

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
CHARTER MEETING

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January 8, 2025
Start: 12:34 p.m.
Recess: 1:07 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Adrienne Adams
Speaker

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Shaun Abreu
- Joann Ariola
- Alexa Avilés
- Diana I. Ayala
- Chris Banks
- Erik D. Bottcher
- Justin L. Brannan
- Gale A. Brewer
- Selvena Brooks-Powers
- Tiffany Cabán
- David M. Carr
- Carmen N. De La Rosa
- Eric Dinowitz
- Oswald Feliz
- James F. Gennaro
- Jennifer Gutiérrez
- Shahana K. Hanif
- Kamillah Hanks

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

Robert F. Holden
Crystal Hudson
Rita C. Joseph
Shekar Krishnan
Linda Lee
Farah N. Louis
Kristy Marmorato
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
Yusef Salaam
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.
Pierina Ana Sanchez
Lynn C. Schulman
Althea V. Stevens
Sandra Ung
Inna Vernikov
Nantasha N. Williams
Susan Zhuang
Joseph C. Borelli
Amanda Farías

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2 COUNCIL CLERK: Quiet on the floor,
3 please. All quiet on the floor, please. Can I have
4 your attention, please? Can I have your attention,
5 please? Council Members, please take your seats.
6 Council Members, please take your seats. Ladies and
7 gentlemen, at this time please take your seats. Take
8 your seats. Please turn off all electronic devices.
9 Turn them to vibrate. Madam Majority Leader?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Good afternoon
11 and welcome to the Charter Meeting of January 8th,
12 2025. I am Majority Leader Amanda Farías, and I'd
13 like to thank you for joining us. If you would like
14 to follow along, the agenda for today's meeting is
15 posted on our website. On behalf of the body, I
16 welcome the members of the public who have joined us
17 here today. During Stated Meetings, only members of
18 the Council may speak. Members of the public shall
19 remain silent. If you wish to express your support
20 of any remarks, you may make the silent approval
21 gesture. I want to remind my colleagues that decorum
22 is to be respected at all times. Insulting each other
23 is not appropriate. All remarks are to be addressed
24 to the Chair, and members shall not speak unless
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1
2 recognized by the Chair. It is essential that even if
3 we disagree, we treat each other with respect.

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

6 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Roll call.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Abreu?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Present.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Ariola?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Present.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Avilés?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Presente.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Here.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Banks?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Present.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Bottcher?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Present.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Brannan?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Here.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Brewer?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Brooks-Powers?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Present.

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Council Member
Cabán?
COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: Carr?
COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: De La Rosa?
COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: Dinowitz?
COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: Feliz? Gennaro?
COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Gutiérrez? Hanif?
COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Hanks?
COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: Holden?
COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Hudson?
COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: Joseph?
COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: Krishnan?
COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Lee?

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COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Louis?
COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: Marmorato?
COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: Marte?
COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy? Menin?
COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Moya?
COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Narcisse?
COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: Nurse? Ossé?
COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: Paladino?
COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Powers?
COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Restler?
COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Riley?
COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Present.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Salaam?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: Present.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Salamanca?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Sanchez? Schulman?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Here.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Stevens?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Here.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Ung?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Present.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Vernikov? Williams?

14 Won?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Present.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Zhuang? Borelli?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Happy New Year.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Farías?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Present.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Adams?

21 SPEAKER ADAMS: Present.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Thank you. We

23 will now have today's invocation which will be
24 delivered by Bishop Calvin Rice.

25 [audience disruption]

COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: There'll be no interruptions in the Chambers. Sergeants, can you please remove him. There's no interruptions in the Chambers. The public must remain silent.

[audience disruption]

COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: There are no interruptions in the Chambers. The public must remain silent. Sergeants, please remove this member of the public out of the gallery. There shall be no interruptions from the public in the gallery. Please see yourself out of the gallery. This is an official government meeting. Thank you. We will continue on. We will now have today's invocation which will be delivered by Bishop Calvin Rice, the Senior Pastor of New Jerusalem Worship Center which is located at 1125 Smith Street in Jamaica, Queens.

BISHOP CALVIN RICE: Good afternoon.

Would you please pray with me in your own faith experience as we seek God? Dear Lord our God of creation and sustainer of life, we first want to give you thanks for allowing us to see this brand new year, 2025. Thank you for the wonderful blessing of life, for health and strength. Lord, I ask your blessings upon Speaker Adams and every Council Member

1 and their families. I pray for this legislative body
2 and all the men and women that make up this council
3 who gather here to discuss, to write and to pass
4 bills and laws that govern this great city. I pray
5 that your spirit of love, compassion, and wisdom
6 would occupy this space and direct every discussion.
7 Help each one to see themselves as one of the least
8 among us, see themselves as homeless, as unemployed
9 or under-employed so that they may be guided by the
10 golden rule of life, to do unto others as they would
11 have others do unto them. I pray your will to be
12 done in this place so that the lives of every person
13 in every borough would be improved and New York City
14 would truly become the city of lights that reflect
15 human decency and respect for all people. These
16 things I ask in your holy, just and righteous name,
17 and everyone said amen.

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19 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Thank you. I
20 would--

21 [audience disruption]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: There shall be no
23 interruptions in the Chamber. [gavel] Sergeants,
24 please remove this member of the public. There shall
25 be no interruptions from the public in the gallery.

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2 Please remove yourself from the gallery. I would like
3 to instruct for the Sergeants that if there are
4 further interruptions from the public, I will clear
5 the gallery. I would now like to ask Speaker Adrienne
6 Adams to spread the invocation on the record.

7 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Madam Majority
8 Leader. Apologies to our amazing Senior Pastor
9 Bishop Rice. Bishop Calvin Rice, Senior Pastor of
10 the New Jerusalem Worship Center in Jamaica, Queens
11 is a dedicated and selfless faith leader who has
12 served our communities in southeast Queens for many
13 years. He has advanced educational opportunities for
14 our young scholars, led the restoration of
15 residential housing, and supported underserved
16 neighborhoods across the City. Bishop Rice continues
17 to give back to this city through his expertise and
18 leadership on numerous civil rights, nonprofit and
19 community organizations. He is well-regarded and
20 admired for his distinguished service. I am honored
21 to have known and worked with Bishop Rice for many
22 years. He is a stalwart, revered leader in my
23 district, the Great 28. We are so grateful for his
24 words of wisdom today as we start the new year in the
25

2 New York City Council. I now make a motion to spread
3 the invocation in full upon the record.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Thank you.

5 Adoption of minutes?

6 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Messages and
8 papers from the Mayor?

9 COUNCIL CLERK: M86, Special Election.

10 SPEAKER ADAMS: Received, ordered,
11 printed, and filed.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Communication
13 from city, county and borough offices?

14 COUNCIL CLERK: M87, Resignation of
15 Council Member Kalman Yeger.

16 SPEAKER ADAMS: Received, ordered,
17 printed, and filed.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: M88, Commission of
19 elections appointment.

20 SPEAKER ADAMS: Received, ordered,
21 printed, and filed.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Petitions and
23 communications?

24 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

COUNCIL MEMBER FARIÁS: Land Use call-ups?

COUNCIL CLERK: M89 and M90.

SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on call-up vote. I now ask that the clerk take a roll call vote on today's Land Use call-ups.

COUNCIL CLERK: Happy New Year everybody. Abreu?

COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Ariola?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Avilés?

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala?

COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Banks?

COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Bottcher?

COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Brannan?

COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Yes.

COUNCIL CLERK: Brooks-Powers?

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COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Cabán?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Carr?

COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: De La Rosa?

COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Dinowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Feliz?

COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Gennaro?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Gutiérrez? Hanif?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Hanks?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Holden?

COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Hudson?

COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Joseph?

COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Krishnan?

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COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Lee?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you, Council Member
Lee. Louis?

COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Marmorato?

COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Marte?

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy?

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Menin?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Moya?

COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Narcisse?

COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Nurse?

COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ossé?

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Paladino?

COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Aye.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Powers?

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Restler?

COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you, Council Member Restler. Riley? Rivera?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Salaam?

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: I vote aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Salamanca?

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Sanchez?

COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you, Council Member Sanchez. Schulman?

COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Stevens?

COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ung?

COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Vernikov?

COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Williams?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Won?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Aye.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you, Council Member
5 Won. Zhuang?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Aye.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Borelli?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Farías?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER FARIÁS: I vote aye.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Adams?

12 SPEAKER ADAMS: I vote aye.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER FARIÁS: Today's Land Use
14 call-ups are adopted by a vote of 49 in the
15 affirmative and 0 in the negative. Report of
16 Special-- sorry. We will now have communications
17 from Speaker Adrienne Adams.

18 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you once again,
19 Madam Majority Leader. Good afternoon and happy new
20 year everyone. it has been a great honor to lead our
21 historic women-majority and most diverse City Council
22 in the history of New York City these last three
23 years, and to do so as the first Black Speaker. When
24 I first ran for City Council back in 2017 I wasn't
25 certain what the outcome would be, but I knew that I

1 wanted to give my southeast Queens community the
2 representation it deserved. Eight years later, as we
3 begin the last year of this session, my final in the
4 Council along with several of you, I feel that same
5 tremendous pride in representing my community. This
6 has only been enhanced by the opportunity that you
7 all provided by placing your trust in me to lead our
8 historic legislative body. The people of my district
9 and our city have always been my priority. Our city
10 is best served by a strong local government. The
11 Council is pivotal to delivering for all New Yorkers
12 because we represent our city's collective voice.
13 Our members are New Yorkers from every borough of
14 different backgrounds. We are nurses, social
15 workers, educators, community leaders, advocates,
16 small business owners, and neighbors. We have
17 various experiences that match those of New Yorkers
18 with familiarity of how government systems impact the
19 people in our neighborhoods. And as I often say, we
20 are our own constituents. Our relationships to our
21 communities have enabled us to unlock opportunities
22 that were previously inaccessible to so many New
23 Yorkers who look like us. This allows us to make
24 strides in confronting entrenched challenges within
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2 our city and society which will require sustained
3 commitment to fully address. Understanding that
4 progress takes time, we must continue our work for a
5 better future and let that vision guide our
6 legislative and oversight decisions. As we
7 acknowledge what we've been able to accomplish
8 together for New Yorkers, it is critical that we
9 prepare for the hard work required of us this year to
10 confront the difficult challenges facing our city.
11 The housing and affordability crises are driving
12 working-class New Yorkers out of our city and leaving
13 those who stay without stability. While we have
14 delivered historic solutions to create more new homes
15 and increase housing affordability and security, far
16 more is needed. We must build on our momentum to
17 preserve and add more affordable housing and
18 homeownership opportunities, removing the barriers
19 that leave too many without homes to call their own.
20 The prohibitive cost of childcare is another
21 challenge that prevents working families from staying
22 here. We must continue our work to fix and
23 strengthen our early childhood education system to
24 prepare our youngest for their future and to support
25 parents and caregivers, and as we stand here today,

1 we have a few that are out on family leave as we
2 continue to experience the lives of our constituents
3 across this city. We can do so in supporting by
4 building on our own past work and our approach from
5 this last budget process. Affordability also
6 requires that we expand economic opportunities and
7 pathways to mobility for working people. New Yorkers
8 use our public transit system in pursuit of
9 opportunities across our city, and that's why this
10 council has repeatedly increased access to fair
11 fares. Make no mistake about it. The Fair Fares
12 initiative was a baby and a brain child of this New
13 York City Council. No matter what is reported, how
14 it is stated or how it is pursued, this Council has
15 been the champion of fair fares for our underserved
16 New Yorkers. At the same time, we helped more than
17 40,000 New Yorkers return to college in pursuit of
18 greater earning potential by establishing CUNY
19 Reconnect. This has proven to be an outstanding
20 success for empowering working age New Yorkers to
21 fulfil the futures they envision for themselves, and
22 we must extend more of these opportunities to reach
23 greater numbers of people in our city. The most
24 important obligation we have to our communities is to
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1 ensure their health and their safety. This body has
2 consistently centered maternal health and recognized
3 that maternal mortality is a public health emergency.
4 We will continue to confront this crisis and work to
5 eliminate it. The ongoing mental health crisis led
6 us to advance our mental health roadmap which
7 recognizes it is essential to expand investments and
8 proven solutions such as community-based programs, a
9 strong continuum of care and robust workforce. True
10 progress towards positive mental health outcomes in
11 our city requires a greater commitment to effective
12 solutions. We must avoid shallow and short-term
13 responses that fail to produce concrete resolutions.
14 A healthier and safer city requires that we fix the
15 dysfunction that forces people in need of mental
16 health care into jails unequipped to help them and
17 often worsens their condition. It also demands that
18 our city return towards progress in closing Rikers
19 for a more effective system. Public safety requires
20 comprehensive solutions that move us forward, never
21 backward. Together, we created New York State's
22 first trauma recovery centers and allocated more
23 funding for crime victim services, establishing
24 ourselves as a national leader in our support for
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1 survivors of violence. This must become a core
2 pillar of public safety, because helping survivors in
3 addressing trauma is key to stopping cycles of crime
4 and violence in our communities. Our priorities also
5 include the intergenerational needs of our K-12
6 students and older adults, many of which have grown
7 from the impact of the pandemic. Our students are
8 still recovering from learning loss and struggling
9 with mental health challenges that require greater
10 support from all of us. And of course, we cannot and
11 will not ever forget our seniors, the jewels of our
12 communities to whom we owe the very foundation of our
13 lives. As we support their ability to successfully
14 age in our city, we must address the food and housing
15 security, accessibility needs, and social connection.
16 Together, colleagues, we have significant work ahead
17 of us this year. We must continue to chip away at
18 our challenges and make progress to deliver more of
19 what New Yorkers deserve. As elected representatives
20 of our nation's most diverse and largest city, we
21 have the opportunity to model the importance of
22 democratic governance. We can move our city and
23 nation forward by working together alongside the
24 diverse stakeholders of our communities, because the
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1 challenges we face require our collective efforts to
2 solve. As we move forward into this new year of
3 2025, let us continue to look forward, never backward
4 in our pursuit for equity for all New Yorkers for the
5 success of all New Yorkers to thrive because of the
6 work of this amazing, incredible City Council.
7

8 [applause]

9 SPEAKER ADAMS: January 1st was not just
10 the first day of the new year, but also Haitian
11 Independence Day. This day commemorates Haiti's
12 liberation from colonial rule in 1804 as the world's
13 first Black-led republic. To our members of Haitian
14 descent and all Haitian New Yorkers, I hope you had a
15 wonderful celebration like me. Two days ago, we
16 celebrated Three Kings Day, a significant holiday
17 also known as the Feast of Epiphany. It is a day of
18 gathering with family members exchanging gifts and
19 shared meals. I hope everyone who celebrates had a
20 great Three Kings Day. Tomorrow marks the solemn
21 third anniversary of the Twin Parks Northwest
22 building fire that claimed the lives of 17 New
23 Yorkers, including eight children in the Bronx. Our
24 city will always remember the families and
25 communities impacted by this tragedy and we must

1
2 continue to support them. As a council, we continue
3 to focus on strengthening fire safety measures in New
4 York City to prevent future deadly fires like this
5 from ever happening again. And I would be remiss if
6 I did not mention the tragic mass shooting in
7 Southeast Queens last Thursday, where at
8 approximately 11:15 p.m. 10 people were shot at
9 Amazura Nightclub. Perpetrators are still at-large.
10 Innocent children aged 16 to 19 were shot
11 senselessly. We must do our best to eradicate the
12 scourge of gun violence, not just in New York City,
13 but across this nation. Finally, colleagues, please
14 join me-- oh, wait a minute, we got a new baby to
15 recognize. We've got Elliott Restler who was born,
16 so we celebrate his arrival. Council Member Lincoln
17 Restler's son. And finally, please join me in
18 wishing a happy birthday to Council Members Althea
19 Stevens, Carlina Rivera, Shaun Abreu, Francisco Moya,
20 and Alexa Avilés. Thank you colleagues for your
21 attention. Now, I turn it back over to the hands of
22 our Majority Leader.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Thank you so
24 much. Report of special committees.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER FARIÁS: Report of
3 standing committees?

4 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER FARIÁS: Introduction and
6 reading of bills?

7 SPEAKER ADAMS: All bills have been
8 referred to committee as indicated on today's agenda.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER FARIÁS: Thank you. There
10 are no items on our Resolution Calendar, so we will
11 now move into General Discussion, and I'd like to
12 first recognize Council Member Louis followed by
13 Brewer.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Thank you, Madam
15 Majority Leader. Good afternoon colleagues. Today
16 I'm proud to introduce two pieces of legislation that
17 represent vital steps forward in our commitment to
18 advancing economic opportunity to the workforce that
19 drives New York City and making strides to address
20 our far-reaching mental health crisis. The first
21 bill, Intro 1161, amends the administrative code to
22 expand this critical reporting and analysis of pay
23 and employment equity data for city contractors.
24 This legislation builds on the critical work this
25 council accomplished last year with the passage of

1
2 our pay equity package, including the passage of my
3 bill that expanded pay and employment equity data
4 across all city agencies. Expanding our access to
5 information including contractors, this legislation
6 uncovers previously unprotected and overlooked
7 classes of employees. It ensures that more of the
8 city's workforce is captured in year-round data,
9 enabling the Council to conduct robust oversight and
10 take bold steps towards closing pay gaps across
11 racial, ethnic, and gender lines. My second bill,
12 Intro 1162, requires the Department of Health and
13 Mental Hygiene to report annually on suicides that
14 occur in New York City. While a sliver of
15 information is published with other mortality data,
16 it is not comprehensive enough to meet the needs of
17 advocates and service providers. By requiring data
18 on age, ethnicity, gender and other factors we can
19 better target resources to communities and
20 populations most at-risk. I urge my colleagues to
21 join me in supporting these measures. Thank you.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER FARIÁS: Thank you. I'd
23 now like to recognize Council Member Brewer followed
24 by Nurse, then Banks.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you.

Resolution 707 calls on the State Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign S8756 and Assembly 8902C.

These are bills introduced by Senator Robert Jackson, Assembly Member Brian Cunningham. The legislation

would authorize the City of New York to install camera systems on street sweepers run by the

Department of Sanitation, enabling more effective

enforcement of street cleaning parking rules. I think

we all know that most frequent complaints in my

office and your receive-- they are complaining

residents about dirty streets, because the vehicles

don't move and the street sweeper can't get down the

side of the street that is to be cleaned. It's a

significant issue because there is widespread non-

compliance with alternate side parking regulations

and that disrupts the street sweeping schedule. We

need all tools to keep our streets clean. In one

example, in a precinct in my district, the NYPD

actually issued 251,000 parking summonses in 24,

including 1,250 in just one block. However, it

didn't move the streets to get them clean

necessarily. However, more enforcement is still

needed. Dirty streets are unacceptable. I believe

1
2 that installing cameras on street sweepers is a step
3 in maintaining pressure on drivers to follow the damn
4 rules. Thank you very much.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER FARIÁS: Recognizing
6 Council Member Nurse followed by Banks and Cabán.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Thank you,
8 Majority Leader. Today, I am introducing a
9 resolution calling on the New York Power Authority to
10 increase its public renewable energy capacity targets
11 to at least 15 gigawatts. In its draft strategic
12 plan, the Power Authority projected they could reach
13 just 3.5 gigawatts of renewable energy, and this
14 falls extremely short of the climate goals in the
15 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act which
16 commits New York to a net zero carbon economy by 2050
17 and 100 percent zero emission electrical generation
18 by 2040. Achieving 15 gigawatts of renewable energy
19 capacity by 2030 would create tens of thousands of
20 green union jobs, decarbonize New York State's energy
21 grid and reduce energy costs for consumers as
22 temperatures and energy bills rise. And as we saw
23 this year with wild fires in New York City, we
24 really, really need to take action. 3.5 gigawatts
25

1 just won't cut it. I urge everyone to sign onto this
2 resolution. Thank you very much.

3
4 COUNCIL MEMBER FARIÁS: Recognizing
5 Council Member Banks followed by Cabán.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Thank you, madam
7 Majority Leader. This week, the congestion pricing
8 toll plan was implemented, and I'm strongly opposed
9 to it, as it imposes another tax on the working and
10 middle-class New Yorker. While proponents claim it
11 will reduce traffic and fund transit improvements,
12 the reality is that it unfairly burdens those who can
13 least afford it, working-class New Yorkers, small
14 business owners, and the commuters who depend on
15 their cars. New York is the one city-- is one city,
16 and we should not divide our neighborhoods with a
17 inter-borough toll-- with inter-borough tolls that
18 only worsen inequality. For many, a car is a
19 necessity, not a luxury. Public transit is a viable
20 option for everyone-- isn't a viable option for
21 everyone, especially those in the outer boroughs.
22 This plan will worsen congestion in those
23 neighborhoods, as drivers from transit-poor areas
24 search for ways to avoid the toll, opting to park in
25 neighborhoods with better subway access. Those who

1
2 can no longer afford to drive will be forced into
3 overcrowded and unreliable subway system that already
4 struggles to meet its demand. This tax will also
5 hurt small businesses and consumers, many of which
6 who already struggle in businesses will be forced to
7 pass these extra costs onto their consumers. Small
8 businesses are the backbone of our economy, and this
9 plan threatens their survival. As a representative
10 of the 42nd Council District, one of the City's most
11 under-served communities, I will continue fighting
12 for the working-class families and small business
13 owners of our-- and commuters of New York City. New
14 York deserves a real plan that address congestion
15 without punishing those who can least afford it. I
16 will work tirelessly to ensure that the voices of
17 those affected are heard. Thank you.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Recognizing
19 Council Member Cabán.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Thank you. Today,
21 I'm introducing a resolution together with Council
22 Member Avilés that puts the Council on record
23 standing alongside our immigrant neighbors and
24 against policies and rhetoric that threaten the
25 fabric of our city and our values as New Yorkers.

1
2 Immigrants are the backbone of our communities, our
3 workforce and our city. The Trump Administration's
4 proposed mass deportations are inhumane, would be
5 economically devastating and go against everything
6 New York City represents. This resolution reaffirms
7 our commitment to protecting our immigrant neighbors
8 and rejecting policies that harm families,
9 communities and our city. And I just want to take a
10 moment to acknowledge the messages coming from the
11 balcony today. Thank you.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Seeing no one
13 else signed up to speak, I will now call on Speaker
14 Adrienne Adams to close today's meeting.

15 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, madam Majority
16 Leader. And the Charter Meeting of January 8th, 2025
17 is happily hereby adjourned.

18 [gavel]

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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 January 9, 2025