospitals prior to planting trees on their
5 property. Now, you shouldn't have to, one would
6 think, legislate communication between city
7 agencies. But the facts indicate something
8 different, as Minority Leader Oddo will speak to.
9 This piece of legislation will make sure that
10 schools and hospitals are as green as they
11 possibly can be, and as lovely as they possibly
12 can be, for the children and others who use them.
13 But that it's done in a way that is orderly,
14 thoughtful, and integrated into the process of how
15 those institutions use their open space and the
16 space surrounding their schools or hospitals, and
17 I want to thank everyone who worked on this bill,
18 and I want to first call on the Chair of the
19 Committee, Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito,
20 and then the sponsor of the bill, Minority Leader
21 Jimmy Oddo.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: I'll
23 defer my time to Council Member Oddo.

24 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: But

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congratulations to him on this legislation.

SPEAKER QUINN: Thanks, Melissa.

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: The Chairlady's grace stops me from standing up and saying I want to speak in opposition to Intro 48, preemptively. Oh, you didn't laugh at that joke. I just, very quickly, as the Speaker said, it's unfortunate that we have to legislate something like this, but as much as the City Council loves trees, we equally love cooperation from all our partners in government. And when a principal of a school has established a wonderful stop-and-drop program, where parents are encouraged, instead of triple parking outside the schools at dismissal, to be able to drop their kids off and the kids are told to walk towards the fence, across the sidewalk and in, and they're prevented from doing that because the Parks Department has decided, as part of their million trees initiative, they're going to plant trees at this location without consulting the principal, there's a problem. And the bigger problem was, after we highlighted this situation to some folks in the Sustainability Office in the Parks Department, the attitude was,

1
2 okay, well, we're planting our million trees, and
3 no, we won't speak to the principal. That's
4 unfortunate, and this legislation is in response
5 to that particular situation, but also that
6 attitude. So we love the Parks Department, we
7 love trees, we love the million tree initiative.
8 But we want to have communication amongst our
9 partners in government and I want to thank the
10 Chair and the Speaker for allowing us to inject
11 some sanity into this process. Thank you.

12 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
13 much, Minority Leader Oddo, and that concludes
14 communications from the Speaker.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Discussion
16 of general orders. Seeing none, we'll move on.
17 Reports of special committees.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Reports of
20 standing committees.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the
22 Committee on Finance, Pre-considered Reso 546,
23 Organization Funding.

24 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
25 orders.

1
2 COUNCIL CLERK: Pre-considered Reso
3 557, Amending and restating adjusted base
4 proportions and amounts necessary for the support
5 of the government of the City of New York.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
7 orders.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Pre-considered M
9 311 and Reso 560, Transfer of city funds between
10 agencies.

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
12 orders.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Pre-considered LU
14 248 and Reso 561 through LU 253 and Reso 566.

15 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
16 orders.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the
18 Committee on Housing and Buildings, Pre-considered
19 Intro 405.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
21 orders.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the
23 Committee on Juvenile Justice, Intro 195A, merger
24 of city agencies.

25 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled

1

2 on general orders.

2

3

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the
5 Committee on Land Use LU146 and Reso 567.

4

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6 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
7 orders.

6

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8 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 147 and Reso 568
9 and LU 208 and Reso 569, UDAPS.

8

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10 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
11 orders.

10

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12 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 240 and Reso
13 570, sidewalk café.

12

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14 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled to be filed
15 pursuant to a letter of withdrawal.

14

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16 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 241 and Reso
17 571, unenclosed sidewalk café.

16

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18 SPEAKER QUINN: coupled on general
19 orders.

18

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20 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 242 and Reso 572
21 and 243 and Reso 573, landmark designations.

20

21

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
23 orders.

22

23

24 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 244 and Reso 574
25 and 246 and Reso 575, sidewalk cafes.

24

25

26 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general

1

2 orders.

3

COUNCIL CLERK: LU 247 and Reso

4

576, UDAP.

5

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general

6

orders.

7

COUNCIL CLERK: Pre-considered LU

8

254 and Reso 577 and 255 and 578, In Rem actions.

9

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general

10

orders.

11

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the

12

Committee on Parks & Recreation, Intro 311A,

13

Notification prior to tree planting.

14

SPEAKER QUINN: Remanded and

15

coupled on general orders.

16

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the

17

Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections, Pre-

18

considered Reso 579, Changes to standing

19

committees.

20

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general

21

orders.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: General

23

order calendar?

24

COUNCIL CLERK: Resolution

25

appointing various persons commissioner of deeds.

1
2 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
3 orders, and at this point I'd like to ask for a
4 roll call on all items that have been coupled on
5 the general order calendar, please.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Arroyo.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Brewer.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye,
11 and I want to thank the entire staff of the
12 webcasting of this particular stated Council
13 meeting. I know that Chris Wall and his staff,
14 and everybody who's been involved with the website
15 worked extremely hard. I've already gotten about
16 ten emails, stating that folks are very excited
17 about being able to see the City Council, even
18 though earlier they simply saw Chuck talking to
19 Maria, and didn't actually see, I think, the
20 beginning of the ceremonials. But the fact of the
21 matter is, webcasting is important for
22 transparency and for civic engagement, and I'm
23 very excited that it's happening, congratulations
24 to all staff, and I vote aye.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Cabrera.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye, aye.
3 COUNCIL CLERK: Chin.
4 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.
5 COUNCIL CLERK: Comrie.
6 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE, JR.: Aye.
7 COUNCIL CLERK: Crowley.
8 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.
9 COUNCIL CLERK: Dickens.
10 (No response)
11 COUNCIL CLERK: Dilan.
12 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.
13 COUNCIL CLERK: Dromm.
14 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.
15 COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene.
16 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.
17 COUNCIL CLERK: Ferreras.
18 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.
19 COUNCIL CLERK: Fidler.
20 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Pass.
21 COUNCIL CLERK: Foster.
22 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye on all.
23 COUNCIL CLERK: Garodnick.
24 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.
25 COUNCIL CLERK: Gennaro.

1

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

2

COUNCIL CLERK: Gentile.

3

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Yes.

4

COUNCIL CLERK: Gonzalez.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.

6

COUNCIL CLERK: Greenfield.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

8

COUNCIL CLERK: Halloran.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN III: I

10

vote no on pre-considered resolutions 557, 558 and
559, aye to the rest.

11

12

COUNCIL CLERK: Ignizio.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes, if I

14

may just briefly explain my vote. First I want to
vote no on 557, 558 and 559, but more importantly,
I just wanted to share with my colleagues and this
Council that my family got some great early
Christmas news, to my mom who is watching, that
she beat cancer and we're very excited, and wanted
to wish her well, and just announce that. And I
want to thank the Speaker, who has been such a
friend towards that. And that's it, mom, we love
you. Congratulations.

15

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COUNCIL CLERK: Jackson.

25

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on

3

all.

4

COUNCIL CLERK: James.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye on all.

6

COUNCIL CLERK: Koo.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I want to vote

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no on pre-considered 557, 558 and 559, and the

9

rest are yes.

10

COUNCIL CLERK: Koppell.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Yes, I'd

12

like to vote aye on all, except Intro 195A, I

13

abstain on that.

14

COUNCIL CLERK: Koslowitz.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye on

16

all.

17

COUNCIL CLERK: Lander.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye on all.

19

COUNCIL CLERK: Lappin.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye on all.

21

COUNCIL CLERK: Levin.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I vote aye

23

on general orders calendar, and with permission,

24

aye on all land use call-ups.

25

COUNCIL CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye

3

on all.

4

COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye on all.

6

COUNCIL CLERK: Mendez.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

8

COUNCIL CLERK: Nelson.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye on all.

10

COUNCIL CLERK: Palma.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

12

COUNCIL CLERK: Recchia.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA, JR.: Aye

14

on all.

15

COUNCIL CLERK: Reyna.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye on all.

17

COUNCIL CLERK: Rodriguez.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

19

COUNCIL CLERK: Rose.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye on all

21

except 557, 558, 559. Thank you.

22

COUNCIL CLERK: Sanders.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS, JR.: Aye

24

on all, and with permission, aye to the previous

25

call-up, land use call-up. Aye.

1

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

2

COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich.

3

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote no

4

on pre-considered Reso 557, 558, 559 and aye on
all others.

5

6

COUNCIL CLERK: Vacca.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I vote no on

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557, 558 and 559 and aye on all others.

9

COUNCIL CLERK: Vallone.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE, JR.: I

11

vote no on pre-considered Resos 557, 558 and 559
and aye on the rest.

12

13

COUNCIL CLERK: Van Bramer.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

15

COUNCIL CLERK: Vann.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Weprin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

19

COUNCIL CLERK: Williams.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: May I be

21

excused to explain my vote?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank

24

you. I'm voting aye on all, but I'm still very

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1
2 concerned about the merger of DJJ and ACS. The
3 people that I know that work there are also
4 concerned about the workload that will be thrown
5 upon them. However, the advocates seem to
6 appreciate and approve of the merger, and I'm
7 going to defer to them. I also have concern about
8 the Providence project in Council Member Eugene's
9 district. There were a number of people who said
10 that they weren't satisfied, but I'm deferring to
11 my colleague in this and the need of the services
12 being provided.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Oddo.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: I vote no on
15 pre-considered 557 and 558 and 559, yes on all
16 others.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye
19 on all.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: I ask to explain my
22 vote please.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

24 SPEAKER QUINN: Before voting, I
25 want to make note, I didn't realize she was here,

1
2 but I want to note that today is Adira Siman's
3 last stated Council meeting. She has been the
4 counsel to our Health Committee and has done a
5 really, really terrific job. She's getting an
6 amazing opportunity to help the state move forward
7 with electronic medical records, which is a
8 really, really important thing, which, Adira,
9 never forget, we pioneered here at the Health and
10 Hospitals Corporation, which I know you know. But
11 I want to thank you because ... there you are.
12 There is a long list of things from women's health
13 to reproductive rights to green cards to funding
14 in the budget, to on and on and on and on, that
15 wouldn't be possible without your work, which was
16 incredibly detail-oriented, thorough and focused,
17 so the state's gain is really our big, big loss.
18 So if it doesn't work out with the state, you
19 always have a job back here. But thank you very,
20 very much and nothing but the best of luck, Adira.
21 What? And let me just, if I may, ask for the
22 courtesy just to call on our Health Chair for one
23 minute before I vote. Thank you.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Actually,
25 what I would like to do is defer to the former

1
2 Chair, who had an opportunity to work with Adira a
3 lot longer than I have. So Joel.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I thank you
5 very much, Madam Speaker and Madam Chair. Adira
6 has been a phenomenal voice within the Health
7 Committee for so many years. As the former Chair
8 of the Health Committee, I've had an honor to work
9 with her. She actually made me sound like I knew
10 what I was talking about, so that's a tough task.
11 So Adira, thank you very much for that. Like the
12 Speaker stated, on so many issues legislatively
13 and budgetary-wise, you know, she has been there,
14 you know, on point, you know, on every single
15 issue, and for that we commend you for your hard
16 work and for your fine work, and we are ... it is
17 our loss that you will be moving on, but we know
18 that you will continue serving the public and
19 serving us all very well. So Adira, thank you
20 very much. And Madam Chair, if you want to say a
21 few words.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Thank you,
23 I'll do that.

24 SPEAKER QUINN: And I vote aye on
25 all, and I just want to remind the clerk to go

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2 back to Council Member Fidler, who passed. And I
3 vote aye on all.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: But first,
Madam Chair.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Oh, I'm sorry, I
thought you passed, I didn't know you were- -

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COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO:
(Interposing) Oh no, no.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Okay.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: I just
wanted to give Joel an opportunity. I've had the
privilege of working with Adira now for a little
bit less than a year, and I know that he would
have wanted to say some kind words on her
departure. I am a little nervous now as Chair,
because with Adira on the job I did not have to
pay too much attention to the details, because she
was on point, always informing and supporting, and
I hope that her legacy here as counsel to this
Committee is supported by whoever we choose to
replace her, that we choose that position very,
very carefully, or I'm going to have to work a
whole lot harder as Chair. Adira, we love you,
good luck, and hopefully you'll be back among us

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2 in the future.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Madam
Chair.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Fidler.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Majority
Leader, may I be briefly excused to explain my
vote?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Thank you.
First, I vote aye on all. I do want to say that
I'm puzzled at those of my colleagues who voted no
on the pre-considered Resos. Frankly, if we did
not pass that Reso, those Resos, today, the
property tax burden for Class 1 property owners in
the City of New York would be higher. So I know
that what this Council is doing today is
exercising every bit of the power granted to us by
the state legislature to reduce taxes on Class 1
property owners, so I think that's important. On
the DJJ merger, I have my reservations, but I will
say that ... I will say that the administration has
said all of the right things, and I am going to
take them at their word. In the past, this
administration's mergers and consolidations have

1
2 been code words for service cuts. I'm hoping
3 that's not the case here, they're saying that's
4 not the case here. But we will be watching,
5 because I think this is an extraordinarily
6 important initiative, and frankly I hope they
7 really mean what they say, I hope they do, because
8 it would be really a very great step forward, and
9 I share the Chair's desire that we see the closing
10 of Spofford in our day, in our time, and in the
11 nearest future. Thank you.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
13 very much, Council Member. Let's move on to the
14 introduction and reading of the bills. Before
15 that, all items on today's general order calendar
16 were adopted by a vote of 48 in the affirmative,
17 zero in the negative, with zero abstentions, with
18 the exception of Intro 195A, which was adopted by
19 a vote of 46 in the affirmative, one in the
20 negative and one abstention, and Land Use item 246
21 and Reso 567 was adopted by a vote of 47 in the
22 affirmative and one in the negative and zero
23 abstentions, and Land Use item 247 and Reso 568,
24 which was adopted by a vote of 47 in the
25 affirmative, one in the negative and zero

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2 abstentions, and pre-considered Reso 557, 558 and
3 559, which were adopted by a vote of 40 in the
4 affirmative, eight in the negative and zero
5 abstentions. And the revised Land Use call-ups
6 were voted in with 48 in the affirmative and zero
7 in the negative. Now introduction and reading of
8 the bills.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: All bills are
10 referred to committees as indicated on the agenda.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
12 very much. Discussion of resolutions, Council
13 Member Fidler. And we'll be discussing each
14 resolution individually, so please identify which
15 Reso in particular. So Council Member Fidler.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Yes. I
17 want to urge my colleagues to support Resolution
18 411A. Last week we celebrated Veteran's Day.
19 It's a holiday that has for ... it's a holiday that
20 for too many has lost its meaning. You know, it's
21 become an excuse for sales. Reso 411A calls upon
22 NYCHA to grant a housing preference for disabled
23 veterans. That would be something tangible and
24 real to show our appreciation to those who have
25 laid their lives on the line for this country in

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2 military service. Frankly, because NYCHA is an
3 authority, we don't have the power to mandate that
4 that preference be given. They used to give it,
5 they need to give it again. That would be a
6 gesture of real, true and meaningful and tangible
7 support for our veterans, and I hope NYCHA ... I
8 hope we pass this resolution and NYCHA takes it to
9 heart and implements that preference. Thank you.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
11 very much. Next we have Council Member Williams.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank
13 you. I'm asking my colleagues to support my
14 resolution, 556, asking that the state deny a
15 waiver- -

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:
17 (Interposing) Council Member, we're actually doing
18 it individually, so at this point we're talking
19 about Resolution 411-2, and we'll be moving on to
20 the other one when we get to that.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: And we're talking
22 about resolutions upon which we're voting.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

24 SPEAKER QUINN: Not introductions.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Not

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2 introductions.

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SPEAKER QUINN: That's for later
on, Council Member.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: All
right, my bad, I hope everybody is sticking
around, though.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: We'll put
you on general discussions, we'll put you down for
general discussions, Council Member. So the next
member for 411A is Council Member Lander. No?
Okay, 414A?

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COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Right, that
one.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Any takers?
Okay, Council Member Lander.

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SPEAKER QUINN: So if we could get,
we're ... sshh. A little quiet, there's a lot of
resolutions on important topics, so we're going to
try to go one by one, these are ones we're voting
on. So if we could just get quiet for the time of
voting on ... well quiet generally, but certainly
for the time of voting on the resolutions.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Go ahead.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thanks very

1
2 much. I'd like to urge my colleagues to vote in
3 favor of Resolution 414A, calling on the United
4 States Congress to pass HR 5967, sponsored by
5 Congressman Nadler, which would enable our ports
6 to implement environmental and labor solutions to
7 some essential problems that we're facing, at a
8 time when our roads, bridges and tunnels are
9 gridlocked and overburdened, we need to look to
10 alternatives for moving freight, moving those by
11 bulk, and water is one of the greenest and most
12 efficient modes that we have, it does a lot
13 economically for the region. But we also need to
14 make sure that we have sustainable practices, so
15 that the folks living in the neighborhoods near
16 the ports aren't breathing in toxic truck fumes,
17 and so that the drivers themselves of those trucks
18 have both environmental quality and job quality.
19 We've heard in hearings on this resolution from a
20 number of truck drivers improperly classified as
21 independent contractors, making less than \$30,000
22 a year, but expected to act as though they can buy
23 new environmental trucks. This Congressional
24 legislation would go a long way to help fix that,
25 and I want to thank Chair Nelson and Speaker

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2 Quinn, Jeff Baker, Colleen Pagter and Jeff
3 Haberman, Heather Bodena and Rebecca Lynch who are
4 here, and a broad coalition for healthy ports. We
5 look forward to working with the Port Authority
6 and EDC to make our ports the greenest and most
7 productive on the East Coast. Thank you.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
9 very much. Anyone for 245-A? Council Member
10 Melissa Mark-Viverito.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
12 Thank you. I sponsor Resolution 245-A, and I
13 would ask my colleagues to support this resolution
14 which is in support of the Wage Theft Prevention
15 Act. This bill is currently in the state
16 legislature and will increase penalties on
17 employers for underpayment and nonpayment of wages
18 earned by our state workers. Unfortunately, New
19 York City is home to a number of unscrupulous
20 employers- -

21 SPEAKER QUINN: (Interposing) I'm
22 sorry, if we could get quiet for the resolutions,
23 please.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: New
25 York City is home to a number of unscrupulous

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2 employers that do not respect wage and hour laws.
3 According to recent studies by the National
4 Employment Law Project, 2/3 of New York City's
5 low-wage workers are working 60 to 70 to 80 hours
6 a week and not getting paid overtime. Altogether
7 the report estimates that New York City workers
8 lose over \$1 billion to wage theft each year, and
9 you know, during these times, you know, as workers
10 seek to hold on to their jobs in this economy,
11 they might be afraid to speak up, or not their
12 rights. This act at the state level will increase
13 the penalties associated with these practices,
14 further disincentivizing the flouting of our
15 state's labor laws by employers. And so we really
16 need to implement this, and I want to ask my
17 colleagues to support this resolution.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
19 very much. Anyone on Resolution 541? Okay,
20 Council Member Chin.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you.
22 Pre-considered Resolution 541, I co-sponsored it
23 with Speaker Quinn, and I urge my colleagues to
24 support it. This resolution calls upon the United
25 States Senate to vote and pass the James Zadroga

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2 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2009. It is
3 such a crucial time for, there's an urgency to get
4 this act passed, and I was down in Washington
5 yesterday with a group of first responders and
6 community members. I wanted to thank Council
7 Member Nelson for sending a staff along with us.
8 And it's really heartening to hear the stories of
9 the first responder who was suffering from the
10 health effects of 9/11 and from the community
11 member who is still suffering, who stayed behind
12 to rebuild the community. Over almost a thousand
13 people, first responders, have died from illness
14 because of cleaning up and working at the 9/11
15 site. So I urge my colleagues to pass this
16 resolution, and I thank Council Member Sanders and
17 his Committee for voting on this resolution, and
18 also legislative director Rob Newman for working
19 on this with us, and we just got to get everyone,
20 if all my colleagues- -

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:

22 (Interposing) Council Member.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: ... if you
24 could reach out to your friends and family members
25 who live across the country to call their senator

1
2 to make sure that we get this bill passed. Thank
3 you.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you,
5 thank you very much. Seeing any others, seeing
6 none at this point in time, we're going to be
7 voting on the resolutions. We're going to do it
8 individually. So first will be resolution 245-A,
9 an amended resolution calling on the New York
10 State legislature to reconcile and pass Assembly
11 Bill 10163 and Senate Bill 8380, and the governor
12 to sign into law and enact, to amend the labor law
13 in relation to establishing the Wage Theft
14 Prevention Act, amended and adopted by the
15 Committee on Civil Service and Labor. All in
16 favor, say aye.

17 VOICES: Aye.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All opposed
19 say nay.

20 COUNCIL PERSON: No.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Any
22 abstentions? Okay, the ayes have it.

23 SPEAKER QUINN: Just a reminder to
24 any no votes, please, if you want to be recorded
25 in the negative, you need to go up and sign with

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2 the clerk.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. So the ayes have it. Next we're going to be voting on Resolution 411-A, an amended resolution calling upon the New York City Housing Authority to include an admission preference for public housing in its next proposed agency plan for veterans who have a military service-connected disability, amended and adopted by the Committee on Public Housing. All in favor say aye.

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VOICES: Aye.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All opposed say nay.

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(No response)

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Any abstentions? Seeing none, the ayes have it. Next we'll be voting on Resolution 414-A, an amended resolution- -

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SPEAKER QUINN: (Interposing) If the record could reflect, there were in fact negative votes on that other ... abstentions, pardon me, on that other resolution.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you

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2 very much, Madam Speaker. I apologize for the
3 inaccuracy. Next we'll move on to Reso 414-A, an
4 amended resolution calling upon the United States
5 Congress to pass HR 5967, which updates the
6 Federal Motor Carrier statute in the Federal
7 Aviation Administration Authorization Act of 1994,
8 to empower America's ports to implement and
9 enforce innovative environmental solutions for
10 truck pollution, and upon the Port Authority of
11 New York and New Jersey to adopt a comprehensive
12 program modeled after the Los Angeles Clean Truck
13 program, to ensure that the ports of New York and
14 New Jersey are eligible ... are able to reach the
15 highest standards of efficiency, sustainability
16 and safety, amended and adopted by the Committee
17 on Waterfronts. All in favor say aye.

18 VOICES: Aye.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All opposed
20 say nay.

21 (No response)

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Any
23 abstentions? The ayes have it. Finally, we'll be
24 voting on Pre-considered Resolution 541, a
25 resolution calling upon the United States to vote

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2 for and pass the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and
3 Compensation Act of 2009, adopted by the Committee
4 on Civil Service and Labor. All in favor say aye.

5 VOICES: Aye.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All opposed
7 say nay.

8 (No response)

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Any
10 abstentions? The ayes have it. At this point in
11 time we'll be moving on to general discussion.
12 First we have Council Member Fidler.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: You know, a
14 few things. I mean, first I understand that some
15 of my colleagues who voted no on the pre-
16 considered resolution took exception to my
17 remarks, and I do want to indicate that I
18 understand that their vote was a protest to lower
19 taxes. I was only meant to point out, as
20 inartfully as I did, that we were doing everything
21 within the power that we have today to keep those
22 taxes down, and if they took exception, I want
23 them to know I apologize for it. Second, I want to
24 acknowledge the passing of a great community
25 leader from my neighborhood, Jeremiah, 'Jerry',

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2 O'Shea, who chaired Community Board 15 for a
3 number of years, and I believe was the founding
4 director of Brooklyn Housing and Family Services,
5 certainly served in that capacity for decades, and
6 he will be greatly missed, and his service is
7 greatly valued. And last I want to thank those of
8 my colleagues in both the city and state
9 government who joined Council Member Williams
10 across the street to speak out about what I
11 consider to be the outrageous and appalling
12 appointment of Cathie Black to be the next
13 chancellor of New York City schools. Frankly,
14 this, you know, mayoral control is one thing,
15 absolute control is one thing. But to select
16 someone in the manner in which she was selected- -

17 SPEAKER QUINN: (Interposing) If we
18 could just ... sorry, Council Member, just quiet
19 again, please. Thank you. If you could put a
20 little time back on the clock for Council Member
21 Fidler.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: To select
23 someone whose resume is so absolutely devoid of
24 educational experience, so absolutely devoid of
25 public service, to do so in a Mississippi minute,

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2 is really an insult to everyone who works on
3 behalf of the 1.1 million children in our school
4 system. The children of this city do not have the
5 time for a chancellor to get on-the-job training,
6 and it's my belief that this Council needs to
7 speak, needs to speak very loudly, and very
8 clearly, in asking the state Education Department
9 not to grant her the waiver. I also have a
10 resolution before this Council supporting
11 Assemblyman Maisel's bill, saying that the next
12 chancellor should be subject to the advice and the
13 consent of the Council, and frankly I think we
14 ought to move that, because I think it really
15 speaks to the abuse of authority that this
16 appointment represents.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
18 very much, Council Member. Next we'll move on to
19 Council Member Jackson.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you,
21 Majority Leader. My colleagues, I rise to you
22 about two particular matters. One, I support
23 Jummaane Williams' resolution calling on the State
24 Education Commissioner to deny the waiver
25 submitted by our Mayor, Mike Bloomberg, to allow

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2 Cathie Black to be the next chancellor of the City
3 of New York (sic). And I say that because there's
4 been no public vetting of her as an individual,
5 and what her qualifications are, what her visions
6 are for education, or what does she feel about the
7 current curriculum or about the current situation
8 with labor relations, nothing whatsoever. And in
9 fact, as you know, up until yesterday she's
10 basically been in hiding. And in fact you know
11 that when the reporters were asking the tough
12 questions of Mayor Bloomberg, he said there was a
13 public process for this selection, and you know in
14 fact there was no public process. So I ask you to
15 sign on to Jumaane Williams' resolution, and also
16 to Council Member Lewis Fidler's resolution in
17 which on both, I signed on to both of those. The
18 second item that I rise is because our colleague
19 Inez Dickens, who's getting ready to go to
20 Washington D.C. in support of our Congress member,
21 Charles Rangel, she is submitting, has submitted
22 an LS request basically protesting the gross
23 injustice and denial of due process to our senior
24 statesman, Congressman Charles B. Rangel, and to
25 petition the full Congress to vote down any and

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2 all punishments being handed down by the Ethics
3 Committee against our Congress member. Now some
4 of you know about him, some of you don't. But I
5 tell you as a representative and as a member of
6 the 15th Congressional district, Charley Rangel
7 stands for all of us, and he's done a great job on
8 behalf of not only the 15th Congressional district,
9 but all of the people of New York City and New
10 York State. And I ask you to sign on to our
11 colleague's resolution, which will be coming out
12 soon. Thank you very much.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
14 very much, Council Member. Next we have Council
15 Member Williams.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank
17 you. My colleagues, I'm still sitting, but I hope
18 my voice rises, to ask you to support Resolution
19 556. This is not about whether the Mayor has the
20 right to appoint whomever he wants to appoint. We
21 concede that fact. But the same law that gives
22 him that power also says that if there's
23 exceptional circumstances, he has to apply for a
24 waiver, and the fact is, there is no exceptional
25 circumstances when it comes to Cathleen Black.

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2 That's why he has to apply for a waiver, and I
3 think we should demand that he does not get that
4 waiver, because I believe he had to work really
5 hard to find someone who is the antithesis of all
6 of the things that we have been suggesting is
7 wrong with the school system. She has no
8 experience in the union and labor, she has no
9 experience in the public sector, she has no
10 advanced degree. She went to parochial schools,
11 her kids go to private schools. All of which are
12 okay, but although she has an impressive resume,
13 this is a long list of nothing when it comes to
14 what she is actually applying for. So it's not
15 one or two issues, it's five or six issues, that's
16 a package. I wish it was only the fact that she
17 had no educational experiences, but the fact of
18 the matter is, it is a package of things that are
19 wrong with her, and I don't know her from a hole
20 in the wall, but the process was terrible, there
21 was no public process. I think at bare minimum we
22 deserve the right to speak on who is going to
23 represent 1.1 million students. I am a former
24 public school baby, from pre-school to masters,
25 and I am appalled that this is what we would do.

1
2 When we looked for a leader of the NYPD or the
3 FDNY, we look at their backgrounds. We should
4 hold the 1.1 million students in New York City to
5 the same highest regard, and that was not done by
6 any means or any stretch of the imagination, and I
7 wish and hope that all of my colleagues sign on to
8 the resolution. Thank you.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
10 very much. Next we'll move on to Council Member
11 Gentile.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Thank you,
13 Mr. Majority Leader. I think everyone can agree
14 that illegally cutting a curb, i.e. illegal curb
15 cuts are a scourge in all five boroughs of this
16 city. When a person makes an illegal curb cut,
17 they violate zoning regulations, they reduce
18 available street parking spaces and they risk
19 decreasing neighborhood property values. We have
20 laws and regulations for a reason, and enforcement
21 is needed to deter the violators and remedy
22 violations. That's why my new two intros seek to
23 do just that, they're on ... they're being
24 introduced today, Intro 414, Intro 415. The first
25 bill calls for a survey of existing curb cuts, and

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2 by knowing where the cuts already exist, the DOT
3 will be better equipped to determine when a new
4 cut is made.

5 SPEAKER QUINN: Again, could we get
6 a little quiet for the Council Member, please?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Whether it
8 is illegal or legal. Thank you, Madam Speaker.
9 It also ends self-certification of curb cuts, so
10 when a permit is made, the city must verify that
11 the placement of the curb cut is in compliance
12 with applicable laws and regulations. This bill
13 also provides for community board notification of
14 applications for new curb cuts, and a second bill,
15 415, gives DOT the authority to order a property
16 owner to restore an illegal curb cut, so that when
17 a property owner fails to restore that illegal
18 curb cut, DOT can do the work at the cost of the
19 property owner who violated the regulations in the
20 first place. Those are Intros 414 and 415, I
21 invite your review of it, and your support. Thank
22 you.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
24 very much. Next we move on to Council Member
25 Lander.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thanks very
3 much, I just want to add my voice in support of
4 Council Member Williams' resolution. I'd like to
5 be inspired by Ms. Black's substantial business
6 success in the male-dominated world of magazine
7 publishing, but she's entirely unqualified for
8 this job, with no background in education, no
9 track record of public service, no involvement in
10 government and no demonstrated commitment to our
11 public schools. I think both the nomination and
12 the process are disrespectful to our educators, to
13 our kids, and to our local democracy, and I hope
14 people will sign on as well. Thank you.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
16 very much, Council Member. Next we'll move on to
17 Council Member Halloran.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN III: Thank
19 you, Mr. Majority Leader. I want to address three
20 issues that were brought up in these ... that were
21 brought up today. First, I salute Jumaane
22 Williams' efforts to call the Mayor to
23 accountability. I will of course support Council
24 Member Fidler's request to have the Council of
25 this city have review and oversight power over

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2 appointments that involve this quasi-mayoral
3 entity called the Department of Education.
4 However, we should not do as the Mayor did and
5 rush to judgment and act unilaterally, and I think
6 Cathie Black should be afforded the opportunity to
7 stand before this Council, particularly before
8 Robert Jackson, the Chair of our Education
9 Committee, and answer his questions, answer the
10 questions of his Committee, to make sure that the
11 person who is going to be at the helm of our
12 school system is someone who understands what she
13 is getting into. And I apologize to those who
14 feel that I have left the ship on not being on
15 board with the Reso, it is my sincere belief that
16 we should not judge the person until we've heard
17 from the person, and that we should have an
18 opportunity to confront her with these questions
19 before we ask the state to deny her the ability to
20 have this waiver. The second thing I'm speaking
21 to is the comments made with regards to Council
22 Member (sic) Rangel. I understand he has a long
23 and distinguished service record at Congress, I
24 understand he served his country bravely in the
25 military, but he ran as a reformer, he ran against

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2 corruption, and there is no doubt that four
3 Democrats and four Republicans found him guilty of
4 having violated rules of the House. I doubt Mr.
5 Rangel will be expelled, he will probably be
6 censured. I think the House has done its job and
7 the full Congress will vote accordingly. I think
8 it is ridiculous for us to sit here without the
9 facts in front of us and issue any form of
10 condemnation of the process he was afforded in a
11 currently Democratically-controlled Congress. And
12 finally with regards to Intro 410, I think it is
13 absurd this Council is entertaining- -

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:

15 (Interposing) Council Member.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN III: ... the
17 notion of having people who are not citizens of
18 this country vote in its elections.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
20 very much, Council Member. Council Member
21 Rodriguez.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank
23 you. I would like to speak on Reso 547, which I
24 am introducing today, calling on Governor Paterson
25 to immediately rescind the Secure Community

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2 Memorandum Agreement. We believe that by
3 maintaining your state to participate in a secure
4 community, many working people they will be
5 affected, especially many families will be
6 divided. So we call on Governor Paterson to use
7 his last day as the governor to stop unjust
8 deportations that can take place by many, big
9 numbers with Secure Communities. Also Reso 548,
10 calling on New York State Governor-elect Andrew
11 Cuomo to continue the pardon panel that also
12 helped many immigrant families. I also would like
13 to call my colleagues on joining the Introduction
14 375 that I already have introduced, and we also
15 had a hearing in the Transportation and Sanitation
16 Committee. Intro 375 calls for allowing drivers
17 to park the car after Sanitation cleans the
18 streets. All New Yorkers from all the boroughs,
19 they're expressing their view on support of this
20 Introduction, so I call to all those colleagues,
21 that if they haven't joined this Introduction, to
22 please sign in. Thank you.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
24 very much, Council Member. Next we have Council
25 Member Nelson.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Thank you.
3 Two things: one, Resolution 545, if we don't get
4 the Bayonne Bridge height issue resolved, we're
5 going to lose a lot of jobs in the metro area, and
6 there would be a tremendous loss of funds as well.
7 And so the PA really has to move ahead with this,
8 because in five years, the Panama Canal will be
9 completed and the supertankers will not be able to
10 come to this port. So New York is going to be
11 much, much poorer for it. So it's 545, sign on
12 everybody, for the good of New York City and the
13 vicinity. Secondly, I'm going to speak up also,
14 I'm going to address my friends, the Progressive
15 Caucus, being the loyal opposition here. I think
16 that Cathleen Black of the DOE would be a good
17 idea, and I'll tell you why. I served as a
18 schoolteacher for a couple of years, I was a
19 school board member as well. And I've seen
20 chancellors come and go, of all religions, colors,
21 stripes and everything. And the educational
22 system has not really seen much of a significant
23 improvement, but all indications are, when Klein
24 got there, it seems to have gotten better in terms
25 of results. And that leads me to believe that, if

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2 you have another executive and a business person,
3 and with having, being surrounded by people in the
4 educational system, of course, I think that we
5 will only continue to go up. Of course, we won't
6 know this until we get there, but I don't think we
7 should just be condemning outright and give Ms.
8 Black a chance, thank you.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Point of
10 order, it was not the Progressive Caucus pushing
11 this, we had- -

12 SPEAKER QUINN: (Interposing) Whoa,
13 whoa, whoa- -

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:
15 (Interposing) Council Member.

16 SPEAKER QUINN: You don't ... no.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: We
18 apologize.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: He mentioned the
20 Progressive Caucus, so the Progressive Caucus does
21 not exist as a member, it does not get a point of
22 order. No disrespect to it. Go ahead.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
24 very much, Madam Speaker. Next we move on to
25 Council Member Chin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. I urge my colleagues to sign on and support Intro 406, which I am introducing with Council Member Garodnick. It's a local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York in relation to low-pollen trees, because the city is going to be planting over a million trees, and there are trees that don't give off so much pollen. And for a lot of us who are allergy sufferers, so we're urging the Parks Department to really set some guidelines in terms of tree pollen, and to work towards the goal of planting more trees that give off low pollen. So I urge fellow allergy sufferers to sign on. Thank you.

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

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you. One of the bills that I'm suggesting that is introduced today and that I'm suggesting you sign on to is Intro 404. Much thanks to the many colleagues here, but more importantly to the state legislature, as of May 1st, or May 15th, we will no longer have illegal hotels in the City of New York. And this particular Intro, #404, we've been

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2 working with the Mayor's Office specifically on
3 what the fines should be, and this particular
4 piece of legislation institutes the fines if in
5 fact, after May 1st, there are illegal hotels.
6 Thank you very much.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
8 very much. Next we have Council Member
9 Greenfield.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank
11 you, Mr. Leader. Next week thousands of New
12 Yorkers will take to the skies traveling around
13 the globe to spend Thanksgiving with their loved
14 ones. This year, however, the already trying
15 Thanksgiving travel experience will be even more
16 unpleasant. Both of our city's airports, John F.
17 Kennedy and LaGuardia International airports in
18 Queens are now using advanced imaging technology,
19 aka 'naked body scanners', an intrusive method of
20 screening passengers that produces an instant
21 naked image of the passenger standing in front of
22 you. That's right, a naked image of you, your
23 spouse or even your small children. Before you
24 start saying, "Well, I'm certain this is necessary
25 for the security of passengers", I would caution

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2 that the world's foremost expert on airport
3 security, Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv, has
4 rejected this scanner as ineffective and their
5 former head of security has publicly warned that
6 he could get enough bomb-making materials through
7 this brand-new scanner to take down a jumbo jet.
8 What's more, the firm that manufactures this
9 scanner machine hired former Senator Al D'Amato's
10 lobbying firm to push through this contract, just
11 four days after last year's Christmas Day bomb
12 attempt. But the GAO has since said that they're
13 not even sure this scanner would have stopped the
14 bomber. Which is why I ask that all of my
15 colleagues who share these concerns and the
16 concerns of government trampling on our basic
17 constitutional rights of privacy join me on the
18 steps of City Hall tomorrow at noon to call for a
19 ban of these machines in New York City. Thank
20 you.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
22 very much. Council Member Rose.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you. I
24 just wanted to say to Council Member Nelson's
25 remark about this being a Progressive Caucus

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2 issue, this is not a Progressive Caucus issue, it
3 is an issue of transparency, and it is an issue of
4 having the best and the brightest hired when it
5 comes to taking care of our children and our
6 educational system. When the Mayor has been
7 confronted previously with hiring choices, he has
8 always said that he has hired the best-qualified,
9 best-prepared person, and that is not what has
10 happened in this particular instance. And the
11 fact that member Halloran spoke to having her come
12 before this body before she should have been
13 appointed, there is nothing in law that compels
14 her to do so. And so that's just wishful
15 thinking, this would never ... she would never have
16 the possibility of coming before this body to
17 discuss anything, much as the whole process was
18 flawed because there was no public information,
19 and there was no public notice, that this position
20 was even being applied for. Thank you.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
22 very much. Last but not least, Council Member
23 Dromm.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you
25 very much. I would like to say that I was a New

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2 York City public school teacher for 25 years, and
3 this time last year I was still in the classroom.
4 And I would like to say that Cathie Black would
5 not even be allowed in front of a classroom based
6 on her qualifications alone, because you need
7 student teaching credits before you can get in
8 front of a class. Then you have to have a
9 master's degree, and in order to hit the top
10 salary in the Department of Education, you need 30
11 credits above the master's. so this is a very
12 discouraging message to send to those people who
13 have strived so hard in the New York City public
14 school system to achieve those goals to educate
15 our children. In addition, the problem here is
16 really a matter of transparency, and it's a matter
17 of knowing who it is, and the public knowing who
18 it is, who is about to receive the job of
19 overseeing the education of 1.1 million school
20 children. It's a huge job with a \$20 million
21 budget, I don't know that it should just be turned
22 over without some public vetting. Thank you.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
24 very much. Speaker Quinn will have the last word.

25 SPEAKER QUINN: I just wanted to

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2 wish Mike Nelson a slightly belated happy
3 birthday.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Okay.

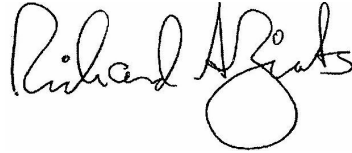
5 SPEAKER QUINN: And Al Vann, a
6 couple of days early, happy birthday as well.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Seeing no
8 others, after extension of remarks, this meeting
9 is adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Signature _____

Date December 2, 2010