

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

1

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL  
STATED MEETING

----- X

Tuesday, April 11, 2023

Start: 2:13 P. M.

Recess: 3:31 P. M.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Adrienne E. Adams, Speaker

The Majority Leader, Council  
Member Keith Powers, presiding as  
the President Pro Tempore

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Shaun Abreu  
Joann Ariola  
Alexa Avilés  
Diana I. Ayala  
Charles Barron  
Joseph C. Borelli  
Erik D. Bottcher  
Justin L. Brannan  
Gale A. Brewer  
Selvena N. Brooks-Powers  
Tiffany Cabán  
David M. Carr  
Carmen N. De La Rosa  
Eric Dinowitz  
Amanda Farias  
Oswald Feliz

## NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

## COUNCIL MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

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

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING  
A P P E A R A N C E S

REV. DR. LAKEESHA WALROND,  
President of the New York Theological Seminary  
located at 475  
Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115

2 SERGEANT BIONDO: This is a microphone test,  
3 Today's date is April 11, 2023. Recording of The  
4 Stated Meeting being recorded by John Biondo in  
5 Council Chambers.

6 CITY CLERK: Council Members, please take your  
7 seats.

8 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Quiet down, please!

9 CITY CLERK: Quiet on the floor, please, thank  
10 you!

11 Ladies and gentleman, at this time please place  
12 all electronic devices to vibrate or silent mode.  
13 Mr. Majority Leader?

14 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS:

15 [GAVELING IN] [GAVEL SOUND]

16 Good afternoon, and welcome to The Stated Meeting  
17 of April 11, 2023. I am Majority Leader Keith  
18 Powers, and I would like to thank everyone for  
19 joining us here today. If you would like to follow  
20 along, the agenda for today's meeting is posted on  
21 The City Council website.

22 CITY CLERK: Please join us for the pledge of  
23 allegiance.

24 [PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE]

25 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Roll call?

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Abreu?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Present.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Ariola?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: (NO RESPONSE)

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Avilés?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Presente

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Here

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Barron?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Bottcher?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Present

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Brannon?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Here

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Brewer?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Brooks-Powers?

19 MAJORITY WHIP BROOKS-POWERS: Present

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Cabán?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Present

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Carr?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Present

24 COUNCIL CLERK: De La Rosa?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Here

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Dinowitz?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Here

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Farías?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Present

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Feliz?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Presente

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Gennaro?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Gutiérrez?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Presente

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Hanif?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Present

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Hanks?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Present

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Holden?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Hudson?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Present

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Joseph?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Present

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Kagan?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Present

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Krishnan?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Here

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Lee?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Here

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Louis?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Present

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Marte?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Here

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: (NO RESPONSE)

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Menin?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Here

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Moya?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Present

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Narcisse?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Here

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Nurse?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Here

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Ossé?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Present

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Paladino?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Present

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Restler?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Here

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Richardson Jordon?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: Present

1 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

8

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Riley?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Present

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: (Maternity)

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Salamanca?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Sanchez?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Present

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Schulman?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Here

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Stevens?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Here.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Ung?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Present

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Velázquez?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Present

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Vernikov?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: (NO RESPONSE)

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Williams?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Won?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Present

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Yeger?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here



2 COUNCIL CLERK: Borelli?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Here

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Quiet, please!

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Powers?

6 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Here

7 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Speaker Adams?

8 SPEAKER ADAMS: Present

9 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, we will now  
10 have today's invocation which will be delivered by  
11 Rev. Dr. LaKeesha Walrond, President of the New York  
12 Theological Seminar located at 475 Riverside Drive,  
13 in Manhattan, welcome.

14 SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise!

15 REVEREND WOLROND: Good afternoon, it is such an  
16 honor to be with all today. Let's pray.

17 Eternal God, great creator, holy one, the god of  
18 many names, the god of our weary years and our silent  
19 tears; thou who has brought us thus far along the  
20 way; thou who has by thy might led us into the light.  
21 Keep us forever in thy path we pray. God, we thank  
22 you for your presence in our lives, and your  
23 provision in our city, and your protection of hearts.  
24 We ask that you pour your spirit and blessings upon  
25 this diverse council called and chosen to lead our

2 great city. Bless their work; bless their health;  
3 bless their families; bless their communities.  
4 Remind us all that the greatest among us is a servant  
5 of all. Remind us that true leaders are servant  
6 leaders who treat the needs of the people as holy and  
7 are called to serve for the common good of all.  
8 Grant each member of this diverse and inclusive  
9 council the wisdom to know what is right and the  
10 courage to do what is right. Let each word be guided  
11 by the spirit of community; each action guided by a  
12 spirit of love; and each decision guided by the  
13 spirit of justice. God, we pray for continued  
14 guidance, discernment, and purpose, and we lift this  
15 prayer, in your many names, and in peace, joy, and  
16 justice. Amen.

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, and thank you  
18 for being with us today.

19 I will now ask Council Member Shaun Abreu to  
20 spread the Invocation on the record.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Thank you, Majority  
22 Leader. I want to thank Rev. Dr. Lakeesha Walrond  
23 from the New York Theological Seminary for being here  
24 today. Rev. Dr. Walrond is an educator, visionary  
25 leader, and an activist whose immense contributions

2 in empowering women and children has been felt  
3 throughout the country. We are proud to have her  
4 based here in the district. With that, I make a  
5 motion to for unanimous consent to spread the  
6 invocation in full upon the record.

7 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Council Member  
8 Abreu.

9 We will now have the Adoption of Minutes by  
10 Council Member Nantasha Williams.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you.

12 I make a motion that the minutes of the Stated  
13 Meeting of March 2, 2023 be adopted as printed.

14 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

15 We will have Messages and Papers from the Mayor.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Communications from City,  
18 County, and Borough Offices?

19 COUNCIL CLERK: M 137, EEPC Annual Report?

20 SPEAKER ADAMS: Received, Ordered, Printed and  
21 Filed.

22 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Petitions and  
23 Communications?

24 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: None

25 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Land Use Call-Ups?

1 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 12

2 COUNCIL CLERK: M's 138 and 193.

3 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on Call-Up Vote.

4 I now ask that the clerk take a roll call vote on  
5 today's Land Use Call-ups.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Abreu?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Present, aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

9 Council Member Ariola?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: (NO RESPONSE)

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ayala

14 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Barron?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Bottcher?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Brannan?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Brooks-Powers?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Aye

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Cabán?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Uh, Mr. Majority Leader, is  
3 this on the Land Use Call-Ups? I'm sorry?

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Land Use Call-Ups.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Uhm, I request permission  
6 to vote on all Land Use Call-Ups and all other items  
7 on today's agenda.

8 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: One moment, please.

10 I am voting aye on all except, sorry, one  
11 moment... I am aye on all, uh, with the exception of  
12 Intro 606, of which I vote no, and I also am voting  
13 no on the Acquista appointment, thank you and thank  
14 you for your patience.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

16 Council Member Carr?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye on all

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member De La Rosa?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Dinowitz?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Farías?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: I vote aye on all.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Feliz?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: [INAUDIBLE]

1 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 14

2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Council Member Feliz?

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Feliz, Land Use  
4 Call-Ups?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye on all, my apologies.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

7 Council Member Ariola?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Aye on all.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

10 Council Member Gennaro?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: uh...

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez...

13 (CROSS-TALK)

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye, aye. Aye for  
15 Gennaro.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

17 Council Member Gutiérrez?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Gutiérrez, aye, thank  
19 you... (CROSS-TALK)

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Aye on all.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

1 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 15  
2 Council Member Holden?  
3 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye  
4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hudson?  
5 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye  
6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Joseph?  
7 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye  
8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Kagan?  
9 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Aye  
10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?  
11 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye  
12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Lee?  
13 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye  
14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.  
15 Council Member Louis?  
16 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye  
17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Marte?  
18 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye  
19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Mealy?  
20 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: (NO RESPONSE)  
21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Menin?  
22 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye  
23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Moya?  
24 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.  
25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

1 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 16  
2 Council Member Narcisse?  
3 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye  
4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Nurse?  
5 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Aye  
6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ossé?  
7 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye.  
8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Paladino?  
9 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Aye  
10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you  
11 Council Member Restler?  
12 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye  
13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Richardson  
14 Jordan?  
15 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: Aye  
16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Riley?  
17 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye  
18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Rivera?  
19 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: (MATERNITY)  
20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Salamanca?  
21 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye  
22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Sanchez?  
23 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye  
24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Schulman  
25 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye



2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ung?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Velázquez?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Aye

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Vernikov?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: (NO RESPONSE)

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Williams?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Won?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Aye

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Yeger?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Mr. President, may I be

16 excused to vote on the entire agenda?

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you.

19 On the Land Use Call-Ups, I vote aye.

20 On the Coupled on General Orders Calendar, I vote

21 aye on all with the exception of Intro 531 and Intro

22 4.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. That's right,

24 Resolution 531?

25

1 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 18

2 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: No, introduction 533. Is  
3 there not an Introduction 531?

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: On the bid?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Oh, I'm sorry, Resolution  
6 531. Thank you

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, thank you.

8 Council Member Borelli?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Powers?

11 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Aye

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Adams?

13 SPEAKER ADAMS: I vote aye.

14 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Today's Land Use Call-Ups  
15 are adopted by a vote of 48 in the affirmative, and 0  
16 in the negative; 48 in the affirmative and 0 against.

17 Thank you, we will now have Communication from  
18 the Speaker, Adrienne Adams.

19 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, very much, Majority  
20 Leader.

21 Before we begin, and good afternoon, everyone...

22 Before we begin, I would like to extend heartfelt  
23 greetings to our visitors, the College Access  
24 Students from the Brooklyn YWCA!

25 [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

2 We welcome you to City Council Chambers today  
3 and all of our visitors in the balcony.

4 Before we begin, I want to honor the lives of two  
5 construction workers who died while on the job at JFK  
6 International Airport earlier this month.

7 Our hearts go out to the families and loved ones  
8 of 41-year-old Francisco Reyes and 28-year-old  
9 Fernando Lagunas Pereira. Our City's construction  
10 workers are pivotal to the success and growth of New  
11 York City, especially JFK Airport, which serves as  
12 our gateway. We must ensure that essential workers  
13 who contribute to the building and daily activities  
14 of our city are safe.

15 I also want to take a moment to wish a speedy  
16 recovery to 22-year-old Officer Brett Boller of the  
17 103rd Precinct in Jamaica, Queens who was shot in the  
18 line of duty last week. We thank him for his public  
19 service to the people of our city, and we certainly  
20 want to see him get well soon.

21 Since the last time we have met, we have lost at  
22 least six New Yorkers to fatal fires that took place  
23 across our city. These fires occurred in Council  
24 Member Rivera's district, Council Member Brewer's  
25 district, Council Member Schulman's district, Council

2 Member Hudson's district, and just yesterday, in  
3 Council Member Cabán's district, where two people  
4 were killed in a fire sparked by a lithium ion  
5 battery.

6 These losses are heartbreaking, and the pain  
7 inflicted on families and communities is  
8 immeasurable. We have much more work to do to  
9 prevent these deadly fires. And as a council, we  
10 remain committed to taking action to advance these  
11 efforts.

12 There is absolutely no place for hate in New York  
13 City, and we must denounce it swiftly whenever we see  
14 it. I was disturbed to learn that an anti-LGBTQIA+  
15 attack took place in Hell's Kitchen just last week.  
16 There was also a Pride Flag that was taken off a  
17 restaurant's flagpole, torn and burned in Bay Ridge,  
18 Brooklyn in Council Member Brannan's district.

19 As Council Member Bottcher eloquently put it, "We  
20 will not be cowed. We will not be intimidated. We  
21 will always stand up against hate of all kinds."

22 This past Friday, a federal judge in Texas issued  
23 a dangerous and unprecedented ruling to invalidate  
24 the FDA's approval of mifepristone, also known as the  
25 abortion pill. This preliminary ruling threatens the

2 health of millions of women and birthing people  
3 across the country who rely on this FDA approved  
4 drug. In fact, mifepristone has provided more than 5  
5 million people with safe and effective access to  
6 abortion and miscarriage care for over 25 years --  
7 SAFELY. We must be clear that taking away this drug  
8 will lead to unnecessary harm, and it is an attack on  
9 both reproductive health care and the entire practice  
10 of medicine. Last year, our women majority council  
11 enacted the historic New York City Abortion Rights  
12 Act, including legislation by Council Member Carlina  
13 Rivera to require The Department of Health and Mental  
14 Hygiene health clinics to provide free abortion  
15 medication. As a result of our efforts, access to  
16 abortion medication is now the law. Here in New York  
17 City, mifepristone remains available to anyone who  
18 needs it, including at the Morrisania Health and  
19 Mental Hygiene Clinic in the Bronx, Health +  
20 Hospitals public hospitals, and private health  
21 clinics. Our women majority city council, and the  
22 men who get it, will continue to defend, support, and  
23 expand access to abortion and reproductive health  
24 care. New York City will remain a beacon for safe  
25 and accessible care for all.

2 Last week, the Council released its official  
3 response to the Mayor's Fiscal Year 2024 Preliminary  
4 Budget. We made clear our vision for the City Budget,  
5 one that invests New Yorkers, delivers essential  
6 services for New Yorkers, and supports the economic  
7 health and stability of our city. The City's  
8 Preliminary Budget response accounts for all of the  
9 economic and budgetary challenges that potentially  
10 lie ahead; any potential economic downturns or  
11 additional costs of basic services for those here in  
12 our city seeking asylum in the United States. It  
13 also covered payments of new labor contract  
14 settlements for the municipal workforce. Out of \$2.7  
15 billion in available funds that our budget response  
16 identified, we proposed setting aside \$1.4 billion  
17 for reserves to protect our city from these various  
18 potential risks. The other \$1.3 billion should be  
19 invested in essential services such as education,  
20 housing, food assistance, libraries, legal services,  
21 community safety, and other programs that New Yorkers  
22 need. These are the types of investments that keep  
23 our city healthy, safe, and stable to successfully  
24 recover and weather any expected challenges. What  
25 New Yorkers cannot afford; however, is another round

2 of budget cuts that threaten to undermine our  
3 neighborhoods and recovery.

4 Taking away libraries, education programs, and  
5 other essential services will destabilize communities  
6 and result in harm to New Yorkers. We cannot and we  
7 will not accept that. This council is fully  
8 prepared to fight for our budget vision to meet the  
9 needs of New Yorkers.

10 In the coming weeks, our focus will be on  
11 supporting communities across the city in their  
12 recovery, pushing back against excessive and  
13 unnecessary cuts that will hurt the health and  
14 stability of our city.

15 And now for all Muslims New Yorkers who are  
16 continuing to observe Ramadan, I hope you continue to  
17 enjoy this blessed season with your family and loved  
18 ones, Ramadan Mubarak.

19 I also want to wish our Jewish neighbors a  
20 peaceful and joyous Passover. This important holiday  
21 is a reminder of the importance of cherishing rights  
22 and freedoms and why it is imperative to continue  
23 passing on shared history and its lessons to future  
24 generations. To everyone celebrating Passover, Chag  
25 Pesach! Chag kasher v'sameach!

2 [APPLAUSE] [LAUGHTER IN CHAMBERS]

3 And this past Sunday, many New Yorkers across the  
4 city celebrated Easter also known as Resurrection  
5 Sunday. This season symbolizes renewal and rebirth,  
6 and it offers all who celebrate the time to reflect  
7 and embark on new beginning.

8 Orthodox Easter will be celebrated on April 16th,  
9 so I want to wish everyone who observes, a very Happy  
10 Easter.

11 April is Autism Acceptance Month, which aims to  
12 promote acceptance and uplift the voices of people  
13 with autism. New York will always be a city that  
14 supports the well-being of people of all abilities  
15 and spectrums of neurodiversity. And as an aunt of  
16 one who is a part of this brilliant population, I  
17 celebrate with you, my nephew.

18 April is also National Sexual Assault Awareness  
19 Month during which we raise awareness and advance  
20 public education about the prevalence of sexual  
21 assault across the country. As a city, we must  
22 continue to empower survivors and support them with  
23 necessary resources and pathways to healing from  
24 trauma while working to prevent sexual assault.



2 We are also celebrating April as National Arab  
3 American Heritage Month. Join us in uplifting the  
4 many contributions of our Arab American communities  
5 throughout this month and beyond.

6 And tomorrow night, I invite all New Yorkers to  
7 join us in The City Council Chambers for our The  
8 Garifuna Heritage celebration. Doors open at 5:00  
9 p.m. and the event begins at 5:30 p.m. I want to  
10 thank Council Member Amanda Farías, Council Member  
11 Kevin Riley, Council Member Althea Stevens, and  
12 Council Member Marjorie Velázquez for co-sponsoring  
13 this celebration.

14 There are several other holidays and notable days  
15 that I want to acknowledge:

16 April 14th, is Vaisakhi one of the most important  
17 celebrations for our Sikh community. The Council  
18 hosted a wonderful Vaisakhi and Sikh Heritage Month  
19 celebration in the Council Chambers last week, and I  
20 thank everyone who made it a great success.

21 April 15th is Jackie Robinson Day celebrating one  
22 our country's major icons and athletes who broke  
23 major league baseball's color barrier in 1957. We  
24 will always uplift the life and legacy of Jackie

2 Robinson who left an undeniable imprint on the  
3 nation.

4 April 17th is Yom HaShoah or Holocaust  
5 Remembrance Day. On this day, we come together to  
6 remember the six million Jewish people and countless  
7 others who were victims, and recommit ourselves to  
8 ensure NO similar atrocity will ever happen again.

9 And April 18th, ladies and gentlemen, is tax day.

10 [LAUGHTER IN CHAMBERS]

11 As a reminder to all New Yorkers, the tax filing  
12 deadline is coming up. Our city offers free tax prep  
13 services for anyone making \$80,000 or less. So, be  
14 sure to visit NYC.Gov to learn more.

15 I also want to give a plug to the continued  
16 efforts by the Council in partnership with the  
17 Administration to recruit New Yorkers to work for our  
18 city and fill important vacancies at our various city  
19 agencies. We have been holding hiring events across  
20 the city that connects people to municipal jobs.  
21 Recently, we held events in Manhattan, Queens, and  
22 Brooklyn within Council Member Bottcher's, Council  
23 Member Schulman's, and Council Member Hudson's  
24 districts. There is an upcoming event on Thursday,

2 April 13th in Manhattan in Council Member De La  
3 Rosa's district.

4 The civil service is a pipeline to economic  
5 stability. And our municipal workforce is essential  
6 to our city. We urge New Yorkers seeking employment  
7 to attend and join the City's workforce.

8 And, finally, please join me in wishing a very  
9 Happy Belated Birthday to Council Member Sandy Nurse!

10 [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

11 And an early Happy Birthday to Council Member  
12 Crystal Hudson and Council Member Julie Won!

13 [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

14 I hope you all had and will have a great birthday  
15 surrounded by your loved ones.

16 Before we move on, I want to recognize some  
17 special attendees, which I already have, we welcome  
18 them once again, our students from YMCA of Brooklyn's  
19 College Access Program, led by their CEO, Martha  
20 Kamber! Welcome, once again, to our Stated Meeting,  
21 and I hope you enjoy your visit to City Hall.

22 Now, let's move on to our Stated Agenda.

23 First, we will vote on the following Finance  
24 items:

25

2 Resolution 531, sponsored by Council Members  
3 Justin L. Brannan and Farah Louis will set the date  
4 for a public hearing on legislation authorizing the  
5 combination of the Church Avenue Business Improvement  
6 District and the Flatbush Avenue Business Improvement  
7 District in to one combined bid. The hearing will  
8 take place on Thursday, April 27th at 10:00 a.m. in  
9 The Committee Room.

10 A Preconsidered Resolution sponsored by Council  
11 Member Brannan to offer authorize an Article XI  
12 exemption for five buildings in Crown Heights in  
13 Council Member Mealy's district.

14 And a Preconsidered Resolution sponsored by  
15 Council Member Brannan to amend an existing Article  
16 XI exemption for one building in Alphabet City in  
17 Council Member Rivera's district.

18 Next, we will vote on the following appointments  
19 to the New York City Board of Health: Dr. Angelo  
20 Acquista, Dr. Maida Galvez, Dr. Michael Lindsey, and  
21 Dr. Judith Salerno.

22 Lastly, we will vote on the following pieces of  
23 legislation:

24 Resolution 131, sponsored by Civil Service and  
25 Labor Committee Chair Carmen De La Rosa, calls on the

2 fast food company, Wendy's, to join the Fair Food  
3 Program, a partnership among participating retail  
4 produce growers and buyers that ensures fair working  
5 conditions and wages for farmworkers. Of the five  
6 largest fast food chains in the country, McDonalds,  
7 Subway, Burger King, Taco Bell, and Wendy's, only  
8 Wendy's has refused to participate in the Fair Food  
9 Program. We thank our staff, Elizabeth Arzt, for her  
10 work.

11 Resolution 152 sponsored by Council Member Shaun  
12 Abreu, calls on the New York City Department of  
13 Education to designate a Jewish Heritage Day in our  
14 city's public schools in celebration of the  
15 contributions and achievements of Jewish Americans.  
16 We thank our staff member Jan Atwell.

17 Resolution 344-A, sponsored by Public Advocate  
18 Jumaane Williams, calling on the New York State  
19 Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign,  
20 legislation establishing The Housing Access Voucher  
21 Program, a rental assistance program that would  
22 provide housing vouchers to New Yorkers who are  
23 homeless or facing eviction. We thank our staff  
24 members Audrey Son, Taylor Zelony, and Jose Conde.

2 Next, as we celebrate National Pet Day, we will  
3 be voting on Introduction 4-A, sponsored by Deputy  
4 Speaker Diana Ayala, prohibiting the sale of guinea  
5 pigs in pet shops.

6 [APPLAUSE]

7 The bill would still allow them to be available  
8 for adoption... Shhhh... will be available for  
9 adoption in animal shelters. Prohibiting the sale of  
10 guinea pigs pet shops will bring relief to City  
11 animal shelters and other rescuers who have  
12 experienced a surge in abandoned and surrendered  
13 guinea pigs in the past three years - as well as  
14 cutting off the pipeline into New York City from  
15 inhumane sources, and we thank our staff Nick  
16 Connell, Sara Sucher, Christopher Pepe, and Mahnoor  
17 Butt.

18 Introduction 675-A, sponsored by Council Member  
19 Crystal Hudson, would require the creation of a  
20 telemedicine accessibility plan. The bill expands  
21 telemedicine services to New Yorkers who have  
22 difficulty in accessing in-person health care  
23 services, including older adults, people with  
24 disabilities, and New Yorkers currently involved in  
25 the justice system. The idea for this legislation

2 was first introduced in my State of the City Address  
3 last year, and I am very thankful to Council Member  
4 Hudson for her leadership in advancing it. Thank you  
5 also to our staff Mark Chen, Sara Sucher, Christopher  
6 Pepe, and Mahnoor Butt.

7 Introduction 128-A, sponsored by Council Member  
8 Rafael Salamanca, would require every City park  
9 bathroom to have a diaper changing table by December  
10 2027 -- finally. Right now less than half of the  
11 approximately 1,400 bathrooms under the jurisdiction  
12 of the Parks Department do not have diaper changing  
13 tables, making it difficult for families with young  
14 children to fully use City Parks. This legislation  
15 will make a tangible difference for families with  
16 young children who play in our parks. Thank you to  
17 our staff members Kris Sartori and Patrick  
18 Mulvihill.

19 Introduction 8-A, sponsored by Council Member  
20 Justin Brannan, would require the disclosure of full  
21 ticket prices whenever they are displayed in  
22 advertisements for ticketed sports, entertainment,  
23 and other types of events. Under this legislation,  
24 ads must display the total price that customers have  
25 to pay including taxes and fees. The seeks to

2 prevent consumer deception based on the high fees  
3 charged by some ticket sellers. It is critical that  
4 New Yorkers and visitors who attend ticketed events  
5 do not get taken advantage of by companies. We thank  
6 our staff members Sarah Swaine and Natalie Meltzer.

7 And, finally, as we observe Earth Month and the  
8 upcoming Earth Day, we will be voting on two pieces  
9 of legislation that are crucial to our ongoing fight  
10 against climate change.

11 The climate crisis is already here, and we know  
12 that urgent action on all levels of governmental is  
13 needed to protect and preserve the world that we call  
14 home. The legislation we are passing today is just a  
15 few of the many bills that we are focused on:

16 Introduction 606-A, sponsored by Council Member  
17 Alexa Avilés, would protect clear are by amending the  
18 City's idling laws to restrict idling to one minute  
19 in spaces adjacent to or within most parks. Thank  
20 you to our staff members Samara Swanston, Ricky  
21 Chawla, and Andrew Bourne.

22 And, Introduction 239-A, sponsored by our  
23 Environmental Protection and Resiliency and  
24 Waterfronts Committee Chair, James Gennaro, would  
25 require the Department of Buildings to conduct



2 targeted annual outreach to educate building owners  
3 about the benefits of installing solar and green roof  
4 systems. We thank our staff members Samara Swanston,  
5 Ricky Chawla, and Andrew Bourne.

6 Thank you very much for your attention, and now I  
7 turn it back into the hands of our Majority Leader.

8 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Speaker Adams.

9 We are now going to move in to the Discussion of  
10 General Orders.

11 I am going to first call on Council Member Rafael  
12 Salamanca.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Thank you, Mr.  
14 Majority Leader.

15 Today we will be voting on my bill Intro 128.  
16 Currently the city of New York.. New York City  
17 requires diaper changing stations to be available in  
18 all bathrooms in new or recently renovated public  
19 buildings where merchandise is sold, and in places  
20 like theaters, bowling alleys, museums, and shopping  
21 malls. But, surprisingly, though, the one place I  
22 noticed that did not require diaper changing stations  
23 were New York City park bathrooms. Despite being a  
24 place where families spend a great deal of their  
25 time, the lack of changing stations left parents

2 changing their children's diapers on park benches,  
3 equipment, their laps, or even on the ground, all of  
4 which are unsanitary locations. When I first  
5 introduced this bill in October of 2019, only about  
6 31% of New York City Parks bathrooms had sufficient  
7 changing stations. Since then, Parks has begun  
8 closing the gap on this issue and has doubled the  
9 number of changing stations in City bathrooms, which  
10 I commend them for. However, legislation is needed  
11 to require a 100% fulfillment rate in a timely  
12 manner. That is why I introduced Intro 128, which sets  
13 benchmarks in how quickly changing stations are  
14 installed in Parks bathrooms. Without Intro 128,  
15 parents throughout the City will continue to face  
16 changing their children's diapers in unsanitary  
17 conditions. Thank you, Mr. Majority Leader.

18 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Council Member  
19 Salamanca.

20 We will now go to Council Member Hudson.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Thank you, so much,  
22 Majority Leader.

23 I want to talk about Introduction 675, which we  
24 are voting on today. Passing Intro 675 marks another  
25 big step in our effort to ensure all New Yorkers have

2 the opportunity to age in place with the dignity and  
3 care we all deserve. With this law, the City will be  
4 required to create a Telemedicine Accessibility Plan  
5 to improve the availability of portable monitoring  
6 and telehealth devices for populations that could be  
7 better served by telemedicine services. Intro 675  
8 will directly address this divide and offer greater  
9 accessibility to telemedicine services for older New  
10 Yorkers citywide. This bill goes further just  
11 expanding medical visit options, it requires the City  
12 to create a plan for the provision of portable  
13 monitoring devices like blood pressure monitors and  
14 glucometers, as well as tablets and laptops that can  
15 be provide communication with health care  
16 professionals and bridge the digital divide. We know  
17 that when we legislate for those who are most  
18 vulnerable and those with the greatest needs,  
19 everyone benefits. Thank you.

20 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

21 Do we have anyone else signed up for General  
22 Orders? Okay, seeing no one we will move into the  
23 Report of Special Committees.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Report of Standing  
3 Committees?

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
5 Consumer and Worker Protection Intro 8-A, Ticket Cost  
6 Disclosures.

7 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General  
8 Orders.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
10 Environmental Protection, Resiliency, and  
11 Waterfronts, Intro 239-A, Solar and Green Roof  
12 Systems.

13 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General  
14 Orders.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Intro 606-A, motor vehicles idling  
16 in parks.

17 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General  
18 Orders.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
20 Finance, Resolution 531, Flatbush Avenue BID.

21 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered L U 179 and  
23 Resolution 569, and Preconsidered L U 180 and  
24 Resolution 570, Property Tax Exemptions.

25 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on Health,  
3 Intro 4-A, Sale of Guinea Pigs.

4 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amened and Coupled on General  
5 Orders.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Introduction 675-A, Telemedicine  
7 Accessibility Plan.

8 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General  
9 Orders.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on Parks  
11 and Recreation, Introduction 128-A, diaper changing  
12 accommodations in parks.

13 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General  
14 Orders.

15 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Report of the Committee on  
16 Rules, Privileges and Elections, M 130 and Resolution  
17 571, approving the appointment of Dr. Michael  
18 Lindsey, Board of Health

19 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: M 131, Resolution 572-, approval  
21 of Dr. Angelo Acquista, Board of Health.

22 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: M 132 and Resolution 573,  
24 approving the appointment of Dr. Maida Galvez, Board  
25 of Health.

2 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: M 133 and Resolution 574,  
4 approving the appointment of M 133 - Dr. Judith  
5 Salerno, Board of Health.

6 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

7 I would now ask that the clerk take a roll call  
8 vote on all of the items coupled on today's General  
9 Orders Calendar.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Abreu?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I am a no on Intros 4-A  
14 and 606-A, and aye on all the rest.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

16 Council Member Avilés?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Permission to explain my  
18 vote?

19 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: I vote aye on all with the  
21 exception of M 31 and Reso 572.

22 Today we are voting on a series of bills aimed at  
23 making our city greener, and therefore healthier.

24 And I am proud that my legislation Intro 606 is part  
25 of this package. And I thank you all for your vote

2 today. Thank you for acknowledging climate change  
3 and its impact.

4 I also want to take a moment to thank my  
5 constituent, Madeline McDonald, for inspiring this  
6 legislation. And while I am sure Ms. McDonald would  
7 agree that much more work needs to be done with  
8 expanding our anti idling policies, in the meantime,  
9 making sure children and families are protected at  
10 our City parks, playground, and green spaces is a  
11 step forward. Along the way, I was glad to be joined  
12 in advancing this legislation with air quality  
13 advocates from across the city, as well as our Last  
14 Mile advocates who will use this incremental step to  
15 make sure delivery vehicles are also not interfering  
16 with needed breathable playtime for our children.

17 As an elected representative of Sunset Park and  
18 Red Hook, both environmental justice communities, I  
19 will continue to the put the health of our residents  
20 first and not just in the month of April. We must be  
21 bolder and better in addressing climate change both  
22 systematically and changing our own behavior. There  
23 is little time to waste. Thank you for voting yes on  
24 this legislation, and more work to come.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ayala?

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

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: I just want to very briefly  
6 thank all of the advocates that worked on legislation  
7 around the Guinea Pig Bill, who happen to be outside  
8 waiting for us. So, I just wanted to say thank you  
9 all. And thank you to my colleagues for their  
10 support. Thank you.

11 I vote aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you  
13 Council Member Barron?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote... I abstain on M  
15 130, 131, 132, and 133 and the accompanying  
16 Resolutions, I abstain. And, I also abstain on  
17 Resolution 153, the DOE creating a Jewish Heritage  
18 Day, I think we need to look at other ethnic groups  
19 as well. And I vote aye on all the rest.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

21 Council Member Bottcher?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye on all.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Brannon?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye on all.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Brewer?



2 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye on all.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Brooks-Powers?

4 MAJORITY WHIP BROOKS-POWERS: Aye on all.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Carr?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: I am a no on Introductions

7 4-A and 606-A, and aye on all the rest.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member De La Rosa?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Dinowitz?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Farías?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER FARIÁS: I vote aye on all.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Feliz?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Permission to explain my

16 vote?

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: I vote aye on all.

19 I want to congratulate Council Member Rafael  
20 Salamanca for working on such an important issue. I  
21 also want to congratulate our Deputy Speaker, Diana  
22 Ayala. Thank you for looking out for our guinea pigs.  
23 I had guinea pigs when I was younger. Guinea pigs  
24 make great friends. They make great pets, and I  
25

2 encourage everybody to consider adopting one today.  
3 Thank you so much.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Feliz?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye on all.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Beautiful, thank you.

8 Council Member Gennaro?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Mr. Leader, I ask  
10 permission to speak on my vote.

11 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you, Mr. Leader.

13 I want to congratulate everyone who is passing  
14 bills today. Certainly the two green bills we are  
15 passing, these are certainly good measures. I would  
16 like to thank Council Member Avilés for her good bill  
17 on idling. It is a good step forward, and it builds  
18 on what we have done on idling. There are more, uhm,  
19 idling bills to come, and we look forward to those.

20 Regarding 239-A, my bill that would get the  
21 needed information to building owners and what they  
22 can do regarding roofs and what they can do regarding  
23 solar. Uh, people have the information given to them  
24 just like we did with Local Law 87, many, many years  
25 ago about doing energy audits. When you give people

2 information and show how they can save by  
3 retrofitting their homes and buildings, they will  
4 take that information and act in their own economic  
5 best interests. That is the goal of this bill. I  
6 think it will be a success in that regard.

7 It has been a pleasure to work with staff of the  
8 Committee and The Speaker and her team regarding this  
9 robust environmental agenda of this institution. And  
10 we look forward to other environmental bills that  
11 will be coming out at the end of the month.

12 And, with that, I thank everyone. I urge a yes  
13 vote on the green bills today.

14 And I vote aye on all.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

16 Council Member Gutiérrez?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: I vote aye on all with the  
20 exception of Intro 606, on which I abstain, and M 131  
21 and accompanying Resolution 572, on which I vote no.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you

23 Council Member Hanks?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: I vote aye.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you

2 Council Member Holden?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye on all.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hudson?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye on all.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye on all.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Kagan?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Permission to explain my  
10 vote?

11 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Thank you.

13 So, I vote yes on all proposed bills with the  
14 exception of Intro 4-A and 606. The goal of the  
15 anti-idling legislation should be to prevent drivers  
16 from leaving their commercial trucks or personal  
17 vehicles running for a long period of time polluting  
18 our air near parks and schools and causing problems  
19 for neighborhoods. It is a great idea. But, not for  
20 one minute. The whole idea here is for one minute.  
21 So, next time you are going to pass the legislation  
22 find someone who kept their truck or car running for  
23 one second maybe? That is why I have to vote no on  
24 606. Everything else I vote aye.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you

2 Council Member Krishnan?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Uh, I vote aye on all,  
4 with the exception of M 131 and Resolution 572, in  
5 which I abstain. And I also want to congratulate  
6 Council Member Salamanca on a great bill for New York  
7 City Parks.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you

9 Council Member Lee?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye on all.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Louis?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I vote aye on all.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Marte?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye on all.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Menin?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye on all

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Moya?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

20 Council Member Narcisse?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: I vote aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Nurse?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I vote no on M 131 and Reso  
24 572, and aye on all the rest.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you

2 Council Member Ossé?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye on all.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Paladino?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: I vote aye on all except  
6 for Intro 4-A and 606-A.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you

8 Council Member Restler?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Thank you. I vote aye on  
10 all with the exception of M 131 and accompanying Reso  
11 572, for which I shall abstain. Thank you

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you

13 Council Member Richardson Jordon?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: Aye on all.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Riley?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye on all.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Salamanca?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Sanchez?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye on all and permissive  
21 to explain that vote?

22 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead... (CROSS-TALK)

23 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Thank you, thank you.

24 I especially want to highlight the Resolution  
25 Number 344-A, with respect to calling on the New York

2 State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign,  
3 legislation that would create a housing access  
4 voucher program. We have a housing crisis. We need  
5 the state to chip in to the challenges that we face.  
6 The Section 8 vouchers that we have... (CROSS-TALK)

7 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: We are not at Resolutions  
8 yet. We are coming on...

9 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Is what I will say later,  
10 thank you, Majority Leader...

11 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: All right, good to have a  
12 sneak preview.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you  
14 Council Member Mealy?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye on all...  
16 (CROSS-TALK)

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Excuse me... Council Member  
18 Sanchez, you...

19 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: I started with my vote,  
20 so, aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Okay, thank you.  
22 Council Member Mealy?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye on all.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.  
25 Council Member Schulman?

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

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Guinea Pigs should be  
6 adopted not sold in pet stores. During the height of  
7 COVID, people bought guinea pigs as pets and then  
8 abandoned them in droves when they discovered the  
9 significant challenges in taking care of them. I am  
10 proud to be a prime co-sponsor of today's Intro 4-A  
11 legislation Introduced by Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala,  
12 which will bring relief to overwhelmed animal  
13 shelters and help keep these sensitive animals safe.

14 And with that, I vote aye on all.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you

16 Council Member Stevens?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye on all except Intro  
18 4-A, and I vote no.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you

20 Council Member Ung?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye on all.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Vernikov?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: (NO RESPONSE)

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Velázquez?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Aye on all.



2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you

3 Council Member Williams?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote aye on all.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Won?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Aye on all.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Borelli?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: A moment of indulgence,  
9 sir?

10 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Yes.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: So, I first, I would like  
12 to commend the speaker for reminding New Yorkers that  
13 April 15 is tax day -- actually April 18th this year.  
14 It is always good for New Yorkers to remember the  
15 verse of the bible, "... render to Caesar the things  
16 that are Caesar's," which for New Yorkers who work is  
17 3.85% this year. It is also a good reminder to  
18 legislators that every ribbon we cut, every shovel we  
19 put in the ground with a photo comes at the... only  
20 at the benefit of, uh, and the largess of the City's  
21 tax payers. So, we owe them a gratitude for making  
22 us look good on occasion.

23 Now, speaking of ribbons cut, we have all cut  
24 ribbons on Parks bathrooms. And I want to commend  
25 the sponsor of that legislation, because we get so

2 much grief from the public. We give a lot of grief  
3 to The Parks Department with how much park bathrooms  
4 cost, and one would think that there would be a  
5 livery service in the bathroom for your child's  
6 diaper, uh, with the amount of money it costs. So,  
7 being a father, who has gone into many men's rooms  
8 and not found the diaper changing area, at a very  
9 critical moment when you need it. Because you don't  
10 realize you need it until you are in the thick of it,  
11 and then you need it.

12 And, finally, I just want to explain why many of  
13 our conference are voting no on Intro 4-A, the guinea  
14 pig bill. Uh, I never imagined defending the virtues  
15 of guinea pigs; although, they are delish by the way  
16 if anyone has been to...

17 [LAUGHTER IN CHAMBERS]

18 If anyone has traveled to Peru they are very  
19 delicious. But, with this particular bill, we are  
20 taking bad behavior by customers and owners of these  
21 pets, and we are transferring sort of the punishment  
22 on to the pet shops. So, that is kind of why we are  
23 against it. We think it will benefit the pet shops  
24 of Nassau County and Westchester, and New Jersey, uh,  
25 et cetera. And it won't really get to the heart of

2 the issue, which is irresponsible pet ownership. So,  
3 I wish you all a happy holiday. I am glad I was able  
4 to entertain you all for a minute or two. And God  
5 bless. And I vote aye on all except 606-A, 4-A, and  
6 Resolution 131.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you  
8 Council Member Powers?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: [INAUDIBLE]  
10 [LAUGHTER IN CHAMBERS]

11 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: I am voting...  
12 Unfortunately, I don't have as nearly as a personal  
13 and specific explanation of my vote as the minority  
14 leader does, but I will... I am voting aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Adams?

16 SPEAKER ADAMS: On behalf of the guinea pigs, and  
17 all of the great legislation today, I do vote aye on  
18 all.

19 [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

20 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: We are just going to take  
21 a quick pause while they tally the votes.

22 All items on today's General Orders Calendar  
23 adopted by a vote of 48 in the affirmative, 0  
24 negative, and 0 abstentions... Sorry, 49 in the  
25 affirmative, with the exception of Intro 4-A, adopted

2 by a vote of 42 in the affirmative, 7 negative, and 0  
3 abstentions; Intro 606-A, adopted by a vote of 42  
4 affirmation, 6 negative, one abstention; Resolution  
5 531 adopted by a vote of 48 for, and one against,  
6 with 0 abstentions; M 131 and Resolution 572 adopted  
7 with 42 for, 4 against, and three abstentions; M 130  
8 and Resolution 571 adopted, uh, by a vote of 48 for,  
9 0 against, and one abstention; M 132 and Resolution  
10 573, adopted by a vote of 48 for, 0 against, and one  
11 abstention; and M 133 and Resolution 574 adopted by a  
12 vote of 48 for, 0 against, and 1 abstention.

13 Okay, and we will now move into the Introduction  
14 and Reading of Bills.

15 SPEAKER ADAMS: All bills have been referred to  
16 committees as indicated on today's agenda.

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

18 We will now move into the Discussion of  
19 Resolutions.

20 We will first hear from Council Member Abreu, and  
21 we will be followed by the full version of Council  
22 Member Sanchez.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Thank you, Majority Leader.

24 Today, I am proud that this body will consider  
25 Resolution 153, which calls upon the DOE to create a

2 Jewish Heritage Day of Instruction in our public  
3 schools.

4 In the most diverse city in the world, our  
5 schools must teach students to celebrate people of  
6 all religions, backgrounds, and cultures. Our  
7 schools play a crucial role in educating our students  
8 about the danger of bias and harmful rhetoric against  
9 marginalized groups. As we prepare to celebrate  
10 Jewish Heritage Day in May, this Resolution sends a  
11 powerful message about the importance of education as  
12 a tool to combat hate, intolerance, and religion  
13 bigotry. Jewish Americans are an essential part of  
14 the fabric of this country, and the curriculum should  
15 reflect that by celebrating and recognizing their  
16 contributions as well as the challenges they've  
17 faced. I look forward to continuing working on this  
18 issue with advocates and the DOE, in the hopes that  
19 today's vote will serve as timely mandate supported  
20 by this body. Thank you to Speaker Adams, Council  
21 Member Dinowitz, and advocates including the Simon  
22 Wiesenthal Center [TIMER CHIMES] StandWithUs, The  
23 Jewish Heritage Museum, American Jewish Committee,  
24 and others for their support. I urge my colleagues  
25 to aye.

2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

3 We will now hear from Council Member Sanchez,  
4 followed by Council Member De La Rosa.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Thank you, Majority  
6 Leader Powers.

7 As I was saying, I am speaking in support  
8 Resolution Number 344-A, regarding the creation of a  
9 Housing Access Voucher Program in Albany. And this  
10 is to supplement the efforts of the City and even of  
11 the federal government, uhm the City has vouchers and  
12 Section 8 vouchers that we have in the city of New  
13 York, are not enough. We have 70,000 homeless  
14 individuals sleeping the City shelter system today,  
15 and 22,000 are children. So, I urge Albany to do  
16 everything that they can, which includes, uh, adding  
17 an Housing Access Voucher Program in this budget  
18 process that they are in. Thank you so much,  
19 Majority Leader.

20 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

21 We will now here from Council Member De La Rosa.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Thank you, Mr.  
23 Majority Leader.

24 Today, we vote to pass Resolution 131 calling on  
25 Wendy's to join the Fair Food Program and support

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

farmworkers' human rights. This is a reintroduction which we introduced almost a year ago in conversation with food justice advocates, especially the Immokalee Workers, who are present here today and our Stated Meeting and in partnership with our Manhattan Borough President, Mark Levine. The Immokalee Workers are a coalition of farmers and allies who have pushed for the human rights and protections for farm workers -- most often immigrant workers who have unfortunately endured abuse to make ends meet. They launched the campaign for Fair Food, which establishes consumer worker relationships to leverage buying power, set standards for working conditions, and to curb exploitation, and push partnerships with corporations to ensure that the food we eat comes from socially responsible conditions. The workforce that supplies our food should not endure abuse in exchange for the pennies that they depend on to feed their families. If large corporations are going to operate in our city then [TIMER CHIMES] they must do so sustainably. New York City has a global influential economy and we have to opportunities here as leaders to create a more socially just economy. These workers care for us daily, and they deserve sustainable wages, humane

2 working conditions, and dignity. I am proud to  
3 sponsor this resolution, and I thank our speaker and  
4 our colleagues for helping us get it done today,  
5 thank you.

6 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

7 Do we have anyone else signed up to speak on  
8 today's resolutions?

9 Okay, seeing none, we will now have a voice vote  
10 on today's resolutions. If you wish to vote against  
11 or abstain from any of today's resolutions, please  
12 notify the Legislative Documents Unit by email or by  
13 approaching the dais before the vote.

14 I will now read the resolutions into the record.

15 Resolution 131, calls on Wendy's to join the Fair  
16 Food Program and support farmworkers' human rights.

17 All those in favor, please say aye.

18 [AYE]

19 All opposed, say nay.

20 The ayes have it.

21 Resolution 153, calls upon Department of  
22 Education to create a Jewish Heritage Day in New York  
23 City public schools.

24 Will all those in favor please say aye?

25 [AYE]



2 All opposed, say nay.

3 Any abstentions?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [INAUDIBLE]

5 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: We have an abstention.

6 The ayes have it.

7 Resolution 344-A calls upon the New York State  
8 Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign,  
9 Assembly Bill 4021/Senate Bill Number 568A in  
10 relation to establishing a housing access voucher  
11 program.

12 All those in favor, please say aye.

13 [Aye]

14 All opposed, say nay.

15 Any abstentions?

16 The ayes have it.

17 We will now move to General Discussion.

18 We are first hearing from Council Member Hanif,  
19 followed by Council Member Louis.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you.

21 I am excited to be introducing Introduction 989,  
22 along with Council Member De La Rosa. This bill will  
23 require The Department Of Citywide Administrative  
24 Services which City positions do not require English  
25 fluency as part of the job requirement, and offer the

2 Civil Service Exam for those positions in 10  
3 designated Citywide languages and other languages  
4 determined by MOIA and community based organizations.  
5 We know that our city is struggling with hiring. We  
6 also know that municipal jobs can be a pathway to the  
7 middle class for our immigrant communities. It is  
8 common sense to connect qualified immigrant New  
9 Yorkers to positions where their lack of English  
10 fluency is not relevant of where their fluency in  
11 other languages can be an asset.

12 I am also introduction Resolution 550 today in  
13 conjunction with our great Bronx Borough President,  
14 Vanessa Gibson, to establish May as Lupus Awareness  
15 Month. I have shared my experiences with Lupus in  
16 this chamber before, because it informs my work as a  
17 legislator, and because the general public is not  
18 familiar with this incurable autoimmune disease and  
19 the health and economic impacts it creates. My hope  
20 is that increased awareness of Lupus will improve  
21 diagnosis, especially among women of color and Black  
22 women who are disproportionately affected. I also  
23 hope it will facilitate and shift towards a city that  
24 meets the needs of those with Lupus, including making  
25 our public transit system fully ADA accessible,

2 allowing for remote work for our municipal employees,  
3 providing our municipal retirees with the health  
4 coverage they deserve, and passing Medicare for all.  
5 Thank you.

6 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

7 We will now hear from Council Member Louis,  
8 followed by Council Member Joseph.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Thank you, Majority  
10 Leader.

11 Today I am excited to introduce Resolution 557 in  
12 partnership with Council Member Hudson, Council  
13 Member Brewer, Council Member Bottcher, Council  
14 Member Powers, and Council Member Menin. Through  
15 this resolution we call on the New York State  
16 Legislature to pass and sign two bills: S 2960 and A  
17 5741, that would increase the current qualifying  
18 income limit for seniors and persons with  
19 disabilities who are eligible for the Senior Citizen  
20 Rent Increase Exemption program and the Disability  
21 Rent Increase Exemption. New York City has the  
22 highest population of renters in the country, where  
23 one in four renters in New York City are older  
24 adults. Nearly 60% of them are considered rent  
25 burdened, which means that they spend at least 30% of

2 their general fixed income on housing costs, which  
3 ultimately restricts the ability to afford other  
4 necessities like health care and groceries.

5 Additionally, in New York City 11% of our population  
6 are people with disabilities and 52% of those spend  
7 more than one-third of their income on rent compared  
8 with 42% of their non disabled peers. New York's  
9 older adults and persons with disabilities deserve  
10 better than being left vulnerable to the detrimental  
11 housing crisis, and we must urgently act to ensure  
12 they are protected from being forced out of their  
13 homes. Today many seniors and persons with  
14 disabilities who struggle to make ends meet, are  
15 ineligible for SCRIE/DRIE programs, because they fall  
16 outside of the current income cap of \$50,000, which  
17 currently hasn't been increased since 2014. Since we  
18 last raised the income limit, almost a decade ago,  
19 the cost of living has skyrocketed and we need to  
20 factor in the inflation we are suffering from. The  
21 price to merely survive has become an astronomical  
22 financial burden. I ask my colleagues to please sign  
23 on to this bill, thank you.

24 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

25 We will now go to...

2 Before we do that, I want to just acknowledge  
3 before they leave, uh, from Council Member Barron's  
4 district, The Elite Learners, who are here as well,  
5 welcome.

6 [APPLAUSE]

7 Thank you for joining for us.

8 We will now hear from Council Member Joseph,  
9 followed by Council Member Schulman.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Thank you, Majority Leader  
11 Powers.

12 Today I stand in solidarity with students from  
13 Nashville, Tennessee to New York City as they fight  
14 for gun control reform. The New York Times recently  
15 reported that gun violence recently surpassed car  
16 accidents as the leading cause of death for American  
17 children. Day after day, students are dying from gun  
18 violence due to in action from leaders. This is an  
19 American Failure. Just last week, students in  
20 Manhattan Central Park East II from kindergarten  
21 through eighth grade walked out of schools to protest  
22 senseless gun violence. This walkout was as part of  
23 a nationwide walkout to sound the alarm of the  
24 emergency we are in. As a mother of four boys,  
25 especially my little one, who still attend public

2 school, and a forever educator, one child gunned down  
3 is too many. We need to meet the moment and listen  
4 to the needs of our students.

5 To New York City students, I stand with you, and  
6 I have your back.

7 Thank you, Majority Leader.

8 [APPLAUSE]

9 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

10 We now will hear from Council Member Schulman,  
11 followed by Council Member Barron.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Thank you, Majority  
13 Leader Powers.

14 Today I am proud to introduce Intro 1001, which  
15 would prohibit landlords from knowingly leasing  
16 commercial space to tenant who uses the premises for  
17 distribution of sale of cannabis or cannabis products  
18 without a license.

19 Many of these shops sell adulterated products and  
20 also sell to children. Allowing these shops to  
21 proliferate is bad for our communities and also robs  
22 those who have been involved in the criminal justice  
23 system from getting a legal license and operating a  
24 legitimate business and moving forward with their  
25 lives.

2 I urge my colleagues to sign on to this important  
3 legislation, thank you.

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

5 We will now hear from Council Member Barron,  
6 followed by Council Member Velázquez.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you very much, my  
8 colleagues.

9 Once again I want to acknowledge the Elite  
10 Learners, some young, dynamic leaders from my  
11 district. But, I want to remind us, which you  
12 already know, that this is budget season. And I just  
13 hope that we can keep as a priority, the people that  
14 are in communities like East New York and other  
15 places of Elite Learners.

16 Just recently, the mayor gave a 4% raise to the  
17 PBA, The Patrolman's Benevolent Association. I call  
18 them the Patrolman's Brutality Association. They got  
19 a 4% raise as he cuts 4% from the city agencies. And  
20 yet he says he is the Mayor of the People. They also  
21 cut from city agencies that are vital to us, when you  
22 talk about the libraries, health, you name it, these  
23 agencies got cut. And they cut when we have a \$4.9  
24 billion unexpected revenue increase. That \$4.9 -- or  
25 7 -- billion could be used to take care of the

2 unions. But, no, this mayor says, I have to cut the  
3 agencies in order to take care of the unions, so he  
4 can have city agencies workers fighting against union  
5 workers. We should not go for that. On this budget  
6 go-round, restore all of the cuts, and not the  
7 partial cuts that we send back as a response, but  
8 restore all of the cuts. The money is there. There  
9 is \$8.3 billion in a reserve budget. The money is  
10 there. We can even -- and we should -- pay the \$600  
11 million for our retirees...

12 [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

13 So, they can have their benefits. That should  
14 happen. The City Council...

15 [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

16 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Let's please let Council  
17 Member Barron finish his speech, thank you.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: The City Council can fix a  
19 morally bankrupt wrong decision to give Aetna, who  
20 participated in the slave trade, a contract to get  
21 billions of dollars for health care, and have them go  
22 from senior care [TIMER CHIMES] to Medicare Advantage  
23 and pay a premium. Let's do the right thing! We are  
24 the people's city council, not the mayor's, and not  
25 the corporation's.



2 [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

3 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Council  
4 Member. Everyone, please hold your applause, please  
5 hold your applause, folks.

6 [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

7 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Folks, please hold your  
8 applause, thank you.

9 We are now going to go to Council Member Kagan,  
10 followed by Council Member Narcisse.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Thank you. Today, I had  
12 the privilege to join hundreds of municipal retirees,  
13 fire fighters, teachers, police officers, librarians,  
14 EMS technicians, and many others who are fighting to  
15 keep their affordable, accessible, and long promised  
16 health care. It is not a democratic issue, it is not  
17 a republican issue, it is a moral issue. We need to  
18 make it right for hundreds of thousands of our  
19 municipal retirees. Thank you

20 [APPLAUSE]

21 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

22 [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

23 Folks, folks, in this council if you want to give  
24 applause, you can put your hands up and signify  
25 support. We typically ask folks to do that just to

2 let us hear folks as they are speaking. So, if you  
3 want to applaud, you can do that, thanks.

4 We will now go to Council Member Narcisse,  
5 followed Council Member Bottcher.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Thank you, Majority  
7 Leader.

8 My friends, I am happy to introduce Intro 996,  
9 which is about hypertension. As a nurse for many  
10 decades, I know that we are being affected by  
11 hypertension; it affects an estimated 1.8 million  
12 adults in New York City, and it is a leading risk  
13 factor to heart disease and strokes. We must provide  
14 New Yorkers with recourses to combat this epidemic  
15 and allow the people with recourses an opportunity  
16 and focus on preventive care.

17 Also I am asking my colleagues to support Intro  
18 997, which would expand the definition of "use of  
19 force incidents" that must be reported by the New  
20 York City Police Department to include when an  
21 officer, while taking police action, responds to an  
22 incident or conditions and displays or unholsters a  
23 weapon. Because I want transparency, and we all are  
24 going for transparency.

2 Resolution 562, calling upon the New York State  
3 Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign,  
4 legislation that would ease nursing home staffing and  
5 capacity constraints by increasing Medicaid  
6 reimbursement rates by at least 20 percent. You  
7 cannot provide adequate health care without staffing  
8 and money. You need money. This would provide both  
9 the health care that we need to address and the  
10 staffing issues that we are having. I hope you will  
11 all join me.

12 And, I cannot forget Intro 992, we need to  
13 divert young people to community-based organizations  
14 in lieu of arrest. I support that in full force.

15 So, thank you so much for your time. So, my  
16 colleagues, please help me out, thanks.

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Council  
18 Member.

19 We will now hear from Council Member Bottcher,  
20 followed by Council Member Holden.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Today I am introducing  
22 legislation that will really help us address an issue  
23 that has held us back in our efforts to address  
24 sanitation in New York City. We fought really hard  
25 over the last year and four months for more basket

2 pickups, street sweeping, et cetera, but you could  
3 have all of that funding, but if property owners do  
4 not adequately clean the sidewalks and gutters in  
5 front of their property, we are not going to have a  
6 clean city. And while many property owners do the  
7 right thing, some don't put much care into the front  
8 of their property. The Department of Sanitation has  
9 expressed to us that it is difficult for them to enforce  
10 the rules, because they can only do that for 2 one-  
11 hour periods a day. So, today, the legislation I  
12 introduced would expand those hours to the hours of  
13 operations of those businesses. It is going to  
14 really help address the cleanliness in our  
15 neighborhoods. I want to thank co prime sponsor,  
16 Council Member Sandy Nurse and everyone who is  
17 supporting this legislation.

18 I also want to thank Council Member Schulman and  
19 Council Member Menin for their legislation regarding  
20 unlicensed cannabis shops. It is a total  
21 embarrassment how our state has botched the  
22 legalization of cannabis by legalizing it and then  
23 waiting two years before issuing legal licenses. So,  
24 now I think we have like four legal licenses in the  
25 state and thousands of unlicensed cannabis sellers in

2 our district. They are next to schools. They are  
3 selling to minors. They are undermining the system  
4 for everyone who is trying to go by the rules. And  
5 not enough is being done to close down the unlicensed  
6 sellers and promote the... and expand the licensed  
7 sellers.

8 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

9 We will hear from Council Member [TIMER CHIMES]  
10 Holden, followed by Council Member Feliz.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Thank you, Majority Leader  
12 Powers.

13 I am introducing two bills today that I need  
14 everyone's support on.

15 The first bill, which I am introducing with my  
16 colleagues of The Common Sense Caucus, Intro 991,  
17 seeks to create cure periods for certain violations  
18 issued by the various city agencies to veteran  
19 service organizations like our legions, American  
20 Legions, halls, and posts. Veteran service  
21 organizations or VSOs, operate on a very thin margin,  
22 and they all need our help. So, we should not  
23 penalize them, but allow them to fix any issues and  
24 assist them. Our veterans served this country and we  
25 should help them.

2 The second bill, Intro 990, which I am  
3 introducing with Council Member Lincoln Restler,  
4 would require the Department of Homeless Services,  
5 DHS, to ensure that single adult shelter residents  
6 are provided with at least individual sleeping areas  
7 that are partitioned off from other residents that  
8 allow for individual privacy. Everyone needs  
9 privacy. This bill aims to provide much needed  
10 privacy and dignity to homeless individuals while  
11 they stay in our shelters.

12 I urge all of you to support these bills by  
13 signing on to them. These are common sense  
14 approaches to serious problems, and we owe it to our  
15 veterans and homeless individuals to provide them  
16 with the necessary support and protection. Thank you  
17 for your time and consideration.

18 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Council Member  
19 We will now hear from Council Member Feliz,  
20 followed by Council Member Brewer.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Thank you, Majority Leader.

22 If you live in the City of New York, you have  
23 probably seen paper license plates on our cars --  
24 many of them are legitimate, and many of them which  
25 are fake, fraudulent. Fraudulent paper license

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

plates have created a new problem for our city -- "ghost cars". Ghost cars are being used to violate our traffic laws, including parking related rules, speeding rules, red light camera rules. But also ghost cars are being used to commit other major crimes. Fake plates have created new problems, problems that we don't want or need in our communities. These two bills will hopefully help resolve the problem by discouraging individuals from selling or using them to evade our traffic rules.

Speaking about selling, there was a report that basically said one individual, uh, generated approximately \$300,000 by selling these fake plates - \$300,000. They generated \$300,000 at the expense of our safety on our roads, at the expense of safety in our communities, and also at the expense of our recourses that we unfortunately have to use to tackle this problem.

So, these two bills are important steps. We need to do much more, though. We need to work with marketplaces such as Craig's List, Face Book, eBay, so that they can do more to detect and remove listings related to this paper license plates.

2 We also need federal action. A lot of these  
3 plates are coming from different states, including  
4 Georgia, Texas, Delaware. We can implement rules,  
5 but if other states don't have these standards apply  
6 to them, we are going to go back to square one. So,  
7 we also need federal access to resolve the problem.

8 I want thank the prime co-sponsors of these bills  
9 including our very own Majority Leader, Keith Powers,  
10 also our Majority Whip and Chair of Transportation,  
11 Council Member Selvena Brooks-Powers, and also  
12 Council Member Marjorie Velázquez, Council Member  
13 Lincoln Restler, Council Member Rafael Salamanca.

14 We hate fines. Our goal is not to fine [TIMER  
15 CHIMES]. Our goal is to deter individuals from  
16 selling and using plates that are fraudulent, thank  
17 you.

18 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

19 We will now hear from Council Member Brewer, and  
20 finally, from Council Member Restler.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very much.

22 I rise to talk about something very  
23 controversial, which my understanding is some federal  
24 officials are coming to New York simply to chastise  
25 District Attorney Alvin Bragg, for whom I have great



2 respect. He is a Harvard trained attorney. He  
3 worked in the city council in the General Counsel's  
4 Office. I know I have constituents who take umbrage  
5 with some of his decisions, but he has met with them  
6 on a regular basis. He runs a good department in  
7 Manhattan. And the way that he has been treated by  
8 certain federal officials, I find very offensive.

9 So, I just want to bring to this audience's  
10 attention, that there is certainly room for  
11 disagreement, we can do that, but don't do it in a  
12 way that borders on racism and that chastises  
13 somebody who has the intelligence of a very brilliant  
14 man. Talk about the issues, but don't bring up this  
15 kind of accusation. Thank you very much.

16 [APPLAUSE]

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We will now  
18 hear from Council Member Restler.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Great, thank you so much,  
20 Majority Leader.

21 I would firstly like to just say goodbye and good  
22 riddance to Patty(sp?) Lynch. For too many years, he  
23 has made bigoted, racist, inflammatory statements  
24 that have undermined stability in our city. And, I,  
25

2 for one, am not at all sorry to his tenure come to an  
3 end at the PBA.

4 I would also like to just thank my colleagues,  
5 Council Members Feliz and Holden, on great  
6 legislation that I am proud to be co-priming with  
7 them today -- especially Council Member Holden's  
8 legislation that will bring privacy to individuals in  
9 our single adult shelter system. When you are  
10 struggling in our shelter system, and there are 10 or  
11 12 or 20-odd people in a room, it is... And, you  
12 have no privacy whatsoever, it is extremely  
13 challenging. And the partition model that he has  
14 developed is one that I think has a lot of promise  
15 and would be very beneficial to individuals who are  
16 struggling with homelessness in New York City.

17 And, then, lastly, I just want to thank Council  
18 Member Riley; today he and I introduced a plan for  
19 how we can actually get the closure of Rikers on  
20 track. I think many people in this body have  
21 strongly their support for the closure of Rikers, but  
22 it not going to happen on its own. We need to make  
23 deliberate policy decisions and investments that will  
24 actually drive down the population. The decision for  
25 how many people are incarcerated in New York City is

2 a decision. It is a policy decision. And there is  
3 no more epic failure than mass incarceration, and we  
4 must end it. We must drive down the incarcerated  
5 population in New York City. We must achieve the law  
6 of closing Rikers by 2027. And I hope colleagues  
7 will work together to pass legislation, to make  
8 investments in this budget, uh, and to actually close  
9 Rikers Island, thank you.

10 [APPLAUSE]

11 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

12 Do we have anyone else signed to speak right now?

13 Okay, I am going to hand it over to Speaker Adrienne  
14 Adams to close out today's Stated Meeting.

15 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Majority Leader.

16 I would like to echo the sentiments of my  
17 colleague, Council Member Gale Brewer, in speaking  
18 out. And I would also like to recognize and  
19 congratulate our colleague, Nashville Council Member  
20 Justin Jones for his reinstatement in the Council in  
21 Nashville, Tennessee.

22 On that note, The Stated Meeting of April 11,  
23 2023 is hereby adjourned.

24 [GAVELING OUT] [GAVEL SOUND]

25 [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date April 24, 2023