

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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February 1, 2012
Start: 1:54 p.m.
Recess: 3:36 p.m.

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)

Allister Richards
Student
Bedford Academy High School

Martin Jacobson
Coach for the Varsity Soccer Team
Martin Luther King Jr. High School

Ebahim Dyabi
Student
Martin Luther King Jr. High School

Reverend T.K. Nagagaki
Buddhist Council of New York City

2 SPEAKER QUINN: We have two
3 ceremonials today; both of which—I think I'm
4 right, Gale—deal with young people who have done
5 important things in our city, so the second one is
6 Council Member Gale Brewer, and the first one is
7 our Assistant Majority Leader, Al Vann.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Thank you.
9 Thank you, Madam Speaker. Ladies and gentlemen, I
10 am really very, very honored that Bedford Academy
11 High School is actually located in the district I
12 represent in Bedford-Stuyvesant. I am very proud
13 of each and everyone one of you and all of the
14 student body that you represent from Bedford
15 Academy, of course, Mr. Muhammad [phonetic], who I
16 know could not be here, but two members from the
17 staff, the advisors for the Honors Society are
18 here, Ms. Brochette [phonetic] and Mr. Calinzod
19 [phonetic]. I cannot tell you how much the full
20 Council appreciates what you represent. Very
21 often we have a lot of celebrations for schools
22 who have excelled in basketball scholarship or
23 championship or football or whatever as it should
24 be, and we appreciate that, but I want to be very
25 clear, as a former athlete and so forth, I have

2 high regard for those of us who can achieve
3 academically, which you have represented
4 excellence in academics throughout the time.

5 [applause]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: It's really--
7 in a way, it's sort of a sad story that what
8 you're doing is considered to be unusual, when in
9 reality this is what the whole entire school
10 system should be about--excellence. All of our
11 schools should be achieving at the level that
12 these young people have achieved and you'll hear
13 about it in the proclamation. So I just want you
14 to know how proud the city of New York is of you.
15 I know that you will pursue your dream. You will
16 continue your excellence throughout college and so
17 forth and we're just so happy for what you
18 represent and the beacon that you present
19 throughout the city. You can do it. Other
20 schools can do it as well. That's our dream, and
21 that's what we fight for. So thank you. I know
22 that Mr. Muhammad is not here, and cannot speak,
23 but I understand--do you want to say a few words
24 before the student? Well, okay. Alright. Then,
25 we'll hear from one of the students. Speaker said

2 read the proc.

3 CLERK: Council City of New York
4 Proclamation. Whereas the Council of the City of
5 New York is proud to honor Bedford Academy High
6 School for upholding its inspiring legacy of
7 academic achievement; and whereas, established in
8 2003, Bedford Academy High School began with a
9 concept by Dr. Lester Young, who envisioned a
10 place for quality education for the Bedford-
11 Stuyvesant community. Since then, the school's
12 motto "academic empowerment is the birth right of
13 every child" has been evident throughout its
14 curriculum. With rigorous academic standards and
15 a focus on learning together, Bedford Academy
16 students are constantly challenged to do their
17 best. As a result, they develop a commitment to
18 education that leads to not only graduation and
19 college, but to a lifelong passion for learning;
20 and whereas, since the New York City Department of
21 Education launched its progress report in 2006,
22 Bedford Academy High School has retained its A.
23 90% of the students who attend Bedford Academy
24 have passed every regent's exam in all subject
25 areas, earning advanced regent's diplomas, making

2 Bedford Academy's graduation rate 96 percent.

3 [applause]

CLERK: And whereas, today under
the leadership of Adolfo [phonetic] Muhammad,
Bedford Academy High School continues to reaffirm
the importance of setting high expectations for
young people. By empowering them with a high
quality education, we can unlock their potential,
unleash their visions and prepare them to thrive
with principle and purpose throughout their adult
lives. We congratulate Bedford Academy on its
remarkable academic achievements and wish its
students, staff and administrators continued
success. Now therefore, be it known that the
Council of the city of New York is honored and
congratulates the Bedford Academy High School for
its outstanding commitment and contributions to
educational excellence. Christine C. Quinn,
Speaker for the entire Council, Albert Vann,
Council Member 36th District Brooklyn.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Wow, well I just
23 want to say those are some incredibly impressive
24 academic numbers, and I'm very glad I didn't have
25 to go to school with any of you guys and gals

2 because in the curve, I would have done very, very
3 badly. Thank you. I just want to echo Council
4 member Vann's sentiments. You guys really exactly
5 what we are hoping and praying our public schools
6 are in every single neighborhood and you are just
7 a great example of New York School students and a
8 great example for other students. I just want to
9 say on behalf of all of our colleagues how very,
10 very proud we are of all of you and then—are you
11 our spokesman? Alright.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: This
13 gentleman, Allister Richards [phonetic], is a
14 graduating senior at Bedford Academy. He is also
15 the president of the National Honors Society.
16 Allister Richards.

17 ALLISTER RICHARDS: Thank you
18 everyone. It's a wonderful proclamation that we
19 received today. On behalf of Bedford Academy and
20 the National Honors Society Class of 2012, we
21 proudly accept this proclamation and from Ms.
22 Muhammad, who couldn't be here, Ms. Avash
23 [phonetic], all the parents, all the teachers, all
24 our fellow students who support us through the
25 years, this is for them. I'm proud that we were

2 able to hold this proclamation in our hands right
3 now. - - .

4 [applause]

5 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
6 much. Congratulations.

7 MALE VOICE: Some of the community
8 leaders are here, Reverend Conrad Tillard
9 [phonetic] is here, State Committeeman, Robert
10 Carnegie [phonetic] is here. I thank my
11 colleagues for being here. That's it.

12 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
13 much. Congratulations, everybody. Good luck with
14 all of your college applications. Take care,
15 everybody. Alright, we're going to have one
16 school exit and we're going to have another school
17 and a ceremonial led by Council Member Brewer to
18 come on in.

19 [background conversation]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: We are
21 honored to have the Martin Luther King Jr. High
22 School varsity soccer team, and this particular
23 team called the Knights is ranked one of the best
24 teams in the whole United States. This particular
25 team just won the PSAL and you'll hear more about

2 it in the proclamation, but this time at Martin
3 Luther King Jr. High School has had 13 wins out of
4 the last 16 years and head of the PSAL and the
5 team dead by Coach Jacobson [phonetic] and also
6 the principal of one of the high schools, Steve
7 Noonan [phonetic]—he's principal of The High
8 School of Arts, Imagination and Inquiry—there are
9 actually six high schools on the King campus. The
10 reason that this is a very special team is that
11 this is a group of students who not only play
12 soccer extremely well, but they have incredible
13 academic perseverance. They all go to college,
14 they work hard. There is no allowance for poor
15 academics. It is a similar allowance for good
16 sports and good academics. I know we'll hear late
17 from both the Speaker and the coach and one of the
18 captains and perhaps, the principal, but the fact
19 of the matter is they win with dignity and it's an
20 honor to represent them, and we thank very much.
21 Speaker, should ask for the proclamation? We'd
22 like to have the proclamation read please.

23 CLERK: Council, City of New York
24 Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of
25 New York is proud to honor the Martin Luther King

2 Jr. High School varsity soccer team, and to
3 congratulate them on their recent victory in the
4 New York City Public High School Championship; and
5 whereas, since 1994 when the Martin Luther King
6 Jr. soccer team, the Knights, came under the
7 guidance of Coach Martin Jacobson, the teams
8 representing King have amassed a 324 to 24 to 14
9 [phonetic] record, and have been nationally ranked
10 many times over the last 16 years. This season
11 the Knights outscored their opponents 51 to 7 and
12 recorded 10 shutouts, including 3 during the
13 playoffs, which led them to victory at the New
14 York City Public High School Championship.
15 Incredibly, this was the team's 13th such win in
16 the last 16 years; and whereas, the King varsity
17 soccer team finished the season with an overall
18 record of 19 and 0. Additionally, the team is
19 ranked number 1 in the New York State in the
20 national coaches—I'm sorry—in the National Soccer
21 Coaches Association of America's final poll of the
22 season. The Knights were ranked the third best
23 team in the nation in the same poll; and whereas,
24 in addition to the tireless dedication of Coach
25 Jacobson and the teamwork with their fellow

2 players, the Knights owe their victories to staff,
3 teachers and parents. This supportive network
4 within the school and the community has played a
5 key role in their success. The Knights'
6 achievements have not been limited to the soccer
7 field. They also have one of the highest
8 graduation rates of any team in the New York City
9 Public Schools with more than 90% of the players
10 completing their high school education. The team
11 has seen hundreds of players go on to college,
12 including many who have gone on to play soccer
13 at the professional level. Now therefore be it
14 know that the Council of the City of New York
15 honors and congratulates the Martin Luther King
16 Jr. High School varsity soccer team for its 13th
17 New York City Public School Championship and for
18 its exemplary work in fostering educational
19 success through team sports. Christine C. Quinn,
20 Speaker for the entire Council; Gale A. Brewer,
21 Council Member 6th District Manhattan.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Well, first of all
23 I agree with what Robert Jackson said to me a
24 second ago. You guys look like you're the Martin
25 Luther King High School, not like the junior high

2 school. So as good as you are at junior high
3 school, everyone is going to be terrified to see
4 you when you're in high school 'cause you're going
5 to be bigger, stronger, faster, more coordinated
6 and even better, so I think the record book is
7 going to just go crazy when you guys get a little
8 older--oh, not junior high school. Oh, you
9 confused me. Now I get it. Robert and I got
10 confused. And you're the Education chair. You're
11 making me look stupid here, Robert.

12 [background conversation]

13 SPEAKER QUINN: No, no. I know
14 that. Robert said, "They look too tall," and I
15 was like, "Yeah, they do look too tall." Alright.
16 Last time I listen to the Education Chair, but you
17 did say that to me, Robert, anyway. Anyway, the
18 important thing that Robert and I have not
19 demonstrated here is that there is no I in team,
20 and if you work together, things usually work
21 better than what Robert and I just did together
22 and we just want to congratulate all of you for
23 your great success and turn the mic quickly over
24 to the coach.

25 COACH MARTIN JACOBSON: Well, thank

2 you. Before I want to say just a few words and a
3 thanks to the City Council. One of our captains,
4 Ebahim Dyabi [phonetic] would like to address the
5 City Council.

6 EBAHIM DYABI: Alright. Hi. We
7 would like to thank the City Council for inviting
8 us over here. We are so proud of representing the
9 New York State as a champion. We really
10 appreciate it. We would like to thank everybody.
11 Also, I would like to congratulate my teammates.
12 They really worked hard this year and
13 collectively, we all worked hard. At the end of
14 the day, we deserve it. Thank you all.

15 [applause]

16 COACH MARTIN JACOBSON: Thank you.
17 I personally after the years—I only work on the
18 West Side and live on the West Side and Council
19 member Brewer has been an advocate for our school
20 and for our teams non-stop. On behalf—before I
21 just say thanks—on behalf of the team, we want to
22 present a championship jacket to Council Member
23 Brewer.

24 [background noise]

25 COACH MARTIN JACOBSON: On behalf

2 of the boys—young men, who represent New York City
3 as the top public high school in the country—we're
4 third in the country, but we're the top public
5 high school in the United States this year, and
6 they couldn't have made me prouder and they
7 couldn't have made the city of New York prouder
8 and I want to thank my principal, Mr. Noonan, my
9 assistance coaches, Jaime Arias [phonetic] and
10 Josh Sharone [phonetic], who are here, and every
11 single one of you guys for making us proud and
12 thank you. God bless.

13 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you guys very
14 much and that concludes ceremonials for the day.

15 [background noise]

16 [long pause]

17 MALE VOICE: Can I have your
18 attention please? Can I please have your
19 attention? At this time, please place all cell
20 phones and pagers to vibrate. Will all non-
21 Council employees please leave the main floor of
22 the chambers? Thank you.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: My
24 colleagues please rise for the pledge of
25 allegiance. I pledge allegiance to the flag of

2 the United states of America and to the republic
3 for which it stands, one nation under God
4 indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

5 SPEAKER QUINN: Mr. Majority
6 Leader, just before we do roll call or the
7 invocation if I could for a moment I just want to
8 recognize - - in case they have to leave at some
9 point, our great Brooklyn Borough President, Marty
10 Markowitz, who is with us today, and with us on
11 his state of the borough day, so we really
12 appreciate with that and he is joined I think I
13 saw former state senator, former Hudson River Park
14 Trust Member, Franz Lichter [phonetic]. Yep, Both
15 Senator Lichter and Borough President Markowitz
16 are here today bringing the Vice Mayor of Vienna,
17 whose name I'm going to do my best to get
18 correctly, which is Renate Bronner [phonetic] and
19 I want to thank the Vice Mayor Bronner for being
20 with us.

21 [applause]

22 SPEAKER QUINN: She also serves as
23 the executive city councilor of Vienna and is
24 responsible for finance, so she is Domenic;
25 economic affairs, so she is Karen Koslowitz; fire

2 and disaster relief, which makes her Liz Crowley
3 and Peter Vallone, and she as vice mayor, she is a
4 member of the social democratic party and has also
5 served in various other elected positions since
6 1983, where she has at various times had
7 responsibility over women's issues, consumer
8 protection, health, personnel, and personal and
9 public utilities. The Vice Mayor has also served
10 as president of the Vienna Tourist Board, so
11 welcome, and we're just so very happy to have you
12 with us today.

13 [applause]

14 [long pause]

15 SPEAKER QUINN: And Mr. Majority
16 Leader, I thank you, and if we could return to the
17 agenda.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
19 very much, Madam Speaker. Roll call. Can we also
20 get silence in the chambers?

21 CLERK: Arroyo?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [no audible
23 response]

24 CLERK: Barron?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.

2 CLERK: Brewer?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

4 CLERK: Cabrera?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

6 CLERK: Chin?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [no audible
8 response]

9 CLERK: Comrie?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: [no audible
11 response]

12 CLERK: Crowley?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

14 CLERK: Dickens?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [no
16 audible response]

17 CLERK: Dilan?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Here.

19 CLERK: Dromm?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

21 CLERK: Eugene?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

23 CLERK: Ferreras?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.

25 CLERK: Fidler?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.

3 CLERK: Foster?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Here.

5 CLERK: Garodnick?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: [no
7 audible response]

8 CLERK: Gennaro?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: [no
10 audible response]

11 CLERK: Gentile?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

13 CLERK: Gonzalez?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Here.

15 CLERK: Greenfield?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [no
17 audible response]

18 CLERK: Halloran?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Here.

20 CLERK: Ignizio?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: [no
22 audible response]

23 CLERK: Jackson?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Here.

25 CLERK: James?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here.

3 CLERK: Koo?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

5 CLERK: Koppell?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.

7 CLERK: Koslowitz?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

9 CLERK: Lander?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [no audible
11 response]

12 CLERK: Lappin?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Here.

14 CLERK: Levin?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

16 CLERK: Mark-Viverito?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
18 Here.

19 CLERK: Mealy?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: [no audible
21 response]

22 CLERK: Mendez?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

24 CLERK: Nelson?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: [no audible

2 response]

3 CLERK: Dickens?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.

5 CLERK: Palma?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

7 CLERK: Recchia?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: [no

9 audible response]

10 CLERK: Reyna?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.

12 CLERK: Rodriguez?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUZ: Here.

14 CLERK: Rose?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: [no audible
16 response]

17 CLERK: Sanders?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: [no
19 audible response]

20 CLERK: Seabrook?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: [no
22 audible response]

23 CLERK: Ulrich?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.

25 CLERK: Vacca?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: [no audible
3 response]

4 CLERK: Vallone?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [no
6 audible response]

7 CLERK: Van Bramer?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

9 CLERK: Vann?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Here.

11 CLERK: Weprin?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: [no audible
13 response]

14 CLERK: Williams?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [no
16 audible response]

17 CLERK: Wills?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Here.

19 CLERK: Mealy?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.

21 CLERK: Oddo?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Here.

23 CLERK: Rivera?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Here.

25 CLERK: Speaker Quinn?

2 SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

3 CLERK: We have a quorum.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: A quorum is
5 present. My colleagues, please rise for the
6 invocation being delivered today by Reverend T.K.
7 Nagagaki [phonetic] from the Buddhist Council of
8 New York City.

9 REVEREND T.K. NAGAGAKI: First of
10 all, Happy New Year to everyone. A blessing to
11 all of you. I'm a Buddhist priest. I'm going to
12 lead today a little slightly different than you
13 normally do, but I'll be leading some meditation
14 so bring the peace within yourself and so if you
15 can relax your body and try to close your eyes and
16 then breathing in with your lower stomach and
17 simply - - count the breath and feel the - -
18 coming up from within yourself. [chimes] May all
19 sentient beings be happy, well and peaceful. May
20 we all be free from suffering. May we all be free
21 from pain. May we all be free from attachment,
22 from greed, anger and ignorance. May we all
23 obtain ultimate happiness and peace and
24 enlightenment. May the actions of the City
25 Council bring happiness, peace to individuals, our

2 community, our city and then, state and nation and
3 the world. [foreign language]. Blessings to all
4 of you. Amen.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
6 very much. Council Member Chin?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you
8 Reverend Nagagaki and a motion to spread the
9 invocation in full on the record.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Motion so
11 ordered. Can we please have silence in the
12 chambers? I will now move on to adoption of the
13 minutes. Council Member Brewer?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: A motion.
15 I move that the stated meeting minutes of January
16 4th, 2012 be adopted as printed.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
19 much. If I could ask my colleagues to please rise
20 for a moment... On January 18th, 2012, Richard
21 Italian [phonetic], 59, the longtime district
22 manager Community Board 4 in Queens—which covers
23 most of Council Member Ferreras' and Dromm's
24 district—collapsed at his desk and passed away at
25 Elmhurst Hospital a short while later. From 1993

2 to 2005, Richard served as Chair of Community
3 Board 4 before becoming its district manager.
4 Borough President Helen Marshall described him as
5 a kind and gentle man who was a truly dedicated
6 public servant for decades. He led with grace,
7 quiet effectiveness and a deep desire to make
8 things better for all people. Richard is survived
9 by his wife, Carol [phonetic], two children and
10 numerous grandchildren, and if I could call on
11 Council Member Ferreras, please, to say a few
12 words.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: I feel
14 great sadness and regret at the passing of a great
15 man, father, grandfather, friend and community
16 leader, Mr. Richard Italiano, former chair and
17 district manager of Community Board 4. This is a
18 great void in the heart of our community by Mr.
19 Italiano's passing. He was a dedicated public
20 servant who worked in the community diligently and
21 tirelessly. For decades he served Queens with the
22 utmost concern, passion and belief that working
23 together would always be the way to a better
24 community. To me, Richard was a close ally,
25 friend and constant advisor. Richard's work will

2 not go unrecognized and will live on in the work
3 we all continue to do on matters in the
4 neighborhood, which were close to his heart. We
5 have lost a great man, but we can be sure his
6 spirit will continue to guide us along the way.
7 He will be missed.

8 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Council
9 Member. Also last Thursday, January 26th we lost
10 the beloved Reverend, Dr. Timothy Mitchell.
11 Reverend Mitchell dedicated his life to service in
12 the ministry as pastor of the Ebenezer Memorial
13 Baptist Church in Queens, where he spent most of
14 his life. He touched the lives of countless
15 individuals in his parish and in the community and
16 borough at large. He was a visionary who saw his
17 role in the church as a platform for advancing the
18 cause of social justice and seized every
19 opportunity to include those messages as part of
20 his ministry. Early on he was involved with the
21 civil rights movement as the chair of Dr. King's
22 Poor People's campaign and fought against bigotry
23 and hate as chair of the Commission for the
24 elimination of racism in the Council of Churches.
25 One of his proudest achievements came during his

2 tenure at Ebenezer, where he oversaw the creation
3 of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Daycare
4 Center. Services will be held at the Ebenezer
5 Missionary Baptist Church on Friday, February 3rd.
6 Reverend Mitchell will be buried in the Flushing
7 Cemetery on Saturday, February 4th.

8 I also want to make note and then
9 turn the mic over to our Minority Leader, Jimmy
10 Oddo, that we lost the city's longtime Office of
11 Emergency Management Past Commissioner Richie
12 Sheara [phonetic] about a week or so ago, and I
13 think anyone who knew—who had seen Richie recently
14 knew that he had been struggling with poor health
15 for quite some time, but he still tried to as much
16 as he could be out there—would always go to the
17 Staten Island borough president's September 11th
18 commemoration, fought valiantly and bravely during
19 his illness and he is someone who served our city
20 incredibly well and selflessly in some of our
21 toughest and most challenging times, so Minority
22 Leader Oddo?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Thank you,
24 Madam Speaker, and I appreciate you taking out
25 time to remember Richie Sheara. I'm well aware of

2 the fact that Mayor Giuliani isn't necessarily the
3 most popular person in this room, but he had some
4 really wonderful people work with him. I was
5 fortunately to be friends with some of them. Even
6 the people who were probably the harshest critics
7 of the Giuliani Administration, if you knew Richie
8 Shear, you loved him. He was a big teddy bear of
9 a man. On 9/11—I think it's probably a cloudy day
10 for all of us in terms of remembering details.
11 Somehow I find myself at the 122 Precinct in
12 Staten Island in my district and there were lots
13 of rumors that day about who was caught and who
14 was killed, and there was a rumor that the chief
15 of the department was killed, and we thought it
16 was the police department. At some point that
17 day, I was told that we had lost Richie Sheara,
18 and I'm not sure exactly when later in the day or
19 the next day, we found out that that was not the
20 case. Two days after 9/11, Deputy Borough
21 President Jim Molinero and I went to a hotel in
22 midtown Manhattan and it was to have family
23 members of firefighters bring hairbrushes or
24 toothbrushes to get DNA samples, and we walked
25 into this ballroom, and it was just an

2 overwhelming sight. I remember distinctly
3 watching George Pitachi [phonetic] walk in and it
4 looked like he hadn't slept in months. Richie was
5 standing—it was the first time I had seen him—and
6 he was standing sort of with his back to me and I
7 gave him a big bear hug, and he turned around and
8 we shed some tears. He spent days and days and
9 days on that pile. I'll tell you one other last
10 quick story, Later on, much after the meeting—it
11 was only relatively recently—Richie and I were
12 talking and I realized that little Joey Sheara—
13 this little blonde head catcher at the Staten
14 Island Little League, 12 years old, maybe 65
15 pounds, a really little ball player—it turns out
16 that Joey Sheara was Richie Sheara's son. Richie
17 realized simultaneously that that crazy coach that
18 coached little Joey Sheara that got suspended by
19 Staten Island Little League for having a fight
20 defending his team at the home plate—well, that
21 was the Councilman who was sitting in front of
22 him. We had this wonderful laugh. It's
23 believable, right? He was such a wonderful
24 person. He would call me up after he left
25 government service to tell me things he liked and

2 then he would call me up to tell me things he saw
3 that he didn't like. I hope that he now rests
4 easy, wrapped in God's loving embrace.

5 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very,
6 very much, Jimmy. Our prayers also are with
7 Police Officer Kevin Brennan, 29, who was shot in
8 the head and critically injured last night after
9 responding to a call of a man with a gun. Officer
10 Brennan and his wife, Janet, welcomed their first
11 child, a baby daughter only six weeks ago. We're
12 hearing encouraging news from doctors who are
13 saying that Officer Brennan, who joined the force
14 in 2005, is expected to survive and recover, but
15 we should all keep him and his wife and their
16 daughter in our thoughts and prayers, and also
17 keep the firefighter who is still recovering at
18 the burn unit at Cornell from the fire before
19 Christmas in our thoughts and prayers, and our
20 Deputy Majority Leader, had something she wanted
21 to add.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you
23 so much, Madam Speaker. Several generations have
24 been raised on Soul Train [phonetic]. Every
25 Saturday morning at 11am, most televisions were

2 turned on to Soul Train to watch the dancing and
3 the singing. Many, many musical careers was
4 launched there, and sustained there. This morning
5 America lost Don Cornelius [phonetic], and most of
6 us can remember what he said at the end of the
7 program—"Love, peace and soul."

8 SPEAKER QUINN: I think Council
9 Members Comrie and Vann wanted to say a word or
10 two about Reverend Mitchell.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I want to
12 express my sadness on behalf of the members of the
13 Queens delegation at the passing of Reverend Dr.
14 Timothy Mitchell who impacted many lives and
15 generations in our borough. He was a true leader
16 in our borough and indeed throughout the city.
17 Reverence Mitchell touched many people with his
18 commitment to public service and social justice.
19 He served as the pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church
20 in Flushing for 46 years before retiring in 2008.
21 Reverend Mitchell worked to ensure everyone's
22 civil rights and liberties. He served as the
23 chair of the Commission for the Elimination of
24 Racism, for the Council of Churches in New York
25 City. In this capacity, he rallied many days to

2 ensure that hate crime victims received equal and
3 fair treatment. His influence spread nationally
4 when in 1961, he marched and was put in jail with
5 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King during the
6 Georgia Freedom Movement. Then in 1968, he was
7 elected to serve as the Queens chair of Dr.
8 King's Poor People's Campaign. Reverend
9 Mitchell's legacy is ongoing and evident today.
10 Ebenezer Baptist Church is vibrant and strong
11 having over 1,000 members and about to develop a
12 new housing project and staying in touch with the
13 community, finding those who need help, helping
14 people that need food, helping people reset their
15 lives. Ebenezer is where Reverend Mitchell's
16 father served as pastor and where three of his
17 five siblings currently serve in leadership roles
18 continuing his life's work. On this Black History
19 Month, we need to remember and honor his great
20 works and continue what he preached and practiced.
21 Reverend Dr. Mitchell, a hero, a cultural icon, a
22 leader, gone too soon. Reverend Mitchell with all
23 of his accolades was a humble minister, never
24 forgetting to touch all of us individually, never
25 failure to express support for people that were

2 trying to do things. He was a person that when I
3 first got involved back in 1970--when I was in the
4 summer youth employment program as a supervisor,
5 and I went over to Ebenezer Church with some of my
6 young people, he sat down with them on the first
7 day and encouraged them. He would -- anyone and
8 try to make their life a little bit better for the
9 time they were in his presence. He will be
10 missed.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: I should have
12 known that Brother Comrie had that base covered.
13 I would not have asked to speak, but that now I
14 have it many may not know, but in the late '70s a
15 coalition for just New York was formed, and one of
16 the prominent leaders of that group was Reverend --
17 Mitchell. That coalition challenged then Mayor
18 Koch when he wanted to appoint Robert Wagner, Jr.
19 to be the chancellor of the Board of Education.
20 We won that battle thanks to the Reverend's
21 leadership. You may not know but it was that same
22 coalition for just New York that became the New
23 Yorkers' for Jesse Jackson, if you will, and
24 history will show that Jesse Jackson won New York
25 State when he was running for the presidency of

2 these United States, and then it doesn't take much
3 imagination to realize that that set the base for
4 the election of the first black male in the city
5 of New York, and Reverend Timothy [phonetic]
6 Mitchell was among the leadership that made all of
7 that happen.

8 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. Thank
9 you, Mr. Majority Leader.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you,
11 Madam Speaker. Messages and papers from the
12 mayor?

13 CLERK: M-741, submitting Erica
14 Thomas Yule [phonetic] for appointment to the
15 Conflicts of Interest Board.

16 SPEAKER QUINN: Rules, Privileges
17 and Elections.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Can we get
19 some silence in the chambers? Communication from
20 the city, county and borough offices?

21 CLERK: M-742 and 743 bay station
22 licenses.

23 SPEAKER QUINN: Transportation.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Petitions
25 and communications?

2 CLERK: None.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Land Use
4 call ups?

5 CLERK: M-744 and 745.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: Could we please
7 couple those and then have a roll call on the
8 coupled Land Use call ups please?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

10 CLERK: Arroyo?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [no audible
12 response]

13 CLERK: Barron?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [off mic]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you
17 very much. You know, since when I do ask the
18 Speaker to speak on people who are missing or who
19 I knew, I don't get the opportunity to do that so
20 I have to use it my own way, but anyway, Reverend
21 Mitchell was a very, very good friend of mine. He
22 and I went to jail together on several occasions.
23 He not only was he with Martin Luther King, but he
24 continued the struggle all the way up to his last
25 breath and my family was actually a member of his

2 church many, many years ago, so I just wanted to
3 get up and say that Reverend Mitchell was a
4 special—can I have some quiet please? Reverend
5 Mitchell was very, very special. We had a day of
6 outrage and me, him and Reverend Sharpton spent
7 time in jail together fighting for justice in this
8 city and he has been one of the few ministers in
9 our country that had a prophetic ministry. He
10 wasn't afraid to take on the people and power to
11 get justice for his people, so Reverend Timothy
12 Mitchell will always be remembered as that freedom
13 fighter and that fighter for justice. Thank you
14 very much, and aye on Land Use call ups.

15 CLERK: Brewer?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

17 CLERK: Cabrera?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: [no
19 audible response]

20 CLERK: Chin?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [no audible
22 response]

23 CLERK: Comrie?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

25 CLERK: Crowley?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

3 CLERK: Dickens?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

5 CLERK: Dilan?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: [no audible
7 response]

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: Foster?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.

18 CLERK: Garodnick?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

20 CLERK: Gennaro?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

22 CLERK: Gentile?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

24 CLERK: Gonzalez?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.

2 CLERK: Greenfield?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

4 CLERK: Halloran?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Mr.

6 Majority Leader, I ask unanimous consent to vote
7 on all items before the calendar today. I vote
8 aye on all with the exception of the Reso 1206, on
9 which I abstain.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

11 CLERK: Ignizio?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: [no
13 audible response]

14 CLERK: Jackson?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on
16 all.

17 CLERK: James?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye.

19 CLERK: Koo?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

21 CLERK: Koppell?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: [no
23 audible response]

24 CLERK: Koslowitz?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

2 CLERK: Lander?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

4 CLERK: Lappin?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

6 CLERK: Levin?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

8 CLERK: Mark-Viverito?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

10 CLERK: Mealy?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Here.

12 CLERK: Mendez?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

14 CLERK: Nelson?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye [off
16 mic].

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: [off mic]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: How do you
20 vote?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye on all.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.

23 CLERK: Palma?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

25 CLERK: Recchia?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.

3 CLERK: Reyna?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.

5 CLERK: Rodriguez?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUZ: Aye.

7 CLERK: Rose?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: [no audible
9 response]

10 CLERK: Sanders?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye.

12 CLERK: Seabrook?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Here.

14 CLERK: Ulrich?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

16 CLERK: Vacca?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Yes.

18 CLERK: Vallone?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

20 CLERK: Van Bramer?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

22 CLERK: Vann?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [no audible
24 response]

25 CLERK: Weprin?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

3 CLERK: Williams?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

5 CLERK: Wills?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye on all.

7 CLERK: Cabrera?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: [no

9 audible response]

10 CLERK: Dilan?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: [no audible
12 response]

13 CLERK: Oddo?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: [no audible
15 response]

16 CLERK: Rivera?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

18 CLERK: Speaker Quinn?

19 SPEAKER QUINN: [no audible
20 response]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Today's
22 Land Use call ups were adopted by a vote of 48 in
23 the affirmative with 0 in the negative. At this
24 point, I call on Council Member Dickens.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: I want to

2 welcome Lisa Baez [phonetic], the mother of
3 Cheyenne [phonetic] Baez. Lisa, would you stand
4 for a minute? This is the mother of Cheyenne, a
5 young person full of life and promise that was cut
6 down by senseless violence. She was a victim of
7 random shooting. I want to thank Lisa for her
8 courage during this difficult time. Lisa, I want
9 you to know that along with my colleagues we will
10 continue to do all that we possibly can do to stop
11 the violence to save our children, to save our
12 future, and for you to know that we have renamed a
13 street in honor of Cheyenne. Thank you so much,
14 Lisa.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
16 very much. Communications from the Speaker?

17 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
18 much. We have a number of important pieces of
19 legislation that we are voting on today. First I
20 want to thank Preston Niblack and Tanisha Edwards
21 and also Marla Simpson and folks at the Mayor's
22 Office of Contracts for their work on the contract
23 transparency act that we are passing today. Intro
24 729, which was passed out of the Finance
25 Committee, and I want to thank Chair Recchia for

2 his work on that. I want to thank Council member
3 Darlene Mealy, the lead sponsor of the bill. 729-
4 A is a piece of legislation I first spoke of in
5 last year's State of the City speech, and it's a
6 bill that deals with bringing transparency to the
7 contract budget. We spend billions and billions
8 and billions of dollars on 15,000 contracts a year
9 procuring goods and services and supplies. Often
10 we have no way of knowing exactly what those
11 contracts do or don't do. This part of the budget
12 is growing faster than any other part of the
13 budget at a time when we are cutting back on
14 almost all parts of the budget. You have
15 situations like last year's snowstorm, where
16 people asked repeatedly at two city oversight
17 hearings, they asked the Transit Authority, the
18 Department of Transportation, the Department of
19 Sanitation, "Who is responsible for shoveling the
20 bus shelters?" And nobody could give a definitive
21 answer. The Department of Sanitation for years
22 has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars if not
23 more in every snowstorm hiring New Yorkers to
24 shovel the bus stops. Why do I mention this?
25 Because - - Chair Recchia did read the 1500 page

2 SAMUSA [phonetic] contract--SAMUSA being the
3 company that got the contract for the bus
4 shelters. In their 1500 page contract, one of
5 their required deliverables is to shovel the bus
6 shelters during snowstorms. We, the city of New
7 York's government, the Council, the
8 Administration, did not know that, did not hold
9 them accountable to their deliverables and wasted
10 taxpayer money paying them to do it and paying the
11 Department of Sanitation workers to do it when
12 others were supposed to do it. This piece of
13 legislation will require that a database be
14 compiled, a database that lists every contract we
15 procure, its dollar amount, what its deliverables
16 are all in plain English. This way we will be
17 able to monitor what we're spending money on, make
18 sure we're getting what we're paying for, but also
19 as we make choices about what we can and cannot
20 fund in the budget, it will help us figure out
21 which contracts are more important or as important
22 as the core services we are often charged with
23 cutting back on. So again I want to thank Preston
24 Niblack and Tanisha Edwards and Marla Simpson and
25 the folks in the Mayor's Office of Contracts for

2 this work on the bill. I thank very much Chair
3 Recchia for his diligence in that contract and all
4 contracts matters. With a little quiet, I'd like
5 to call on Council Member Mealy, the lead sponsor
6 of the bill.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Good
8 afternoon everyone. I want to thank our Madam
9 Speaker and my colleague, Domenic Recchia, for
10 reading all 1500 pages. You're the greatest. I
11 want to thank all my colleagues. As the chair of
12 the Contracts Committee, I'm learning more and
13 more about how just complex the city contracting
14 process. Many of the contracts that come out of
15 that process are massive and confusing. Yes,
16 allowing people that want them to get full copies
17 of the contracts are important, but you can't hand
18 a member of the public 1500 pages and call that
19 transparency. Real transparency means giving
20 meaningful access to information. That is what
21 this legislation is doing—729-A. It gives the
22 public a brand new tool, a public online database
23 that will include basic information on all city
24 contracts in plain English. Any interested member
25 of the public will be able to search this database

2 to find out if a particular vendor has entered
3 into contracts with the city and learn what those
4 contracts are. They will be able to find out how
5 much those contracts was initially supposed to
6 cost, and what changes to those costs was agreed
7 to over time. We won't have to wait forever.

8 Since this information already exists in financial
9 management system, DUIT should be able to do this
10 programming needed to make it available to the
11 public by this July. And the fact that this is a
12 public database can be created by adapting a
13 system that MOCS is already working on, means
14 there will be minimum to no impact on
15 expenditures. This is a huge improvement over the
16 current system and I am a happy sponsor of this
17 legislation. I want to thank Council Speaker
18 Quinn and our Finance Chair, Domenic Recchia and
19 all the legislation like Preston, Tanisha Edwards
20 for their excellent work in preparing this
21 legislation. I ask my colleagues to join me by
22 voting on this legislation, 729-A, and since this
23 is the first day of Black History Month, I want to
24 wish everyone love, peace and soul. Thank you.

25 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Council

2 Member Mealy. We are also voting on Intro 751-A
3 and 753-A, 751-A is sponsored by Council Member
4 Arroyo. 753-A is sponsored by Council Member
5 Palma. I want to thank both of them. I also want
6 to thank Lacey Clark [phonetic], Joe Mancino
7 [phonetic], Molly Murphy [phonetic] and Turza Nasr
8 [phonetic] and Rob Newman [phonetic] for their
9 work on these bills. 751-A is a piece of
10 legislation that will reauthorize the Child
11 Fatality Review Team Advisory Board. A number of
12 years ago we in the Council passed legislation
13 requiring that the chief medical examiner and the
14 Department of Health create an advisory team that
15 reviews every child fatality in the city and
16 issues a report every year. This report has been
17 enormously helpful in guiding us in better
18 understanding what is causing children to lose
19 their lives in New York City. In either 2007 or
20 2008, the report showed that unexplained child
21 deaths—so ones that weren't car accidents or
22 children that had illnesses—the majority of those
23 were caused from household fires. That report led
24 us with the fire department to launch a city wide
25 fire prevention education effort targeting parents

2 and children to try to reduce the number of
3 preventable household fires that was causing the
4 death of children. This piece of legislation had
5 a sunset provision which we are renewing it today
6 because clearly, this report and these reviews
7 have been very, very helpful in our efforts to
8 protect children in the city of New York. We also
9 passed a piece of legislation a number of years
10 ago, a law requiring that the city track and
11 report the deaths of homeless persons in the city
12 of New York. Again, an effort to look at New
13 Yorkers who have passed away who are homeless to
14 find out and answer the question, could the city
15 have done something that would have prevented that
16 death. We also believe that this report has been
17 useful and therefore, want to renew it. It also
18 had a sunset provision and I want to thank Chair
19 Palma and Chair Arroyo for their work on both of
20 these pieces of legislation.

21 We are also passing legislation out
22 of the Housing and Buildings Committee, and I want
23 to thank Laura Rogers [phonetic], and Ed Atkin
24 [phonetic], and Ben Goodman [phonetic] and Brendan
25 Cheney [phonetic] for their work on this piece of

2 legislation. 501-A is a piece of legislation
3 sponsored and passed out of the Housing Committee
4 by its Chair, Council Member Erik Dilan. 501-A is
5 a piece of legislation that will require that when
6 the foreclosure process starts on a home or a
7 multi-unit building, that HPD is immediately
8 notified. By HPD being notified at the beginning
9 of the foreclosure process, the Council, HPD,
10 other city agencies, advocates because this will
11 be transparent will know where buildings have
12 fallen into trouble, where conditions could begin
13 to quickly deteriorate and we can then target our
14 resources such as the proactive prevention unit to
15 these buildings to make sure that they don't fall
16 into such terrible disrepair that people will lose
17 their homes. I want to thank Chair Dilan for his
18 work on this effort, and I call on him to speak
19 for a moment.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Thank you,
21 Madam Speaker and I'll be brief. I do want to
22 mention like I did at the pre-stated that while I
23 am the prime sponsor of the bill before us today
24 that this is actually the work of the late Tom
25 White [phonetic] and I'm proud to carry it in his

2 honor and in his absence since he's no longer here
3 with us. One of the last things Tom asked me to
4 do on behalf of his constituents in Jamaica Queens
5 was to make sure that this bill go to the floor
6 today, so I'm glad that it is finally here. I
7 think the Speaker spoke eloquently about what the
8 bill does mechanically. It will also serve to
9 keep a check on the banks so that they're
10 responsible in turning these units that do become
11 foreclosed upon into responsible ownership that
12 can one afford the line of credit and maintain the
13 buildings, but also to keep them in check and say,
14 "Hey, you know, some of the past lending practices
15 that you've done in the past aren't acceptable
16 today." Also to their concern about the rulemaking
17 process—they're afraid of HPD maybe being overly
18 abusive in the rulemaking process. We made the
19 commitment at the Committee level to continue to
20 monitor the rulemaking process that HPD has given
21 under this bill to make sure the agency doesn't go
22 too far. I sincerely believe that they will not
23 and that there's responsible people over there
24 that will do this right to protect the tenants of
25 this great city and I'd like to thank the Speaker

2 for allowing this bill to come to the floor. I'd
3 like to thank my friend and colleague, Tom White,
4 who is not here with us today and thank all the
5 staff in the Housing, Buildings Committee and all
6 the advocates that worked on the bill. Thank you,
7 Madam Speaker.

8 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Chair
9 Dilan. We also are voting today on Intro 301-A
10 out of the Transportation Committee. I want to
11 thank Lyle Frank and Molly Murphy and Turza Nasr
12 [phonetic]. 301-A is a piece of legislation
13 relating to parking violations and parking
14 violations that are ones that are not the
15 electronic ones that we spoke of at our last
16 Stated Meeting, but ones that are written on
17 paper, creating a better defense for those as it
18 relates to muni meters and the five minute grace
19 period we talked about in the past. The bill was
20 sponsored by Council Member Dan Garodnick and also
21 shepherded through the Transportation Committee,
22 led by Council Member Vacca. Let me first call on
23 Dan Garodnick and then Chair Vacca.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank
25 you very much, Speaker Quinn and thank you for

2 your support of this bill. Intro 301-A intends to
3 protect New Yorkers from being unnecessarily
4 ticketed after already having paid for a parking
5 space or while they are on their way to doing so.
6 Intro 301-A covers two likely scenarios: first,
7 when a driver places a muni meter receipt on a
8 car's dashboard only to have it flip over or fall
9 out of the car when the car door is closed or
10 second, when a driver parks in a space on one end
11 of a block and is issued a ticket while paying a
12 muni meter on the other end. In both scenarios,
13 the driver did what was required by paying for the
14 parking space, and yet, wound up with a ticket
15 anyway. Much like the confusing parking sign
16 legislation that I introduced last year, we don't
17 want New Yorkers or visitors to be penalized when
18 they are trying to do the right thing and play by
19 the rules. This legislation would provide New
20 Yorkers an affirmative defense to successfully
21 contest a parking ticket before an administrative
22 law judge when a valid muni meter receipt is
23 presented with a time stamp no later than 5
24 minutes after the ticket was issued, and again,
25 thank you, Speaker Quinn, Chair Vacca and I ask my

2 colleagues to join me in supporting this
3 legislation today.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I thank you-

5 SPEAKER QUINN: [Interposing] Chair
6 Vacca.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I thank you,
8 Council Member Garodnick and Speaker Quinn.

9 Again, as we did two weeks ago, this is another
10 piece of legislation concerning muni meters. Our
11 city is now in the process of replacing all meters
12 in our city and within a year all meters should be
13 muni meters according to the New York City
14 Department of Transportation. As we do so, it's
15 important that drivers understand their rights and
16 that we in the Council have a role to play in this
17 process because we want to make those rights clear
18 and we want the implementation of the muni meter
19 program to go forth, but to go forth in a way that
20 protects people from getting summonses that they
21 do not deserve having an opportunity to contest
22 summonses where they feel their rights have been
23 violated. This legislation today that the Council
24 is voting on is a good step in that direction. I
25 do think we have more to do and my Committee will

2 be looking at this even further in the days ahead,
3 but I think that what we've done so far speaks
4 well of this body and our commitment to fairness
5 and transparency in this process. Thank you.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
7 much, Chair Vacca and that concludes
8 communications from the Speaker.

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

13 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: [off mic]
14 I'd like to vote aye on all general orders and all
15 Land Use call ups.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.
17 Council Member Koo?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you, Mr.
19 Majority Leader. I would like to wish my
20 colleagues and the people of New York City a very
21 happy and prosperous new year. 2012 is the year
22 of the dragon and - - divine presence. The dragon
23 brings good fortune and good luck to all of us.
24 Let hope that this new year, the dragon can bestow
25 great fortune and wisdom to this legislative body

2 to accomplish great things for all citizens of the
3 city. Each lunar new year comes a new beginning,
4 a rebirth, and a new start. As many of us know
5 after serious considerations and great
6 deliberations with my advisors, families and
7 friends I made the decision to switch parties.
8 While I have made the decision to change my party
9 registration democrat, I will continue to seek the
10 advice of Minority Leader, Jimmy Oddo. He is a
11 true leader in this legislative body that puts
12 parties and politics aside and works tirelessly to
13 make this city a better place to live for all of
14 us. Thank you, Jimmy, for your leadership and
15 most of all, your friendship. I'm also extremely
16 proud a member of this legislative body and the
17 privilege of representing the communities and will
18 always be about more than party registration; it's
19 about serving, it's about helping and it's about
20 improving; therefore, I look forward with working
21 with elected officials on both sides of the aisle
22 to accomplish great things in this new year. I
23 also want to take a moment to alert my colleagues,
24 the MTA has once again decided to conduct repairs
25 and disrupt service on the number 7 train during

2 the lunar new year.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Council
4 Member?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: May I continue
6 for one minute?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yeah.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: During this
9 difficult economic times - - small businesses are
10 struggling to stay afloat-

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Council
12 Member, you got to wrap it up.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Yeah, well I'm
14 almost wrapping it. We must do everything to
15 support merchants and stimulate our local economy;
16 therefore, the MTA must consider the impact major
17 construction on the 7 train will have on the
18 Flushing economy during the lunar new year. I
19 agree-

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:
21 [Interposing] Council Member, I apologize.
22 Council Member Charles Barron is eyeballing me and
23 saying, "What's going on here?" So we have to wrap
24 it up, I apologize.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I have one

2 more sentence, right? I agree these repairs are
3 necessary, but changing the - - the lunar new year
4 to even one weekend after will greatly help local
5 businesses to sell - - of goods and conduct
6 holiday service for their customers. Thank you
7 very much.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you,
9 Council Member.

10 [background conversation]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Seeing no
12 others, we now move on to reports of special
13 committees?

14 CLERK: None.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Reports of
16 standing committees?

17 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
18 Finance, Intro 729-A, public online database.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: If we could get a
20 little quiet please. Amended and coupled on
21 general orders.

22 CLERK: Pre-considered Reso 1209,
23 organization funding.

24 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
25 orders.

2 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
3 Health, Intro 751-A, child fatality review
4 advisory team.

5 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled
6 on general orders.

7 CLERK: Intro 753-A, reporting
8 deaths of homeless persons.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled
10 on general orders.

11 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
12 Land Use, L.U. 536 and Reso 1210, borough hall
13 skyscraper historic district.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
15 orders.

16 CLERK: L.U. 547 and Reso 1211
17 through 551 and Reso 1215, landmark designations.

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
19 orders.

20 CLERK: L.U. 556 and Reso 1216,
21 HPD application.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
23 orders.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: General
25 order calendar.

2 CLERK: Intro 301-A, parking
3 violations.

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
5 orders.

6 CLERK: Intro 501-A, foreclosure
7 notifications.

8 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
9 orders.

10 CLERK: Resolution appointing
11 various persons, commissioner of deeds.

12 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
13 orders, and at this point, I'd like to ask for a
14 roll call on all items that are coupled on the
15 general order calendar.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

17 CLERK: Barron?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [off mic] I
19 vote aye on all. I was just trying to find the
20 number for the Brooklyn Heights land marking, I
21 vote no on that and aye on all the rest.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.

23 CLERK: Brewer?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

25 CLERK: Cabrera?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

3 CLERK: Chin?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [no audible
5 response]

6 CLERK: Comrie?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: [no audible
8 response]

9 CLERK: Crowley?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

11 CLERK: Dickens?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

13 CLERK: Dilan?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye on all.

15 CLERK: Dromm?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

17 CLERK: Eugene?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

19 CLERK: Ferreras?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

21 CLERK: Fidler?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: May I be
23 briefly excused to explain my vote?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: In what I

2 could only consider to be a rather odd ruling of
3 the Conflict of Interest Board, I have barred up
4 to now literally, including the leadership meeting
5 this morning, from speaking on the Brooklyn
6 Historic District. I have to lay on the record
7 that I am the attorney and general counsel to a
8 company that is tenant in one of those buildings,
9 and I've done legal work for another tenant in
10 another one of the buildings; however, the
11 Conflicts of Interest Board says I may speak to
12 this matter on the floor, and so I am doing that.
13 I have to tell you I love landmarks. The very
14 first landmark that was designated in the city of
15 New York sits-

16 SPEAKER QUINN: [Interposing] I'm
17 sorry, Council Member, can we put a little time
18 back on the clock and just give Council Member
19 Fidler as well as other colleagues some quiet?
20 Add some time back on. Thank you. Sorry, Lew.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Thank you,
22 Madam Speaker. The very first landmark that was
23 designated under the New York Landmarks law sits
24 in a park that is named after my father, so I have
25 a very warm place in my heart for true landmarks.

2 My father was a tenant in 26 Court Street, which
3 is one of the buildings in this district and as I
4 am now and so it's been part of my family life for
5 many, many years and quite frankly, I can't think
6 of any possible thing about the building that
7 makes it historic or a landmark. I really hasten
8 to worry that we are cheapening the landmark
9 designation with districts like this.

10 Nonetheless, I have an enormous amount of respect
11 for Council Member Levin and for the process by
12 which we ask local Council Members and defer to
13 their preferences, so I am going to abstain on
14 that matter for that reason. I also want to
15 express my concern about the land marking of the
16 Paul Robeson [phonetic] Theatre, while it is a
17 worthy building, I am concerned that the land
18 marking itself may make it near impossible to save
19 the building, which I understand is in
20 extraordinarily poor condition right now. With
21 that, I abstain on Land Use 536 and Reso 1210 and
22 Land Use 548 and Reso 1213 and I vote aye on all
23 the rest.

24

CLERK: Foster?

25

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: [no audible]

2 response]

3 CLERK: Garodnick?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: [no
5 audible response]

6 CLERK: Gennaro?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

8 CLERK: Gentile?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Yes.

10 CLERK: Gonzalez?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.

12 CLERK: Greenfield?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [no
14 audible response]

15 CLERK: Ignizio?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: [no
17 audible response]

18 CLERK: Jackson?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on
20 all.

21 CLERK: James?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye on all.

23 CLERK: Koo?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

25 CLERK: Koppell?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

3 CLERK: Koslowitz?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

5 CLERK: Lander?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [off mic]

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I do just
9 want to give credit for Council Member Levin for
10 what I know is a very thorough process of
11 listening to all parties and really working hard
12 to come to the right decision, and I'm
13 enthusiastically supporting him on Brooklyn
14 Skyscraper and I vote aye on all.

15 CLERK: Lappin?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

17 CLERK: Levin?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Permission
19 to explain my vote?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: My
22 colleagues, I rise after careful consideration and
23 months of meeting with stakeholders on both sides
24 of the issue of the borough hall skyscraper
25 district. I believe that the historic district is

2 in fact totally worthy of designation in whole.
3 In a neighborhood that has seen drastic changes to
4 its skyline in recent years, this historic
5 district will preserve the important history of
6 Brooklyn's first commercial hub for generations to
7 come. I would like to thank those who have
8 participated in this process, including the
9 Brooklyn Heights Association, notably Otis
10 Pearsall [phonetic], Jane McGoruty [phonetic], Tom
11 Vandenbat [phonetic] and Judy Stanton [phonetic],
12 the Historic Districts Council, notably Simeon
13 Bancoff [phonetic] and the Municipal Arts Society
14 as well as the New York City Landmarks Commission
15 and I would also like to thank the shareholders of
16 75 Livingston Street for their stewardship of
17 their building and for engaging in this process to
18 the degree that they did and the Real Estate Board
19 of New York for highlighting the important issues
20 related to land marking. Lastly, I would like to
21 thank Speaker Christine Quinn, Chair Leroy Comrie
22 and Chair Brad Lander for their remarkable
23 leadership and their willingness to listen to all
24 sides of the issue and I would like to recognize
25 the Land Use staff, Gail Benjamin [phonetic], Amy

2 Levitt [phonetic] and Christian Hilton and
3 everyone who worked so hard on this issue, and
4 with that, I vote aye and I encourage all my
5 colleagues to do so as well.

6 CLERK: Chin?

7 [long pause]

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

9 CLERK: Mark-Viverito?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

11 CLERK: Mealy?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: May I
13 explain my vote?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I just
16 wanted to congratulate my colleagues Steve Levin
17 and Domenic—not Domenic—Dan Garodnick and there
18 was somebody else... Erik Dilan, for great
19 legislation. I vote aye on all.

20 CLERK: Mendez?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

22 CLERK: Palma?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

24 CLERK: Recchia?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.

2 CLERK: Reyna?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.

4 CLERK: Rodriguez?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUZ: Aye.

6 CLERK: Sanders?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye on

8 all.

9 CLERK: Ulrich?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

11 CLERK: Vacca?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

13 CLERK: Vallone?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

15 CLERK: Van Bramer?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

17 CLERK: Vann?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

19 CLERK: Weprin?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

21 CLERK: Williams?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye on

23 all except for Land Use 536, Reso 1210 which I

24 abstain. Congratulations to all my colleagues.

25 CLERK: Wills?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye on all.

3 CLERK: Oddo?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

5 CLERK: Rivera?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye on all.

7 CLERK: Speaker Quinn?

8 SPEAKER QUINN: Aye on all.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All items
10 on today's general order calendar were adopted by
11 a vote of 49 in the affirmative with zero in the
12 negative and zero abstentions with the exception
13 of Land Use 536 with Reso 1210, which was adopted
14 by a vote of 46 in the affirmative, one in the
15 negative and two abstentions and Land Use 548 and
16 Reso 1212, which was adopted by a vote of 48 in
17 the affirmative, zero in the negative and one
18 abstention and the revised land use call ups were
19 adopted by a vote of 49 in the affirmative and
20 zero in the negative. Introduction and reading of
21 the bills?

22 SPEAKER QUINN: All bills are
23 referred to committees as indicated on the agenda.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.

25 We now move on to discussion of resolutions.

2 We're going to group the first four resolutions
3 together, which are Resolution 871-A, 872-A, Reso
4 988-A and Reso 989-A, all are the foreclosure
5 resolutions. I will call on Council Member Vann
6 to speak on those first. If anybody else wants to
7 speak on that grouping of resolutions, please
8 raise your hand now. Council Member Vann?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Thank you,
10 Mr. Majority Leader. My colleagues, the four
11 resolutions before us falls upon the governor and
12 the state legislature to take appropriate
13 legislative and budgetary action to help our
14 constituency who are at risk of losing their
15 homes, losing their homes to foreclosure. It is a
16 little known secret or a well-known secret that
17 the African American and Latino communities
18 throughout New York City have been devastated as a
19 result of predatory lending, greedy and
20 insensitive bankers, a deceitful Wall Street that
21 could care less about Main Street, all of which
22 has severely and without parallel reduced and
23 destroyed the wealth in our respective
24 communities. Now these resolutions if acted upon
25 cannot reverse those tragic circumstances, but it

2 can help -- the tide by helping local legal
3 services and community based housing groups and
4 advocates to save the homes for thousands of our
5 people who are at risk of foreclosure. It would
6 give them the ability to mediate and to modify a
7 lot of these loans with the banks again that I've
8 already talked about--the banks that we bailed out
9 with taxpayers' dollars. Finally, these
10 resolutions if affirmed will create a fair
11 environment that will strengthen the hand of those
12 that represent those in foreclosure--

13

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:

14

[Interposing] Council Member, we've got to wrap
15 up.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: I'm going to
wrap up. Again, by making the rules more fair,
local legal services and advocates will have an
opportunity to save even that many more--

20

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:

21

[Interposing] Council Member...

22

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: --that many
more homes that are again in foreclosure. Very
important resolutions. I ask all of our
25 colleagues to support these resolutions. Thank

2 you.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
4 very much. We'll now move on to Council Member
5 Sanders and let's please be mindful of the clock.
6 There's a lot of people that want to speak.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Thank you
8 for that, sir. I want to commend Council Members
9 Chair Vann and Comrie and others who have struck a
10 blow for justice in our great city. The greatest
11 economic crime of the 20th Century, which is going
12 into the 21st Century is taking place right before
13 our very eyes and it is good to know that the City
14 Council stands with the people of New York, the
15 common people struggling to maintain their lives
16 and their dignity in the mist of the predatory
17 lenders and thieves and scoundrels of every type
18 that seem to be feeding on us. I commend all of
19 us for standing up and I urge us to figure out
20 what more can we do to stand on the side of the
21 angels, the people who sent us here. Thank you
22 very much.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
24 very much. Seeing no others on this grouping of
25 resolutions, we will now vote on these resolutions

2 before the other ones, Resolution 871-A and
3 amended Resolution calling upon New York State
4 Legislature to codify Subdivision F of Section
5 20212-A of the uniform rules of the New York State
6 Trial Courts addressing the accuracy of filings in
7 residential mortgage foreclosure actions amended
8 and adopted by the Committee on Community
9 Development. All in favor say aye.

10

MULTIPLE VOICES: Aye.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All opposed
12 say nay.

13

[silence]

14

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Any
15 abstentions? The ayes have it. The next one is
16 Resolution 872-A, amended resolution calling upon
17 the New York State Legislature and the governor to
18 support the continuation of New York's foreclosure
19 prevention services program in the 2012-2013
20 executive budget, amended and adopted by the
21 Committee on Community Development. All in favor
22 say aye.

23

MULTIPLE VOICES: Aye.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All
25 opposed, say nay.

2 [silence]

3 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Any
4 abstentions? The ayes have it. Next we have
5 Resolution 988-A, an amended resolution calling on
6 the New York State Legislature and the governor to
7 enact legislation that would require the
8 foreclosing party in a mortgage foreclosure action
9 to produce the pooling [phonetic] and service
10 agreement at the commencement of the mortgage
11 foreclosure action, amended and adopted by the
12 Committee on Community Development. All in favor
13 say aye.

14 MULTIPLE VOICES: Aye.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All opposed
16 say nay.

17 [silence]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Any
19 abstentions? The ayes have it. We have
20 Resolution 989-A, an amended resolution calling on
21 the New York State Legislature and the governor to
22 enact legislation that would prohibit lenders from
23 concealing mortgage assignments to the use of the
24 mortgage electronic registration system, further
25 known as MERS, amended and adopted by the

2 Committee on Community Development. All in favor
3 say aye.

4 MULTIPLE VOICES: Aye.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All opposed
6 say nay.

7 [silence]

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Any
9 abstentions? The ayes have it. Okay, we'll now
10 move on to Resolution 1188, first one to speak on
11 this resolution is Council Member Chin. Anyone
12 who wants to speak on 1188 please raise your hands
13 now.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you,
15 Majority Leader. Resolution 1188 is a good
16 beginning and is a great way for us to honor the
17 memory of Private Danny Chen, who died on October
18 3rd in Afghanistan due to racial discrimination,
19 harassment, bullying and hazing. I wanted to
20 thank Council Member for your support and co-
21 sponsorship for this resolution and especially our
22 Speaker who also attended the hearing last week.
23 Danny Chen's parents and family members were at
24 the hearing and they said that they want to make
25 sure that the tragedy that happened to them will

2 not ever happen to any other family. This
3 resolution called on the military to look at their
4 policies of recruitment and training to make sure
5 that harassment, racial discrimination,
6 intolerance have no place in our military and that
7 we have to do everything that we can to honor our
8 servicemen and women, and this resolution is a
9 good beginning. Thank you.

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

12 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Thank you,
13 Mr. Chair. I was so distraught when I heard the
14 details of the tragic details of Private Danny'
15 Chan's life and death. I could only imagine how
16 he felt—here was this young man thousands of miles
17 from home in a strange land under dangerous
18 circumstances—that circumstance would be trying
19 for any soldier, but Private Chen had it worse—
20 much worse. The only people around him—the people
21 he was supposed to trust—were systematically
22 torturing him. His peers subjected him to
23 relentless physical and psychological abuse. His
24 superiors knew about it, stood by and did nothing.
25 He must have felt trapped with nowhere to turn so

2 that taking his own life seemed like the only
3 possible escape. Naively I thought that when
4 you're in the military defending your country that
5 you would never have to face the type of ignorance
6 and racism that Danny Chen felt. I thought that
7 in the cauldron of war young people enduring
8 shared hardship would form the strongest bond and
9 not turn against one another. Sadly, I thought
10 wrong. Private Chen's death belies the strength,
11 integrity and respect for individuals that our
12 country and its military stand for. I commend
13 Council Member Chin for bringing this important
14 resolution to the floor and I am proud to be a co-
15 sponsor of it, and have voted aye. Thank you very
16 much.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
18 very much. Next we move on to Council Member
19 Eugene.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you
21 very much. I want to express my support to
22 Resolution 1188. The loss of Danny Chen is a loss
23 for our city, for New York City. My heart is with
24 the family as - - from this unspeakable tragedy.
25 I want to thank all of my colleagues who attended

2 the public hearing on Friday. I want to thank
3 also the Speaker for her support. I want to
4 commend Council Member Chin for the resolution. I
5 believe it is important that we send a message
6 that the men and women who proudly serve our
7 country should never be subjected to abuse and
8 harassment and discrimination experienced by Danny
9 Chen. This behavior should never be tolerated and
10 I think the military must put in place a system to
11 stop and prevent this type of behavior. There are
12 probably and we are sure that there are more
13 soldiers who are facing the same situation right
14 now. We have to ensure that the federal
15 government has a zero tolerance policy for such
16 abuse. By adopting this resolution we are showing
17 that the New York City stands together with the
18 family and also stands for better treatment to
19 prevent such loss. I want to again one more time,
20 I want to thank the Speaker and also Council
21 Member Chin. Thank you very much.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
23 very much. Seeing no others on this resolution,
24 we will now take a vote on Resolution--oh, Council
25 Member Koo?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I just want to
3 echo what Council Member Chin, Weprin and Eugene
4 have said. I urge all my colleagues to vote for
5 this resolution and hope this incidence won't
6 happen again in the future. Thank you, Majority
7 Leader.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
9 very much. We'll now take a vote on Resolution
10 1188, a resolution calling upon the United States
11 Department of Defense to closely examine its
12 policies around cultural diversity and sensitivity
13 and to impose more effective and comprehensive
14 training regimens for military personnel in
15 cultural awareness, diversity and sensitivity to
16 prevent discrimination and harassment of all
17 military personnel, including servicemen and women
18 within its ranks. All in favor say aye.

19 MULTIPLE VOICES: Aye.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All opposed
21 say nay.

22 [silence]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Any
24 abstentions? The ayes have it. We will now move
25 on to pre-considered Resolution 1206. First one

2 to speak on this one is Council Member Gennaro.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you,
4 Mr. Leader and I want to strongly support
5 Resolution 1206. Hopefully, my colleagues can
6 also help to co-sponsor that. What it does it
7 would allow the City Council to file a brief that
8 is in support of a lawsuit being brought by the
9 New York State attorney general and this lawsuit
10 would be brought against an entity called the
11 Delaware River Basin Commission, which is
12 technically a federal agency that has four member
13 states that are part of it, and this four state
14 and federal compact—this body has created
15 regulations that would allow for gas drilling by
16 the hydro fracking [phonetic] method, and they
17 could go forward and it could deeply impact our
18 own drinking water supply and—but because it is a
19 federal agency and it would be a federal act to
20 put out these regulations, it's important that
21 there be an environmental impact statement and the
22 Delaware River Basin Commission has not done such
23 a statement and the lawsuit that we wish to
24 support would say that the federal government has
25 to follow the law by doing an environmental impact

2 statement just as the state is doing and I hope I
3 can get everybody's support. Thank you very much.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.

5 Anyone else on this resolution? Seeing no others.

6 We will now take a vote on pre-considered
7 Resolution 1206, resolution authorizing the
8 Council to file an amicus brief at each stage of
9 the litigation caption State of New York versus
10 United States Army Corp of Engineers, Index No.
11 CV-11-2599 currently pending in the eastern
12 district of New York in support of the state
13 attorney general's position that the court should
14 enjoin the Delaware River Basin Commission from
15 issuing regulations governing natural gas
16 development until the Commission prepares a draft
17 environmental impact statement, adopted by the
18 Committee on Environmental Protection. All in
19 favor say aye.

20 MULTIPLE VOICES: Aye.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All opposed
22 say nay.

23 [silence]

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Any
25 abstentions? The ayes have it. We will now move

2 on to general discussion. Council Member Jackson
3 followed by Council Member Dickens.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you.

5 My colleagues, I rise-- - - talk about a
6 resolution that's being introduced at today's
7 Stated Meeting, resolution No. A—it's called the
8 GED Program Accountability Act, Resolution No.
9 A2969, a bill that will call upon the New York
10 State Legislature to pass and for the governor to
11 sign the GED Program Accountability Act, and I'm
12 asking all of you to support this. The bill would
13 require the Department of Education to report on
14 an annual basis to the New York State Legislature
15 and the New York City Council, the number and
16 percentage of successful completion of all GED
17 programs that the DOE discharges students into,
18 and therefore, with this data we can determine the
19 appropriate policies to ensure that every student
20 is given the opportunity to succeed along with
21 increasing graduation rates in both high school
22 and GED programs, so if you have not signed on, I
23 ask you to please do that. That's a resolution in
24 support of this bill pending in the state
25 legislature. Also I want to wish everyone a happy

lunar new year, the year of the dragon. I was joined with our colleague, Margaret Chin, and many other colleagues this past Sunday at the parade. It was a beautiful day out and we had a lovely time and there were hundreds of thousands of people probably a million people observing the parade. Also, I'd like to thank my colleagues Margaret Chin and Peter Koo for the beautiful lunch that we had this afternoon. It was delicious. We thank you on behalf of all of our colleagues and all of the staff—as I commented to some people I've never seen so many members and staff in the members lounge than this afternoon, so we thank you on behalf of all my colleagues.

Thank you very much,

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Council
18 Member Dickens followed by Council Member Barron,

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: I'm asking
20 my colleagues for support of Intro 766, which
21 would amend the Administrative Code of the City of
22 New York in relation to license requirements for
23 newsstands. While we all value the convenience of
24 newsstands, there needs to be strict license
25 regulations in place that would require local

2 stakeholders of all communities such as Council
3 Members and community boards to be notified within
4 five business days after a license is approved to
5 avoid the proliferation of newsstands on almost
6 every block no newsstands should be within 25 feet
7 of an existing newsstand. To protect private
8 homeowners no newsstands should be constructed
9 within three feet of private property without
10 consent of the owners. These regulations will
11 satisfy the operator of the newsstand and the
12 community in which they are located. Thank you
13 and I want to thank Madam Speaker, her staff and
14 my co-sponsor Council Member Dromm for his support
15 in helping draft this. Thank you.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.
17 Council Member Barron followed by Council Member
18 Koslowitz.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you
20 very much. My colleagues, I want you to pay
21 attention if you will to Intro 762; it wasn't
22 written well in the reading of the bills, it says,
23 "amend the law to allow permissible standing near
24 schools and daycare centers." Actually when
25 parents drop off their children to school we're

2 asking for a five minute grace period so when they
3 drop off the children to daycares or schools that
4 they won't get a ticket while they're inside and
5 coming out in five minutes, so it's a five minute
6 grace period for parents to drop off their
7 children to day care centers and to schools.

8 That's what 762 is and in 1203 we've had a real
9 problem in dealing with emotionally needs
10 distraught students having them handcuffed at five
11 and eight in order to restrain them is
12 unacceptable. This is calling for no handcuffing
13 of youngsters who are younger than 12. There
14 should be professional ways to not intervene and
15 not criminalize them, handcuffing them, putting
16 them in ambulance and taking them away. Those are
17 the two bills I would ask your support on. Thank
18 you very much.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: thank you
20 very much. Next is Council Member Koslowitz
21 followed by Council Member Brewer.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Thank
23 you. I'm asking for your support on intro 774.
24 This legislation would increase fines on those
25 caught dumping household or commercial waste in

2 public trash containers. The legislation will
3 increase fines to \$200 for the first violation,
4 \$500 for the second violation and \$600 for the
5 third violation. Intro 774 is important in
6 protecting the quality of life for residents in
7 commercial areas alike. Overflowing garbage pails
8 are a major, major cause of street pollution that
9 leads to problems such as mice and rats. This
10 bill places steep fines on those who illegally use
11 public pails for their own personal use. Improper
12 use of Department of Sanitation corner litter
13 basket is a problem. In 2011, Department of
14 Sanitation issued 3,681 summonses city-wide for
15 improper use of a litter basket. While the
16 department's enforcement division regularly
17 patrols and conducts surveillance to catch
18 violations, we need to do more to deter this
19 problem. I would like to thank my fellow co-
20 sponsors Council Members Ulrich and Vallone. I
21 would also like to thank Chair James for her
22 support of the measure and look forward to a
23 hearing in the near future.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
25 very much. Next we have Council Member Brewer

2 followed by Council Member Garodnick.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Hi. I'm
4 bringing to your attention Intro 763. It would
5 establish a pilot program anywhere in the city
6 that the Department of Sanitation wishes in which
7 the Department would issue warning notices to
8 first time offenders. In addition the reason I
9 bring this to your attention is that with the
10 Department of Consumer Affairs, we go and give
11 warnings and education to retail stores before
12 they get a fine. I would like to do the same with
13 stores regarding sanitation. Number two, Intro
14 764 would allow citizens to make political
15 contributions up to \$100—that's the max legally—to
16 candidates for city-wide office via text message
17 and this is with support giving low donor amounts
18 to candidates. It's very important in the era of
19 citizen's united decisions to keep contributions
20 low. Thank you very much.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
22 very much. Next we have Council Member Garodnick
23 followed by Council Member James.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank
25 you very much. Today I'm introducing two bills;

2 one that would increase government transparency
3 and the other that would ensure access to city
4 agency websites by people with disabilities.
5 Intro 771 would require QR or quick response code
6 on all city issued permits, licenses,
7 registrations and notices of inspection, allowing
8 an individual to use a smart phone to be able to
9 access public data in real time. We've all seen
10 QR code whether we know it or not. It is a square
11 shaped matrix bar code that when scanned with a
12 smart phone or a QR code reader, it links to more
13 detailed information. The Department of Buildings
14 has been using this code on construction permits
15 for about a year. It is the right use of
16 available technology to increase government
17 accountability and to keep the public better
18 informed. If this were standard practice for all
19 city permits or licenses, New Yorkers would be
20 able to access in real time information about a
21 restaurant's most recent inspection, the
22 dimensions of a sidewalk café, or even details
23 about a street activity permit. I think that this
24 should be used on all city issued permits and I
25 encourage my colleagues to sign on to that bill,

2 771. 770, which I'm introducing with Council
3 Member Vacca, would fulfill the city's web
4 accessibility responsibilities under the Americans
5 with Disabilities Act or the ADA. Although the
6 city every year is adding content to its agency
7 websites and increases the number of services
8 available online, equal access to those services
9 by individuals with disabilities as required by
10 the ADA is not yet available. To be fair, the ADA
11 does not define specific web accessibility
12 features, but federal standards exist that allow
13 individuals with disabilities to access web
14 content with some features requiring the use of
15 assistive technologies. So we want DUIT to go
16 ahead and make sure that these websites are
17 accessible and inform the Council of their
18 compliance. The technology exists. We need to
19 move the ball. I ask my colleagues to sign on to
20 Intro 770. Thank you.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
22 very much. We next have Council member James
23 followed by Council Member Mealy.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Thank you.
25 This last week there was a redistricting plan that

2 was released to the public from lat far
3 [phonetic]. The plan on its face is blatantly
4 illegal. It's politically gerrymandered. It is
5 inconsistent with all of the rules and some of the
6 districts resemble little small animals. It
7 violates all rules related to continuity,
8 communities of interest, compact districts. The
9 proposed plan dilutes the voting strength of
10 communities of color and the plan is politically
11 crass in that it pits one minority group against
12 all others. I urge Governor Cuomo to veto the
13 plan and to enact a plan which is more respective
14 of all of the rules. Lastly, let me congratulate
15 again Council Member Chin on the passage of the
16 resolution relating to Private Danny Chen. He was
17 a hero. He took an oath to defend our country.
18 He was willing to die for our freedom, and we
19 should honor his memory and salute his service. I
20 thank her for her leadership. Thank you.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.
22 Next we have Council Member Mealy.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I rise to
24 just thank our Madam Speaker and her staff and the
25 Finance Committee on my transparency legislation,

2 729-A that the Speaker has made it a priority and
3 for the contracts in this whole city. I want to
4 congratulate our colleague, Ms. Chin, on her
5 resolution. I want to thank Ms. Chin and Mr. Koo
6 for the beautiful food we had today. I just want
7 to say we had a passing in my community, a Mr.
8 Alex Smith. He was a pillar of our community, a
9 young man, he had a heart attack. He did
10 basketball tournament in Brownsville, Marcus
11 Garvey Housing developments when no one wants to
12 come to the Marcus Garvey Housing Developments.
13 He made sure that we had a basketball tournament
14 that was safe called the Thelma and Smith
15 [phonetic] Basketball Tournament and he was very
16 young—49 years old. Had a heart attack. I just
17 want to send my condolences out to his family and
18 I want to say happy lunar new year to everyone.
19 Love, peace, soul and prosperity. Thank you.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
21 very much. Next we have Council Member Vann.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Colleagues,
23 we pass four resolutions all of which are
24 important, but one I need to bring to your
25 attention specifically because it deals with the

2 heart of our ability to really help people save
3 their homes, and this is a foreclosure prevention
4 services program. The legislature put it in the
5 current state budget, but the governor vetoed it.
6 Now all the federal dollars have been exhausted so
7 the governor has to put this in his current budget
8 that he is presenting to the legislature, so
9 beyond our resolution, any avenues to the governor
10 to have him understand how critical this program
11 is and we need to use those avenues—those lines of
12 communication. This is important. Without that
13 \$25 million program, a lot of your people in
14 foreclosure now, they will not be able to come
15 out. Trust me. This is what your local legal
16 services use that money, the local housing
17 advocate uses that money. The modification
18 process is tedious, is complex, requires
19 dedication and commitment. We need this money.
20 Whatever avenues we have, let's get the governor
21 to put that money in the current budget. Thank
22 you.

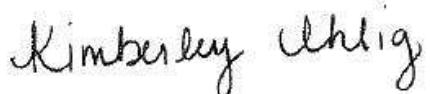
23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.
24 Seeing no others, this meeting is adjourned.

25 [gavel]

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



Date

2/18/12