

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

-----X

November 30, 2010  
Start: 2:02 pm  
Recess: 3:18 pm

HELD AT: Emigrant Savings Bank  
49-51 Chambers Street

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Christine C. Quinn  
Maria del Carmen Arroyo  
Gale A. Brewer  
Fernando Cabrera  
Margaret S. Chin  
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.  
Elizabeth S. Crowley  
Erik Martin Dilan  
Daniel Dromm  
Mathieu Eugene  
Julissa Ferreras  
Lewis A. Fidler  
Helen D. Foster

## A P P E A R A N C E S

## COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

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

Reverend Henry T. Simmons  
United Church of Christ

1  
2 SPEAKER QUINN: Council Member  
3 Melissa Mark-Viverito and Council Member Larry  
4 Seabrook, and the folks who are here from the  
5 Elmendorf Reformed Church to come up so we can  
6 celebrate their 350th anniversary.

7 [Pause]

8 SPEAKER QUINN: Or not, that's okay  
9 too. I saw Melissa. Here she comes. Council  
10 Member Seabrook, there he is.

11 [Pause]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:  
13 We're here to give a proclamation to the Elmendorf  
14 Church. With us here today we have Reverend  
15 Patricia Singletary. People should know that the  
16 reason we're doing this is that this year the  
17 Elmendorf Church celebrates its 350 years of  
18 service, obviously, to the community at large, to  
19 the City of New York. It is the oldest church in  
20 Greater Harlem, founded in the year 1660.

21 The church is very much linked with  
22 the Harlem African Burial Ground. The church has  
23 convened a task force of which we've been  
24 participating and others as well to really let  
25 people know that there is a burial ground, not

1  
2 only in Lower Manhattan but also in Upper  
3 Manhattan and that that needs to be recognized and  
4 respected.

5 This is being led by Reverend  
6 Patricia Singletary, a wonderful and effective  
7 leader who has helped to revitalize this church  
8 and set up a number of new ministries.

9 So with that, we really wanted to  
10 celebrate and give recognition to this church to  
11 really celebrate the grand history that it has in  
12 the City of New York and that it continues to work  
13 to celebrate the historical significance of the  
14 burial ground. Hopefully we will get that  
15 officially recognize through also the work that  
16 we're doing to try to get the Department of  
17 Transportation and the MTA to recognize it as  
18 well.

19 So with that, Larry Seabrook, our  
20 Councilman here would like to say a few words.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Yes. On  
22 behalf of the Inez Dickens who asked me to step in  
23 for her. This is also a historical moment that  
24 also this is the first time that a woman has  
25 actually been the leader of this church. This

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2 church has been since the 1600s.

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It was also a church that the population was far greater and different and it didn't have African Americans, but it also showed as time came about that it knocked and shattered a myth, segregation and the most segregated hour in America is Sunday morning at 11:00. But this church, during a period in the 50s saw fit to open its doors to the people who had actually began to come and to change Harlem. So she has been there.

That burial ground for those individual African burial grounds was not only at this end of the island, but it was also at the top of the island as well. So continue to do well. I send all the best and the Councilwoman sends her best as well. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER QUINN: This is jointly being done, it's something that Council Member Dickens and I put forth as well. Unfortunately, she was not able to be here but Councilman Seabrook has stood in her behalf. So thank you very much for all you do. I guess if we can ask the clerk to read the proclamation.

CLERK: Council, City of New York

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2 Proclamation. Whereas the Elmendorf Reform  
3 Church, the oldest church in the Harlem  
4 neighborhood was founded in 1660, originally  
5 called the First Church of New Harlem, its rich  
6 history is closely linked with the Harlem African  
7 Burial Ground, known then as the Negro Burial  
8 Ground in the location now marked as East 126th  
9 Street and First Avenue in Manhattan. The first  
10 church location was built on East 127th Street,  
11 one block away from the burial ground.

12 And whereas, in the 1950s, the  
13 Elmendorf Reform Church, responding to the  
14 neighborhood's changing demographics, with a  
15 waning white population and a greater influx of  
16 African Americans and Puerto Ricans chose to  
17 become racially integrated rather than close.  
18 During this period, the church began offering  
19 social services to all residents, including an  
20 after school mentorship and homework help program.

21 And whereas, Elmendorf's first  
22 African American pastor, Reverend Rafael Johnson,  
23 took leadership in the spring of 1978. Whereas,  
24 since 2002, Reverend Patricia A. Singletary, a  
25 daughter of the Village of Harlem and the first

1  
2 female pastor in the history of the church has  
3 revitalized the Elmendorf Reform Church and  
4 developed a strategic plan for embracing and  
5 empowering its community.

6           And whereas, under the leadership  
7 of Reverend Singletary, the Elmendorf Reform  
8 Church is taking a more active role in its efforts  
9 to preserve the history of the burial ground by  
10 convening the Harlem African Burial Ground Task  
11 Force, along with the Office of Council Member  
12 Melissa Mark-Viverito and other local community  
13 members and elected officials. The Harlem African  
14 Burial Ground Task Force is comprised of concerned  
15 citizens who have united to help Elmendorf restore  
16 and memorialize this sacred burial ground which  
17 holds historic and cultural significance to so  
18 many.

19           Now, therefore, be it known that  
20 the Council of the city of New York is proud to  
21 honor the Elmendorf Reform Church on the glorious  
22 occasion of its 350th anniversary. Christine C.  
23 Quinn, Speaker for the entire Council; Melissa  
24 Mark-Viverito, Council Member, 8th District,  
25 Manhattan; Inez E. Dickens, Council Member, 9th



1

2 District, Manhattan.

3 SPEAKER QUINN: Congratulations.

4 350 years is quite an accomplishment. Being the  
5 first woman reverend at that point is an even  
6 bigger accomplishment. So thank you very much for  
7 honoring us with your presence today. Thank you  
8 for all the great work you do for everyone in this  
9 city, but particularly for our brothers and  
10 sisters in Northern Manhattan. I don't know if  
11 you'd like to say a few words. All right. Well  
12 that concludes our ceremonials today. You're so  
13 special, you're the only one.

14 [Pause]

15 [Pledge of Allegiance]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Roll call.

17 [Pause]

18 CLERK: Arroyo?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

20 CLERK: Barron?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [No  
22 response].

23 CLERK: Brewer?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

25 CLERK: Cabrera?

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.  
3 CLERK: Chin?  
4 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.  
5 CLERK: Comrie?  
6 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: [No  
7 response].  
8 CLERK: Crowley?  
9 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [No  
10 response].  
11 CLERK: Dickens?  
12 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [No  
13 response].  
14 CLERK: Dilan?  
15 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Here.  
16 CLERK: Dromm?  
17 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.  
18 CLERK: Eugene?  
19 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.  
20 CLERK: Ferreras?  
21 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.  
22 CLERK: Fidler?  
23 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.  
24 CLERK: Foster?  
25 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: [No

1

2 response].

3

CLERK: Garodnick?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

5

CLERK: Gennaro?

6

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here?

7

CLERK: Gentile?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

9

CLERK: Gonzalez?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: [No

11

response].

12

CLERK: Greenfield?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I'm

14

here.

15

CLERK: Halloran?

16

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Yep.

17

CLERK: Ignizio?

18

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.

19

FEMALE VOICE: Ignizio.

20

[Laughter]

21

CLERK: Jackson?

22

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Here.

23

CLERK: James?

24

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here.

25

CLERK: Koo?

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Here.

2

3

CLERK: Koppell?

4

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.

5

CLERK: Koslowitz?

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

7

CLERK: Lander?

8

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

9

CLERK: Lappin?

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COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Here.

11

CLERK: Levin?

12

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

13

CLERK: Mark-Viverito?

14

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

15

Here.

16

CLERK: Mealy?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Here.

18

CLERK: Mendez?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

20

CLERK: Nelson?

21

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Here.

22

CLERK: Palma?

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: [No

24

response].

25

CLERK: Recchia?

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

1

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

2

3

CLERK: Oddo?

4

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Here.

5

CLERK: Rivera?

6

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Here.

7

CLERK: Speaker Quinn?

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SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

9

CLERK: We have a quorum.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: My

11

colleagues please rise for the invocation being

12

delivered today by Reverend Henry T. Simmons.

13

REVEREND HENRY T. SIMMONS: Let us

14

pray. Pray to God we come this day, thanking you

15

for all of the incredible blessings you have

16

bestowed upon us. Since we cannot do nor be what

17

we ought without your guidance and your presence,

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we ask now that you would come and grant wisdom

19

and courage and commitment and yes, even the

20

spirit of compassion, as these your public

21

servants, deliberate upon matters which are of

22

importance to your people, but most importantly,

23

that has significance for you.

24

Grant that our hearts may be led by

25

what is just and what is right and what is true so

1  
2 that what is produced this day will help bring  
3 about the more blessed community even the  
4 community that represents your will in the world.  
5 Bless our city and bless the officials who have  
6 been elected to lead it. Grant them wisdom, grant  
7 them peace and grant us all the assurance of your  
8 presence. This we humbly pray, amen.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Council  
10 Member Comrie?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I'm happy  
12 to thank Reverend Henry T. Simmons of St. Alban's  
13 Congregational Church for spreading the  
14 invocation. One of the strongest churches in  
15 southeast Queens with one of the most humble  
16 ministers who has never failed to open his doors  
17 to the community, consistently allows community  
18 events to be held in his church and whose members  
19 are some of the most active in southeast Queens.  
20 I'm proud to spread the motion for the invocation.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
22 very much. Adoption of the minutes, Council  
23 Member Lander?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I move that  
25 the minutes of the Stated Meeting of October 13th,

1

2 2010 be adopted as printed.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

4 Messages and papers from the Mayor?

5 CLERK: Preconsidered M 313

6 submitting Michael Devonshire for appointment to

7 the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

8 SPEAKER QUINN: If we could get

9 quiet please. Rules, Privileges and Elections.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.

11 Communications from City, County and Borough

12 Offices?

13 CLERK: M 314 and 315, submitting

14 the certification and swearing in of Ruben Wills,

15 Council Member, 28th District.

16 SPEAKER QUINN: Received, ordered,

17 printed and filed. If I could now ask our

18 Majority Leader, our Deputy Majority Leader and

19 our Minority Leader to welcome in our new Council

20 Member Ruben Wills. We will swear our new

21 colleague in.

22 [Applause]

23 SPEAKER QUINN: If the Council

24 Member's family would like to join us for the

25 swearing in.



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[Pause]

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CLERK: Please raise your right hand. I, Ruben Wills.

4

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: I, Ruben Wills.

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CLERK: Do solemnly swear.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Do solemnly swear.

9

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CLERK: That I will support the Constitution of the United States of America.

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12

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: That I will support the Constitution of the United States of America.

13

14

15

CLERK: And the Constitution of the State of New York.

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17

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: And the Constitution of the State of New York.

18

19

CLERK: And the Charter of the City of New York.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: And the Charter of the City of New York.

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CLERK: And that I will faithfully discharge.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: And that I

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will faithfully discharge.

CLERK: The duties of the Office  
of.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: The duties  
of the Office of.

CLERK: Council Member.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Council  
Member.

CLERK: 28th District.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: 28th  
District.

CLERK: In the Borough of Queens.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: In the  
Borough of Queens.

CLERK: In the City of New York.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: In the City  
of New York.

CLERK: According to the best of my  
ability.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: According to  
the best of my ability.

CLERK: Congratulations,  
Councilman. Good luck.

[Applause]

1  
2                   SPEAKER QUINN: Congratulations. I  
3 think I speak for all of us when I say that Tom  
4 White would be very proud. We wish you the best  
5 of luck and the greatest success for your  
6 district, for your borough and for the city. I  
7 don't know if you want to say a few words.

8                   COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Thank you  
9 very, very, very, very, very much. In my  
10 district, in District 28, we've been plagued by  
11 almost every ill that could have been imagined in  
12 the last couple of years, from the uptick in crime  
13 to foreclosures. Although today is a great day, I  
14 just want to make sure that the constituents know  
15 and everybody who's assembled here in this noble  
16 body, every colleague of mine knows that I am  
17 going to work as hard as I possibly can and then  
18 work ever harder to make sure that we deal with  
19 some of those ills.

20                   I want to thank my mother, my  
21 father, Archie Spigner. I know you told me not to  
22 name names. I'm sorry. But Councilman Comrie, my  
23 Pastor Simmons and my wife for dealing with me for  
24 the last ten years while we've been doing this  
25 community advocacy. I love you.

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[Applause]

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIS: My staff is here, everybody from Jahi Rose [phonetic] to Kwan and Lupe Todd and Leslie Patterson. They've made it possible for us to start working immediately after the election. We've had people lining up outside the campaign office, constituents. So I just want to thank them because without a good staff and without a family you really can't move forward in what you need to do.

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I want to thank the Speaker for allowing Mr. Moya to come out and run the office so we could have some representation. As you know, Council Comrie took over two districts, which was incredible. But I really thank you for giving the support to my district that we needed. Thank you so much. Thank you everybody.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Congratulations. Go take your seat.

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[Pause]

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SPEAKER QUINN: We're going to continue the meeting.

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CLERK: M 316 - M 329, base station license applications.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Transportation.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Petitions

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and communications?

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CLERK: None.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Land Use

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call-ups?

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CLERK: M 330 - M 332, unenclosed

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sidewalk cafes.

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SPEAKER QUINN: If we could please

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couple those all on a Land Use call-up vote and if

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we could get a roll call on the Land Use Call-ups

13

please.

14

CLERK: Arroyo?

15

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

16

CLERK: Brewer?

17

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

18

CLERK: Cabrera?

19

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

20

CLERK: Chin?

21

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

22

CLERK: Comrie?

23

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

24

CLERK: Crowley?

25

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [No

1

2 response].

3

CLERK: Dickens?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [No

5

response].

6

CLERK: Dilan?

7

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.

8

CLERK: Dromm?

9

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

10

CLERK: Eugene?

11

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

12

CLERK: Ferreras?

13

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

14

CLERK: Fidler?

15

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Yes.

16

CLERK: Foster?

17

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: [No

18

response].

19

CLERK: Garodnick?

20

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

21

CLERK: Gennaro?

22

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: [No

23

response].

24

CLERK: Gentile?

25

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

1

CLERK: Greenfield?

2

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I vote

3

aye.

4

CLERK: Halloran?

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COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Aye.

6

CLERK: Ignizio?

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes. I

8

ask unanimous consent to vote on all orders on

9

today's calendar due to as you've seen the little

10

one running around, if I may.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

12

I vote aye.

13

CLERK: Jackson?

14

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on

15

all.

16

CLERK: James?

17

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye.

18

CLERK: Koo?

19

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

20

CLERK: Koppell?

21

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

22

CLERK: Koslowitz?

23

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

24

CLERK: Lander?

25

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COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I vote aye.

3

And although I don't have as good an excuse as

4

Council Member Ignizio, I request permission to

5

vote aye on all items on today's Land Use Call-ups

6

and General Order Calendar.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you.

9

CLERK: Lappin?

10

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

11

CLERK: Levin?

12

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

13

CLERK: Mark-Viverito?

14

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye

15

on all.

16

CLERK: Mealy?

17

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

18

CLERK: Mendez?

19

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

20

CLERK: Nelson?

21

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.

22

CLERK: Recchia?

23

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.

24

CLERK: Reyna?

25

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.



1

CLERK: Rodriguez?

2

3

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I vote  
aye on Land Use Call-ups and with permission would  
like to vote on the coupled General Orders.

4

5

6

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

8

CLERK: Rose?

9

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

10

CLERK: Sanders?

11

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye.

12

CLERK: Seabrook?

13

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Aye.

14

CLERK: Ulrich?

15

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

16

CLERK: Vacca?

17

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

18

CLERK: Vallone?

19

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

20

CLERK: Van Bramer?

21

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

22

CLERK: Vann?

23

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

24

CLERK: Weprin?

25

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

1

CLERK: Williams?

2

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

3

CLERK: Wills?

4

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: No, I say

5

abstain. Okay, aye.

6

CLERK: Oddo?

7

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

8

CLERK: Rivera?

9

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

10

CLERK: Speaker Quinn?

11

SPEAKER QUINN: Aye.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Today's

13

Land Use Call-ups were adopted by a vote of 44 in  
the affirmative, zero in the negative.

14

15

Communication from the Speaker?

16

SPEAKER QUINN: Just before they

17

leave, I want to recognize some of the honored  
guests we've had here today. No disrespect to the  
others but we had Vinny Ignizio's daughter with  
us. So we want to give her a big hello and thank  
her for coming.

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21

22

[Applause]

23

SPEAKER QUINN: Also, former

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council member Archie Spigner, I want to thank him

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for being with us here today as well.

[Applause]

SPEAKER QUINN: And Vinny's wife was here? Okay, and Mrs. Ignizio, the whole Ignizio Family. Thank them both for being here.

Today, we are voting on two pieces of legislation, the first Intro 256-A, a piece of legislation that was introduced by the chair of our Small Business Committee, Council Member Reyna, and passed out of her committee. I want to thank Kris Sartori, Jeff Baker and Terzah Nasser for their work on this bill. 256-A will add transparency to the City's Economic Development projects.

When we, through our action, or the work of the Economic Development Corporation, or other city agencies, when we put in place economic development projects, when we give them subsidies or other city support, we do that because we believe they will create jobs. We want to make sure that the public and the Council and others can go back and check and see exactly what came of each of these projects for the entire life of that project, not for set, finite periods of time.

1  
2                   So I want to thank Council Member  
3 Reyna for 256-A which greatly expands and  
4 strengthens the transparency and reporting as it  
5 relates to the city's economic development  
6 projects. This is going to go a long way to make  
7 sure we are getting our economic development work  
8 right. I want to thank her for her work and call  
9 on the chair and the sponsor to speak, Council  
10 Member Reyna.

11                   COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Thank you  
12 very much, Madame Chair. I just want to thank you  
13 for your leadership in making this possible. This  
14 is the last piece of legislation transforming what  
15 was Local Law 64 then Local Law 48 and Local Law  
16 256-A where now we can finally see some open and  
17 transparent information holding accountable the  
18 city as well as the businesses that are receiving  
19 benefits as they're being issued by the city so  
20 that we can monitor where the jobs are being  
21 created, as was stated, when contracts are being  
22 signed off.

23                   This is a great opportunity for the  
24 city to really take a closer look whether or not  
25 these benefits are creating a culture of creating

1  
2 new jobs and creating an atmosphere where  
3 businesses want to come into the City of New York  
4 and welcome an expansion of new businesses to come  
5 into New York.

6 I want to thank, again, Jeff, Kris  
7 and Matt, all the staff of the Infrastructure  
8 Division who were instrumental in helping us with  
9 this and of course Bettina from Jobs for Justice  
10 who has been an instrumental advocate on this  
11 particular legislation for far too long advocating  
12 and going nowhere and finally we were able to pass  
13 this.

14 And of course my staff, Eric who is  
15 no longer with us, he's at the Department of  
16 Consumer Affairs. I'm looking forward to working  
17 with him, but he was the legislative director in  
18 my office who helped us make sure that this was  
19 finally introduced and making sure that we passed  
20 this piece of legislation. And Peter Poitier  
21 [phonetic] who is my new legislative assistant in  
22 the office who has been making sure that we did  
23 not fall short of this legislation. Thank you  
24 again, and I urge my colleagues to vote yes.

25 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very

1  
2 much. I want to next talk about Intro 376-A.  
3 It's a piece of legislation that was introduced by  
4 the chair of our Transportation Committee and  
5 sponsored by the chair. 376-A creates the  
6 requirement that the Department of Transportation  
7 develop guidelines for the approval and  
8 installation of traffic calming devices and that  
9 those guidelines be posted on the internet.

10 This way, people in communities  
11 throughout the city, elected officials will know  
12 what triggers the Department of Transportation  
13 installing a traffic calming device. They'll know  
14 which type of traffic calming devices deal with  
15 particular problems or situations on different  
16 blocks.

17 Now there's a lot of confusion.  
18 There's no clarity on why one block would get a  
19 speed hump and another block would get a bike lane  
20 or why one wouldn't get a speed hump or get a bike  
21 lane. We want to make sure people understand the  
22 rules, that the Department of Transportation has  
23 given their process thought and deliberative input  
24 and that it is accessible to the public.

25 In addition to thanking the chair I

1  
2 want to thank Phil Hom, Terzah Nasser and Nivardo  
3 Lopez who worked on this bill and call on Council  
4 Member Vacca.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Thank you,  
6 Madame Speaker. This bill revolves around the  
7 issue of pedestrian safety. How do we make our  
8 streets safer for pedestrians? My committee has  
9 done much work and research on this issue.

10 Part of making our streets safer  
11 for pedestrians is the realization that whether a  
12 pedestrian is right or wrong, in reality the  
13 pedestrian is always right. They're right because  
14 their safety has to be paramount as we start to  
15 formulate policy.

16 In this regard, I have to let you  
17 know that my legislation for the first time will  
18 require DOT to tell us under what circumstances do  
19 they put up a median island, when do they use bike  
20 paths as a traffic calming device, what are the  
21 guidelines for speed bumps or four-way stop signs  
22 or traffic lights?

23 These issues resonate in  
24 communities throughout our city because people,  
25 community boards and even Council people don't

1

2 understand the impact that many of these measures  
3 have, or why is one measure better than another on  
4 someone's block or thoroughfare? So this  
5 legislation really gets the DOT to come out and  
6 tell us what their guidelines are. Because how  
7 can people be empowered to advocate for their own  
8 neighborhoods unless they know the parameters that  
9 their advocacy should take.

10

I hope this is a first step. I  
11 hope that we can do more for pedestrian safety.  
12 I'm very committed to this issue. Motorists,  
13 bicyclists, and everyone who drives in reality  
14 doesn't understand they're often going too fast.  
15 If they're going too fast, they become part of the  
16 problem rather than part of the solution. By  
17 empowering neighborhoods with this information,  
18 we're starting an important process. I urge my  
19 colleagues to vote.

20

I add to the Speaker, thanks to my  
21 staff: Jeff Lynch and Bret Collazzi who worked  
22 very hard on this. I think that we will be doing  
23 more and I hope we will. I thank the Speaker for  
24 her support. Thank you.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very



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much. I just want to make mention of an item that we are not voting on today but relates to a Resolution that we had passed in the past. The Resolution we had passed urging the State Legislature to pass a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing. The State Senate had done it last night. In the early morning hours the State Assembly has done that. Now the legislation heads to Governor Paterson's desk to hopefully be signed.

But I wanted to thank the chair of our Environmental Protection Committee Jim Gennaro for his work and call on Jim to say a few words about the importance of the moratorium against hydraulic fracturing.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you, Madame Speaker. I think the most important thing I could say is thank you Madame Speaker for your leadership and my colleagues. This was the body that really took up this issue with great passion. We made our case very strongly and we got Governor Paterson to hear just a little bit. He gave us a couple of concessions. Then we got the Senate to listen and we finally got the State Assembly to

1  
2 pass this bill. A first in the nation bill and  
3 this is really, really significant that we're  
4 going to have this here in New York State.

5           This is kind of a pun, but this is  
6 a watershed moment for the gas industry. They  
7 bumped into the biggest water supply in the  
8 country and I think this will ultimately lead to  
9 very, very good things for the nation as a whole  
10 because this is an activity that's not regulated  
11 at all by the federal government and it certainly  
12 needs to be. In the absence of federal leadership  
13 then states have to stand up. New York is  
14 standing tall today.

15           Certainly we'll be talking to the  
16 governor to urge him to sign it, and talk to the  
17 incoming Cuomo administration to make sure that  
18 they continue the approach of looking at the  
19 science and making decisions based on that while  
20 also prodding the federal government to do what  
21 they need to do and give some badly needed  
22 regulation to this out of control fracking.

23           I'll end where I started, Madame  
24 Speaker, by thanking you for your leadership and  
25 all my colleagues to bring us to this very, very

1

2 good day. Thank you.

3

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
5 much, Chair Gennaro. Finally, I want to call on  
6 our colleague, Council Member Oliver Koppell.  
7 Oliver's comments will make of the passing of  
8 former Congress Member Stephen Solarz.

8

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Thank you,  
10 Madame Speaker. I regret that I have to stand  
11 today to pay tribute to my very good friend,  
12 Congressman Steve Solarz, who passed away  
13 yesterday. Congressman Solarz was a great  
14 American, a great representative I might say of  
15 the Borough of Brooklyn and someone who made a  
16 real difference in our country's history.

16

17 Steve Solarz played an important  
18 behind the scenes role in many ways. He was an  
19 outstanding representative of his district. I can  
20 talk a little bit about that because I served for  
21 four years with him in Albany in the State  
22 Assembly. But his real mark was as a member of  
23 the Congress and particularly as a member of the  
24 Foreign Affairs Committee of the House.

24

25 Steve had on his mantelpiece or has  
on his mantelpiece I should say, a plaque that was

1  
2 given to him by Corazon Aquino in the Philippines.  
3 On the plaque it is written, "To Steve Solarz, the  
4 Marquis de Lafayette of the Philippines." He  
5 played a very critical role.

6           If you read the obituaries that  
7 I've been reading on the internet, they'll be in  
8 the papers tomorrow, you'll see that he turned the  
9 United States against Ferdinand Marcos and the  
10 corrupt regime of Marcos and he did a heck of a  
11 lot more than displaying Imelda Marcos' 3,000  
12 pairs of shoes. He got that country to turn to  
13 democracy. The son, I believe, of Corazon Aquino  
14 now serves as president of the Philippines.

15           He played a critical role in the  
16 peace treaty that ended the bloodshed in Cambodia.  
17 He played a very important role in preserving  
18 democracy in Korea. He was well known throughout  
19 the world for his acute appreciation of the needs  
20 of other countries.

21           In fact, one of the papers  
22 mentioned that he acted in a way as a secret  
23 secretary of state. I regret very much that he  
24 never achieved the full title of state secretary.  
25 He would have been a great one.

1  
2 I might also mention, on a very  
3 personal note, that Steve Solarz was the best  
4 friend that a person could have. Only about six  
5 months ago, he gathered together a bunch of his  
6 friends in New York and they came from every  
7 station in life, all came together. We didn't  
8 know at that time that this was sort of a farewell  
9 party.

10 I can only say that no one has a  
11 better friend that Steve Solarz was to the many  
12 people who he helped and cared about. He will be  
13 greatly missed. He played an important role in  
14 our country. We can be proud that he represented  
15 New York City, New York State and Brooklyn as we  
16 pay tribute to him today. Thank you, Madame  
17 Speaker.

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Council  
19 Member Koppell. That concludes communications  
20 from the Speaker.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
22 very much, Madame Speaker. Next we move on to  
23 discussion of general orders. Seeing none, at  
24 this point in time we'll move on to reports of  
25 special committees.

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CLERK: None.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Reports of standing committees.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land Use, LU 175 and Reso 590 and 176 and Reso 591, various UDAAPs.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections, Preconsidered M 313 and Reso 592, approving the appointment of Michael Devonshire, Landmarks Preservation Commission.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Small Business, Intro 256-A, reporting on economic development projects.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on general orders.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Transportation, Intro 376-A, traffic calming devices.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled

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2 on general orders.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: The general  
order calendar?

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CLERK: Resolution appointing  
various persons Commissioner of Deeds.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general  
orders and at this time I'd like to ask for a roll  
call on all items that have been coupled on the  
general order calendar please.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

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CLERK: Arroyo?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

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CLERK: Brewer?

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

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CLERK: Cabrera?

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COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

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CLERK: Chin?

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COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

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CLERK: Comrie?

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

22

CLERK: Crowley?

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COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

24

CLERK: Dilan?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.

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CLERK: Dromm?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

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CLERK: Eugene?

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COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

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CLERK: Ferreras?

6

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

7

CLERK: Fidler?

8

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

9

CLERK: Foster?

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COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Yes, I'd

11

like to vote aye and be allowed to vote on the

12

Land Use Call-ups.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye on all.

15

Thank you.

16

CLERK: Garodnick?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank

18

you. Aye.

19

CLERK: Gennaro?

20

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I'd like

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to vote aye and also wish to vote yes on all the

22

Land Use items.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you.

25



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2 CLERK: Gentile?  
3 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.  
4 CLERK: Greenfield?  
5 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.  
6 CLERK: Halloran?  
7 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Aye.  
8 CLERK: Jackson?  
9 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye.  
10 CLERK: James?  
11 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye.  
12 CLERK: Koo?  
13 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.  
14 CLERK: Koppell?  
15 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.  
16 CLERK: Koslowitz?  
17 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.  
18 CLERK: Lappin?  
19 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.  
20 CLERK: Levin?  
21 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.  
22 CLERK: Mark-Viverito?  
23 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.  
24 CLERK: Mealy?  
25 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

1  
2 CLERK: Mendez?  
3 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.  
4 CLERK: Nelson?  
5 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.  
6 CLERK: Recchia?  
7 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.  
8 CLERK: Reyna?  
9 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.  
10 CLERK: Rose?  
11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.  
12 CLERK: Sanders?  
13 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye.  
14 CLERK: Seabrook?  
15 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Aye.  
16 CLERK: Ulrich?  
17 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.  
18 CLERK: Vacca?  
19 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.  
20 CLERK: Vallone?  
21 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.  
22 CLERK: Van Bramer?  
23 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.  
24 CLERK: Vann?  
25 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

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CLERK: Weprin?

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

3

CLERK: Williams?

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I know

5

we're voting on an appointment for Landmarks. Let  
the record show I vote aye on all.

6

7

CLERK: Wills?

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Abstain.

9

CLERK: Oddo?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

11

CLERK: Rivera?

12

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

13

CLERK: Speaker Quinn?

14

SPEAKER QUINN: Having noted

15

Council Member Williams aye vote, I vote aye on  
all.

16

17

[Pause]

18

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All items

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in today's general order calendar were adopted by

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a vote of 46 in the affirmative with zero in the

21

negative and one abstention. The revised Land Use

22

Call-ups were adopted by a vote of 47 in the

23

affirmative and zero in the negative.

24

Introduction and reading of the bills?

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1  
2                   SPEAKER QUINN: All bills are  
3 referred to the committees as indicated on the  
4 agenda please.

5                   COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Discussion  
6 of resolutions? Seeing that there are no  
7 resolutions, we'll move on to general discussion.  
8 Council Member Robert Jackson? We will now move  
9 on to the Council Member Dan Garodnick.

10                  COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank  
11 you very much. I want to direct my colleagues to  
12 Intro 431. You may have glazed over it. It's a  
13 rather dry subject, on the subject of requiring  
14 DoITT to publish an annual public data directory.

15                  The reason why I want you to focus  
16 is that the New York City Charter requires the  
17 publication of an annual public data directory.  
18 But the commission that is charged with that  
19 responsibility lost its funding in the early 90s  
20 and as a result the most recent data directory for  
21 New York City information was published way back  
22 in 1993.

23                  So what is a public data directory?  
24 Basically, it is a comprehensive list of all of  
25 the information required by law to be publicly

1  
2 accessible. Given that the public has a right to  
3 know the breadth of computerized information  
4 produced and maintained by our city agencies, as  
5 well as a right to access that information, this  
6 bill, Intro 431, would require the Department of  
7 Information Technology and Telecommunications,  
8 which is the right agency to do this, to publish  
9 that data directory online.

10 In addition, it would include  
11 descriptions of its contents along with contact  
12 information the agency that maintains the content.  
13 Along with the open data bill that Council Member  
14 Brewer introduced earlier this year, this bill  
15 will go a long way in increasing government  
16 transparency.

17 I want to thank you Citizens Union  
18 for working with me on this legislation. I  
19 encourage you to join me in signing on to Intro  
20 431. Thank you.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
22 very much. Next we have Council Member Nelson.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Thank you.  
24 We would be remiss if we didn't really give thanks  
25 to some of the guys and gals, the guys in this

1  
2 case with the greatest personalities from  
3 legislative documents. I'm talking Jonathan,  
4 Vinny, Matt, Kevin and Billy. These guys, they  
5 index the Stated Meetings for the website. They  
6 do such a great job with little notice. If any of  
7 my colleagues them to be the most affable and  
8 personable people, I'd be really shocked. Thank  
9 you guys very much.

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

12 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you.  
13 My colleagues, I rise to just touch base with you  
14 on two matters. One: today, I don't know if you  
15 read in the "New York Times" and other papers  
16 about some of the largest construction companies  
17 in the country, especially in New York, have been  
18 allegedly cheating and shamming the government out  
19 of millions of dollars in contracts for minority  
20 and women owned businesses.

21 In fact, one company is supposedly  
22 on the verge of settling with the federal  
23 government to the tune of over \$20 million in  
24 order to maintain certain internal reforms it has  
25 put in place. So in the paper it lists Schiavone

1  
2 as one company. It lists the government is  
3 focusing on Shanska USA, Civic Northeast, a  
4 subsidiary of Shanska USA and there are other  
5 companies also.

6 Basically, when these companies are  
7 supposed to have contracts for the Croton Water  
8 Treatment and the Fulton MTA project, certain  
9 percentages have to go to minority and women-owned  
10 businesses. Basically, what the report indicates  
11 is they've been shamming the government, basically  
12 cheating the government by not hiring women and  
13 minority owned businesses. So we just need to pay  
14 close attention to that.

15 Finally, the whole situation with  
16 the Chancellor-elect Cathie Black, it seems as  
17 though from a state commissioner's point of view,  
18 the process is over, absent of any lawsuits that  
19 may be filed. I'm looking to try to work with her  
20 as the new chancellor-elect coming in. Mainly,  
21 the focus should be not on her now but the  
22 children of New York City and what their needs  
23 are.

24 In these tough economic times, when  
25 the state is facing a \$9 billion deficit, and the

1  
2 city is facing approximately \$2.5 to \$3 billion  
3 deficit, we all are going to have to work together  
4 to ensure that our children receive a quality  
5 education. Thank you.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
7 very much. Next we'll move on to Council Member  
8 Vann.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Thank you,  
10 Majority Leader. I'd like to call on my  
11 colleagues to sign on to Resolution 589, which  
12 calls upon the U.S. Department of Health and Human  
13 Services to fully fund the Ryan White HIV/AIDS  
14 program in our city and across the nation.

15 This is necessary in order to  
16 restore funds to the state's Ryan White Part B  
17 grant. This program allows provider and care  
18 networks to work in partnership to combat the  
19 HIV/AIDS epidemic.

20 Now despite international progress  
21 and a decline in the number of AIDS cases reported  
22 by the United Nations last week, New York City  
23 remains the epicenter of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in  
24 these United States. There are over 100,000  
25 infected individuals in New York City. Due to



1  
2 substantial cuts in the state's Ryan White program  
3 funding, the contracts that fund our regional HIV  
4 care networks will end on December 31st of this  
5 year.

6                   Now, these HIV care networks play a  
7 critical role in reducing the epidemic and  
8 improving treatment for clients. These networks  
9 serve informational forums across the state for  
10 several thousands AIDS organizations, faith-based  
11 organizations and medical institutions. Until  
12 full funding to the Ryan White is achieved, we  
13 must remain vigilant here in New York City where  
14 HIV remains an extraordinary problem and we must  
15 continue to demand a collaborative and strategic  
16 reduction plan which these HIV care networks  
17 provide.

18                   On the eve of World AIDS Day..

19                   [Pause]

20                   COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: We are joined  
21 here in the Chamber by various AIDS service  
22 organizations from across the city, included  
23 Watchful Eye, After Hours Project, Kings County  
24 Hospital HIV Care Network and others. These  
25 groups are each funded by the Council's own New

1  
2 York City Communities of Color Faith Initiative,  
3 which we established in 2004.

4 Finally, recognizing World AIDS Day  
5 and in support of the Resolution 589, they will be  
6 here, they will talk to you because they are in  
7 full support of this and they want to continue to  
8 serve the individuals and families affected by  
9 this disease. Thank you.

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

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Just to  
13 mention that next Monday we're having another  
14 hearing in Governmental Operations regarding the  
15 Board of Elections, positive perhaps more than the  
16 last one. We will listen to what their issues are  
17 and be supportive and challenge when there are  
18 still follow-up to be done.

19 So I just want people to know about  
20 it. Sometimes you have people who would like to  
21 testify in your neighborhoods or district leaders  
22 who would like to participate and who know a lot  
23 about the topic. Thank you very much.

24 We're going to miss Matt Gewolb,  
25 attorney for the Governmental Operations who is

1  
2 going on to work at Columbia University. We will  
3 miss him very much. Thank you.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
5 very much. Council Member Koppell?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Thank you,  
7 Mr. Majority Leader. I'd like to invite  
8 colleagues to co-sponsor Introduction 433 which  
9 would require that new taxicabs be accessible to  
10 the disabled. This is something that many members  
11 of the Council have advocated for many years.  
12 There is a very important moment coming up and  
13 that is that the Taxi Commission is going to  
14 choose a particular design for the taxi of the  
15 future. That's decision is going to be made  
16 within the next few months.

17 We're having a hearing with the  
18 Transportation Committee chaired by Council Member  
19 Vacca to discuss the current bids. Unfortunately,  
20 only one of the current bids is for a fully  
21 accessible cab. I think that if a number of us  
22 join in sponsoring this bill, it will indicate to  
23 the administration that many members, I hope all  
24 members but that at least many members of this  
25 house support the fact or the development of an

1  
2 accessible cab. Making these cabs accessible to  
3 the disabled grants a real civil right to an  
4 important element of our constituency.

5 Many years ago we required that all  
6 buses be accessible. People objected then, it was  
7 too expensive. But now I don't think anybody  
8 would want to go back on that. We required that  
9 subway stations become accessible and slowing  
10 that's happening. Our taxi cabs should be  
11 accessible.

12 In London, every taxi cab is  
13 accessible. In Chicago, I believe all cabs; I  
14 know many cabs are accessible. New York should  
15 not be lagging behind. Right now, out of over  
16 20,000 cabs, we only have a couple hundred of  
17 accessible cabs. That is not granting an  
18 important right to the disabled in our community  
19 and others who require accessibility in order to  
20 get around.

21 So I hope you'll join me in 433. I  
22 look forward to moving with this as we consider  
23 the taxi of the future.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
25 very much. Council Member Levin.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you  
3 very much. I would like to call my colleagues'  
4 attention to two bills that I am introducing  
5 today, Intros 434 and 435. Taken together, these  
6 bills will restructure the penalty system for  
7 street vendors and will align fines with the  
8 penalties for other businesses throughout the city  
9 of New York.

10 Vendors are fined exorbitant rates  
11 for minor infractions, such as vending more than  
12 18 inches from the curb, for example. The vending  
13 code is the only penalty schedule in which fines  
14 are increased for unrelated offenses. Increasing  
15 vendor fines for unrelated violations is the  
16 equivalent of getting a more expensive parking  
17 ticket because you have a prior speeding ticket.

18 These two bills are simply about  
19 creating a penalty schedule that is equitable and  
20 aligned with other fine structures in the city of  
21 New York. I hope you will join me in supporting  
22 Intros 434 and 435. Thank you.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
24 very much, Council Member Comrie.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I'm sorry,

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2 Mr. Chair. I just wanted to rise today to welcome  
3 our new Council Member, Council Member Ruben Wills  
4 out of the 28th Council District. I just wanted  
5 to take the opportunity to say that in this  
6 chamber, he's been in this chamber many times in  
7 many different venues on many different causes.  
8 He is not a stranger to the problems that face  
9 Council Members or problems that face the  
10 community.

11 I just want to welcome him to this  
12 chamber in his official capacity. I'm going to  
13 say a lot more about him at his installation in  
14 the district on December 11th. I just wanted to  
15 take this opportunity to officially thank Council  
16 Member Ruben Wills and all of those that worked  
17 with me to help get him elected. Thank you.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
19 very much, Council Member Williams.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I'm sorry.  
21 There is going to be a reception for members and  
22 his family in the back after Stated.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
24 very much, Council Member Williams.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank

1  
2 you. I just wanted to make a few comments on the  
3 Cathie Black issue. I'd like to say I believe her  
4 appointment begins on January 1st. At that point  
5 I'm going to ask everyone to help support her to  
6 make sure our kids get the best service they can.

7           Until then, I'm hoping to join in  
8 any legal proceedings that will prevent the  
9 appointment from happening. This is the first  
10 time that I know of that someone was granted a  
11 waiver based on someone else's qualifications.  
12 Like was mentioned, I believe by Assembly Member  
13 Barron, that's like giving a driver's license to  
14 someone who's in the passenger seat.

15           I would ask the Mayor and the  
16 supporters would they appoint someone with such  
17 great managerial experiences to run the NYPD or  
18 the FDNY. They probably wouldn't because they're  
19 not suited for it. So I think the 1.1 million  
20 children in New York City school systems and the  
21 tens of thousands in my district deserve to be  
22 held in the same highest regard. Thank you.

23           COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
24 very much, Council Member James.

25           COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: I would like

1  
2 to bring my colleagues' attention to Intro 432.  
3 It's a bill which would establish that a private  
4 employer must provide paid family leave to an  
5 employer who is eligible to take unpaid leave  
6 pursuant to the Family and Medical Leave Act to  
7 care for persons covered by the law.

8 In addition, I would ask my  
9 colleagues to join on to Reso 582, calling upon  
10 the MTA to unlock doors between the cars in the  
11 New York City subway trains while they are in use.

12 I'd also like to congratulate my  
13 colleague, Council Member Mendez, on Intro 436,  
14 which would alter the Safe Housing Act to include  
15 mold and vermin violations which trigger asthma  
16 and require such violations to be addressed in a  
17 particular manner.

18 Last but not least, I urge all of  
19 you, I invite all of you to an event in Brooklyn  
20 at the Brooklyn Marriott on December 16th called  
21 Dancing with the Stars where I will be dancing in  
22 competition against Reverend Al Sharpton, Bill de  
23 Blasio, Colvin Grannum, and the list goes on and  
24 on. We are raising money for childcare centers in  
25 the Borough of Brooklyn. Please come and get your



1  
2 ticket and watch us dance. I know that I will  
3 win. Thank you.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
5 very much, Council Member James. Council Member  
6 Halloran?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Again,  
8 I'd like to point out an introduction that I'm  
9 making today of Reso 581. There is not a lot of  
10 pomp and circumstance to this Resolution.  
11 However, in the course of hearings that we've had  
12 where we've discussed the state of our young  
13 people who were incarcerated and a  
14 disproportionately large group of those young  
15 people are people of color, we find that the state  
16 has not been responsive to the needs of the city  
17 of New York.

18 There is a bill right now in the  
19 state to allow us to reduce the amount of time  
20 between notification of an impending closing of a  
21 state-run correction facility for juveniles. That  
22 number needs to be brought down to a reasonable  
23 and manageable amount of time so that the money  
24 doesn't come out of the city coffers to pay people  
25 to sit and do nothing and supervise no one upstate

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2 when we know that alternatives to incarceration  
3 programs have a much more profound effect, are far  
4 more likely to result in rehabilitating a child  
5 and that the prison system upstate is not doing  
6 what it needs to do.

7           So I'd ask all of my colleagues to  
8 join in a very boring resolution, Resolution 581  
9 that will have profound effects on the state of  
10 our young people and the criminal justice system  
11 which I've worked as both a prosecutor and a  
12 defense attorney. Thank you.

13           COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
14 very much, Council Member Greenfield.

15           COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank  
16 you, Mr. Leader. This Wednesday evening, Jews  
17 from around the world will begin celebrating the  
18 eight-night festival of Hanukkah. Hanukkah  
19 celebrates the victories of the Jews over the  
20 ruler Antiochus IV, also known as Antiochus the  
21 Mad Man, over 2,100 years ago.

22           When Antiochus rose to power over  
23 the Seleucid Empire, which included the Middle  
24 East, he effectively outlawed Judaism by banning  
25 circumcision and ordering that pigs be sacrificed

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2 on the Jewish temple's altar in Jerusalem.

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We celebrate this over 2,000 year old victory because it was a momentous victory of religious freedom of religious persecution.

Religious persecution is sadly woven throughout the history of the Jewish people. That is why so many of us Jews are thankful for the protections afforded to us by the United States of America, particularly our constitutionally protected right to practice our religion freely.

That brings me to a disturbing event that took place last Friday night. At approximately 6:00 p.m., a rabbi in Midwood was returning home from praying at a synagogue. The rabbi was crossing Kings Highway, a commercial street off of East 14th Street when he got stuck in the middle of the street while crossing because the traffic light had changed.

As a result, the rabbi was immediately stopped by a police officer, who demanded his ID so that he could issue him a summons for jaywalking. At this point, the rabbi explained that because it was the Jewish Sabbath, which begins after sundown on Friday, he was no

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2 longer carrying his driver's license because  
3 Sabbath-observant Jews are not allowed to carry  
4 items on the Sabbath. However, the rabbi offered  
5 to walk a few hundred feet with the officers to  
6 his home where they could retrieve the driver's  
7 license and the officers refused.

8           Instead, the officers insisted that  
9 the rabbi write down his name and address on a  
10 piece of paper. The rabbi calmly explained that  
11 religious law prevented him from writing anything  
12 down on his Sabbath and offered to verbally give  
13 the officers his name and address information or  
14 to walk the few feet to his home where the officer  
15 could review his ID.

16           The officer, who works in a  
17 precinct that represents a significant majority of  
18 Orthodox Jews, threatened to arrest the rabbi for  
19 jaywalking unless he violated the Sabbath by  
20 writing down the information. The rabbi, fearing  
21 for his safety and concern that he would be unable  
22 to contact his family if he were put under arrest,  
23 acceded to the officer's outlandish demands and  
24 violated the Sabbath.

25           What does this have to do with

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2 Hanukkah? Everything.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Council

4 Member?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I will  
6 wrap up. Our Founding Fathers guaranteed us an  
7 inalienable right, including the right to practice  
8 our religion free from persecution. I'm calling  
9 today on the NYPD, who I'm a big fan of and I  
10 appreciate the hard work of the 35,000 brave men  
11 and women who serve this city.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Council

13 Member?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I'm  
15 calling on them to hold these officers fully  
16 accountable for this shocking breach of a New  
17 Yorker's civil rights. Thank you very much.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
19 very much. Are there any others? Council Member  
20 Koslowitz?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I just  
22 want to add my name to the remarks of Council  
23 Member Greenfield. I found it outrageous what  
24 happened on Friday night to defy this man of his  
25 rights. So I'd like to add my name to his

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remarks.

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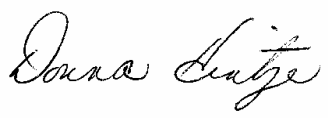
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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you very much. Any other members to speak? Seeing none, that ends today's meeting. Just as a reminder, we do have a reception in the back for our new colleague, Council Member Wills. Please join us. At this point in time, the meeting is adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Donna Hintze 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 27, 2010