

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

-----X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

-----X

January 18, 2012

Start: 2:00pm

Recess: 3:37pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Maria del Carmen Arroyo  
Charles Barron  
Gale A. Brewer  
Fernando Cabrera  
Margaret S. Chin  
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.  
Elizabeth S. Crowley  
Inez E. Dickens  
Erik Martin Dilan  
Daniel Dromm  
Mathieu Eugene  
Julissa Ferreras  
Lewis A. Fidler

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

## COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

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

Captain Joseph Gandiello  
New York City Fire Department

Coach Scarlowa  
Girls' Volleyball Coach  
Benjamin N. Cardozo High School

Hope Brown Ellerby

Jakai Comani Ellerby

Sandra Robinson  
Speech Teacher

Father George Anastasio

1  
2 SPEAKER QUINN: Alright. We are  
3 going to start ceremonials, so if we could get a  
4 little quiet. If we could get the handheld mic  
5 too. And the first ceremonial will be led by  
6 Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer. Now unless you  
7 are brave enough to run into a - - , be quiet  
8 'cause we're going to talk about some members of  
9 our fire department who are, so let me give the  
10 mic to Jimmy Van Bramer.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank  
12 you very much, Madam Speaker. I certainly  
13 encourage all of our colleagues to join us. I  
14 know Councilwoman Crowley, a chair of the  
15 Committee, is going to join us for this  
16 ceremonial. As some folks know, in Woodside,  
17 Queens on November 18<sup>th</sup>, we had a horrific fire in  
18 which one person tragically lost their life. 25  
19 people were rescued from three homes; the first of  
20 which literally blew up in the middle of night.  
21 One of the worst fires we've ever had in Woodside,  
22 Queens and we have done a lot to help the  
23 families, to help the neighbors get over this, but  
24 one of the things that we must never ever forget  
25 to do is to thank the men of the FDNY who went

1  
2 into those burning homes and rescued all of those  
3 people. So let's give a round of applause to all.

4 [applause]

5 SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Let's  
7 hand out some of the procs. And I know—I've heard  
8 the Speaker say this herself, our firefighters  
9 will always say they were just doing their job,  
10 but we want to say, "Thank you," and because  
11 they're running into burning homes in Woodside,  
12 Queens, I want to say their names to recognize  
13 them. Rescue four [phonetic] is an institution, a  
14 legend in Woodside, Queens and this city, and they  
15 are led by Captain Joe Gandiello, who is here, and  
16 his firefighters Ray Griffin [phonetic], Steve  
17 O'Sullivan [phonetic], Mike Washington, Ron - - ,  
18 who are all here, so let's give them a round of  
19 applause.

20 [applause]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Engine  
22 292 also responded, Lieutenant John Jenna  
23 [phonetic] and firefighters Julio Rosario, Mike  
24 Schmidt, Joe Muzinagro [phonetic] and Dwight  
25 Kopaso [phonetic] also responded, Battalion 46

1  
2 Chief Rob McBride [phonetic] and Ladder 136  
3 represented by Dan Boci [phonetic] and all of them  
4 are here. Also, Eddie Bolls [phonetic] from the  
5 UFOA is here with us and Leroy-

6 SPEAKER QUINN: [interposing] I  
7 thought Eddie was on the Council staff, not at the  
8 UFOA. Oh.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: --And  
10 Leroy McGinnis [phonetic], Queens Chief of the  
11 UFOA and we want to recognize Jim Slevin  
12 [phonetic] as well from the UFA, who is a  
13 constituent of mine as well. All of you, you have  
14 our sincere appreciation for your heroism for  
15 recusing the people of Woodside and the people of  
16 the city of New York at all times. I would be  
17 remiss if I did not say at this particular time  
18 because we have had firehouses in my district  
19 propose to be closed each of the last two years,  
20 we need to keep all of our firehouses open, so  
21 these men can continue to rescue the people of the  
22 city of New York.

23 [applause]

24 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: And  
25 with that, I will ask our great Chair of our

1

2 Committee who has been saving firehouses all  
3 across the city, Elizabeth Crowley, to say a few  
4 words.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Thank you.

6

Thank you, Council Member Van Bramer, Speaker

7

Christine Quinn and all of my colleagues for

8

honoring the firefighters today, not only the

9

companies here, but we thank all the firefighters

10

in the city of New York and the fire officers for

11

doing what they do, risking their lives to save

12

us. I can say honestly I don't think I've ever

13

felt so safe in the city chambers before, but

14

thank you whether it's responding to a fire or a

15

medical emergency or even a terrorist attack, you

16

guys are always the first to respond and we're

17

forever grateful for the work that you do. We

18

know that you risk your lives and we know that

19

there's a firefighter right now in the burn unit

20

at Presbyterian Hospital, Robert Wideman

21

[phonetic], and we want you to know that we're all

22

praying for him in the city of New York and we

23

hope he has a speedy recovery. Thank you.

24

[applause]

25

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank

1

2 you. And I just want to recognize Pastor Dan  
3 Gillend [phonetic], who lives in the building  
4 right next door that blew up is standing right  
5 there. Dan—Pastor Gillend, you should just join  
6 us up here. He and his wife and infant child  
7 lived right next door when the house blew up, and  
8 he had a prayer service the very next day for the  
9 victims and he's joined us today to say thank you  
10 from the neighborhood, so Pastor Gillend, thank  
11 you for joining us as well, and with that, we will  
12 read the proclamation.

13 CLERK: Council, City of New York  
14 Proclamation. Whereas the Council of the City of  
15 New York is proud to celebrate and honor some of  
16 New York City's bravest for their heroic  
17 lifesaving work in Woodside, Queens on November  
18 18, 2011. And whereas, on Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>  
19 shortly after 1 am, a fire began spreading rapidly  
20 in Woodside, completely destroying two homes and  
21 severely damaging a third. And whereas, the FDNY  
22 was contacted at 1:15 am and within minutes 26  
23 trucks and 106 firefighters began battling the  
24 blaze, rushing into the burning buildings to pull  
25 people out. And whereas, firefighters and



1  
2 officers showed true courage. Only five people  
3 were injured in the conflagration while one died.  
4 The Captain of Rescue Four, Joe Gandiello, said,  
5 "When we arrived, there was a very heavy amount of  
6 fire. It was a chaotic scene. Firefighter Ron  
7 Daly [phonetic] was assigned to check to rear of  
8 the building and was told by an exiting civilian  
9 that there were still people trapped inside. Ron  
10 broke the window into the rear bedroom, climbed in  
11 and found a 63 year old man unconscious. He  
12 dragged him out of the house, along with  
13 firefighter John Tu [phonetic]. And whereas, true  
14 heroes are not easy to recognize, but witnessing  
15 the efforts of New York's bravest in the time of  
16 our community's greatest need serves as a valuable  
17 affirmation that heroes are indeed working and  
18 living right here next to us across our city. Now  
19 therefore be it known that the Council of the City  
20 of New York gratefully honors the Fire Department  
21 of New York's Rescue Four, Engine 292, Battalion  
22 46 and Ladder 136 for their life saving efforts in  
23 the fatal fire of November 18<sup>th</sup> in Woodside,  
24 Queens. Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the  
25 entire Council, Jimmy Van Bramer, Council Member

1  
2 26<sup>th</sup> District Queens, Elizabeth Crowley, Council  
3 Member 30<sup>th</sup> District Queens.

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
5 much. And just before I give the mic back to  
6 Jimmy who is going to call on the Captain to say a  
7 few words, I just want to thank everyone who is  
8 standing up here with us, everyone else who was  
9 there at that fire that day. I think we say thank  
10 you to you today in our words and through these  
11 proclamations, but I also pledge to you, we will  
12 show you that thank you by continuing our  
13 commitment to keeping your firehouses open, so you  
14 can do the work you do saving New Yorkers and it's  
15 just an unbelievable job that you do every day.  
16 You leave your house, you go to work, and you have  
17 no guarantee you're coming home at night, and you  
18 do that for people you don't know and you will  
19 never ever - - and that is really the definition  
20 of a hero and a true sacrifice. I just want to,  
21 on behalf of all 51 members of the City Council  
22 and all close to 9 million New Yorkers, to say  
23 thank you so very much.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank  
25 you very much, Madam Speaker. The rescue efforts

1

2 of Firefighter Daly were mentioned and the man who  
3 was rescued is a Mr. Gabor [phonetic], and he was  
4 just recently released from the hospital, and we  
5 spoke Mrs. Gabor, who has come to our office.  
6 She had hoped to try and be here today to say  
7 thank you in person, but you know the Gabor family  
8 is whole because the firefighters who rescued them  
9 that night, so we say thank you again. And now on  
10 behalf of all of the firefighters and the  
11 companies present, Captain Gandiello.

12

CAPTAIN GANDIELLO: Well, I'd just  
13 like to say thank you to the City Council and to  
14 Councilman Van Bramer. It's a very humbling  
15 experience for all of us. We're not used to this  
16 kind of fanfare for lack of a better work. We do  
17 appreciate it, and we really appreciate the  
18 support that the City Council has shown the fire  
19 department through the years. We're out there day  
20 and night doing everything we can to keep you safe  
21 and it's part of our job. In this particular  
22 instance, Firefighter Daly really went above and  
23 beyond and—

24

[applause]

25

CAPTAIN GANDIELLO: It was really a

1  
2 courageous effort on his part. Thank you again  
3 for the proclamation. Very humbling experience.

4 [applause]

5 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you guys  
6 very, very much, and take care and be safe. Thank  
7 you. Our next ceremonial is going to be led by  
8 Council Member Weprin.

9 [long pause]

10 SPEAKER QUINN: Alright, we're  
11 going to call up and you're going to—when we call  
12 you up, you're going to be met by Council Member  
13 Weprin and acting Council Member Weprin, the  
14 Council Member for a day, the Cardozo Volleyball  
15 Team [phonetic]. Right? The Lady Judges, if they  
16 could make their way up.

17 [Background conversation]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Everyone  
19 come on up. Coach.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: Come on everybody.  
21 Move on down. Ladies, come on. Move down.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Ladies and  
23 gentlemen, my colleagues, I'm delighted to be  
24 joined by the repeat champion women's volleyball  
25 New York City champion the Cardozo High School

1  
2 Lady Judges. I haven't seen this many women  
3 judges in a long time, and we need to see more.  
4 I'm delighted to have them here today. They won  
5 this year actually back to back champions after  
6 having won for the first time in 30 years, now won  
7 2 years in a row. They're joined by their coach,  
8 Coach Scarlowa [phonetic], who is here, who is  
9 going to say a few words. I wanted to say that  
10 they really have made us proud out in Queens,  
11 really a strong victory. They actually beat in  
12 the finals Francis Louis [phonetic] High School  
13 out in Queens. It happens to be Dennis Walcott's  
14 [phonetic] alma mater. I'm just saying. Another  
15 fine institution. I know Peter Koo and Dan  
16 Halloran represent that area as well, but Cardozo  
17 won, and we're very happy to have them here today.  
18 Ladies, congratulations to all of you. You make  
19 us all proud, and coach—have the coach say a few  
20 words. Is that okay? Great. I'd like to call on  
21 coach to say a few words.

22 COACH SCARLOWA: Thank you,  
23 Congressman Weprin. Thank you for the opportunity  
24 for bringing us here. This is definitely a  
25 special moment, especially for all these young

1  
2 ladies who put in so much hard work and really  
3 sacrifice a lot every day practicing. It's not  
4 the easiest thing to go to school all day and then  
5 spend another couple of hours, especially with me,  
6 every day. We want to thank you. We want to  
7 present you with a couple of jerseys here. We've  
8 had such a great program here. This is one of our  
9 girl's jerseys. There you go. So you can hang  
10 that in your office. And here's one of the guy's  
11 jerseys here as well. There you go. I just want  
12 to say one other thing. Being at this school,  
13 seeing these schools, I know there's a lot of talk  
14 about how many of the high schools throughout New  
15 York City are going in a different direction, but  
16 I have to say this, schools like Cardozo even  
17 Francis Louis, Bayside, the big high school still  
18 does work. As you can see right here, these are  
19 wonderful young ladies, not just on the court, but  
20 off the court as well. What Congressman Weprin  
21 did not say was that Mr. Walcott's daughters  
22 graduated from Cardozo High School, in fact one of  
23 them student taught there. There's a lot of  
24 Cardozo involved with the rivalry with Francis  
25 Louis as well. Thank you very much.

1

2

[applause]

3

4

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: I'd like the clerk to please read the proclamation.

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

CLERK: Council, City of New York Proclamation. Whereas the Council of the City of New York is proud to honor the Benjamin N. Cardozo High School girls varsity volleyball team for their outstanding teamwork that led to their victory at the PSAL Class A championship. And whereas, Benjamin Cardozo High School, a public high school in Bayside, Queens, takes its name from the Supreme Court Justice who served from 1932 to 1938. Over the years the school has been ranked among the best public high schools in New York City. True to its namesake the school is also known for its mentor, law and humanities program, yet its record of performance in athletics is equally impressive. And whereas, this year the members of the Cardozo girls' varsity volleyball team, also known as the lady judges, have reaffirmed their school's reputation for excellence on Monday November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011 when the team led by Coach Daniel Scarlowa won the PSAL girl's A volleyball championship for the second

1  
2 year in a row. And whereas, the players who  
3 comprised the lady judges are: Erica Zilber  
4 [phonetic], Adriana Braciack [phonetic], Natasha  
5 Chakaborty [phonetic], Cassidy Chen [phonetic],  
6 Hyu Han [phonetic], Emily Lazo [phonetic], Nicole  
7 Lee, Jessica Lu [phonetic], Elisa McAdam  
8 [phonetic], Melissa Mendina [phonetic], Rachel Ng  
9 [phonetic], Jeanette Santiago [phonetic], Deborah  
10 Ciuk [phonetic], Jo Hsu [phonetic], Amy Sung  
11 [phonetic], Cimmeran [phonetic] Wilson, Jiati  
12 [phonetic] Yansen [phonetic], Jiang Chang Yin  
13 [phonetic] and Ashley Grubler [phonetic]. And now  
14 therefore be it known that the Council of the City  
15 of New York honors and congratulates the lady  
16 judges, Benjamin N. Cardozo High School Girls'  
17 varsity volleyball team for their outstanding  
18 achievements and teamwork. Christine C. Quinn,  
19 Speaker for the entire Council, Mark Weprin,  
20 Council Member 23<sup>rd</sup> District Queens.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: Yay.

22 [applause]

23 SPEAKER QUINN: Well, Mike, the  
24 ladies said you did very well on the names, so you  
25 get a round of applause for that as well, but I



1  
2 just want to congratulate everyone who is part of  
3 the team. This is a really big accomplishment  
4 'cause you're doing this on top of all of your  
5 school work, on top of keeping good attendance, on  
6 top of applying for college. There we go. There  
7 we go. I also think—you know, I was on—I was a  
8 dreadful athlete in high school, but I was on a  
9 lot of teams, and I think that there's a lot we  
10 learn by being on teams and a lot you teach other  
11 people in your school by the role models you are  
12 by being on a team and working together. So I  
13 just want to thank you guys for that so much, and  
14 wish you all the best of luck in all of your  
15 future endeavors as judges or whatever else you  
16 want to be. So congratulations, ladies.

17 [applause]

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Bill, you got  
19 everybody? Alright. Tell Bill where he can e-  
20 mail the pictures for everybody. Next we're going  
21 to call up Inez Dickens for our next ceremonial.  
22 Charles, we got ceremonials to do here. You're  
23 slowing up Inez.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Can the  
25 Ellerby [phonetic] family come on up and join us

1

2 please? - - . Is this the poster? Hold it up.

3 [off mic]

4

SPEAKER QUINN: Alright, let's get  
5 a little quiet, so the Assistant Majority Leader  
6 can lead her ceremonial. All quiet.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: This  
8 afternoon I have the distinct pleasure along with  
9 Council Member Jackson to introduce a phenomenal  
10 young man. Today we honor Jakai [phonetic]  
11 Ellerby, a person who transformed a personal  
12 challenge into an advocacy platform. His art have  
13 given a voice to people throughout New York City  
14 and across our great nation. He embodies a can do  
15 spirit and is an inspiration to all around him.  
16 Jakai is only nine years old, making him one of  
17 the youngest to ever receive a New York City  
18 Council proclamation.

19

[applause]

20

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Jakai is  
21 here with his family today because of a poster.  
22 See the poster everyone? I want everyone to see  
23 this poster that he created entitled, "I have a  
24 dream of having fluent speech," for which he won  
25 first prize. This poster won a local competition

1 sponsored by the UFT. Yay, UFT. And then went on  
2 to win a national contest through the American  
3 Speech and Hearing Association. What makes this  
4 young man so remarkable is that his  
5 accomplishment, great accomplishment, and the  
6 honor that we bestow on him today grew out of a  
7 disability. When he was five years old, his  
8 parents noticed that he had a slight stuttering  
9 problem that made him withdraw from socializing  
10 with other children. He feared being teased and  
11 as a result, he spent more and time alone. His  
12 older brother, Tyrell, encouraged him to turn his  
13 affinity for drawing into a dedicated hobby and so  
14 Jakai poured himself into his art. When Jakai was  
15 just eight years old, he got the opportunity to  
16 use his artistic talents to advocate for himself  
17 and on behalf of countless others. In April 2011,  
18 Jakai entered a May is Better Speech and Hearing  
19 Poster Contest sponsored by the UFT Speech  
20 Chapter, and won first prize.

21 [applause]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Soon  
23 after, his poster was entered into a nationwide  
24 May is Better Speech and Hearing Month Poster  
25

1  
2 Contest sponsored by the American Speech and  
3 Hearing Association, where he won first place.

4 [applause]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Now a  
6 local celebrity, Jakai has become the pride of his  
7 classmates, schoolmates and all of New York City,  
8 and on June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011, the Mary McLeod Bethune  
9 School, P.S. 92 held a poetry jam assembly, where  
10 he was recognized by his principal, assistant  
11 principals, and his teachers and his peers for his  
12 outstanding poster. He was also presented with a  
13 scholarship from the local Omega Psi Phi  
14 fraternity of Harlem for his outstanding poster  
15 and artistry. Today he is being honored by the  
16 City Council of New York. Jakai, you are an  
17 inspiration to all those who ever had the  
18 privilege to know you. Inez Dickens, our Speaker  
19 Quinn and all of the members of the City Council  
20 are so proud of you today, and your community is  
21 proud of you. Always remember what you are  
22 capable of and strive to be your very best.  
23 Congratulations to you, your family and the entire  
24 city of New York.

25 [applause]

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: We're  
3 going to ask the clerk to read the proclamation.

4 CLERK: Council, City of New York  
5 proclamation. Whereas the Council of the City of  
6 New York is proud to honor Jakai Comani [phonetic]  
7 Ellerby for his outstanding achievements in  
8 service to the community. And whereas Jakai, a  
9 fourth grade student at P.S. 92 Mary McLeod  
10 Bethune School in the village of Harlem, is nine  
11 years old, yet he has already had an impressive  
12 record of dedication and success as both a student  
13 and as an artist. His parents Hope Brown Ellerby  
14 and Kerry Ellerby [phonetic] have instilled the  
15 values and confidence that define Jakai and his  
16 three older siblings' character and self-esteem  
17 with great results. And whereas, the month of May  
18 is celebrated annually as Better Speech and  
19 Hearing Month to raise awareness about  
20 communication disorders and to promote treatment  
21 that can improve the quality of life for those who  
22 experience problems with speaking, understanding  
23 or hearing. And whereas, in April 2011 when Jakai  
24 was still in third grade, his speech teacher,  
25 Sandra Robinson [phonetic] and others encouraged

1  
2 him to design his own poster for the Better Speech  
3 and Hearing Month Contest. In the end, his poster  
4 entitled, "I have a dream of having fluent speech"  
5 won first prize. And whereas on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at  
6 a banquet at the UFT headquarters, Jakai was  
7 presented with a certificate for first prize along  
8 with a host of art supplies for his future  
9 creations. And whereas later Jakai's poster was  
10 entered into a nationwide poster contest  
11 celebrating May is Better Speech and Hearing Month  
12 sponsored by the American Speech and Hearing  
13 Association. In this contest Jakai represented  
14 all of New York State. With competition from  
15 other entries across the country, Jakai's poster  
16 was awarded first prize. In addition to his  
17 award, he received an MP3 player and \$75 - - and  
18 today his prizewinning poster can also be seen by  
19 countless people as a downloadable screensaver.  
20 And whereas on June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011, P.S. 92 held a  
21 poetry jam assembly where Jakai was recognized  
22 once again for his vibrant poster by his  
23 principal, his assistant principals, his teachers  
24 and his peers. And whereas, it's a great  
25 privilege to publically pay tribute to one of our

1  
2 city's most promising young artists for Jakai has  
3 applied his talent to create unique works to  
4 educate and effect change across the nation. Now  
5 therefore be it known that the Council of the City  
6 of New York is proud to honor Jakai Comani Ellerby  
7 for his outstanding artistic achievements.

8 Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the entire  
9 Council, Inez E. Dickens, Council Member 9<sup>th</sup>  
10 District Manhattan, Robert Jackson, Council Member  
11 7<sup>th</sup> District Manhattan.

12 SPEAKER QUINN: Yay. Jakai, can I  
13 just tell you—my name is Christine Quinn. I'm the  
14 Speaker of the City Council here. I just want to  
15 say I am so honored to get to meet you. I'm  
16 honored to get to meet you because of the great  
17 message you're putting out there—not just in New  
18 York City, not just in New York State, but across  
19 the whole county by what you're doing with your  
20 art, what you're doing with how well you're doing  
21 in school. Your teacher just told me you are at  
22 the top of your class.

23 [applause]

24 SPEAKER QUINN: That's on top of  
25 everything else. So you are an inspiration to all

1  
2 of us, and I just want to thank you 'cause it  
3 seems like you have a busy schedule being a bit of  
4 a celebrity and everything. Thank you so much for  
5 squeezing us in here at city hall and just want to  
6 thank you for reminding us that there's nothing we  
7 can't overcome, as long as we work hard, rely on  
8 our family, ask people for help and share our  
9 message out there in the world. So you may be a  
10 little bit younger than me and Inez and RJ, and he  
11 didn't even laugh when I said that—you might be a  
12 little bit younger, but you are teaching all the  
13 adults in this room today a very, very big lesson,  
14 so thank you for being our teacher, Jakai. We're  
15 very proud of you. Very proud of you.

16 [applause]

17 SPEAKER QUINN: Do you want to say  
18 a few words?

19 JAKAI ELLERBY: Thank you, Speaker  
20 Quinn and thank you, Council - - Dickens and  
21 Jackson. I would like to thank my mom, my dad and  
22 my sisters and Ms. Robinson and - - and my  
23 sisters for giving me this award and my brother.

24 [applause]

25 [background conversation]



1  
2 JAKAI ELLERBY: Martin Luther King,  
3 Jr.

4 SANDRA ROBINSON: Good afternoon,  
5 everyone. My name is Sandra Robinson and I'm  
6 Jakai's speech teacher. Thank you. Part of being  
7 a speech teacher and teaching in general is really  
8 taking - - approaches to try to help fluent  
9 speech, so last year, we took the - - approach of  
10 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream and we turned  
11 it into a dream for Jakai and that's how he  
12 entered the poster contest. At that time the  
13 King's Speech was a big thing at that time, and  
14 that's how he became - -, but Jakai is a  
15 phenomenal student. He has phenomenal parents.  
16 He happens to go to P.S. 92, where Rosa Davle  
17 [phonetic] is our principal in District 5 in  
18 Harlem - - . Thank you.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you  
20 so much, and Jakai, thank you. Thank you for  
21 standing up and standing tall for all Americans.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you all very.  
23 Very much and let me give you—I don't know if  
24 Jakai's mom or dad want to say anything?

25 HOPE BROWN ELLERBY: Thank you, Ms.

1  
2 Dickens. It's been a long time coming. Thank  
3 you, Ms. Robinson. I've fought hard for this,  
4 and I'm very satisfied. Thank you, Taro. I just  
5 want to introduce Taro [phonetic] Alexander to  
6 you. He is the CEO and founder of Our Time, which  
7 is an organization for individuals who stutter.  
8 It's a place where my son can feel comfortable and  
9 be his self, along with everybody else with the  
10 stuttering disability. It's not a disability.  
11 It's an everyday part of life for them, so I want  
12 to say thank you for being present. You've made  
13 my day.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Alright. Thank  
15 you. Jakai and I are going down to my office  
16 'cause I need new artwork. I'm commissioning a  
17 picture. So Jimmy Van Bramer, you're in charge of  
18 the final ceremony.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: So the  
20 final ceremonial is going to be awarding the New  
21 York Library Association, so if Matthew Bollerman  
22 from the New York Library Association would come  
23 forward, and also I know we have representatives  
24 from our three amazing library systems: Tom  
25 Galante [phonetic], the head of the Queens Library

1  
2 come forward, George Mihaltses from the New York  
3 Public Library and Josh Nachowitz in his very  
4 first public appearance as the vice president for  
5 government affairs of the Brooklyn Public Library,  
6 and a Council aluminist [phonetic]. All are going  
7 to join us here today for this ceremonial. It is  
8 Council Member Gentile—I do not see Council Member  
9 Gentile, but we all are here today and I know the  
10 Speaker is commissioning art at this moment, but I  
11 know that she very much is a part of this in  
12 spirit. The New York Library Association is New  
13 York State's advocate on behalf of all of our  
14 libraries—our public libraries, our academic  
15 libraries, our school libraries, and they are a  
16 state wide force advocating in Albany, but also  
17 here at city hall on behalf of our libraries to  
18 keep them open, to make sure that their programs  
19 and services are funded and we wanted to honor the  
20 New York Library Association for all of its great  
21 work on behalf of all of the residents of the  
22 state of New York, and each year the New York  
23 Library Association, which we call NYLA in library  
24 world, honors a library advocate, a state wide  
25 library champion and this year, we want to thank

1  
2 them for having the good sense to honor Speaker  
3 Quinn with that award, so they have honored  
4 Speaker Quinn and Finance Chair Recchia and myself  
5 and Council Member Gentile, all as library  
6 champions worthy of recognition state wide, so I  
7 thank you for the good sense to honor Speaker  
8 Quinn. That was a very wise move, Mr. Bollerman.  
9 You are doing great work on behalf of our  
10 libraries. We are all library champions. The  
11 City Council as you know in New York is steadfast  
12 behind our libraries, so thank you for all the  
13 good work that you do. Thank you for coming here  
14 to city hall today, and with that, I'll ask our  
15 Finance Chair, also a recipient of this award—the  
16 four of us getting the award together, to say a  
17 few words.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Thank you,  
19 Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer. I just want to  
20 thank you for recognizing the hard that Chris  
21 Quinn, Jimmy Van Bramer, Vincent Gentile and  
22 myself that we do over the years, but I want to  
23 thank you because you do the hard work. You're  
24 out there raising money. It's hard to raise  
25 money. It's like this is a partnership. It's a

1  
2 public/private partnership and the tax payers of  
3 the city of New York should know how hard you guys  
4 are working day in and day out, and I want the  
5 three library systems: New York, Brooklyn and  
6 Queens for the hard work that you're doing. This  
7 is going to be a tough year, but by working  
8 together, we have to keep our libraries open, our  
9 people employed and keep our books circulating. I  
10 want to thank you for the hard work and our  
11 computers—I have the queen of technology, Gale  
12 Brewer, we want to make sure that our libraries  
13 stay open so our children and the seniors could  
14 use the computers. Thank you very much. Now I'll  
15 give you an opportunity to say a few words.

16 MALE VOICE: Thank you both very  
17 much for having us here today. It's just a great  
18 opportunity. It's a really new experience for me  
19 to be here today, but the recognition comes  
20 without the work that you all did for libraries,  
21 especially here in keeping historic restoration  
22 funds to keep them open at least five days a week  
23 throughout the city. That's what it's about, so  
24 we... I'm here to thank you for what you did. So  
25 thank you so much.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: And  
3 with that, we will read the proclamation.

4 CLERK: Council, City of New York  
5 proclamation. Whereas the Council of the City of  
6 New York is proud to honor the New York Library  
7 Association for its outstanding service to the  
8 community. And whereas, the New York Library  
9 Association also known as NYLA was founded in 1890  
10 to promote New York Libraries. One of its  
11 founders was Melville Dewey [phonetic], a  
12 visionary educator and mentor of the Dewey Decimal  
13 System. And whereas, over the course of the last  
14 120 years, NYLA has remained at the forefront of  
15 development, promotion and improvement of library  
16 and information and services and the profession of  
17 librarianship in order to enhance learning,  
18 quality of life and equal opportunity for all New  
19 Yorkers. And whereas, from a membership of 43 in  
20 1890, NYLA has grown to a vital organization of  
21 several thousand members, representing not only  
22 the libraries of New York State, but also  
23 including many members of state and institutional  
24 from all over the United States. And whereas,  
25 under the guidance of NYLA's executive director,

1  
2 Michael Borges, the organization continues to make  
3 important advances, despite our challenging  
4 economic climate. Now therefore, be it known that  
5 the Council of the City of New York honors the New  
6 York Library Association for its outstanding  
7 support to New York City Libraries and the  
8 millions of New Yorkers who depend on them.

9 Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the entire  
10 Council, Jimmy Van Bramer, Council Member 26<sup>th</sup>  
11 District Queens, Domenic M. Recchia Jr. Council  
12 Member 47<sup>th</sup> District Brooklyn, Vincent Gentile  
13 Council Member 43<sup>rd</sup> District Brooklyn.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Speaker  
15 Quinn, I want to let you know that while you were  
16 purchasing amazing art downstairs, I thanked the  
17 New York Library Association for having the good  
18 sense to honor you as well with their state wide  
19 library advocate award, and if it's alright with  
20 you, before we do that, should I have Council  
21 Member Gentile maybe say a word as well, since  
22 Finance Chair Recchia spoke a few minutes ago?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Thank you  
24 very much and congratulations to the New York  
25 Library Association. As an advocate for

1  
2 libraries, you have been in the forefront  
3 statewide, and certainly having been to your  
4 conventions in Albany and elsewhere I must say,  
5 you are a strong voice for the library advocacy  
6 groups here in the state and particularly in the  
7 city of New York, so congratulations. Keep up the  
8 good work.

9                   SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
10 much. It's a clock right? Like Domenic's? Wow.  
11 Very nice. It's a clock that's a book all at the  
12 same time. Well, thank you guys very much. We  
13 really want to thank you for your advocacy, but  
14 really more importantly for what you do to help  
15 educate New Yorkers, to keep New Yorkers literate,  
16 help New Yorkers who aren't literate become  
17 literate and really be some of the most important  
18 community centers in our neighborhoods all across  
19 the five boroughs, so thank you guys so very, very  
20 much. We really appreciate it. And that  
21 concludes our ceremonies for the day. Yay.

22                   CLERK: Ladies and gentlemen, can I  
23 have your attention please? Can I please have  
24 your attention? At this time, please place all  
25 cell phones and pagers to vibrate. Will all non-



1

2 Council employees please leave the main floor of  
3 the chambers? You're welcome to have a seat up in  
4 the balcony. Thank you. If you don't have a seat  
5 on the floor, please go to the balcony.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: My  
7 colleagues please rise for the pledge of  
8 allegiance.

9

I pledge allegiance to the flag of  
10 the United States of America, and to the republic  
11 for which it stands, one nation under God,  
12 indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Roll call?

14

CLERK: Arroyo?

15

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

16

CLERK: Barron?

17

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.

18

CLERK: Brewer?

19

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

20

CLERK: Cabrera?

21

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

22

CLERK: Chin?

23

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

24

CLERK: Comrie?

25

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: [no audible

1

2 response]

3

CLERK: Crowley?

4

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

5

CLERK: Dickens?

6

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.

7

CLERK: Dilan?

8

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Here.

9

CLERK: Dromm?

10

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

11

CLERK: Eugene?

12

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

13

CLERK: Ferreras?

14

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.

15

CLERK: Fidler?

16

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.

17

CLERK: Foster?

18

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: [no audible

19 response]

20

CLERK: Garodnick?

21

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

22

CLERK: Gennaro?

23

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.

24

CLERK: Gentile?

25

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

1  
2 CLERK: Gonzalez?  
3 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Here.  
4 CLERK: Greenfield?  
5 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Here.  
6 CLERK: Halloran?  
7 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Here.  
8 CLERK: Ignizio?  
9 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.  
10 CLERK: Jackson?  
11 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Here.  
12 CLERK: James?  
13 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here.  
14 CLERK: Koo?  
15 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Here.  
16 CLERK: Koppell?  
17 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: [no  
18 audible response]  
19 CLERK: Koslowitz?  
20 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Yes.  
21 CLERK: Lander?  
22 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.  
23 CLERK: Lappin?  
24 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Here.  
25 CLERK: Levin?

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

3

CLERK: Mark-Viverito?

4

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

5

Here.

6

CLERK: Mealy?

7

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.

8

CLERK: Mendez?

9

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

10

CLERK: Nelson?

11

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: [no audible

12

response]

13

CLERK: Palma?

14

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

15

CLERK: Recchia?

16

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Here.

17

CLERK: Reyna?

18

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.

19

CLERK: Rodriguez?

20

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

21

CLERK: Rose?

22

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: [no audible

23

response]

24

CLERK: Sanders?

25

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Present.

1

CLERK: Seabrook?

2

3

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: [no  
audible response]

4

5

CLERK: Ulrich?

6

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.

7

CLERK: Vacca?

8

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

9

CLERK: Vallone?

10

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

11

CLERK: Van Bramer?

12

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

13

CLERK: Vann?

14

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [no audible  
response]

15

16

CLERK: Weprin?

17

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

18

CLERK: Williams?

19

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

20

CLERK: Wills?

21

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Here.

22

CLERK: Oddo?

23

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Here.

24

CLERK: Rivera?

25

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Here.

1

2

CLERK: Speaker Quinn?

3

SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

4

CLERK: We have a quorum.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Quorum is

6

present. My colleagues please rise for the

7

invocation being delivered today by Father George

8

Anastasio.

9

FATHER GEORGE ANASTASIO: Brothers

10

and sisters, let us bow our heads in prayer.

11

Heavenly King, comforter of the spirit of truth

12

who are ever present and fill all things, the

13

treasury of all blessings, we humbly bow our heads

14

to beseech and implore you to bless this

15

gathering. May harmony and social justice truly

16

resound in the hearts of all those here present,

17

so that they will in turn herald and share this

18

harmony with our communities. We furthermore ask

19

for blessings and protection of all civic leaders.

20

Care for them, keep them under the protection of

21

your mighty right hand. Keep them safe, strong,

22

compassionate and wise as they serve this great

23

city. We ask these things in your majestic, holy

24

and eternal name. Amen.

25

SPEAKER QUINN: Thanks, RJ. - -

1  
2 get a little quiet? Oh, I'm sorry. We have to  
3 spread the invocation. I apologize. Council  
4 Member Ferreras.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Motion to  
6 spread the invocation in full upon the record.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

8 SPEAKER QUINN: --playing the role  
9 of sergeant at arms, Robert Jackson. Thank you  
10 very much. Thank you, Father. Thank you, Council  
11 Member Ferreras. I've asked my colleagues to rise  
12 because we need to note the passing that yesterday  
13 we were sad to learn about a big loss for the  
14 Lower East Side. Longtime community activist,  
15 Mary Spink, who had been battling a failing liver  
16 and kidneys, died at Beth Israel Hospital. Mary  
17 was executive director of the Lower East Side  
18 People's Mutual Housing Association, an  
19 organization that has renovated and built many  
20 buildings throughout the neighborhood for  
21 affordable housing. She was a member of Community  
22 Board 3 and a member of the Lower East Side  
23 People's Federal Credit Union and the Lower East  
24 Side Girl's Club, as well as many other  
25 organizations. Last June, Mary was named a woman

1  
2 of distinction by State Senator Daniel Squadron.  
3 At the time, the Senator said, "Mary represents  
4 the best of individual achievement against all  
5 odds, which she directs entirely at empowering and  
6 bettering her community. Her passion, hard work,  
7 and ingenuity has inspired countless others and  
8 made the Lower East Side a better place." He said  
9 he was thrilled to honor everything that Mary had  
10 done to make our community more affordable and  
11 more diverse. Let me take a moment to call on  
12 Council Member Rosie Mendez, please.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you,  
14 Madam Speaker. This is a personal loss for me.  
15 We were really good friends. We served on the  
16 credit union board together, and it's a huge loss  
17 for our community. To be brief, all I can say is  
18 Mary had a sharp tongue, you didn't want to come  
19 across on the other side of that. She had a huge  
20 heart. She loved the Lower East Side, and she  
21 really worked to make this a better community.  
22 She managed over 30 buildings that became part of  
23 this land trust as affordable, permanent housing.  
24 Many of them were - - buildings, some were empty  
25 lands. We will truly miss her, and some of these



1  
2 buildings are actually--'cause the Lower East Side  
3 - - expands to Council Members in - - districts.  
4 So we have a huge loss this week. Thank you so  
5 much.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Council  
7 Member Mendez. Thank you, Mr. Majority Leader.

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

10 FEMALE VOICE: I move that the  
11 minutes of the Stated Meeting of December 8<sup>th</sup> and  
12 December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011 be adopted as printed.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.  
14 Messages and papers from the mayor?

15 CLERK: None.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:  
17 Communications from city, county and borough  
18 offices?

19 CLERK: None.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Petitions  
21 and communications?

22 CLERK: None.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Land Use  
24 call ups?

25 CLERK: M739 and 740.

1  
2 SPEAKER QUINN: If we could couple  
3 those please, and have a roll call on the coupled  
4 Land Use call ups please.

5 CLERK: Arroyo?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

7 CLERK: Barron?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [off mic]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [off mic]

11 CLERK: Brewer?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

13 CLERK: Cabrera?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

15 CLERK: Chin?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

17 CLERK: Comrie?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: [no audible  
19 response]

20 CLERK: Crowley?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

22 CLERK: Dickens?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [no  
24 audible response]

25 CLERK: Dilan?

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.  
3 CLERK: Dromm?  
4 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.  
5 CLERK: Eugene?  
6 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Yes.  
7 CLERK: Ferreras?  
8 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.  
9 CLERK: Fidler?  
10 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.  
11 CLERK: Foster?  
12 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: [no audible  
13 response]  
14 CLERK: Garodnick?  
15 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.  
16 CLERK: Gennaro?  
17 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye.  
18 CLERK: Gentile?  
19 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Yes.  
20 CLERK: Gonzalez?  
21 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.  
22 CLERK: Greenfield?  
23 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.  
24 CLERK: Halloran?  
25 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Aye.

1  
2 CLERK: Ignizio?  
3 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.  
4 CLERK: Jackson?  
5 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye.  
6 CLERK: James?  
7 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye.  
8 CLERK: Koo?  
9 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.  
10 CLERK: Koslowitz?  
11 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.  
12 CLERK: Lander?  
13 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.  
14 CLERK: Lappin?  
15 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.  
16 CLERK: Levin?  
17 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.  
18 CLERK: Mark-Viverito?  
19 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.  
20 CLERK: Mealy?  
21 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.  
22 CLERK: Mendez?  
23 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.  
24 CLERK: Nelson?  
25 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: [no audible

1

2 response]

3

CLERK: Palma?

4

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

5

CLERK: Recchia?

6

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.

7

CLERK: Reyna?

8

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.

9

CLERK: Rodriguez?

10

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

11

CLERK: Sanders?

12

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye.

13

CLERK: Seabrook?

14

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: [no

15 audible response]

16

CLERK: Ulrich?

17

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

18

CLERK: Vacca?

19

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

20

CLERK: Vallone?

21

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

22

CLERK: Van Bramer?

23

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye on

24 all.

25

CLERK: Vann?

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [no audible

3

response]

4

CLERK: Weprin?

5

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

6

CLERK: Williams?

7

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

8

CLERK: Wills?

9

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye.

10

CLERK: Oddo?

11

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

12

CLERK: Rivera?

13

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

14

CLERK: Speaker Quinn?

15

SPEAKER QUINN: Yes.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Today's

17

Land Use call ups were adopted by a vote of 45 in

18

the affirmative, zero in the negative.

19

Communications from the Speaker?

20

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very

21

much. First I want to recognize that Council

22

member Mark Weprin is joined by Max Gallagher

23

[phonetic] today, who was a winner of a Council

24

Member for a Day competition. So welcome, and

25

thank you for joining us for the day. He's a

1  
2 Council Member, Congress Member for a day, so  
3 we've learned. We are voting today on a series of  
4 increases in business improvement district  
5 financing and I want to thank Tanisha Edwards and  
6 the Finance staff for their work on that. We're  
7 also voting on three pieces of legislation that  
8 are part of our fair parking ticket legislation,  
9 and I want to thank Lyle Frank [phonetic] and  
10 Molly Murphy [phonetic] and - - Nasr [phonetic],  
11 and most important Laura Popa [phonetic] for their  
12 work on this legislation. If we could get a round  
13 of applause for their four staff members...

14 [applause]

15 SPEAKER QUINN: There are three  
16 pieces of legislation, Intro 490-A, 546-A and 610-  
17 A and they've been introduced by Council Members  
18 Gennaro, Greenfield and Sanders, all passed out of  
19 the very busy Transportation Committee chaired by  
20 Council Member Jimmy Vacca. All three of these  
21 bills deal with making the way the city deals with  
22 parking tickets fairer by doing it in a way that  
23 just makes basic sense. Let's look at Council  
24 Member Gennaro's bill, 490-A.

25 The city is moving away from the

1  
2 individual meter that you used to feed to the mini  
3 meter situation. That means there isn't going to  
4 be a meter right in front of your car anymore.  
5 You're going to have to walk a block, a half a  
6 block, whatever, to get to the muni meter. I  
7 don't know if it's news to DOT, but it takes time  
8 to walk from one place to another place. All of  
9 us have gotten countless calls in our offices of  
10 people who have gotten out of their car, gone and  
11 paid the muni meter, walked back to their car to  
12 put the receipt in their car, and in that two or  
13 three minute time, gotten a ticket and have had no  
14 recourse from it. Council Member Gennaro and  
15 Chair Vacca through the passage of 490-A will give  
16 those New Yorkers and visitors recourse with a  
17 five minute grace period in which period of time  
18 the traffic enforcement agent can electronically  
19 void that ticket--electronically, so we will have  
20 a clear record and begin to get yearly data so we  
21 see how often or frequently this is happening.  
22 This just makes basic sense and is fair and avoids  
23 one of those kick in the you know whats that New  
24 Yorkers get too frequently that makes them mad and  
25 angry at government.



1  
2 546-A will eliminate another  
3 incredibly annoying thing to New Yorkers. Council  
4 member Greenfield's legislation will say that the  
5 Department of Sanitation can no longer stick a big  
6 neon sticker on the side of your car because the  
7 Department of Transportation thinks you violated  
8 alternate side of the street parking. No one is  
9 saying you shouldn't get a ticket, if you violated  
10 alternate side of the street parking, but  
11 remember, a ticket is a belief you violated the  
12 law. It's not confirmation you violated the law,  
13 but when you walk out of your house, and there's  
14 that big, orange or yellow sticker on your car,  
15 everybody looks at your car like it's a sanitation  
16 scarlet letter, and assumes you did something  
17 terrible. You want to give people tickets 'cause  
18 you think they violated alternate side of the  
19 street, that's fine. You can still go ahead and  
20 do that appropriately, but there's no point in  
21 embarrassing and shaming people with a sticker.  
22 It is incredibly difficult—trust me, I know—to get  
23 off of your car window.

24 Lastly, Council Member Sanders has  
25 Intro 610-A. When you get a parking ticket, you

1  
2 have every right to challenge it, to say you  
3 didn't do it, that's not what this sign said, to  
4 submit evidence, to go through a process, but I  
5 bet you didn't know that late fees accrue on your  
6 parking ticket payment or your lack thereof,  
7 thirty days after the parking ticket was issued,  
8 not thirty days after the determination as made of  
9 whether or not you were guilty of that parking  
10 violation, so you can still be in the adjudication  
11 appeals process; therefore, not have had to have  
12 paid 'cause it wasn't determined you owed the city  
13 money, but you're accruing late fees because of  
14 how the rules are written. Council Member  
15 Sanders' bill will say no. You begin to accrue  
16 late fees thirty days after the decision has been  
17 made or the appeal is exhausted. That's only  
18 fair. You can't be late until actually the  
19 process has ended.

20 I want to thank all of the Council  
21 Members Gennaro, Greenfield and Sanders, but most  
22 importantly Chair Vacca who put together this  
23 very, sound, fair parking ticket legislative  
24 package. I think it sends a clear message to New  
25 Yorkers that we're out to keep the streets safe,

1  
2 to keep the streets clean, but we are not involved  
3 in a game of gotcha that the laws are out there to  
4 create fair procedures, not a way for the city to  
5 make money. I want to thank everyone who has  
6 worked on these bills. Let me call on Chair  
7 Vacca, then Council Member Gennaro, Council Member  
8 Greenfield, and Council Member Sanders.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Thank you.

10 I thank you, Speaker Quinn. Let me start off by  
11 telling everyone the obvious. Parking in New York  
12 City is difficult enough. It is often  
13 frustrating. It is time consuming. It's often  
14 impossible. Whether you know it or not, many  
15 people in our city view parking enforcement not as  
16 a means to increase safety on our streets and  
17 protect pedestrians and all other road users.  
18 Many people in our city view enforcement as a way  
19 for the city to raise revenue. Certainly, if you  
20 look at the history of parking enforcement  
21 summonses, New York City now raised \$600 million a  
22 year in parking enforcement summonses. Some of it  
23 does not make sense, and much of it is unfair. If  
24 you are charged with violating alternate side  
25 parking requirements, you will get a summons and

1  
2 you have the right to plead innocent or guilty.  
3 Why must you then also have that sticker put in  
4 your window as well? What does it prove? What  
5 does it do? Why does that driver have to be  
6 attacked twice when he has not even been found  
7 guilty of doing anything wrong because he hasn't  
8 had an opportunity for a hearing? The sticker  
9 sends a message, and it's a frustrating message to  
10 those of us who drive in the city of New York.  
11 When you get a fine, and you intend to plead, you  
12 wait for a hearing, but why do the late fees start  
13 from the day you get the fine, not from the day  
14 your ticket is adjudicated? It's an issue of  
15 fairness. It means that New Yorkers will have an  
16 opportunity to say, we are innocent. We are  
17 innocent until proven guilty, not guilty until  
18 proven innocent. I want to thank my colleagues  
19 today. I especially want to thank the Speaker and  
20 her staff. I want to thank the Transportation  
21 Committee staff and my staff. I have to tell you  
22 something. Since being chairman of the  
23 Transportation Committee, I think we've stood for  
24 fairness above all else and we've recognized that  
25 these problems are problems that hit New Yorkers

1  
2 every day, and boy, do they hit New Yorkers where  
3 it hurts. It hits them where their credibility—or  
4 the credibility that they - - our city is at  
5 stake. I think we could restore that faith by  
6 enacting this legislation today. I hope we do. I  
7 think we have more to do because we're always  
8 listening, and the hearings we have have proof  
9 conclusive that we are listening and we are  
10 acting. I think the action we're taking today  
11 means that drivers will be heard when it comes to  
12 fairness and that this Council has been responsive  
13 again to those issues. Thank you.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you,  
15 Madam Speaker, and thank you, Chair Vacca. Like  
16 the Speaker and the Chairman said, we want to  
17 bring fairness. It only makes sense to do these  
18 bills. Certainly the one that I put forward with  
19 regard to someone pulling into the spot, someone  
20 doing everything in their power to make sure that  
21 they're in full compliance with the law, going to  
22 the muni meter, coming back to the car and finding  
23 out that you got a ticket. There's nothing that  
24 you can do about it. You have to roll the dice by  
25 going through the adjudication. Maybe you'll get

1  
2 it done. Maybe you won't, but still you'll have  
3 to go through the process. It's a big homework  
4 assignment. It's a big pain in the neck and for  
5 no darn good reason. We should fix it. That's  
6 what this bill will do. It's a very common sense  
7 measure. Something that should have been thought  
8 about when the muni meters were put in place the  
9 first place. This is something that should have  
10 been foreseen. We're fixing it now. Very very  
11 important that we do so. People park illegally  
12 each and every day otherwise we wouldn't have \$600  
13 million worth of fines. People roll the dice, and  
14 those people that choose to park illegally should  
15 get tickets and they do, but those who are doing  
16 everything they can to make sure that they're in  
17 full compliance with the law shouldn't be rewarded  
18 for that effort with a ticket. Intro 490 doesn't  
19 do anything more than that. I'm very, very  
20 grateful to Jimmy and to Speaker Quinn and the  
21 good staff that worked on this. We have Laura  
22 Popa and Lyle Frank from the Committee. So happy  
23 to be a part of this very good initiative and I  
24 want to thank Jimmy once again for his passion and  
25 chairmanship of a very, very busy committee and

1  
2 getting these good things done. Thank you, Madam  
3 Speaker. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

4 SPEAKER QUINN: --Council Member  
5 Gennaro. Next is Council Member Greenfield, then  
6 Council member Sanders, please.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank  
8 you, Madam Speaker. This bill eliminates the  
9 redundance and excessive punishment that has  
10 caused New Yorkers untold hours of frustration  
11 over the years. I'm glad that we as a Council are  
12 answering the call to get rid of these scarlet  
13 letter sanitation stickers and to ensure that our  
14 city's drivers aren't having their property  
15 defaced without any type of due process. Quite  
16 frankly, it doesn't make sense to give a ticket  
17 and also slap a nearly impossible to remove  
18 sticker on a vehicle. It's ironic that the same  
19 agency that's tasked with cleaning our streets,  
20 the Sanitation Department, would instead deface  
21 private property. These bills are cruel and  
22 unusual punishment for the benign offense of  
23 forgetting to move our car on an alternate side  
24 parking day. After all, of all the parking  
25 violations this is the one that you violate

1  
2 accidentally the most. You park your car at night,  
3 you think you're going to leave at 8 o'clock in  
4 the morning, and something unexpected happens—like  
5 in my case the other week, my two year old son got  
6 sick, and vomited all over the kitchen, and so  
7 obviously I ended up running around five minutes  
8 late to move my car. In this case, I was lucky.  
9 They didn't slap a sticker on me, but it doesn't  
10 make sense that if you park intentionally at a  
11 fire hydrant and a bus stop, you don't get a  
12 sticker, but if you accidentally park on alternate  
13 side, you do. I want to thank the Speaker for her  
14 leadership. I want to thank Chair Vacca and I  
15 would also like to thank the terrific council  
16 staff, Laura Popa, Robert Newman, committee  
17 counsel, Lyle Frank, for all their hard work on  
18 this legislation. I want to congratulate my  
19 colleagues, Councilman Jim Gennaro and Councilman  
20 Sanders for the bills that they have each  
21 sponsored. Together this package of common sense  
22 legislation being considered today by the council  
23 will go a long way to make lives a little more  
24 sane for drivers in New York City. Thank you very  
25 much.



1  
2                   SPEAKER QUINN: Council Member  
3 Sanders.

4                   COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Thank you,  
5 Madam Speaker. I want to praise our Speaker for  
6 leading us in such a good direction and of course,  
7 our Chair Vacca for making sure that these common  
8 sense measures are passed. The foundation of good  
9 government has to be always resting on two things.  
10 It has to rest on morality, and it has to rest on  
11 common sense--things that make sense that we don't  
12 need to have a PhD explain them to you. If we say  
13 that we believe in innocence until proven guilty,  
14 then why don't we have that? In New York City  
15 thanks to this introduction, we're going to have a  
16 situation where the fines will not accrue against  
17 you until your court case is adjudicated.

18 Otherwise, you're saying although you can go to  
19 court, we're going to believe that you're guilty  
20 anyway. It reminds me of the good Judge Roy Bean  
21 [phonetic] that says give them a fair trial before  
22 we hang them. We will get rid of that Judge Roy  
23 Bean mindset and say that innocent until proven  
24 guilty and therefore, if you are found guilty, the  
25 fines start then, but if you're innocent, you're

1  
2 totally innocent in the great city of New York,  
3 and we in the people's house, the City Council,  
4 will always hear from the people of New York and  
5 respond, especially under the guidance of our  
6 Speaker. Thank you very much.

7 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Council  
8 member Sanders, and that concludes communications  
9 from the Speaker.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
11 very much, Madam Speaker. We now move on to  
12 discussion of general orders. Council Member  
13 Ulrich?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Mr.  
15 Majority Leader, I ask for unanimous consent to  
16 vote on all items on the general order calendar.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Council  
20 Member Dickens?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you,  
22 Majority Leader. I would like to thank Speaker  
23 Quinn and her staff as well as the Finance Chair,  
24 Domenic Recchia, Finance Committee counsel,  
25 Tanisha Edwards and the rest of the Finance

1  
2 Committee and staff for passing through Committee  
3 the two property tax renewals, Hale House and the  
4 Homeward Bound Houses. These two developments  
5 provide affordable units to constituents in my  
6 district. In our increasingly expensive city, we  
7 need to preserve every bastion of affordable  
8 housing. These property tax exemptions will  
9 ensure affordable housing in these two  
10 developments for the foreseeable future. I ask my  
11 colleagues for your support to continue these  
12 affordable housing opportunities. I also want to  
13 thank Speaker Quinn, the staff, Domenic Recchia,  
14 Finance counsel, Tanisha Edwards, and the  
15 Committee and staff on the 125<sup>th</sup> Street BID's  
16 present assessment of 867 and the proposed  
17 assessment of 947, which will reflect the critical  
18 needs that this allocation will serve for the 125<sup>th</sup>  
19 Street BID. Thank you.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: thank you  
21 very much. Seeing no others, we'll move on to  
22 reports of special committees.

23 CLERK: None.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Reports of  
25 standing committees.

1

2

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Finance, Intro 741, business improvement districts.

4

5

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

6

7

CLERK: Pre-considered L.U. 553 and Reso 1200 through L.U. 555 and Reso 1202.

8

9

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

10

11

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Housing and Buildings, Intro 501-A, real property.

12

13

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and laid over.

14

15

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Transportation, Intro 301-A.

16

17

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and laid over.

18

19

CLERK: Intro 490-A, fair parking tickets bill.

20

21

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on general orders.

22

23

CLERK: Intro 546-A, adhesive stickers on motor vehicles.

24

25

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled

1

2 on general orders.

3

4

CLERK: Intro 610-A, parking  
violations bureau late fees.

5

6

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled  
on general orders.

7

8

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: General  
order calendar.

9

10

CLERK: Resolution appointing  
various persons, commissioner of deeds.

11

12

13

14

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

15

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

16

CLERK: Arroyo?

17

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

18

CLERK: Brewer?

19

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye. - - .

20

CLERK: Cabrera?

21

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

22

CLERK: Chin?

23

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

24

CLERK: Comrie?

25

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

1  
2 CLERK: Crowley?  
3 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.  
4 CLERK: Dickens?  
5 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.  
6 CLERK: Dilan?  
7 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.  
8 CLERK: Dromm?  
9 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.  
10 CLERK: Eugene?  
11 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.  
12 CLERK: Ferreras?  
13 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.  
14 CLERK: Fidler?  
15 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.  
16 CLERK: Garodnick?  
17 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: [no  
18 audible response]  
19 CLERK: Gennaro?  
20 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.  
21 CLERK: Gentile?  
22 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Yes.  
23 CLERK: Gonzalez?  
24 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.  
25 CLERK: Greenfield?

1

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

2

3

CLERK: Halloran?

4

5

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: May I be excused to explain my vote?

6

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Mr. Chair, I appreciate that the Council will be giving additional funding to the Bayside business improvement district. I'd like to thank my colleagues in government, particularly Council Member Weprin and Assemblyman Ed Braunstein [phonetic], who have done a lot of work to help bring Bayside and its businesses back. I'm glad that we will continue to work hard in doing that. I'm also glad to see the Council entering into some common sense legislation with regards to the parking situations that all New Yorkers face. I salute the Speaker and her efforts to make this a more manageable, more friendly city, and I appreciate my colleagues' votes on it. I vote aye on all.

23

CLERK: Ignizio?

24

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

25

CLERK: Jackson?

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on

3

all.

4

CLERK: James?

5

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye.

6

CLERK: Koo?

7

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

8

CLERK: Koslowitz?

9

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

10

CLERK: Lander?

11

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER:

12

Congratulations - - aye.

13

CLERK: Lappin?

14

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

15

CLERK: Levin?

16

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

17

CLERK: Mark-Viverito?

18

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

19

CLERK: Mealy?

20

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

21

CLERK: Mendez?

22

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: [no audible

23

response]

24

CLERK: Nelson?

25

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.



1

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

2

3

CLERK: Palma?

4

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

5

CLERK: Recchia?

6

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: [no

7

audible response]

8

CLERK: Reyna?

9

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.

10

CLERK: Rodriguez?

11

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

12

CLERK: Sanders?

13

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye.

14

CLERK: Seabrook?

15

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Aye on

16

all.

17

CLERK: Vacca?

18

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye on all.

19

CLERK: Vallone?

20

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

21

CLERK: Van Bramer?

22

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye on

23

all.

24

CLERK: Weprin?

25

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: [no audible

1

2 response]

3

CLERK: Williams?

4

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [off mic]

5

CLERK: Wills?

6

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye.

7

CLERK: Recchia?

8

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: [no

9

audible response]

10

CLERK: Oddo?

11

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

12

CLERK: Rivera?

13

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye

14

on all.

15

CLERK: Speaker Quinn?

16

SPEAKER QUINN: Aye on all.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All items

18

on today's general order calendar were adopted by

19

a vote of 47 in the affirmative with zero in the

20

negative and zero abstentions with the exception

21

of Introduction 490-A which was adopted by a vote

22

of 46 in the affirmative, one in the negative,

23

zero abstentions. Revised Land Use call ups are

24

adopted by a vote of 47 in the affirmative with

25

zero in the negative. Introduction and reading of

1  
2 the bills. Thank you very much. There are no  
3 resolutions, so we'll move on to general  
4 discussion. We first have council Member Gennaro.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you.  
6 I'd like bring to my colleagues' attention a bill  
7 that I'm introducing today, Intro 752, having to  
8 do with waste carting [phonetic]; everyone knows  
9 that the current law requires private businesses  
10 to contract for licensed carting services and then  
11 a sticker gets put in the front window. We did a  
12 little survey—my office did—we went to different  
13 parts of the city and there are many, many  
14 business that are not using licensed carters that  
15 don't have any stickers, and we all know that if  
16 you're a business and you're not using a licensed  
17 carter, you're putting your trash someplace that  
18 ultimately gets picked up and paid for by the tax  
19 payers 'cause maybe it's getting dumped someplace,  
20 so you're somehow taking it home, and that goes  
21 into the regular Department of Sanitation pickup  
22 or worse, you're using some kind of fly by night  
23 carter who is not following the rules and they are  
24 doing dumping, and so it's clearly important that  
25 we kind of change that because the businesses that

1  
2 are not complying a paying a simple \$100 violation  
3 and it's easier for them to every now and then pay  
4 the \$100 rather than get a licensed carter. I  
5 think this is a bigger problem than most people  
6 think it is and that's what Intro 752 is all  
7 about. I hope that it receives support from  
8 members of the Council. Thanks very much.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: thank you  
10 very much. We'll move on to Council Member  
11 Cabrera, followed by Council Member James.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: thank you  
13 so much, distinguished members of City Council. I  
14 call upon every single one of you to support  
15 Resolution 1155. As you know, we have houses of  
16 worship that in 25 days, they're going to be  
17 evicted from public schools. We are the only  
18 large school district in America where we have  
19 such a regressive policy taking place. We are the  
20 only state in which this is taking place. We are  
21 only state with the court of appeals rule that it  
22 was up to the city to allow the city to make that  
23 decision. No one is being mandated for the houses  
24 of worship to be evicted. We're about to have  
25 many houses of worship which are in your council -

1  
2 - districts, they are about to find themselves  
3 homeless. They have contributed. They have been  
4 good neighbors. It's ironic. We have a double  
5 standard of the fact that the New York City Board  
6 of Education is presently renting from Catholic  
7 facilities, and yet though the Catholic  
8 denominations have been good neighbors, I don't  
9 understand why they can't provide the houses of  
10 worship the same decency, the same courtesy, the  
11 same privilege. I call upon every single one of  
12 my colleagues to contact the governor's office to  
13 encourage the state assembly members to be in full  
14 support of the legislation that is at the state  
15 level and I want to personally thank every single  
16 one of you that has signed on to the Resolution  
17 1155. Thank you so much.

18 [applause]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Can we get  
20 silence in the balcony. We need silence in the  
21 balcony. I respectfully urge everyone to please  
22 quiet down. I respectfully urge everyone to  
23 please quiet down. Thank you very much. We'll  
24 move on to Council Member James followed by  
25 Council Member Jackson.

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

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Thank you.

We began this Stated Council today with prayer.

In fact, every Stated Council we begin with prayer. We respect all religions. The issue is a permit to lease a public school does not equate to a promotion of any one religious organization.

The issue today is freedom of access to a public school building, a policy that has been in effect for a very long time, but unfortunately recently has been challenged, and been denied. Other jurisdictions all throughout these United States allow religious institutions to use public schools, and in New York City, this is probably the most regressive policy in this country. We rely upon religious organizations whenever we need social services. When you go into any court room, you see "in God we trust." We started this Stated Council again with a religious prayer, and so the question is why not allow these organizations to lease public school buildings, not when they are open, but on days that they are closed, not to proselytize, but in fact to worship God in the religion that they respect and in accordance with their God. So I urge each and every one of us to

1  
2 sign onto this resolution and I hope to see all of  
3 you at a hearing that is scheduled in this City  
4 Council on February 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Education Committee  
5 and I thank the Speaker for scheduling that, and I  
6 thank the men and women of God who stand in the  
7 balcony in support of this resolution. Thank you.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I do  
9 request that everyone in the balcony—I do  
10 understand everyone's passion about this and this  
11 is extremely important, but we do request that  
12 everyone that does participate in these Stated  
13 Meetings do not applaud until the end of the  
14 Stated Meeting, so I respectfully ask everyone  
15 here to do the same. Thank you very much. We'll  
16 move on to Council Member Jackson followed by  
17 Council Member Brewer.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: thank you,  
19 Majority Leader. My colleagues, I rise today in  
20 support of a resolution that's put forward by our  
21 colleague, Fernando Cabrera. Resolution 1155  
22 allowing religious institutions to rent space at  
23 the Department of Education buildings, and this is  
24 not anything new. This has been going on for  
25 years and years and years. And in fact, they hold

1  
2 services there and different meetings and they pay  
3 for the space. FYI, as a co-chair of the Black  
4 Latino and Asian Caucus, there are 27 members.  
5 The Caucus supports the position put forward by  
6 Fernando Cabrera on his resolution in asking the  
7 legislature to make it a law that would allow the  
8 religious institutions to continue to worship in  
9 the schools, and not be evicted. The deadline  
10 that's been set by the City of New York is  
11 February 12<sup>th</sup>, and in fact, our colleague Letitia  
12 James indicated a hearing will be held on February  
13 2<sup>nd</sup> starting at 1pm, so I encourage you, if you're  
14 interested in this subject, please come to the  
15 hearing on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Also, my colleague,  
16 Ydanis Rodriguez, and I will be co-chairing an  
17 education and higher education committee meeting  
18 tomorrow. I believe at 1pm also on the issue of  
19 are our children college and career ready? That's  
20 a huge issue, knowing that many, many children in  
21 New York City go off to college and they're not  
22 really ready for college or supposedly career  
23 ready, but not really ready for a career. So I  
24 encourage you all to let people know about these  
25 two very, very important hearings that are taking



1  
2 place tomorrow and on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you very  
3 much.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
5 very much. We now move on to Council Member  
6 Brewer followed by Council Member Rodriguez.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you  
8 very much. I'm not talking about a specific bill,  
9 but I just want to mention that on the front page  
10 of the Times today was the story about the stop  
11 online piracy act, and in the Senate it's called  
12 protect IP or PIPA in the Senate. You might  
13 notice that Wikipedia's closed today. Google and  
14 others are indicating they're not in support of  
15 these two pieces of legislation. It's  
16 controversial. How do you stop or limit online  
17 piracy? And that is what the purported interest  
18 of the bills are; however, I feel strongly that  
19 there are other unintended consequences. I  
20 believe that there would be a substantial burden  
21 on search engines if these bills are to pass and  
22 payment services and people obviously like Google  
23 and others are against them, and some of the  
24 larger companies like NBC and others are for these  
25 pieces of legislation. I bring it to your

1

2 attention I have a resolution on it--I'm not going  
3 to push it--that I introduced a while ago, but I  
4 just want people to know that this is huge issue  
5 for our country and I want you to be aware of it.  
6 I just thought I would bring it to your attention  
7 and say that if there's interest we could put  
8 together some kind of a forum and discussion to  
9 talk about this topic. Thank you very much.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
11 very much. Next we have Council member Rodriguez  
12 and Council Member Wills.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank  
14 you. I think that our Constitution is clear when  
15 it comes to--it gives us the guidance on the  
16 separation between church and state and even with  
17 a separation of church and state, our city has  
18 been allowing our churches to rent this space for  
19 the last 16 years in New York City public schools.  
20 I believe that with the guidance of our  
21 Constitution, the city has been allowing the  
22 churches to rent the space, there is no reason why  
23 suddenly the mayor makes the decision on changing  
24 something that has been in practice for the last  
25 16 years. Those churches that have been using the

1  
2 space of the New York City Public Housing and the  
3 schools all they're doing is working with young  
4 people. They became the hope for many young  
5 people that were involved with drugs, in crime, in  
6 prostitution. They've been doing a great work in  
7 our communities, and I hope that the mayor will  
8 reconsider his decision and will allow our  
9 churches to continue renting the space at a New  
10 York City Public School and a New York City Public  
11 Housing Authority. Thank you.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
13 very much.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: My  
15 colleagues, I rise in support of Resolution 1155.  
16 I support Council Member Fernando Cabrera and  
17 every household of faith to have the right to rent  
18 space in a public building. I go a little further  
19 than asking why is it necessary to do this, but I  
20 want to know why it is necessary at this point in  
21 time to do this? New York City has a reputation  
22 of being the most progressive city in the most  
23 progressive state in the United States, and I  
24 don't understand how we can go backwards 100 years  
25 to now suppressing the rights of the households of

1  
2 faith. We have had peg after peg after peg. We  
3 are taking more and more and more from  
4 discretionary money and budget allocations that we  
5 use to support our programs and every other day in  
6 my district office, I am asking churches to please  
7 step in and fill the gap. So how do we ask these  
8 households of faith in good consciousness to step  
9 in and fill the gap when we want to evict them  
10 now? It just doesn't make common sense, and this  
11 Council every member we ask to support this, we  
12 ask every member of the state legislature to act  
13 now. We don't want to wait until the hearing. We  
14 don't want to wait until a deadline. This should  
15 not be a political football. This is common  
16 sense. These people and the households of faith  
17 need somewhere to practice. They need to be  
18 upheld. We need to make sure this goes through.  
19 Thank you very much.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
21 very much. Next we have Council Member Williams  
22 and Council Member Sanders.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank  
24 you. First I have three bills that I'm asking  
25 support on—Intro 758 deals with franchises and

1  
2 concessions review committee. The concessions are  
3 used for city property for private use. Currently  
4 four votes are needed. This legislation would  
5 change it to five members necessary for approval.  
6 - - grants to use city property for public service  
7 now five votes are needed, and we're trying to  
8 change it to six. As well as we're trying to add  
9 public advocate as a seventh member. All of these  
10 are generally usually mayoral appointees. The  
11 next one is Intro 759, which deals with  
12 diversifying the Conflicts of Interest Board. It  
13 would require a referendum, but - - five members.  
14 They're all mayoral appointees. We're asking to  
15 propose a change three mayoral appointees, one by  
16 the comptroller and one by the public advocate.  
17 This one is Intro 760, which is a pro-voter law.  
18 Right now all agencies are supposed to give out-  
19 force people to take voter registration and return  
20 it by the BOE. According to the 2010 - - report,  
21 there were 187,000 voter registrations given; only  
22 2,663 were returned, which is a very low  
23 percentage. What we're trying to do is now  
24 provide coded voter registration forms so that we  
25 can track who is actually giving the voter

1  
2 registrations out and make sure that they are  
3 following what they're supposed to be following in  
4 the law. So hopefully, I can get some support on  
5 those bills. Two other things that the mayor  
6 stated in the city address—there's a lot of things  
7 I disagreed with, some that I did. One in  
8 particular I believe was a slap in the face to the  
9 27 members of the Black, Latino, Asian Caucus and  
10 over half of the city of New York that the mayor  
11 refused our request to please recognize and  
12 acknowledge that there is an issue with the police  
13 culture in the NYPD, so that we could begin to sit  
14 down and fix it. Hopefully this body will try to  
15 ensure that the mayor does do so, either himself  
16 or the commissioner.

17           Lastly, I would like to support  
18 Resolution 1155. I believe the money says "In God  
19 we trust." The Pledge of Allegiance that was said  
20 here today said "under God." There's no reason why  
21 our churches shouldn't be allowed, and I'm  
22 impressed that the churchgoers made more noise  
23 than Occupy Wall Street. Thank you.

24           COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you,  
25 Council Member. We're going to now move on to

1  
2 Council Member Sanders and Council Member Dromm  
3 after, but I am going to again respectfully  
4 request that people please keep the applause down.  
5 I know we are all passionate about this issue. I  
6 am a supporter myself, but we do have to maintain  
7 order in the chambers. Thank you.

8 COUNCILL MEMBER SANDERS: Thank  
9 you, sir. Common sense seems to be the order of  
10 the day today and in that line I'd first like to  
11 start by thanking Council Member Cabrera for being  
12 a passionate champion of this issue, for making  
13 sure that the issue of justice has been brought  
14 before us. Here is an absurdity for you. If  
15 there were a group that wanted to speak that God  
16 did not exist, that there is no God, they would  
17 have every right to rent a spot in our schools,  
18 and they could meet and they can talk and everyone  
19 in here I'm sure would believe that they have at  
20 least a right to have that, but if you want to  
21 speak and talk and say that—to share your own  
22 views on God, you're not allowed to. At a minimum  
23 this common sense should be that the people of God  
24 should have as much right as the people who don't  
25 believe in God. It's as simple as that. Why we

1  
2 are having this conversation? Why are we making  
3 this into a larger thing than it is? It's been  
4 going on for years. We've been meeting there for  
5 years. Very few other states in this great  
6 country are proposing what we're doing. We're  
7 going against a grain that's happenings. So under  
8 those conditions, I'm saying that we should stop  
9 this foolish policy and go back to the common  
10 sense that this City Council has been championing  
11 all day. I want to thank everyone who has fought  
12 to make sure that common sense prevails in New  
13 York City. Thank you very much.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
15 very much. We will now move on to Council Member  
16 Dromm followed by Council Member Chin.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you  
18 very much. I rise because I have deep concerns  
19 about this bill, which would allow churches to  
20 continue to meet in our public schools. I have  
21 deep civil liberties concerns about the issue. I  
22 don't understand why a church needs to meet in a  
23 public building. I believe that our Constitution  
24 was correct in terms of ensuring that there is a  
25 separation between church and state, and also rise



1  
2 to express my concerns that many of these churches  
3 who want to meet in publically financed, public  
4 supported buildings discriminate against certain  
5 people in our communities, especially LGBT people.  
6 That raises a deep concern for me as to why we  
7 should allow these institutions, these religious  
8 institutions to meet in public schools. I am a  
9 person who doesn't always agree with the mayor,  
10 but on this one, I think that the mayor is right,  
11 and I think that the chancellor is right to ensure  
12 that we continue to have a clear line between the  
13 separation of church and state. I will attend the  
14 hearing. I'm interested in finding out why people  
15 think that we should not have that line of  
16 separation. I look forward to seeing everyone at  
17 that hearing. Thank you.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
19 very much, Council Member. We respect everyone's  
20 opinions down here.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: Can I just say we  
22 cannot have Council Members booed. People have  
23 applauded and that's appropriate. Council Members  
24 and part of what the whole discussion of this  
25 resolution is about is people have an ability to

1  
2 express themselves, and that is Council Member  
3 Dromm's opinion, and good for him for standing up  
4 saying it even though he knew there were people  
5 here who would disagree. Good he has conviction.  
6 We will not have members of the Council booed  
7 ever.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
9 very much, Madam Speaker. We now move on to  
10 Council Member Chin followed by Council Member  
11 Greenfield.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. I  
13 rise to—first of all, I signed on to Reso 1155.  
14 Congregations in my community especially in the  
15 Chinese/Fuijanese community, they have been using  
16 our schools for meeting. A lot of these  
17 congregations in our community, they cannot afford  
18 to have large space. They don't have enough room,  
19 but our schools are also community facilities and  
20 should be open to the community. During this past  
21 Christmas celebration, I saw over a thousand  
22 people families with children who work very hard,  
23 new immigrants were able to come together and pray  
24 together and worship together and share joy  
25 together in a public school, and this has been

1  
2 going on for many, many years, and they should be  
3 allowed to continue. I think that we are standing  
4 together to urge the mayor to really look into  
5 this policy and change his mind. The other thing  
6 that I want to talk about the issue is I want to  
7 thank Speaker Quinn, Council Member Mathieu Eugene  
8 and also Council Member Rose for co-sponsoring  
9 Reso 1188, and I want to thank all the Council  
10 Members here who have signed on. I almost got  
11 everyone, so if I missed you, I'm sorry. We have  
12 a meeting scheduled for January 27<sup>th</sup>. This is a  
13 resolution calling on the military to try to  
14 reform their policy in training and recruitment,  
15 and this is in honor of the memory of Private  
16 Danny Chan, who died on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, and we want to  
17 make sure that this will never happen to another  
18 family and this resolution will be a beginning to  
19 really look at how we can get the military to  
20 respect our sons and daughters, our service men  
21 and women, and to protect them. I want to thank  
22 my colleagues for their support.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.

24 We now have Council Member Greenfield followed by  
25 Council Member Mealy.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank  
3 you very much. As a back bencher, I don't  
4 normally rise to speak on any issues, but this is  
5 an issue that I feel very strongly about. I rise  
6 today to support my colleague, Fernando Cabrera,  
7 in his quest to get the mayor and the Department  
8 of Education to overturn really what's a silly  
9 regulation. It's so bizarre. We are running a  
10 deficit, and we always have to worry about where  
11 we're going to get our money from, and here is an  
12 initiative that essentially allows these groups  
13 who pay full rent and in many cases, they actually  
14 make significant improvements like air  
15 conditioning and things like that on their own,  
16 and the city wants to stop it. It's a very  
17 strange thing that's being proposed. In my  
18 district, I don't have any of these churches and  
19 in fact, I don't even know that there are even any  
20 synagogues that are impacted by this regulation—  
21 Fernando says there may actually be two. There  
22 you go. It's the principle. The principle is not  
23 just about religion; it's about class as well.  
24 These are predominantly immigrant communities come  
25 to the United States and are looking for a place

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 pray and to gather. They don't have the money to rent a large space. They don't have the money to buy a large church, and so they're working with their communities. They're coming in there. They're improving it, and it's just something that really flies in the face in common sense. I want to thank Fernando for his leadership. I want to thank all the colleagues who have signed on. I want to encourage the mayor to rescind his decision and I think it's the right thing to do for all New Yorkers. Thank you very much.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you very much, Council Member. We next have Council Member Mealy followed by Council Member Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Well, I want to commend my colleague, Cabrera, for this great resolution. This is of critical importance to faith based churches. I know of no public schools or no pastor—I've never heard of no parents talking that they have a problem with churches renting that space. We are economically fiscally challenged now. That is revenue to our great city of New York, and I just hope that our mayor and

1  
2 others think about when they come to churches  
3 asking for their endorsement and want to speak to  
4 the parishioners, our pastors need to tell them  
5 no. It's church and state. I hope that everyone  
6 knows that I am honored to be on this legislation  
7 and we must think about it. This is a critical  
8 nonexistent problem really, and I must say what my  
9 colleague—if it's not broken, why try to fix it?  
10 So I just hope that our mayor reconsider. If we  
11 really have faith, let's have faith enough that we  
12 can touch and agree and he will change his mind.  
13 Amen.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
15 very much, Council Member. Next we have Council  
16 Member Van Bramer followed by Council Member  
17 Nelson.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank  
19 you very much. I signed on to Reso 1155 and  
20 support it. I want to congratulate my colleague,  
21 Council Member Cabrera, for fighting for what he  
22 believes in. I have a church in my district, the  
23 pastor of which is sitting up there in the  
24 balcony. I'm sure he is being very polite, and  
25 not booing anybody. His church is one of those

1  
2 churches that would evicted in 25 days and I know  
3 that Pastor - - does good work, and I know that  
4 lots of other organizations are doing work. I  
5 also want to thank my colleague, Council Member  
6 Dromm, for having the courage to say the things  
7 that he said to raise some very real issues around  
8 this debate. Some of those very same things are  
9 concerns of mine as well, but I do believe that  
10 Pastor - - church and other churches are doing  
11 good work. They are paying rent to the Board of  
12 Education, the Department of Education. I don't  
13 understand the timing and the urgency or the  
14 necessity of evicting these churches and houses of  
15 worship. That's why I support Resolution 1155 and  
16 commend Council Member Cabrera for bringing light  
17 to this issue. Thank you very much.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
19 very much. We now move on the Council Member  
20 Nelson followed by Council Member Gonzalez.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON:  
22 Congratulations. Amen, Fernando. Totally agree  
23 with you, but I am going from the sublime to  
24 basically trash talk for a second. If you have a  
25 constituent with a house that happens to have a

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

MTA stop in front of it—a bus stop in front of it—  
it doesn't seem fair if you know what happens at  
bus stops for them to be able to receive tickets  
for this. I have some constituents who have—I'll  
bet you just about every colleague of mine has had  
a situation like that. So please sign on to it.  
It's going around to all of your offices that we  
should hold the people who own these homes  
harmless from the immediate area, corner, or front  
of their house from receiving tickets on this  
particular subject. Thank you, my colleagues.  
Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you, - - .

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
very much. We will now move on to Council Member  
Gonzalez.

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: I would  
like speak on Reso 1155. I would like to thank  
Fernando Cabrera, our Council Member who has led  
the fight. I just want to say that some of us  
forget and for many, many years the churches were  
the first people that anyone saw in crises—  
especially the HIV/AIDS population, substance  
abuse. My district, District 38, was hit really  
hard in respect to those issues. I remember



1

2

placing people in churches for safe shelters until I get could them into some kind of safe haven or something, and the churches were the ones who stepped up to the plate. We're going to be affected and impacted by this, so therefore, I want people to remember that these churches are the first people that come to the rescue of people, especially in these tight economic times. So I say please rethink Mayor Bloomberg and also our chancellor. It is so important for us and it's important for our community to understand that we have utilization and need for everyone in the city. Thank you.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

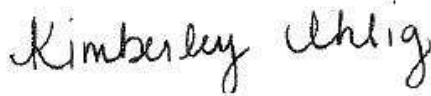
COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you very much. Seeing no others, before we adjourn the meeting, I just want to give an update. The Education hearing is going to be held on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10am, not 1pm. So just make note of that. I look forward to seeing all of you there. This meeting is adjourned. You may now clap.

[applause]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Kimberley Uhlig 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

Handwritten signature of Kimberley Uhlig in cursive script, written over a horizontal line.

Date

2/4/12