

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

-----X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

CHARTER MEETING

-----X

January 4, 2012
Start: 1:05 p.m.
Recess: 2:30 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:

CHRISTINE C. QUINN
Speaker
JOEL RIVERA
President Pro Tempore

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council Member Maria del Carmen Arroyo
Council Member Charles Barron
Council Member Gale A. Brewer
Council Member Fernando Cabrera
Council Member Margaret S. Chin
Council Member Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Council Member Elizabeth S. Crowley
Council Member Inez E. Dickens
Council Member Daniel Dromm
Council Member Mathieu Eugene
Council Member Lewis A. Fidler
Council Member Helen D. Foster
Council Member Daniel R. Garodnick

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

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

Carol Shine
Counsel to the Committee on Land Use (retiring)
New York City Council

Al-Haj Talib W. Abdul-Rashid
Imam
Mosque of Islamic Brotherhood, Inc.

1
2 SPEAKER QUINN: So, happy new year,
3 everybody. Hi, guys. So, if I could ask Council
4 Members--anyone who wants to, but in particular
5 Comrie, Levin, Lander and Weprin to come up. I
6 know. Well, as Brad makes his way down, if I
7 could also ask Carol Shine and everybody else who
8 is here from Land Use to make their way up to the
9 front of the Council Chambers, please. And we are
10 calling Carol up because after how many years of
11 service to the City of New York? 20 years of
12 service to the City of New York, in different
13 capacities, Carol Shine is [applause] moving on
14 and I want to say Carol has very great shoes on
15 for the day. Come on up, Carol. Gale and all of
16 her colleagues, come on up. We just wanted to
17 take a moment to thank you, Carol, for all of your
18 great work, for all of your thoroughness, for all
19 of your diligence, for coming in and seeing, and I
20 think Gale might agree with this--there's Gale--
21 particularly coming in to see Council Members,
22 namely me, with legal answers we didn't like. But
23 nonetheless, never being moved off of what you
24 knew was legally correct. And you have been a
25 consummate professional to work with, thorough,

1
2 lovely, pleasant, patient, and I just wish you all
3 the best and thank you so very much for all of
4 your great work. [applause] And let me turn the
5 mic over to the Chair of our Land Use Committee,
6 Leroy Comrie.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I--today we
8 are losing Carol, we are losing my shine, as I
9 would like to say--

10 SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic] Awwww.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: --as I
12 would like to say, because she has truly made me a
13 Chair that has been thorough and concise and
14 making sure that we cross all our i's and dot all
15 the t's, because even though we have a great time
16 in our committee, and we're, we kind of keep it to
17 making sure that we are enjoying our company,
18 Carol makes sure that we're handling our business.
19 [laughter] And you know, it makes the committee
20 meetings go very quickly because she is so
21 detailed and making sure that everything that we
22 do do in the committee is handled properly, all
23 the subcommittee meetings, all of the committee
24 meetings are done according to the law and
25 according to [laughter] everything that needs to

1
2 be done, because you know, there's always, and as
3 you know, any New Yorker that's not satisfied can
4 challenge us, but we've been able to survive every
5 challenge because Carol has made sure we've done
6 it right. [applause] So, I just want to say on,
7 you know, I'm really going to miss her because I
8 like to tease her and she's, she's a great person,
9 she makes it easy for me to do what I've done,
10 it's made it easy for me to, and the subcommittee
11 chairs, and I know that now that I won't have
12 anybody clipping my New York Times crossword
13 puzzle, we are making sure that as a gift to
14 Carol, she gets a lifetime subscription to, to the
15 New York Times crossword puzzle, it's just one of
16 the small tokens of appreciation, but I will miss
17 you, you've truly been a help and a blessing to
18 me, Carol, and I wish you a long, happy, happy,
19 healthy and successful retirement. Thank you very
20 much. [applause]

21 SPEAKER QUINN: And Brad or Mark, I
22 don't know if Steve is here, but Brad or Mark or
23 Steve, do you want to add anything? [background
24 comments]

25 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: I just

1

2 don't want to prolong her--

3 SPEAKER QUINN: Her agony.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: --

5 emotional, I know Carol. But I, too, I mean,
6 Carol's one of those people that a lot of people
7 don't know who are outside the Council, but she
8 makes the place run. And she's one of those
9 dedicated people that we wish everyone in
10 government was like this. Who does what the law
11 requires, everything according to Hoyle, whoever
12 that is. I think he's [background comments] Oh,
13 yeah, I thought he used to be a council member at
14 large, I don't know. [laughter] No, I know, I
15 was just joking. Anyway, but always by the rules
16 and making sure that everyone does it right,
17 trying to treat the body with dignity, which
18 sometimes Leroy lacks and I lack [laughter,
19 ooohs!)

20 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Amen, I'll
21 cop to that, I'll cop to that.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Okay. And
23 [laughs] And but, but really, she's been a
24 delight to work with, someone who meant to so much
25 to this body, and I don't know what we're going to

1
2 do without you, Carol. And we do wish you all the
3 best. Thank you. [applause]

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I just
5 really want to add my voice of thanks, you know,
6 we step into these roles and we're trying to make
7 significant decisions, and the people who really
8 know what's going on. Not just what the rules are
9 and what the law requires, but really what, how
10 the decisions matter and how they matter to people
11 on the ground. It makes a big difference. And so
12 to get, know in a way that makes you laugh, but
13 also to get, "Hey, here's a way that we could
14 think about doing this," that improves the project
15 and does it in a way that we're allowed, makes a
16 big difference in the lives of New Yorkers. So,
17 we're going to miss you and the City's going to
18 miss you. Thank you for everything that you've
19 done. [applause]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you,
21 Madam Speaker, I just want to add my voice.
22 Carol, you've been a wonderful guide to me, in my
23 first couple years here in the Council, and your
24 advice has been just wonderful and irreplaceable.
25 And you've been a wonderful mentor to me and a

1
2 wonderful teacher. And I will be forever
3 appreciative. Thank you. [applause]

4 SPEAKER QUINN: And if I could ask
5 the clerk to read the proclamation.

6 CLERK: Council, City of New York
7 Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of
8 New York is proud to honor Carol J. Shine on the
9 occasion of her retirement from the New York City
10 Council. And whereas, Carol joined the City
11 Council staff on October 15, 1991, in the newly
12 created Land Use Division, which was formed after
13 New York City voters approved the sweeping changes
14 outlined in the charter revision of 1989. And
15 whereas, the members of the Land Use Committee
16 were greatly impressed by Carol from the
17 beginning. In her role as project manager, Carol
18 was primarily responsible for the review of
19 authorizing resolutions for franchises, concession
20 applications, and revocable consents, and provided
21 expert advice and analysis to committee members on
22 the authorizing resolutions for private, pay,
23 telephone franchise and cable television. And
24 whereas, Carol soon moved to a legislative counsel
25 position in which she served under Christopher

1
2 Collins, then General Counsel of the Division, and
3 expanded the scope of her responsibilities to
4 include planning activities, dispositions and
5 affordable housing projects. And whereas, in
6 February 2006, Carol was promoted to General
7 Counsel of the Land Use Division where has
8 provided stellar service to all of the City
9 Council Members, but especially to Chair of the
10 Land Use Committee, City Council Deputy Majority
11 Leader Leroy Comrie. [cheers] And whereas, after
12 earning her undergraduate degree in anthropology
13 from Beloit [phonetic] College, Carol launched her
14 degree at Drexel Burnham Lambert, Inc., during the
15 day and attended Brooklyn Law School at night.
16 That experience honed her profound abilities to
17 multitask at all hours, day and night [laughter]
18 which she has demonstrated throughout her tenure
19 at the City Council. And whereas, Carol has truly
20 exemplified the very best in public service. Over
21 the course of the last 20 years at the Council,
22 she has applied her intelligence, her sense of
23 purpose, her sharp legal mind, and her fine
24 research skills to set and uphold the highest
25 standards in all aspects of her work. She has

1
2 also tempered her counsel with an unfailing sense
3 of propriety, old fashioned hard work and
4 commitment to excellence. Now therefore be it
5 known that the Council of the City of New York
6 gratefully honors Carol J. Shine for her
7 tremendous service to the Council. And we
8 publicly thank her for her outstanding work on
9 behalf of her fellow New Yorkers. Christine C.
10 [cheers, applause]

11 CAROL SHINE: All right, well.
12 Yes, on? Yes. Who knew my claim to fame was
13 going to be that I said "No" all the time, but
14 [laughter] but I would like remind you that I may
15 be gone but you're still going to hear that voice
16 in your head. [laughter] Anyway, thank you all.
17 [applause]

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Carol.
19 And [laughs] and that will conclude ceremonials
20 for this charter meeting.

21 [pause, background noise]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Oh, there
23 will be a reception for Carol on the 14th, on the
24 16th Floor, right after the Stated Meeting. All
25 Members are invited, and any interested parties

1
2 are invited. 16th Floor, 16th Floor, Land Use
3 area.

4 [pause, background noise]

5 CLERK: Could I have your
6 attention, please, at this time. Please place all
7 cell phones and pagers to vibrate. All cell
8 phones and pagers to vibrate. All non-Council
9 employees, please leave the main floor of the
10 Chambers. Thank you.

11 [gavel]

12 PRESIDENT RIVERA: I call this
13 meeting, the Charter Meeting of January 4, 2012,
14 into session. My colleagues please rise for the
15 Pledge of Allegiance. [pledge of allegiance]
16 Roll call?

17 CLERK: Arroyo.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [off mic]
19 Here.

20 CLERK: Barron.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [off mic]
22 Here.

23 CLERK: Brewer.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: [off mic]
25 Here.

1

CLERK: Cabrera.

2

3

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: [off mic]

4

Here.

5

CLERK: Chin.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [off mic]

7

Here.

8

CLERK: Comrie.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: [off mic]

10

Here.

11

CLERK: Crowley. Dickens.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [off mic]

13

Here.

14

CLERK: Dilan. Dromm.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: [off mic]

16

Here.

17

CLERK: Eugene.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: [off mic]

19

Here.

20

CLERK: Ferreras. Fidler.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: [off mic]

22

Here.

23

CLERK: Foster.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: [off mic]

25

Here.

1

2

CLERK: Garodnick.

3

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: [off

4

mic] Here.

5

CLERK: Gennaro. Gentile.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: [off mic]

7

Here.

8

CLERK: Gonzalez. Greenfield.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [off

10

mic] Here.

11

CLERK: Halloran.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: [off mic]

13

Here.

14

CLERK: Ignizio.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: [off mic]

16

Here.

17

CLERK: Jackson.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: [off mic]

19

Here.

20

CLERK: James.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: [off mic]

22

Here.

23

CLERK: Koo.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: [off mic]

25

Present.

1

CLERK: Koppell.

2

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: [off mic]

3

Here.

4

CLERK: Koslowitz.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off

6

mic] Here.

7

CLERK: Lander.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [off mic]

9

Here.

10

CLERK: Lappin.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: [off mic]

12

Here.

13

CLERK: Levin.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: [off mic]

15

Here.

16

CLERK: Mark-Viverito. Mealy.

17

Mendez.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: [off mic]

19

Here.

20

CLERK: Nelson.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: [off mic]

22

Here.

23

CLERK: Palma. Recchia. Reyna.

24

Rodriguez.

25

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: [off
3 mic] Here.
4 CLERK: Rose. Sanders.
5 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: [off mic]
6 Here.
7 CLERK: Seabrook.
8 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: [off mic]
9 Here.
10 CLERK: Ulrich.
11 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: [off mic]
12 Here.
13 CLERK: Vacca. Vallone. Van
14 Bramer.
15 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: [off
16 mic] Here.
17 CLERK: Vann.
18 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [off mic]
19 Here.
20 CLERK: Weprin.
21 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: [off mic]
22 Here.
23 CLERK: Williams.
24 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [off mic]
25 - - still here.

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

CLERK: Thank you. Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: [off mic]

Here.

CLERK: Oddo. Rivera.

PRESIDENT RIVERA: Here.

CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic] Here.

CLERK: We have a quorum.

PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you.

Quorum is present, my colleagues, please rise for the invocation being delivered today by Imam Al-Haj Talib W. Abdul-Rashid from the Mosque of Islamic Brotherhood, Inc.

AL-HAJ TALIB W. ABDUL-RASHID:

Blessed new year to everyone. Peace be unto you all. Shalom - - . Almighty God, Creator of the Heavens and the Earth and all things in between, you of the most beautiful names used by your servants to call upon you, Almighty and Everlasting God. You who are called Almighty God or Ja [phonetic] or Dios or Yahweh or Jehovah or Mumba, you whom we Muslims call Allah. We pray this day with gratitude and sincerity - - Our Lord, you are the source of peace and from you

1
2 come peace. Praise and glory be unto you oh Lord
3 of glory and honor, your law. You spoke to your
4 servant Jeremiah, saying "And seek the peace,
5 safety and security of the City where I have sent
6 you. Pray to the Lord for it, for in its peace,
7 safety and security, you will enjoy success."
8 Therefore, we pray this day for peace, safety and
9 security, for this City, our City of New York,
10 that we might enjoy success for all of its
11 inhabitants. We pray for justice, for there is no
12 meaningful and authentic peace without justice.
13 We pray for tranquility of mind and spirit for the
14 least amongst us, as well as for the prosperous,
15 that every man, woman, youth and child might be
16 secure from poverty and safe from the ravages of
17 greed. We pray for safety and security from
18 hatred, prejudice, bigotry unfounded and
19 unwarranted suspicion, fear mongering and
20 terrorism in all of its forms, for surely these
21 are not the higher qualities of the human mind,
22 nor the blessed qualities of the human spirit.
23 Open our hearts and minds that we might learn from
24 our mistakes of the past year and utilize these
25 lessons to make this a better year for all of the

1
2 inhabitants of this City. Grant us knowledge,
3 wisdom, understanding, humility, sensitivity,
4 courage, compassion, empathy and love, oh God.
5 Increase the transparency of those who govern our
6 City, and strengthen us, the people, that those
7 with authority might be rendered fully accountable
8 for their actions. All of these things we pray in
9 your most holy name, Amin and Amen.

10 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very
11 much. Now, Council Member Dickens.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you,
13 Majority Leader. One quote I want to give you,
14 and this is a quote, "We are unapologetically
15 Muslim and uncompromisingly American." That is a
16 quote by Iman Talib Abdul Rashid. This Iman is a
17 patriot of peace and justice. His visionary
18 leadership and unflinching belief in the spirit of
19 humanity helps to build a strong America, where
20 one day we can all be an equal part of the
21 American Dream. Iman has taken the leadership
22 prior to the recent Queens bombings, and after the
23 bombings, standing tall to denounce hate, the
24 crimes that hate perpetrates on society, and those
25 who commit such crimes, regardless of who commits

1
2 them. Iman Talib, thank you, thank you, for
3 standing tall during a difficult time. I make--
4 thank you, Madam Speaker, I make a motion to
5 spread the invocation in full upon the record.

6 PRESIDENT RIVERA: So ordered.

7 Adoption of the minutes?

8 CLERK: None.

9 PRESIDENT RIVERA: None? Messages
10 and papers from the Mayor?

11 CLERK: None.

12 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Communication
13 from City, County and Borough Offices?

14 CLERK: Preconsidered M737,
15 transferring funds between agencies.

16 SPEAKER QUINN: Finance.

17 CLERK: M738, Bay Station license.

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Transportation.

19 And if I could ask my colleagues before we move on
20 with the agenda to please stand. Thank you. On
21 December 17, 2011, Dr. Josephine English, who was
22 91, passed away in Brooklyn due to complications
23 from gallstone surgery. Dr. English was one of
24 the first African-American female obstetricians in
25 New York, and during her nearly 60 year medical

1
2 career she delivered thousands of babies,
3 including six of Betty Shabazz and Malcolm X's
4 children. Born in 1920 in Inglewood, New Jersey,
5 English graduated from Hunter College and earned
6 her medical degree in Nashville in 1949. She
7 began her career at Harlem Hospital, and then
8 started the Women's Community Health Clinic in
9 Bushwick in the 1950s, and other practices in Fort
10 Green in the 1980s. When asked by the Daily News
11 in 2010 why she became an obstetrician, she
12 replied, "It's the only type of medicine where the
13 family's happy to see you." Dr. Josephine English
14 is survived by her four children and numerous
15 grandchildren. On December 26, 2011, Constantine
16 "Connie" Sodomani Aristoff [phonetic] who is 81,
17 passed away due to esophageal cancer. According
18 to the New York Times, Connie was a prince who's
19 notable, who's nobility dated, like literally a
20 prince, was a prince who's notability, nobility, I
21 can't, it's hard for Irish people to talk about
22 royalty and get the words our right, let me try
23 that again. Aristoff was in fact an actual prince
24 who's nobility dated back to the 15th Century here
25 in New York. He was a kind of super citizen,

1
2 conservationist, performing innumerable decision
3 making roles in jobs dealing with the environment
4 in and around New York City. Mr. Aristoff served
5 as Highway Commissioner, then Transportation
6 Commissioner under Mayor Lindsay, and then served
7 three Governors as a member of the MTA. From 1989
8 to '93, he served as the federal EPA head for the
9 New York region, where he oversaw programs dealing
10 with the controlled air and water pollution,
11 industrial discharges, toxic substances,
12 pesticide, ocean dumping, as well as federal
13 superfund issues for the cleanup of hazardous
14 waste sites. He was instrumental in obtaining a
15 hard fought waiver for New York City that has
16 saved the City billions of dollars by not
17 requiring us to build a federally mandated but
18 unnecessary water filtration plant. He is
19 survived by his wife Ann, his children, which
20 include former Council Member and former Finance
21 Commissioner Andrew, and numerous grandchildren.
22 And I would like to call on our Environmental
23 Protection Chair, Jim Gennaro, to say a few words.
24 We got to get you the mic, so--

25 [pause]

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you,
3 Madam Speaker. Connie was someone, you know,
4 known to everybody in the New York environmental
5 community, and he really was a prince. And I just
6 want to spend about 30 seconds just telling the
7 fight that he fought, that we wouldn't have to
8 filter the water. He, you know, was a regional
9 head of the EPA here, but he had to fight the EPA,
10 the water people within the EPA, and like the head
11 of the EPA at the time, William Riley, who did
12 not, who did not believe in New York City's
13 ability to keep their water system clean and pure
14 in perpetuity. They put together a blue ribbon
15 panel which proved that this could never be done,
16 but Connie was not going to be deterred. He
17 fought the EPA, he got that for the City, and his
18 work lives on today, this is something that we
19 will always have, we will never have to filter our
20 water because of his belief in us. He was also
21 the first Chairman of New York State Autobahn.
22 That was the first time this national organization
23 had a state office, and this led the way for other
24 state offices for Autobahn. He's on many, many
25 other things, he was a friend of mine and a friend

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

to many. And we will deeply miss him.

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Chair
Gennaro.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you.

[pause]

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Mr.
Majority Leader.

PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you, Madam
Speaker. Petitions and communications?

CLERK: None.

PRESIDENT RIVERA: Land Use call
ups?

CLERK: None.

PRESIDENT RIVERA: Communication
from the Speaker?

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. We're
voting on a number of important pieces of
legislation today. The first one being Intro 567-
A which comes out of the Transportation Committee.
I want to thank Novarto Lopez, Lyle Frank and
Laura Popa, for their work on this bill. I want
to thank the sponsor of the bill, Minority Leader
Oddo, and the Chair of the Transportation
Committee, Jimmy Vacca. If we could get a little

1
2 quiet. Into 567-A is an idea that was brought
3 forward by Minority Leader Oddo. And it's a
4 simple idea: we should empower New Yorkers with
5 the facts about their streets. We should give New
6 Yorkers the information of what rating their
7 street surfacing gets from the Department of
8 Transportation. We should give New Yorkers about
9 when their street was last paved, resurfaced. Are
10 there capital dollars allocated to your street?
11 Was your street rated satisfactory by the
12 Department of Transportation but you look out
13 there and it looks poor and there's a pothole, in
14 your opinion? Why do we want New Yorkers to have
15 this information? Why do we want community boards
16 to have this information? One, because community
17 boards make recommendations--to the Mayor, to the
18 Council, to the Borough Presidents about what
19 streets they want taken care of in the capital
20 budget. This information will help them serve
21 their community board residents better. Two, we
22 want New Yorkers to have this information, because
23 if we see the Department of Transportation has
24 said that a street is of the highest rating, and
25 we don't know that New Yorkers see it otherwise,

1
2 we can't work with them and DOT to fix it and
3 bring it up to the level it should be at. So this
4 bill really speaks to the Council and the Minority
5 Leader's commitment to involving New Yorkers in
6 the large team that makes this City better. Two,
7 it'll create an interactive map function that will
8 become a permanent part of government, so we can
9 always get the information at our fingertips. And
10 I really want to thank the Chair and the Minority
11 Leader for bringing us this bill which will help
12 us all do a better job serving our City and making
13 our streets safe and usable. This isn't about
14 just our streets looking nice, which is good, it's
15 making sure they are safe for everyone who is
16 using them. Let me first call on the sponsor of
17 the bill, Minority Leader Oddo, and then the Chair
18 of the Committee, Jimmy Vacca.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Thank you,
20 Madam Speaker. The, the Mayor and the
21 Administration often talk about technology and
22 transparency. And those of us in this body often
23 talk about engaging and empowering our
24 constituents, and I believe this bill marries
25 those concepts. The Charter says that the

1
2 Department of Transportation has to evaluate 50
3 percent of the City's streets. In recent years,
4 DOT has evaluated around 90 percent. And DOT
5 literally has a program where two employees drive
6 down streets, one drives and the other person has
7 a handheld device where they mark off potholes,
8 street cuts, imperfections in the roadway. And
9 from that personal observation, that particular
10 street gets a rating from one to ten. What this
11 bill does is say to DOT and the City, "Take that
12 information and put it online, and put it in the
13 form of a map where any New Yorker in any 51 of
14 the Council districts, can go on to see what his
15 or her street is rated. And as the Speaker said,
16 what we hope will happen is those constituents
17 will say, "Hey, wait a second, DOT says my
18 street's a nine and that it's in good condition;
19 in fact, it is not." And then they can start the
20 process, they can reach out to 311, they could
21 reach out to the DOT, reach out to the community
22 board, the local Councilperson, etc., etc. So
23 that we can focus very limited resources on those
24 streets that need it most. We all fight at budget
25 time, side-by-side with Commissioner Sadik-Khan,

1
2 to ensure that the lane miles each year are as
3 high as possible. That's how we get to drivable
4 streets, by curb-to-curb restoration. What this
5 will do, hopefully, and by the way, in case folks
6 don't remember, it was this Speaker that put in an
7 additional \$5 million into the capital budget to
8 maintain those levels a couple of years ago. It
9 was actually the Staten Island Council Delegation
10 that has put in \$2 million over the last few years
11 to maintain the levels of road repair on Staten
12 Island. We want to make sure that money is
13 focused on those streets that need it most, and we
14 want New Yorkers to get engaged in the process.
15 If you're not happy, if you're not happy with the
16 evaluation, let us know. I want to thank Lyle
17 Frank and Laura Popa for their hard work in
18 putting this together. I just want to say for the
19 record, we asked DOT to do this in the form of a
20 simple request in a letter in January of 2010.
21 They said they would do it. It has taken a while
22 to get the technology on board, and we went to the
23 Speaker and said, "You know what? Let's codify
24 this as an incentive to the current folks, but
25 also to make this permanent for future DOT

1
2 Commissioners in future administrations, and
3 that's the genesis of this bill. I want to thank
4 Lyle and Laura for their hard work, and I also
5 want to thank in my office, my wonderful Counsel
6 Chris DiCicco for all his hard work on this.
7 Thank you. And one last person, of course, the
8 great Jimmy Vacca, the Chair of the Transportation
9 Committee, whose passion and commitment on this
10 issue is wonderful. Thank you.

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Let's now hear from
12 the great Jimmy Vacca. [laughter]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I will let
14 that description stand, and relinquish my speech.
15 [laughter] It may not be that great. I want to
16 thank Speaker Quinn and Council Member Oddo. You
17 know, we always see reports all the time saying to
18 us, "How great a percentage of our streets in the
19 City are acceptably in good service condition?"
20 75, 80 percent of our streets in our City are in
21 acceptable condition, when it comes to their
22 surface pavement. But the reality is, the
23 condition of your block is what you know. The
24 condition of the streets that you cross every day,
25 or that you ride on, that's what you know. And

1
2 what are the ratings of those streets in your
3 community that you frequent, that you use every
4 day? Well, we don't know. Through this
5 legislation, there will be a public knowledge out
6 there about the condition of the street that
7 they're interested in, usually the street where
8 they live, and in their particular neighborhood.
9 I think it goes to how we formulate capital
10 projects and what we have done in-house, through
11 in-house resurfacing programs. Some streets we're
12 told require capital improvement, but those of us
13 who've been a while, around for a while, know that
14 capital improvements take five, ten, 15, 20 years
15 before a shovel is put in the ground. So we don't
16 want residents who are being told "Your street
17 must await capital improvement," to never see
18 their street resurfaced or strip paved. And under
19 this bill, we can advocate for what we want for
20 our neighborhoods, we can tell people, "You're
21 empowered based on this information not to wait
22 for a capital project that may or may never come.
23 Your curb conditions, your ponding situation on
24 your block, the pothole situation is serious
25 enough where our ratings indicate your community

1
2 is due in-house forces to get this done and to get
3 it done quickly. So, I think it's a good bill, I
4 think it aims in the right direction, I think it
5 gives citizens power. And I think that it's time
6 that this knowledge is out there in the public.
7 So, I thank Council Member Oddo of course and all
8 the Committee staff and the Speaker, and I hope
9 the Members will vote yes. Thank you.

10 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
11 much, Chair Vacca. Also, we're voting today on
12 Intro 585-A a piece of legislation introduced by
13 Council Member Jimmy Va--I'm sorry, Council Member
14 Domenic Recchia, that comes out of our Housing and
15 Buildings Committee, Chaired by Eric Dilan. I
16 want to thank Samara Swanson, Dan Avery, Barbara
17 Hom [phonetic], Laura Regine [phonetic], and most
18 importantly Laura Popa for their work on this
19 bill. 585-A will limit the face--585-A will take
20 the federal green labels plus standards for
21 carpets. Make sure that no carpets are sold in
22 New York City that are not in compliance with
23 those standards. This will make sure that in
24 residences and office buildings that carpets are
25 not ones that are emitting volatile organic

1
2 compounds which can be a contributor to sick
3 building syndrome, something that can cause
4 significant health problems for workers and
5 residents, and I want to thank Council Member
6 Recchia for his work on this bill, and in
7 particular again want to thank Laura Popa. This
8 piece of legislation is part of the overall green
9 building codes legislative work and one of the,
10 probably over 70 pieces of legislation that will
11 be passed as a result of that work. Let me call
12 on Council Member Recchia.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Thank you,
14 Madam Speaker. I also want to thank Laura Popa
15 and her entire staff for helping get this
16 legislation passed today. This legislation aims
17 to reduce the amount of volatile organic compounds
18 present in carpets sold here in New York City. It
19 is simple common sense that we pass this
20 legislation to regulate and reduce the amount of
21 these chemicals found in carpets. As the main
22 sponsor of this bill, I believe we must take all
23 necessary steps to ensure the health, safety, of
24 our residents and children, do our best to always
25 improve the quality of life for the taxpayers of

1
2 the City New York. I encourage all my colleagues
3 to vote aye in passing this legislation today.

4 Thank you.

5 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Council
6 Member Recchia. We are also voting today on a
7 budget modification. I want to thank Chair
8 Recchia and the Finance Committee for their work
9 on it. I want to thank Preston Niblack, Jeff
10 Rodus, Tanisha Edwards, Nicole Anderson, Latonia
11 McKinney, Nathan Toth, Regina Poreda-Ryan, Scott
12 Crowley and Pam Corbett. This budget modification
13 will significantly save \$400 million in the City's
14 budget money that will help us prepare for dealing
15 with the budget deficit in next year's budget, but
16 also this budget modification marks Council
17 priorities. In it, we objected to and prevented
18 the cuts to the Office of the Chief Medical
19 Examiner, cuts that would have delayed the Chief
20 Medical Examiner's ability to process DNA tests,
21 such as rape kits, cuts that we believe would have
22 made it harder for the District Attorneys to
23 prosecute people who have been charged with crimes
24 and made it harder for the police to arrest
25 individuals that they believe had committed crimes

1
2 in the City of New York. It's important to note
3 that the requests for DNA testing have gone up
4 significantly to the Chief Medical Examiner while
5 his staff has gone down. We've also prevented
6 cuts to the Beacon School Program and to the
7 Cornerstone Program, as well as prevented a cut of
8 a million-and-a-half dollars to the Health and
9 Hospital Corporation, which had it been taken
10 would have resulted in an impact on HHC's ability
11 to serve New Yorkers. So, I want to thank
12 everyone who worked on this budget modification.
13 I also, in addition to the legislative matters,
14 want to congratulate Sara Gonzalez and her husband
15 Eli on their 38th wedding anniversary, which is
16 [applause, cheers] today. And that concludes
17 communications from the Speaker.

18 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you, Madam
19 Speaker, we now move on to discussion of General
20 Orders. We have Council Member Barron.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you
22 very much, happy new year, as I intend to make
23 your new year a very interesting one, to say the
24 least. I rise, and let me start right away, I
25 rise to speak against this budget modification.

1
2 This is a continuation of the budget process, as
3 you know, it's the usual process where the Mayor
4 offers cuts and we restore some of the cuts, do
5 our job; but the bottom line in this budget mod
6 some of you are going to be right outside again
7 'cause there are layoffs, the attrition positions
8 that will not be filled, there's a hiring freeze,
9 there's a cut to libraries, there's still going to
10 be some cuts to education. And this is going to
11 happen because there's a \$4.6 billion deficit
12 coming up next year. With this, it might reduce
13 it some, and the Mayor's also now listening to us
14 finally understand he might use the healthcare
15 retirement money to bring the deficit down to \$2
16 billion. But because we thought that the Governor
17 did so well in his Ponzi scheme of a new tax code,
18 that takes less from the millionaires, had we left
19 it as it was we would've gotten \$4.9 billion. But
20 the Mayor, the Governor's new tax scheme cuts it
21 back to \$1.9 billion, and he gave half of that
22 away to get the votes. So next year, watch what
23 the State does to us. And then we're going to be
24 strapped with cutting some now, and cutting more
25 next year, as we go outside and talk about we're

1
2 for the 99 percent. We need to be for the 99
3 percent inside, and make sure that they don't do
4 these kinds of cuts [applause] that's going to
5 happen, and with this budget modification. So I
6 urge you to vote no, and let 'em go back to the
7 drawing board, let's use the power of the City
8 Council to protect the people that are going to be
9 hurt by this budget modification. It's a
10 continuation of the same old same old. Happy new
11 year. [laughter]

12 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very
13 much. Seeing no other members, I will now move on
14 to reports of standing committees.

15 CLERK: None. Oh, report of the
16 Committee on Finance, Preconsidered Intro 749,
17 Mayor's Preliminary Management Report.

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
19 Orders with a message of necessity.

20 CLERK: Resolution 1174, various
21 business improvement districts.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
23 Orders.

24 CLERK: Preconsidered Reso 1192,
25 organization funding.

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

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CLERK: Preconsidered M737, Reso 1195.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

PRESIDENT RIVERA: General Order Calendar?

CLERK: Intro 567-A.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CLERK: Intro 585-A.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CLERK: Resolution appointing various persons Commissioner of Deeds.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders, and at this time point I'd ask for a roll call on all items coupled on the General Order Calendar, and I just want to remind my colleagues that we are voting on numerous, about four or five resolutions, at the end of, after the, the General Order Calendar.

CLERK: Arroyo.

1

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [off mic]

2

Aye.

3

CLERK: Barron.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote no

5

on, I vote no on Preconsidered Reso M737,

6

Preconsidered M30--M737, and its accompanying Reso

7

1195, the budget modification, I vote no for that

8

and I vote aye on all the rest. .

9

CLERK: Brewer.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: [off mic]

11

Aye.

12

CLERK: Cabrera.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: [off mic]

14

Aye.

15

CLERK: Chin.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [off mic]

17

Aye.

18

CLERK: Comrie.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: [off mic]

20

Aye.

21

CLERK: Crowley.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote

23

aye.

24

CLERK: Dickens.

25

1

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [off mic]

2

Aye.

3

CLERK: Dromm.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: [off mic]

5

Aye.

6

CLERK: Eugene.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: [off mic]

8

Aye.

9

CLERK: Fidler.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: [off mic]

11

I'd like - - vote - - .

12

CLERK: Foster.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: [off mic]

14

Aye.

15

CLERK: Garodnick.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: [off

17

mic] Aye.

18

CLERK: Gennaro.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: [off mic]

20

- - yes.

21

CLERK: Gentile.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: [off mic]

23

Aye.

24

CLERK: Gonzalez.

25

1

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.

2

3

CLERK: Greenfield.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [off

5

mic] Yes - -

6

CLERK: Halloran.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: [off mic]

8

Aye.

9

CLERK: Ignizio.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: [off mic]

11

Yes.

12

CLERK: Jackson.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: [off mic]

14

Aye on all.

15

CLERK: James.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: May I be

17

excused to explain my vote?

18

PRESIDENT RIVERA: Yes.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: I'd like to

20

comment on Dr. Josephine English who passed away.

21

Dr. English was one of the first black women

22

obstetricians in Brooklyn. She was a caring soul,

23

a leader in the community, who was dedicated to

24

the arts. She converted a church in Fort Green

25

into the legendary Paul Robeson Theater, the

1
2 Adelphi Medical Center, a senior citizen center,
3 the Up the Ladder Daycare Center, and an
4 afterschool program, as well as a significant
5 number of youth camps. Her legacy should be
6 honored by our commitment to renovating the Paul
7 Robeson Theater. The love within the community
8 for Dr. English is symbolic of her infinite soul
9 and incredible contributions to the Borough of
10 Brooklyn, and I would hope that beyond recognizing
11 her that we would make a commitment to rebuilding
12 Paul Robeson Theater. I also want to recognize
13 and acknowledge the fact that Hazel Younger passed
14 away during the holidays, as well. She was an
15 active member in the community board, she worked
16 with Council Member Fidler, Council Member Barron
17 and Senator Sampson. And I also want to thank my
18 colleagues, all of those who extended sympathy to
19 the family, the Gillespie Family, the woman in
20 Prospect Heights who was torched to death. And I
21 just specifically want to single out Council
22 Member Koo and Council Member Williams for
23 reaching out to the community. Thank you, and I
24 vote aye.

25 CLERK: Koo.

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: [off mic] I

3

vote aye.

4

CLERK: Koppell.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: [off mic]

6

Aye.

7

CLERK: Koslowitz.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off

9

mic] Aye.

10

CLERK: Lander.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [off mic]

12

Aye.

13

CLERK: Lappin.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: I would

15

like to vote aye and also add my words. I was

16

very privileged to represent Connie Aristoff and

17

he was a real pillar of the community, both the

18

community in terms of neighborhood in the

19

community and the larger sense, and he will

20

certainly be missed. Thank you.

21

CLERK: Levin.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: [off mic]

23

Aye.

24

CLERK: Mark-Viverito. Mealy.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: [off mic]

1

2 Aye.

3

CLERK: Mendez.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: [off mic]

5

Aye.

6

CLERK: Nelson.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: [off mic]

8

Aye.

9

CLERK: Palma.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: [off mic]

11

Aye

12

CLERK: Recchia.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: May I be

14

excused to explain my vote?

15

PRESIDENT RIVERA: Yes.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: I'd like

17

to thank my entire Finance staff for working

18

diligently on this mod, especially our Director,

19

Preston Niblack, and the First Deputy, Jeff Rodus,

20

and my attorney, Tanisha Edwards, and the entire

21

Finance staff for doing a great job. And I vote

22

aye on all.

23

CLERK: Reyna.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: [off mic]

25

Aye on all.

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

CLERK: Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: [off mic] Aye, except the [on mic] budget modification for which I vote no.

CLERK: Sanders.

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: [off mic]

- - .

CLERK: Seabrook.

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: [off mic]

Aye.

CLERK: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: [off mic]

Aye.

CLERK: Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: [off mic]

Aye.

CLERK: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [off mic]

Aye.

CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: [off mic] Aye.

CLERK: Vann.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [off mic]

1

2 Aye.

3

CLERK: Weprin.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: [off mic]

5

Aye.

6

CLERK: Williams.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [pause] I

8

vote aye, except Reso 1192, which I abstain.

9

CLERK: Wills.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: [off mic]

11

Aye.

12

CLERK: Oddo.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: [off mic]

14

Yes.

15

CLERK: Rivera.

16

PRESIDENT RIVERA: I vote aye.

17

CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

18

SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic] Aye.

19

[pause]

20

PRESIDENT RIVERA: All items on

21

today's General Order Calendar were adop--hold it,

22

hold that note. [pause]

23

CLERK: Williams.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote

25

aye on all except for Preconsidered M737 and Reso

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

1194-5, which I abstain.

[pause]

PRESIDENT RIVERA: All items on today's General Order Calendar were adopted by a vote of 47 in the affirmative, with zero in the negative, and six abstentions, with the exception of Preconsidered M737, and Resolution 1195, which was adopted by a vote of 44 in the affirmative, with two in the negative and one abstention.

Introduction and reading of the bills?

SPEAKER QUINN: All bills are referred to Committees as indicated on the agenda.

PRESIDENT RIVERA: Okay, discussion of general, of resolutions. We're going to go in order, so the first one we're going to speak about is Resolution 821-A, an amended resolution calling on the United States Congress to pass and the President to sign into law, HR 591 and S 35, which would close the background check loophole at gun shows by establishing a background check procedure for all firearms sold at gun shows and - -

SPEAKER QUINN: [interposing] Could we get some quiet, please, if folks can take--the Committee Room is open if you need to step into

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

there, but if we could get quiet.

PRESIDENT RIVERA: Next item,
please.

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you.

PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you, Madam
Speaker. Legislation requiring background checks
for all private firearm sales. Anyone wishing to
speak on this resolution, raise your hands now.
First we have Council Member Peter Vallone,
followed by Council Member Robert Jackson.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you,
I'd like to thank the Mayor and Speaker for
keeping my Committee so busy combatting illegal
guns and of course the staff deserves a lot of
credit, Carmine and Sal and the rest, I'd like to
thank the great Jimmy Vacca who has nothing to do
with this, but I'm covering my bases. And, you
know, we have been doing all we can at the local
level to combat illegal guns, but the federal
government has to do more. We passed three Resos
out of my Committee today, one by Gale Brewer
about increasing penalties for gun--one by Inez
about increasing penalties for gun trafficking and
one by Gale Brewer about reciprocity of gun

1
2 licenses. And my Reso which calls on the federal
3 government to close the gun show loophole and the
4 Craig's List loophole. Right now, criminals can
5 still get guns and bring them into the City
6 without background checks, and that's ridiculous.
7 The federal government needs to do something about
8 that. And that's what my Reso calls on them to
9 do. Thank you.

10 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Council Member
11 Jackson.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you.
13 My colleagues, I rise in order to support this
14 resolution and I ask all of you to vote in favor
15 of it. Knowing what my colleague, Peter Vallone,
16 Jr., had just stated, let me just talk from a
17 position of the Co-Chair of the Black, Latino and
18 Asian Caucus. Because when you look at all of the
19 killings and deaths that occur in the New York
20 City, statistics will show you that the majority
21 of the people that are being killed and injured
22 are blacks and Latinos. And majority of those
23 guns are legal guns that have been brought into
24 our City through various ways. And so, this here
25 would help to stop the flow of guns coming into

1
2 our great City. And hopefully, eventually, it
3 will stop the amount of killings and murders that
4 take place in our City. So, I ask you to all
5 support Reso 821-A. Thank you.

6 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very
7 much. Next we have Council Member Halloran.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Mr.
9 Majority Leader, Ms. Speaker, Madam Speaker, I'm
10 regrettably going to stand up in opposition to the
11 Resolutions before this body with regards to the
12 Second Amendment of the United States
13 Constitution. HR 822 was passed with bipartisan
14 support in the Congress, and that is because the
15 United States Constitution's Second Amendment,
16 after the Heller and McDonald decisions clearly
17 and unequivocally stated that individual citizens
18 have a right to keep and bear arms. The full
19 faith and credit clause of the Constitution
20 requires that every state recognize those laws
21 that appertain to the protection of rights of
22 other citizens, even without their state. And in
23 this particular case, we're talking about the
24 right to keep and bear arms, a Second Amendment
25 Bill of Rights issue. If we were talking--

1
2 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Pardon me, Co--
3 Council Member, I think you're talking about
4 Resolution 1122?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Yes, I'm
6 sorry, we're on 8--

7 PRESIDENT RIVERA: We're on 8--
8 we're still on 821.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: 821, my
10 apologies.

11 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Well, just, you
12 can continue, just, you know.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: I
14 appreciate it. We have in New York City a series
15 of bills, of Resos in front of us, that deal with
16 the rights of our citizens and the rights to keep
17 and bear arms. Council Member Vallone is
18 completely correct when he says that the federal
19 government has dropped the ball. But that doesn't
20 mean that we in the Council have the job of
21 replacing either the Supreme Court or the federal
22 legislators. We have many issues we should be
23 dealing with in time, and we should not be wasting
24 our time on Resolutions that will actually not
25 affect the legislation at the state or national

1
2 level, and I suggest the Council gets busy with
3 the business of our business. Thank you, Mr.
4 Chair.

5 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very
6 much, Council Member. Seeing no others, we're
7 going to take the vote on 821-A. All in favor,
8 say aye.

9 COUNCIL: Aye.

10 PRESIDENT RIVERA: All opposed say
11 nay. Any abstentions? The ayes have it. We will
12 now speak and Council Member Halloran already
13 spoke on this Resolution, on Resolution 1122-A, an
14 amended Resolution calling on the United States
15 Senate and the President to oppose HR 822 known as
16 the National Right to Carry Reciprocity Act of
17 2011, which would allow a resident from one state
18 who has a license to carry a concealed handgun to
19 lawfully carry his or her handgun into a different
20 state regardless of the licensing eligibility
21 standards in the other state; amended and adopted
22 by the Committee on Public Safety. Anyone wishing
23 to speak on this bill, first we have Council
24 Member Gale Brewer.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you

1
2 very much, I want to thank Chair Vallone, Speaker
3 Quinn and Will Colgrove [phonetic] from her office,
4 and certainly staff, but Richard Aborn [phonetic]
5 who's a known leader in this field. And as we
6 have discussed, this particular act, known as HR
7 822, National Right to Carry Reciprocity Act of
8 2011, it would allow a resident, if it was passed,
9 from one state who has a concealed carry handgun
10 permit to lawfully carry his or her handgun into a
11 different state, regardless of the licensing
12 eligibility standards in the other state. It was
13 passed in the House on November 16, 2011, and we
14 don't want to pass in the United States Senate.
15 It has received a lot of attention recently due to
16 the case of Meredith Graves, a tourist from
17 Tennessee who brought her gun to the 9/11
18 Memorial. And she was arrested. And we don't
19 want her to be arrested for what appears to be an
20 innocent mistake. However, we want to emphasize
21 by passing this resolution to make it clear that
22 visitors from different states that have different
23 laws requiring concealed weapons, we don't want
24 here in New York, people walking into museums with
25 loaded weapons. And we want to make sure that our

1

2 own decisions, we want to make our own decision
3 when it comes to firearm regulation, and not defer
4 to--

5 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Council Member--

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: --the
7 national lowest common denominator. So, I urge
8 everybody to pass this resolution. Thank you.

9 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you. Next
10 we have Council Member Robert Jackson, followed by
11 Council Member Koppell.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you,
13 my colleagues, I rise in support of Resolution
14 1122-A, and obviously Gale Brewer has given some
15 statistics on it. But clearly, the Mayor and the
16 Police Commissioner are against this particular
17 matter, and in favor of this Resolution. We don't
18 want New York City, people to be coming in here
19 when our laws basically say, "You should not be
20 carrying guns" and it makes it very, very
21 difficult to get a licenses to carry, even legally
22 in New York City. And for people to carry guns in
23 New York City from other states, from New Jersey,
24 from Connecticut, from wherever, it's just causing
25 a ruckus here in our City. We don't need that,

1
2 and in fact Gale indicated one individual that was
3 going into the 9/11 Memorial, when it said, "No
4 guns are allowed," so she went to go check in her
5 gun with the police officer there, and she was
6 arrested. But also there was someone else
7 traveling and either they were at LaGuardia or
8 Kennedy Airport, and in fact they had a gun in the
9 case, but they were arrested for carrying a gun.
10 We don't need that in New York City, and I ask all
11 of you to support Reso 1122-A. Thank you.

12 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very
13 much, next we have Council Member Koppell.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: While I,
15 while I generally very much respect the legal
16 acumen of my colleague, Council Member Halloran,
17 there's nothing I believe in the debate over the
18 Second Amendment that prevents states from reg--
19 appropriately regulating guns. I think the,
20 there's never been a ruling that says that states
21 can't have licensing requirements for carrying
22 guns, and there's certainly nothing in the full
23 faith and credit clause that says that New York
24 State has to regulate, has to forego regulation of
25 visitors to New York State with respect not only

1
2 to carrying guns but all sorts of other things,
3 merely because the laws may be different in
4 Mississippi or California or wherever. So, I
5 really think the legal argument that he seeks to
6 make is a flawed argument. The idea that we
7 should allow people to carry guns in New York the
8 way people carry guns in some other states, I
9 think is anathema to most of us, and I think it is
10 important that we speak out. I hope that people
11 speak out all across the country so that the
12 Senate, United States Senate, will not follow the
13 House in what is much misguided legislation. I
14 support the Resolution.

15 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very
16 much. Next we have Council Member Williams,
17 followed by Council Member Vallone, then Council
18 Member Barron.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank
20 you. I'm happy to support all of these
21 resolutions and anything that can help curb the
22 gun violence. I think we should all support. In
23 addition, I hope that we have the same fervor when
24 it comes to things that I think run tandem with
25 this, like policies and budget resources that can

1
2 go to the communities, where a lot of violence are
3 taking place. I think the violence has more to do
4 with geography and economic status than anything
5 else, different persuasions that have lived in
6 poverty have had violence just as much as these,
7 and we need to attend to that as well. Doing
8 these are great, but without tandem policy and
9 resource problems, we will have violence, maybe
10 not gun violence, if some of these things help
11 bring it down, but something else would replace
12 it. So, I hope we have the same kind of fervor
13 when the further discussions come. Thank you.

14 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very
15 much. Now, next we have Council Member Vallone.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you.
17 While I absolutely do support this Reso, I do want
18 to address legitimate concerns raised by same.
19 Regarding cases like Meredith Graves, I wrote in
20 an op-ed today that citizens with valid permits
21 from other states who have no criminal records and
22 don't intentionally try to break out laws, should
23 not be facing three-and-a-half years in jail. And
24 our law does need to be amended. But till then,
25 I've spoken to the District Attorneys, they can do

1
2 and will use discretion in cases like this, and I
3 can't point to one right now where someone like
4 this has gone to jail. But again, they shouldn't
5 even face three-and-a-half years in jail. But I
6 do support this, this Resolution, because we here
7 in New York City should be in charge of our own
8 guns, we should not be forced to honor a permit
9 from a place like Florida, which in 2007 gave
10 1,700 weapons to felons, in violation of national
11 law. So we should be in charge of our own laws,
12 but they do need some amending. Thank you.

13 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very
14 much. Next we have Council Member Barron.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I rise to
16 support these Resolutions, but I also agree that
17 the most violent act on a community is the
18 economic oppression of that community. There's no
19 justification for the violence, but we have a
20 deeper issue. Commissioner Kelly needs to really
21 investigate his Police Department 'cause the
22 people who are doing the guns in our neighborhoods
23 don't apply for licenses. They don't go and apply
24 for anything. These are low level gun dealers and
25 some of the police participate in dealing guns in

1
2 our community, and some have been arrested for
3 that. So, when you have police dealing guns, and
4 we have low level gun dealers who don't apply for
5 permits, whether it's at a show or anything else,
6 could care less about any amendment, we have a
7 serious problem in this City, and these
8 Resolutions that we're passing now are good for
9 political face, but the reality is that it's not
10 going to change the serious problem we have in our
11 neighborhoods with this gun violence.

12 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very
13 much [applause] Silence, silence, please, thank
14 you. Council Member Halloran.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Thank
16 you, I'm going to use only 30 seconds, I
17 appreciate the Chair's indulgence because of the
18 split time for the last resolution. Let me just
19 point out that those who hold DMV licenses, which
20 is a privilege, driving is a privilege not a
21 right, are entitled to reciprocity in all 50
22 states. It wasn't just this one woman who was
23 arrested; in fact, a United States Marine was
24 arrested at the Empire State Building, doing the
25 same thing, attempting to check his weapon in,

1
2 when he saw the signs that handguns were not
3 permitted. I appreciate Chair Vallone and the
4 Speaker's overall interest in reducing violence,
5 but the reality is, there are laws on the books
6 which make this a crime. I don't believe that's,
7 that's correct constitutionally. I will differ
8 with the esteemed former Attorney General, who I
9 also have great respect for his legal acumen. I
10 believe the Heller and McDonald decisions have
11 changed the playing field, and I would point out
12 that New York City doesn't issue permits. We
13 don't. And that, and the only way to get one is
14 to be rich. If you have \$5,000 a week to deposit
15 in the bank, you can get a pistol permit; if you
16 don't, you're never going to get one. And that,
17 ladies and gentlemen, is discrimination. So,
18 thank you very much, I appreciate the indulgence.

19 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very
20 much. Next, now we'll call the vote for Reso
21 1122-A. All in favor say aye.

22 COUNCIL: Aye.

23 PRESIDENT RIVERA: All opposed say
24 nay.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: [off mic]

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

Nay.

PRESIDENT RIVERA: Any abstentions. The ayes have it. Next we will be discussion Resolution 1171, resolution supporting S1973, the Gun Trafficking Prevention Act of 2012, which would amend the United States Code by creating the crime of trafficking or assisting in the trafficking of a firearm, adopted by the Committee on Public Safety. And members that would like to speak on it. Council Member Dickens first.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you, Majority Leader. I want to thank Speaker Quinn and her staff, as well as Chair Vallone and the rest of the Public Safety Committee, and the public safety Committee's Counsel, Carmine Guiga, in his help, their help and support for Resolution 1171, which supports S1973, the Gun Trafficking Prevention Act of 2012, which would amend the United States Code by creating the crime of trafficking or assisting in the trafficking of a firearm, should garner support. This piece of legislation covers five crucial aspects, which are to focus on entire criminal networks, enacting tough penalties for criminals, cracking down on

1
2 corrupt gun dealers, providing funding for the ATF
3 and providing protection for responsible, law
4 abiding gun owners. In all, almost every aspect
5 of gun trafficking is penalized and covered by
6 this legislation. We must stop gun violence,
7 illegal guns kill, ask our children--

8 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Council Member.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: --and ask
10 our parents. We must pass all of these
11 resolutions. Thank you.

12 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very
13 much. Next we have Council Member Jackson.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you,
15 my colleagues, I rise again regarding this
16 resolution, 1171-A, sponsored by our colleague
17 Inez Dickens. Understanding that anyone that's
18 involved with trafficking of, and assisting in
19 trafficking of firearms, and that is even from
20 dealers that are known to sell illegally or
21 inappropriately, in my opinion, to people that are
22 buying guns in order to transport them to New York
23 City and our urban area. So anyone involved in
24 helping to bring guns illegally should be
25 prosecuted. And hopefully in the long term, we

1
2 will have less guns on our street and less murders
3 and killings and stickups and all of the things
4 that are occurring in our community. So, I ask
5 all of you to support Intro, Resolution 1171.
6 Thank you.

7 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very
8 much. Seeing no others, we'll call the vote on
9 this Resolution. Resolution 1171, all in favor
10 say aye.

11 COUNCIL: Aye.

12 PRESIDENT RIVERA: All opposed say
13 nay. Any abstentions? The ayes have it. Next
14 we'll be discussing Resolution 1172, Resolution
15 opposing the United States Supreme Court's
16 interpretation of Constitution and Citizens United
17 regarding the constitutional rights of
18 corporations, supporting an amendment to the
19 Constitution to provide that corporations are not
20 entitled to the entirety of protections or rights
21 of natural persons, specifically so that the
22 expenditure of corporate money to influence the
23 electoral process is no longer a form of
24 constitutionally protected speech, and calling on
25 Congress to begin the process of amending the

1
2 Constitution, adopted by the Committee on
3 Governmental Operations. Anyone wishing to speak
4 on this item? [applause] [gavel] Silence,
5 silence in the [gavel] silence, please, thank you.
6 First we have Council Member Lander, Lander.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you
8 very much, Mr. Majority Leader. I'm honored to be
9 sponsoring this resolution along with Council
10 Member Melissa Mark-Viverito, Council Member
11 Levin, all members of the Progressive Caucus, and
12 many other Council Members. And I want to thank
13 Speaker Quinn and Chair Brewer for their
14 leadership in moving this resolution along so that
15 New York City can join the growing chorus of
16 cities calling for a constitutional amendment to
17 overturn Citizens United. We're kicking off the
18 2012 electoral season at a time of unfortunately
19 historic lack of faith in our democracy. There
20 are many reasons for this, but one critical one is
21 the sea of unrestricted corporate dollars flowing
22 into electoral campaigns all around the country.
23 Americans of all stripes, left, right and center,
24 know that corporations aren't the same as people.
25 They don't laugh or cry, and more importantly they

1
2 can't possibly merit the rights and
3 responsibilities of individuals, of citizens, of
4 free people. Supreme Court was wrong to find that
5 corporations are people, and the consequences,
6 especially the unlimited flow of dollars into
7 elections, are truly disastrous for our democracy.
8 And so New York City is now growing a chorus of
9 cities around the country calling for a
10 constitutional amendment. I do want to thank the
11 grassroots groups who have been pushing--

12 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Council Member.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: --this
14 around the country, Occupy Wall Street, Move On,
15 Common Cause, and the WFP, but it's not a issue of
16 left or right--

17 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Council Member.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: --it's an
19 American issue, and we should all support
20 protecting our democracy and the rights of free
21 people. Thank you very much. [applause]

22 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very
23 much, next we have [gavel] silence up--silence.
24 Thank you. Next we have Council Member Jackson.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you,

1
2 my colleagues. I rise again on this Resolution,
3 1172, and obviously our prime sponsor, Brad
4 Lander, has spoken about it, but it clear that, as
5 he indicated, corporations are not human beings,
6 they cannot give blood or organs or plasma and all
7 the other things that human beings need in order
8 to survive. And I say that when it comes to
9 electoral reform, and the electoral process, even
10 here in the City Council, as far as the Campaign
11 Finance Board, Members of the City Council, based
12 on the rules and regulations and laws, can accept
13 contributions from individuals and PACs that are
14 registered with the Campaign Finance Board, but we
15 cannot accept foreign money and things like that.
16 Corporations cannot give. So, I say to all of
17 you, that if you really truly believe in this
18 justice system, support this Resolution knowing
19 that we're sending a clear message to our
20 government that it's not right. Thank you.

21 [applause]

22 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very
23 much. [gavel] I'm going to ask everyone in the
24 balcony to please refrain from applauding. Thank
25 you. Next we have Council Member James.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Cities
3 around the country, from Madison to Los Angeles,
4 are passing similar resolutions, and I am proud
5 that New York City is standing on the right side
6 of history. As more resolutions are passed, state
7 legislatures are encouraged to take up the call to
8 pass binding legislation, a constitutional
9 amendment allowing New Yorkers to define the
10 rights and responsibilities of corporations in a
11 way that more appropriately fits the reality of
12 their situation. It's common sense that
13 corporations are not people, and granting
14 corporations the rights of peop--of persons, such
15 as unregulated speech, privacy and protection from
16 search and seizure, without also expecting
17 responsibilities of them has caused enormous
18 damage to our society and way of life. The recent
19 Citizens United decision overturns 100 years of
20 judicial precedent. We should not grant
21 corporations the rights of citizens and we should
22 return democracy to the people. I vote and
23 encourage all of my colleagues to vote aye.

24 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very
25 much. Next we have Council Member Halloran.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Thank
3 you. I will rise in opposition to this resolution
4 for three reasons. The first is, in light of real
5 constitutional issues like term limits and a
6 balanced budget amendment, this amendment should
7 fall into a campaign finance amendment, which is
8 far more broad and actually will fix the problem
9 rather than create a new one. It's incredibly
10 hypocritical for this body to say that we want to
11 ban corporations from giving money, when unions
12 can give unfettered amounts of money in local
13 Council races. And then come to this body to
14 lobby for their jobs. Now, I support our public
15 service unions, but that doesn't mean there isn't
16 an inherent conflict of interest created when
17 they're giving money to political campaigns and
18 then coming to those politicians they've elected
19 and talk about their salaries, their benefits and
20 their role in government. To say that
21 corporations unduly influence elections is
22 absolutely true. But to, at the same breath, not
23 recognize that unions do the same thing, and sit
24 here and not modify our campaign finance laws,
25 which we actually have control over, as opposed to

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

the federal laws which we don't--

PRESIDENT RIVERA: Council Member.

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: --seems to me to be the height of hypocrisy. So, I oppose the resolution, not in principle, but on the specifics as they exist. And I appreciate all the work the Speaker has done to try to--

PRESIDENT RIVERA: Council Member.

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: --reform that. Thank you.

PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you.

Council Member Levin, followed by Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you very much, Mr. Majority Leader, and thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support of Resolution 1172. This is a, this is an important stand for us to take in standing up to the really undue influence of corporations and of corporate interests in our national elections. I think that you don't have to look too much further than former House Speaker Newt Gingrich in seeing what corporate dollars could do that there's no accountability and the way that SuperPACs have been used, just in this Republican primary, is

1
2 showing us what the results of Citizens United
3 decision has been thus far. I think that it's
4 right and just for this body to stand up and say
5 that we need to limit that influence, we need to
6 stand up for ordinary citizens in this country,
7 and make sure that their voice is heard and is not
8 drowned out by the din of corporate influence.
9 Thank you very much.

10 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very
11 much. Next we have Council Member Weprin.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Thank you,
13 Mr. Leader. I, I rise in support of this
14 resolution, as well. Above your head emblazoned
15 is the words of Abraham Lincoln, "A government of
16 the people, by the people, for the people." I
17 have no doubt in my mind that Abraham Lincoln was
18 not discussing a corporation when he made that
19 statement. Justice Stevens in his dissent in this
20 case talked about a corporation not having a
21 conscience, not having beliefs or feelings, no
22 thoughts or desires; corporations help structure
23 and facilitate the activities of human beings, but
24 are not themselves members of "We the people ..."
25 by whom the Constitution was established. And it

1
2 is, while I share frustration that this doesn't
3 accomplish what we hoped to accomplish right off
4 the bat, putting Tish James on the Supreme Court
5 might, but--but eventually we will get that
6 Justice who, who will understand that this is not
7 a rational decision, and that corporations and the
8 money that they are raising, and the ads they are
9 buying, are poisoning our democratic process. I
10 support this legislation. Thank you.

11 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very
12 much, Council Member; next we have Council Member
13 Brewer followed by Barron.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you
15 very much. I want to thank, since it's
16 Governmental Operations Committee, Seth Grossman
17 and Tim Matusov, who are the staff members for the
18 Committee. And I obviously rise in support of
19 1172, thanking Council Members Lander and Melissa
20 Mark-Viverito, and also the Speaker. And I wanted
21 also reference Justice John Paul Stevens, as
22 Council Member Weprin did. He said, "While
23 American democracy is imperfect, few outside the
24 majority of this Court would have thought its
25 flaws included a dearth of corporate money in

1
2 politics." And then The Times in talking about
3 Iowa just this week, mentioned again, it's not
4 exactly the same, but it did say septic tanks into
5 which wealthy individuals and corporations can
6 drop unlimited sums of money when they were
7 talking about some of the SuperPACs having
8 influence in Iowa. And in the caucuses. So, I'm
9 here to be supportive, I want to thank both the
10 CFB, the Campaign Finance Board, and Common Cause,
11 for testifying in support of our Resolution at the
12 Committee. Thank you very much.

13 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very
14 much. Next we have Council Member Barron.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you
16 very much. First of all, there's no comparison
17 with unions and corporations. [laughter] Unions
18 are regulated [applause] unions are regulated,
19 these corporations are off the hook, totally out
20 of control, and it couldn't have happened to a
21 better person than Newt Gingrich. [laughter,
22 applause] 'Cause this was a person who supported
23 corporate elites having their way and contributing
24 as much as they want to campaigns; now it turned
25 around to bite him and he's crying like a little

1
2 baby. I'm so glad it happened to him, so that
3 they can get the clear message that this is
4 putting money, money as the primary source of
5 influence on elections. People could literally
6 buy elections. Mitt Romney had some of his own
7 people on that corporate board and some of his own
8 donors were contributing to that corporation that
9 had unlimited money to spend to kill somebody else
10 and support his campaign, but it couldn't happen
11 to a better person than New Gingrich.

12 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Next we have
13 Council Member Williams, followed by Council
14 Member Ulrich.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank
16 you. I actually, to the surprise of some people,
17 think there was some legitimate points in the
18 Citizens United decision. But they were
19 questionable at best, and while I do respect my
20 colleague Halloran, I do also with my colleague
21 Barron, the corporations and unions are a terrible
22 comparison. The unions, was what Barron has said,
23 are comprised of people, and it's the people who
24 create that power; corporations is comprised of
25 money, and it's the money that the people are

1
2 listening to. And too often, we, in our society,
3 we err on the side of money, and not on the side
4 of people. As an organizer, one of the things I
5 believe firmly is we have to shift the power from
6 the powerful, rich few, to the multitudes and the
7 people of many. And I believe that's one of the
8 things that's happening with Occupy Wall Street,
9 and I'm very proud to support this resolution.

10 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Council Member
11 Ulrich.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Mr.
13 Majority Leader, I rise today with a first. I
14 actually agree with Charles Barron. And but
15 that's because I'm supporting Governor Romney for
16 President, so I'm happy that [laughter] I'm happy
17 that Newt Gingrich did not win the Iowa caucus and
18 he won't win New Hampshire. But that's a side
19 note. So, Charles, on that point, we agree and we
20 are glad that Newt Gingrich will not be the
21 Republican nominee for President of the United
22 States. But we are getting to the fundamental
23 question of whether corporations are or are not
24 people. And on this issue, Charles and my
25 colleagues, I respectfully disagree. I do believe

1

2 that corporations are people. Everything that
3 corporations earn [hissing] eventually goes back
4 to people in the forms of dividends and a return--

5 SPEAKER QUINN: Give the, please
6 give Council Member Ulrich.

7 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Yeah, silence in
8 the balcony and please put a couple of seconds
9 more on Council Member Ulrich's clock.

10 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: --
12 Corporations are people in that everything
13 corporations earn goes back to the people in the
14 form of dividends to the shareholders. Now you
15 can believe that or you cannot believe that, I
16 guess it depends on what your view--

17 SPEAKER QUINN: We need to add more
18 time to Council Member Ulrich's clock since he's
19 being disrupted by hissing. So, put five seconds
20 more back on, please.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Thank you,
22 thank you, Ms. Speaker. As I was saying,
23 corporations are people because everything that
24 corporations earn get returned to the people in
25 the forms of dividends and the returns to the

1
2 shareholders. A corporation is made up of people,
3 a corporation provides jobs for people. We are
4 not a social democracy, we are a free country with
5 free enterprise, and corporations deserve a voice
6 in government as much as the special interests and
7 the unions, and the public sector organizations
8 do. I'm voting against this Resolution because I
9 believe in freedom of opportunity and freedom of
10 speech, which is in the Constitution. Thank you,
11 Mr. Majority; thank you, Madam Speaker.

12 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very
13 much. [background noise] Council Member
14 Rodriguez.

15 [pause]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I can
17 agree that a corporation is made--I can't agree
18 with my Republican colleague there: a corporation
19 is made by people, and however we had good people
20 and we got bad people. And I think that
21 corporation have been trying to control the
22 electoral process nationwide, and sometimes even
23 citywide. And I believe that the message that New
24 York City have been getting the last couple of
25 months, especially by the Occupy movement, is that

1
2 enough is enough. The working class and the
3 middle class have been sending a message. And it
4 doesn't matter how much the Mayor tries to evict
5 the movement from the City, this movement is going
6 nowhere and this movement will continue growing.
7 Because this movement is based on the - - the
8 working class and the middle class, and this
9 movement is saying we are fed up on looking at
10 this corporation, trying to control elections.
11 And I believe that it is time for our generation
12 to look back and say, "How society has been
13 working for the last two or three decades? Which
14 changes should I make?" And I believe bringing
15 changes which the power should be based on the
16 people.

17 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Council Member.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Not
19 based on the corporation, is the right thing to
20 do, and that's why I support Resolution 1172.
21 Thank you.

22 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very
23 much. Hold on one second. [pause] Seeing no
24 others speaking on this matter, we're now going to
25 call--Okay, Council Member Van Bramer.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank
3 you very much. I just wanted to add my thoughts
4 on this issue. And my very good friend, Council
5 Member Ulrich and I have to disagree on this one.
6 I think the essence of free speech is equality in
7 the ability for all people regardless of who they
8 are and how many resources they come to, that they
9 have an equal say in the process. And to say that
10 corporations do not have an outsized influence, an
11 outsized voice, in our process flies in the face
12 of all reality. Clearly they have more than their
13 share of influence, more than their share of free
14 speech, and to equate them with an individual or
15 to equate a corporation with a union that
16 represents working people and as a collective,
17 empowers those people to have a fair shot at going
18 toe-to-toe with corporations, is just dead wrong.
19 I support this, the Supreme Court was wrong, we
20 are right to pass this Resolution. Thank you.

21 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very
22 much. Seeing no others on this Resolution, I will
23 now call the vote for Resolution 1172. All in
24 favor say aye.

25 COUNCIL (MOST): Aye.

1
2 PRESIDENT RIVERA: All opposed to
3 say nay.

4 COUNCIL MEMBERS (FEW): Nay.

5 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Any abstentions?
6 The ayes have it. There are no other resolutions,
7 so now we go [applause] [gavel] Okay, silence,
8 silence in the balcony, please. [gavel] We need
9 to get silence in the balcony. Thank you very
10 much. Next we'll move on to general discussions.
11 Seeing Council Member Rodriguez.

12 [pause]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Okay.
14 Today I'm introducing a Resolution which also is
15 supported the Speaker Christine Quinn and the
16 Immigration Chairman, Danny Dromm, which is a
17 introduction resolution to authorize the Council
18 to join an amicus brief being sent to the Supreme
19 Court as they prepare to decide on the fate of
20 Arizona Senate Bill 1070. In the year-and-a-half
21 since it's been 1070 was signed into law, it has
22 come to represent the worst aspect of our
23 country's attitude towards immigrations. But
24 requiring immigrants--

25 SPEAKER QUINN: If we could just

1
2 get a little quiet as folks exit, also, and put a
3 couple of seconds back on for Council Member
4 Rodriguez. Thank you.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: --by
6 requiring immigrants to carry their registration
7 papers with them at all time, it in my, it is a
8 stigmatize thing, by requiring law enforcement to
9 detain anyone they suspect of being undocumented
10 immigrant, they criminalize them. I am an
11 immigrant. Many of the Council Members in this
12 room are immigrants, too, nearly 40 percent of the
13 people in this City are immigrants, and so many
14 more have parents and grandparents who were
15 immigrants. We are a City of immigrants and as
16 such it is our duty to support their right. I
17 urge all of my colleague in the Council to sign to
18 this Resolution and to help us to send a message
19 that New York City strongly supports the rights of
20 immigrants not only here but across the country.

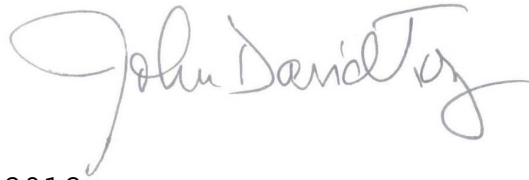
21 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very
22 much. Seeing no others, this meeting is
23 adjourned.

24 [gavel]

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

Signature

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John David Tong". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned to the right of the printed word "Signature".

Date January 20, 2012