

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

-----X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

-----X

February 29, 2012

Start: 2:13 p.m.

Recess: 3:49 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E:  
JOEL RIVERA  
President Pro Tempore

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Christine C. Quinn  
Maria del Carmen Arroyo  
Charles Barron  
Gale A. Brewer  
Fernando Cabrera  
Margaret S. Chin  
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.  
Elizabeth S. Crowley  
Erik Martin Dilan  
Daniel Dromm  
Mathieu Eugene  
Julissa Ferreras  
Helen D. Foster  
Daniel R. Garodnick

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

## COUNCIL MEMBERS:

James F. Gennaro  
Vincent J. Gentile  
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)

Shawn O'Connor  
Coach  
Abraham Lincoln High School

Kareem Folkes  
Student  
Abraham Lincoln High School

Renan Ebeid  
Athletic Director  
Abraham Lincoln High School

Johanna Josephine Gomez  
Regal Originals

Rodger Cohen  
CEO  
Regal Originals

Rev. Arthur Davenport  
First Church of God  
Far Rockaway, New York

1  
2 SPEAKER QUINN: All right, we have  
3 two ceremonials today. The first one is going to  
4 be led by our Finance Chair, Council Member  
5 Domenic M. Recchia, Jr. It is to congratulate and  
6 celebrate the Lincoln High School football  
7 champions. They are the PSAL champions of New  
8 York City. So, come on up, everybody.

9 [Applause]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Come on  
11 up, just line up right across. Just line up,  
12 everybody.

13 [Pause]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: All right,  
15 let's give them a round of applause: the city  
16 champions. Last year, they made it to the  
17 playoffs, the final game. This year, we were  
18 successful. Come on up, let's get everybody.  
19 Could everybody just take one step back?

20 SPEAKER QUINN: You guys in the  
21 middle hold the proclamation.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Where's  
23 the coach? Let's bring up Shawn. We have the  
24 athletic director, Renan. You might have to..

25 Okay, welcome everyone. I am the

1  
2 Councilman for this wonderful high school, Lincoln  
3 High School, under the leadership of its principal  
4 Mr. Hoogenboom. They do a great job. Last year,  
5 we made it to the final game. We were not  
6 successful. This year we made it to the final  
7 game and we were successful. We are the city  
8 champs. They have a great program.

9 But more importantly, it's not only  
10 about football, it's about academics, community  
11 service and education in the community. Under the  
12 leadership of its athletic director Renan, who  
13 does a great job.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Yay.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: A woman  
16 athletic director, okay. And it's wonderful  
17 coach, Shawn O'Connor. Let me just tell you  
18 something. He was voted the city's number one  
19 coach by the *Daily News*. In addition to that,  
20 Kareem Folkes, also is the player of the year.  
21 Okay, right here.

22 [Applause]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: And I want  
24 you to know that out of its graduating class,  
25 seven members got scholarships to schools around

1

2 the country, because that's how good our athletic  
3 program is. But it's not only about sports, it's  
4 about working with people, getting your education,  
5 moving on, because it's a family. I want to thank  
6 all of the coaches. I want to thank the kids.  
7 You are grateful.

8 Let me just tell you something,  
9 because of this young lady standing in front of  
10 me, our Speaker Christine Quinn, that is why you  
11 have the best athletic facility in New York City.  
12 So we should thank Christine Quinn, because she's  
13 the one that allocated the funds. Because of her,  
14 you're going to have your new health--they are  
15 building a new indoor health facility with  
16 treadmills and all kinds of the most advanced  
17 machinery out there. Not only for the teams but  
18 for the entire school, because of physical  
19 fitness, and this is one of the schools where we  
20 have Dr. Oz's programs. So physical education is  
21 very important to the athletic director and to our  
22 wonderful coach.

23 SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic]

24 SHAWN O'CONNOR: University of  
25 Massachusetts, New Haven, CW Post, Southern

1  
2 Connecticut, AIC, Virginia Union, Rhode Island.

3 [Applause]

4 SHAWN O'CONNOR: Thank you. On  
5 behalf of Abraham Lincoln High School, our  
6 athletic department, our coaches, our wonderful  
7 coaches, our players, we have some parents here.  
8 We want to thank everybody here. Ms. Quinn, thank  
9 you for the field. Mr. Recchia, he's like our  
10 general manager, our Jerry Jones.

11 [Laughter]

12 SHAWN O'CONNOR: Without him, this  
13 would not be possible. Yankee Stadium, City Hall,  
14 in one year, a great experience, thank you very  
15 much.

16 [Applause]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Okay. I  
18 also want to thank Vinny, our announcer, and Adam,  
19 our film guy who gets us on TV. Please read the  
20 proclamation, Mr. Clerk.

21 CLERK: Council City of New York  
22 Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of  
23 New York is proud to honor the players of the  
24 Abraham Lincoln High School Varsity Football Team  
25 for their winning of the PSAL championship.

1  
2                   And whereas, on December 6th, 2011,  
3 the Railsplitters brought to the PSAL city  
4 championships back to Coney Island. Despite a  
5 fierce opponent, the Railsplitters won 20-12. The  
6 PSAL championship marks the end of an undefeated  
7 season where the Railsplitters won all nine games,  
8 and only trailed once this season for a mere three  
9 minutes. Their unrivaled success was the result  
10 of a dedication to their school, to each other and  
11 to themselves.

12                   And whereas, the Railsplitters  
13 overcame enormous odds; at the end of last season,  
14 the team lost 26 players. The remaining players  
15 had little game experience and a lot to learn.  
16 Yet they committed to work together and do what  
17 was necessary to ensure victory. These players  
18 devoted their entire summer to training and  
19 conditioning, preparing themselves mentally and  
20 physically for the season ahead. They capped off  
21 a summer of grueling preseason training with an  
22 abbreviated football camp that ended three days  
23 early due to Hurricane Irene.

24                   And whereas, undeterred, the  
25 Railsplitters came back and resumed their rigorous



1  
2 two-hour practice sessions after school without  
3 complaints. With the cards stacked against them,  
4 the Railsplitters remained committed to winning.  
5 Under the direction of Coach Shawn O'Connor, no  
6 shortcuts were taken and no time was taken off.  
7 The players simply worked hard and kept their  
8 grades up. Their teamwork, work ethic and  
9 fighting spirit are an inspiration to everybody in  
10 their school and in our community.

11 Now, therefore, be it know that the  
12 Council of City of New York honors and  
13 congratulates the Railsplitters, Abraham Lincoln  
14 High School Varsity Football Team for their  
15 outstanding teamwork and victory in the New York  
16 City PSAL championship. Christine C. Quinn,  
17 Speaker for the Entire Council, Domenic Recchia  
18 Jr., Council Member, 47th District Brooklyn.

19 [Applause]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: We would  
21 also ask Kareem Folkes, the player for the *Daily*  
22 *News*, would you like to say a few words.

23 KAREEM FOLKES: On behalf of me and  
24 my teammates, we'd like to thank God and everybody  
25 that gave us this opportunity. We'd like to thank

1  
2 everybody here for giving us this opportunity. We  
3 worked hard this season to win the championship to  
4 put Lincoln and now Lincoln is on the map for  
5 years to come. And we're just going to keep doing  
6 it and doing the right things.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.

8 [Applause]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: And our  
10 wonderful athletic director.

11 RENAN EBEID: I just want to thank  
12 everybody for having us here. Thank you, Council  
13 Member Recchia and Christine Quinn. We appreciate  
14 it.

15 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Domenic.  
16 In addition to saying congratulations on winning,  
17 I think more importantly I want to congratulate  
18 all of you and your coaches and the faculty and  
19 your athletic director and your parents and  
20 everyone in your family for not giving up.  
21 Because other teams, having not won last year and  
22 then face losing 27--was that the number--26  
23 members of your team, would have said "forget it,  
24 we had out shot, we got as close as we were going  
25 to get, it's not meant to be." But your winning

1  
2 sends a message that the really important thing is  
3 never giving up and knowing that you can keep  
4 moving forward, even if it didn't work out the  
5 first time. That's a great example you are  
6 setting, not just for other high school students,  
7 not just for other high school athletes, but for  
8 all of us, adults and high school students alike  
9 in the city. So thank you for reminding all of us  
10 about that today.

11 [Applause]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: You know,  
13 Madame Speaker, you brought something up about the  
14 Irish. I just want you to know--should we tell  
15 her about the Irish? Should we tell her, Shawn?

16 SHAWN O'CONNOR: Yes.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: I want you  
18 to know--

19 SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic] Domenic,  
20 do something about the Irish.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Let me  
22 tell you, one of the top defensive players on  
23 Notre Dame, where's he from, Shawn?

24 SHAWN O'CONNOR: Abraham Lincoln  
25 High School.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Graduated  
3 last year. He was one of the 26 that we lost.  
4 Okay? So God bless you all.

5 [Laughter]

6 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. There  
7 we go. Congratulations, guys and we hope to see  
8 some of you back next year for you retaining the  
9 title two years in a row. Thanks a lot, guys.

10 All right, we're going to move  
11 Lincoln out and move the next one in. See you,  
12 guys. The next proclamation, not the team,  
13 people. We got a lot of people in New York. I  
14 didn't mean to be cold, but we've got to keep  
15 business moving. Bye guys; see you later, take  
16 care.

17 All right, the next ceremonial is  
18 going to be Council Member Diana Reyna. Diana,  
19 you ready? And is Ms. Gomez here? Okay, great.  
20 All right, let me turn the microphone over to  
21 Diana, who we are recognizing today Ms. Gomez,  
22 during Dominican Independence Month. Here you go,  
23 Diana.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: And of  
25 course, I'm waiting for my colleagues of the

1  
2 Dominican Caucus: Ydanis Rodriguez, Julissa  
3 Ferreras and Fernando Cabrera, and of course we  
4 have our honorary member, Council Member Charles  
5 Barron and Robert Jackson. Fantastic.

6 I'd like to thank the Speaker  
7 Christine Quinn for giving us this opportunity.  
8 Unfortunately, because the City Hall City Council  
9 chamber has been under renovation and upgrades,  
10 the rotunda area is not available. Every year,  
11 it's been tradition since Guillermo Linares then  
12 who was Council Member, today Assemblyman, had  
13 begun the tradition of celebrating Dominican  
14 Independence Day, we have not been able to do so,  
15 but that did not stop this Dominican Caucus.

16 Today, I am very grateful in  
17 celebration of Dominican's Independence Day, to  
18 celebrate a woman by the name of Johanna Josephine  
19 Gomez. Joining me here today, because we have  
20 celebrated on Monday, February 27th, Dominicans  
21 domestic and abroad celebrated the 168th  
22 anniversary of the independence of the Dominican  
23 Republic.

24 Today, Ms. Gomez was met on a very  
25 interesting affair on behalf of two committees who

1  
2 joined together, Council Member Koslowitz and  
3 myself as part of the Economic Development and  
4 Small Business Committees, toured the Garment  
5 Center District, where we were witnesses to  
6 production at a very interesting company.

7           There were curtains draped around a  
8 small section of an area. We were all so curious,  
9 and out came this energetic woman, greeting us as  
10 if we were seeing a play. I was impressed to hear  
11 her story and how valuable her talents are at  
12 Regal. Josephine has had a distinguished career,  
13 working 54 years to Regal Originals, a full  
14 service custom embroidery company in the Garment  
15 District, of which Speaker Quinn represents.  
16 She's a proud member of Unite and has earned the  
17 respect of all as the head sampler maker for Regal  
18 Originals. This is a very distinguished role to  
19 play in a company after 54 years.

20           As Women's History Month is  
21 approaching, it is befitting to honor this loyal,  
22 dedicated and hard working Dominican woman who  
23 resides in Jamaica Queens, constituent of Council  
24 Member James Gennaro. I would like to thank and  
25 introduce Josephine's family who is here today and

1

2 Rodger Cohen, the CEO of Regal Originals who have  
3 joined us.

4 [Applause]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Who is  
6 proudly taking pictures of Josephine right now.  
7 We want him to join us in those pictures as well.  
8 But Ms. Gomez arrived at the age of 18 to New  
9 York, with her mother, with the hopes for a better  
10 life. At 54 years later, she has become the head  
11 sample maker for Regal Originals, a custom  
12 embroidery company in Manhattan's Garment  
13 District, who creates samples for companies such  
14 as Calvin Klein, Jason Wu and Oscar De La Renta.  
15 Josephine, [foreign language].

16 [Applause]

17 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you so much,  
18 Diana and Karen, for having the good idea to go on  
19 that tour. Thank you, sir, for seeing talent and  
20 supporting it. And Ms. Gomez, 54 years, I think  
21 Diana is lying, because that would mean you  
22 started working when you were 2. But thank you  
23 very much for--here, you want... No? Okay. Well,  
24 thank you for supporting such an important  
25 industry in our city and being such a great role

1  
2 model. I think I dare say if it wasn't for women  
3 like you, Diana and Julissa would certainly, also  
4 Fernando and Ydanis, but certainly Diana and  
5 Julissa would never have had the opportunity to be  
6 Dominican Councilwomen in the City of New York.  
7 So thank you for blazing a trail for them.

8 [Applause]

9 SPEAKER QUINN: If we could ask the  
10 clerk to read the proclamation and then Ms. Gomez  
11 or maybe the president of the company would like  
12 to say a few words.

13 CLERK: Council City of New York  
14 Proclamation. Whereas, in celebration of the  
15 168th Anniversary of Dominican independence, the  
16 Council of the City of New York is proud to honor  
17 Johanna Josephine Gomez for her distinguished  
18 service and contributions.

19 And whereas, Dominicans and  
20 Dominican Americans have had a profoundly positive  
21 impact in New York City for generations, with  
22 roughly 1.5 people of Dominican descent living in  
23 the United States today, they continue to  
24 transform our society in all areas, from health  
25 and politics to education and--



1  
2                   SPEAKER QUINN: [interposing] Could  
3 we get some quiet in the back? Hang on one  
4 second. Thank you.

5                   CLERK: On this occasion, it is a  
6 great privilege to pay tribute to a Dominican born  
7 American who has quite strengthened the fabric of  
8 our society, both figuratively and literally.

9                   And whereas, Ms. Johanna Josephine  
10 Gomez was born and raised in Santiago, Dominican  
11 Republic; in 1952 at the age of 18, she came to  
12 New York with her mother, with great hopes for a  
13 better life, and settled in the Bronx.

14                   And whereas, in February 1958 Ms.  
15 Gomez began her pursuit of the American dream  
16 working as an operator for Regal Originals, a full  
17 service and custom embroidery company in  
18 Manhattan's Garment District.

19                   And whereas, 54 years later, Ms.  
20 Gomez continues to work for Regal Originals, whose  
21 clients include Calvin Klein, Jason Wu, Oscar De  
22 La Renta and many other fashion titans.

23                   And whereas, Ms. Gomez, an American  
24 since 1993 has worked tirelessly to fulfill her  
25 American dream in both her professional and

1  
2 personal life. Through it all, her pride and joy  
3 have been firmly rooted in her family, including  
4 her three children: Richie, Maritza and Diana  
5 Cartagena [phonetic] and her four grandchildren,  
6 Ms. Gomez has also been a foster parent for the  
7 New York State Department of Youth and was a  
8 devoted guardian of Diana Rios and Henry Donoso  
9 [phonetic], both of whom consider Ms. Gomez to be  
10 their mother as well as grandmother to their four  
11 children.

12                   And whereas, today Ms. Gomez is a  
13 proud resident of Queens and a cherished original  
14 at Regal Originals for more than five decades.  
15 Through her daily work and ongoing dedication to  
16 family, she has created an extraordinary legacy  
17 and it is fitting that we celebrate her success as  
18 an inspiration to all New Yorkers.

19                   Now, therefore, be it known that  
20 the Council of the City of New York gratefully  
21 honors Johanna Josephine Gomez for her outstanding  
22 service and contributions to the community.  
23 Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the Entire  
24 Council; Diana Reyna, Council Member 34th District  
25 Brooklyn and Queens; Ydanis Rodriguez, Council

1  
2 Member 10th District Manhattan; Fernando Cabrera,  
3 Council Member 14th District Bronx; Julissa  
4 Ferreras, Council Member 21st District Queens; and  
5 James Gennaro, Council Member 24th District  
6 Queens.

7 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. Ms.  
8 Gomez, do you want to say anything?

9 [Crosstalk]

10 SPEAKER QUINN: Does anyone from  
11 the family want to say anything? No? Do you want  
12 to?

13 RODGER COHEN: Sure. Thank you,  
14 members of the Council and Speaker Quinn. On  
15 behalf of the company and all the years that you  
16 served, it's with such great pride that I can  
17 stand here next to you. But even more  
18 importantly, not only were you a wonderful  
19 employee, but to bring up such a beautiful family  
20 and working so hard as a mother and having  
21 wonderful children and grandchildren. That's what  
22 the Garment Center is about. It always afforded  
23 the ability for young immigrants that come to  
24 America and to work hard and build their families.  
25 And you cherished and we cherished that for you.

1  
2 I hope that the City Council could help the  
3 Garment Center to continue doing what it's been  
4 doing for so many years on behalf of immigrants  
5 and the City of New York. Thank you.

6 [Applause]

7 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much  
8 and congratulations. That concludes ceremonials  
9 for the day.

10 [Pause]

11 CLERK: Ladies and gentlemen, could  
12 I have your attention please? At this time,  
13 please place all electronic devices to vibrate.  
14 Please place all electronic devices to vibrate.  
15 Will all non-Council employees please leave the  
16 main floor of the chambers? You could have a seat  
17 in the balcony. Thank you.

18 [Pause]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: My  
20 colleagues please rise for the Pledge of  
21 Allegiance.

22 [Pledge of Allegiance]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
24 very much. Roll call?

25 CLERK: Arroyo?

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.  
3 CLERK: Barron?  
4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.  
5 CLERK: Brewer?  
6 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.  
7 CLERK: Cabrera?  
8 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.  
9 CLERK: Chin?  
10 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.  
11 CLERK: Comrie?  
12 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: [No  
13 response].  
14 CLERK: Crowley?  
15 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [No  
16 response].  
17 CLERK: Dickens?  
18 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [No  
19 response].  
20 CLERK: Dilan?  
21 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: [No  
22 response].  
23 CLERK: Dromm?  
24 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: [No  
25 response].

1

CLERK: Eugene?

2

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

3

CLERK: Ferreras?

4

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.

5

CLERK: Fidler?

6

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: [No

7

response].

8

CLERK: Foster?

9

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Here.

10

CLERK: Garodnick?

11

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

12

CLERK: Gennaro?

13

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: [No

14

response].

15

CLERK: Gentile?

16

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

17

CLERK: Gonzalez?

18

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: [No

19

response].

20

CLERK: Greenfield?

21

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Here.

22

CLERK: Halloran?

23

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Here.

24

CLERK: Ignizio?

25

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

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.  
CLERK: Jackson?  
COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Here.  
CLERK: James?  
COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: [No  
response].

CLERK: Koo?  
COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.  
CLERK: Koppell?  
COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.  
CLERK: Koslowitz?  
COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.  
CLERK: Lander?  
COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.  
CLERK: Lappin?  
COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Here.  
CLERK: Levin?  
COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.  
CLERK: Mark-Viverito?  
COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

Here.

CLERK: Mealy?  
COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: [No  
response].

1

CLERK: Mendez?

2

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

3

CLERK: Nelson?

4

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: [No

5

response].

6

CLERK: Palma?

7

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

8

CLERK: Recchia?

9

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Here.

10

CLERK: Reyna?

11

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.

12

CLERK: Rodriguez?

13

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

14

CLERK: Rose?

15

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

16

CLERK: Sanders?

17

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: [No

18

response].

19

CLERK: Seabrook?

20

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Here.

21

CLERK: Ulrich?

22

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.

23

CLERK: Vacca?

24

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

25



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

CLERK: Vallone?

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

CLERK: Van Bramer?

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

CLERK: Vann?

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Here.

CLERK: Weprin?

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

CLERK: Williams?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

CLERK: Wills?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Here.

CLERK: Oddo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: [No

response].

CLERK: Rivera?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Here.

CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

CLERK: We have a quorum.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: A quorum is present. My colleagues please rise for the Invocation being delivered today by Reverend Arthur Davenport from First Church of God, 1425

1

2 Beach Channel Drive.

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

REV. ARTHUR DAVENPORT: Our God and our Father, creator of heaven and earth, the God of wisdom and power, the God of love and compassion, the God of knowledge and justice, we seek your wisdom and your understanding, your guidance in this day's deliberation. We pray that we would be moved by that which will be beneficial to all who are governed by this body. We thank you for the privilege of being servants in ways in which we can serve your people. We ask these blessings this day in Jesus Christ's name. Amen.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you very much. Council Member Rose?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Motion to spread the Invocation in full on the record.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: My colleagues please rise again.

[Pause]

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Mr. Majority Leader. On February 7th, 2012, Dr. Stephen Levin, of 70 years old, passed away as a

1  
2 result of lung cancer. Dr. Levin was a pioneer in  
3 securing medical treatment for scores of first  
4 responders, firefighters, police officers who are  
5 exposed to harmful toxins after 9/11.

6 Dr. Levin, when testifying at City  
7 Council hearings, would speak of the dangers these  
8 toxins posed to so many first responders. In a  
9 resolution honoring his life and work, Community  
10 Board 1, which covers Ground Zero stated, quote,  
11 "Many believe that it was Dr. Levin's extensive  
12 research which helped to convince Congress to  
13 ultimately pass the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and  
14 Compensation Act in 2010."

15 On February 17th, 2012, Jerry  
16 Koenig, 78, passed away from complications of a  
17 heart attack suffered on February 8th. Jerry was  
18 considered by many to be one of the most  
19 knowledgeable if not the most knowledgeable  
20 experts on the New York State Election Law and  
21 electoral process. For many years, Jerry worked  
22 for the New York State Assembly Committee on  
23 Elections, where he wrote and rewrote and rewrote  
24 and revised the State Election Law.

25 After retirement, he became a

1  
2 political consultant and at the time of his death,  
3 Jerry was the New York State Petition Coordinator  
4 for President Obama's reelection campaign. Jerry  
5 is survived by his partner of over 40 years, Mary  
6 Geissman, his sister Sandy and his brother Howard.  
7 I want to call on Council Member Gale Brewer to  
8 please say a few words.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you,  
10 Madame Speaker. Jerry Koenig, as the Speaker  
11 indicated, worked for many years with the New York  
12 State Assembly Elections Committee. And he took  
13 all of that knowledge and helped us, anybody in  
14 policy making position to share it regarding  
15 actions of the Board of Elections. And as the  
16 Speaker's staff has indicated and I certainly  
17 feel, he will be very missed during the budget  
18 discussions that are forthcoming.

19 He was also instrumental in the  
20 movement years ago to reform the way in which  
21 judges are selected in Manhattan, a most positive  
22 reform step.

23 And I just want to mention, he was  
24 also president and sometimes treasurer of his co-  
25 op. It must have been the best run co-op in the

1  
2 City of New York. He read every piece of paper  
3 from the Water Board. He read every piece of  
4 paper from the Department of Finance. And to his  
5 credit, he called me or the Speaker or the staff  
6 members or the agencies to fix a policy, a problem  
7 or to ask a question. He never complained without  
8 finding a solution to the problem. And if he was  
9 wrong, he admitted it, but he was usually right.  
10 He was warm, he was smart, he would talk to anyone  
11 and he will be missed, particularly whenever we're  
12 thinking about our elections.

13 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Council  
14 Member Brewer. Also, on February 23rd, 2012,  
15 Michael Rothenberg, 47, Executive Director since  
16 2001 of the New York Lawyers for the Public  
17 Interest passed away. Born in New York City,  
18 Michael attended Stuyvesant High School, Hamilton  
19 College and NYU Law School.

20 His interest in social justice  
21 initially stemmed from observing his parents  
22 struggle to find schooling for his developmentally  
23 disabled brother.

24 In 2010, Chief Judge Jonathan  
25 Lippman appointed Michael as one of six leaders of

1  
2 legal services groups to serve on his task force  
3 to expand civil legal services in New York. We in  
4 the Council worked with Michael in that and many  
5 other capacities. Michael is survived by his  
6 wife, Zerline, their three children, his mother  
7 and his two brothers. And I know Council Member  
8 Lander wanted to say a few words.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thanks very  
10 much, Madame Speaker, for helping honor this real  
11 champion for justice and great New Yorkers. I  
12 first met Michael Rothenberg about 20 years ago  
13 when he was a housing lawyer at South Brooklyn  
14 Legal Services. Even then, in the way he related  
15 to tenants' groups you could see both how much he  
16 was a fighter, a passionate fighter for justice  
17 but also a funny guy with a real wit, who loved  
18 puns, not always good one, and who just had a  
19 passion for connecting people, whose warmth and  
20 personal energy really brought people together to  
21 work for good causes.

22 He went on to work for about the  
23 past 15 years at New York Lawyers for the Public  
24 Interest, about ten of those as executive  
25 director, where the Council and many people in

1  
2 here had the opportunity to work with him to  
3 expand access to health care, to address the issue  
4 of PCBs in schools, disability rights and so many  
5 others. And what people remembered, Council  
6 Member Levin and I attended the memorial service  
7 on Sunday, really a heartbreaking service with his  
8 children, but so many people also speaking about  
9 his passion for justice but about his real  
10 charisma and warmth and ability to bring people  
11 together. He was a great father, a great squash  
12 player and a real champion for justice. I'm  
13 grateful that we have the opportunity to remember  
14 him.

15 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. Thank  
16 you, Mr. Majority Leader.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you,  
18 Madame Speaker. Council Member Ignizio?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Thank you.  
20 I make a motion that the minutes of the Stated  
21 Meetings of January 18th and February 1st be  
22 adopted as printed.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.  
24 Messages and Papers from the Mayor?

25 CLERK: M 746, Mayor's veto Intro

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

490-A.

SPEAKER QUINN: Transportation.

CLERK: M 747, Mayor's veto of  
Intro 546-A.

SPEAKER QUINN: Transportation.

CLERK: Preconsidered M 748,  
submitting Shpetner to appointment to the  
Environmental Control Board.

SPEAKER QUINN: Rules, Privileges  
and Elections.

CLERK: M 749, submitting Phillips  
Aarons for appointment to the Art Commission.

SPEAKER QUINN: Rules, Privileges  
and Elections.

CLERK: M 750, submitting Maria  
Elena Gonzalez for appointment to the Art  
Commission.

SPEAKER QUINN: Rules, Privileges  
and Elections.

CLERK: M 751, Preliminary Mayor's  
Management Report.

SPEAKER QUINN: Received, ordered,  
printed and filed.

CLERK: M 752 through M 758,



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

various budget documents.

SPEAKER QUINN: Finance.

CLERK: M 759, City's debt and reserves.

SPEAKER QUINN: Receive, ordered, printed and filed.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:  
Communications from City, County and Borough Offices.

CLERK: M 760, New York City Housing and Vacancy survey.

SPEAKER QUINN: Housing and Buildings.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Petitions and communications.

CLERK: None.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Land Use Call-ups.

CLERK: M 761 through 767.

SPEAKER QUINN: If we could couple all of those and have a roll call on the coupled Land Use Call-ups please.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

CLERK: Arroyo?

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

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

CLERK: Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Consent to  
vote aye on all General Order calendar.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye on all.

CLERK: Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

CLERK: Cabrera?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

CLERK: Chin?

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

CLERK: Comrie?

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: [No  
response].

CLERK: Crowley?

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

CLERK: Dilan?

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.

CLERK: Dromm?

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

CLERK: Eugene?

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

CLERK: Ferreras?

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

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

CLERK: Fidler?

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: [No  
response].

CLERK: Foster?

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: I'd like to  
request consent to vote aye on all General Order  
Calendar matter please.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye on all.

CLERK: Garodnick?

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

CLERK: Gennaro?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes

CLERK: Gentile?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Yes.

CLERK: Greenfield?

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Yes.

CLERK: Halloran?

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Aye.

CLERK: Ignizio?

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

CLERK: Jackson?

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye.

1

2

CLERK: James?

3

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: [off mic].

4

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: I vote aye

6

on all.

7

CLERK: Koo?

8

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

9

CLERK: Koppell?

10

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

11

CLERK: Koslowitz?

12

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

13

CLERK: Lander?

14

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

15

CLERK: Lappin?

16

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: I vote aye

17

on the Land Use calendar and request permission to

18

vote on the General Order Calendar as well.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: In which I

21

vote aye on all, except for Intro 761-A, I

22

abstain.

23

CLERK: Levin?

24

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

25

CLERK: Mark-Viverito?

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.  
3 CLERK: Mealy?  
4 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.  
5 CLERK: Mendez?  
6 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.  
7 CLERK: Nelson?  
8 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.  
9 CLERK: Palma?  
10 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.  
11 CLERK: Recchia?  
12 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.  
13 CLERK: Reyna?  
14 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.  
15 CLERK: Rodriguez?  
16 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.  
17 CLERK: Rose?  
18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.  
19 CLERK: Sanders?  
20 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye.  
21 CLERK: Seabrook?  
22 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: [off  
23 mic].  
24 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.  
25 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Have

1  
2 permission to vote on all Land Use Call-ups and  
3 all General Calendar orders.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: I vote  
6 aye.

7 CLERK: Ulrich?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

9 CLERK: Vacca?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

11 CLERK: Vallone?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

13 CLERK: Van Bramer?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

15 CLERK: Vann?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

17 CLERK: Weprin?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: I'd like to  
19 vote aye and I also would like to seek unanimous  
20 consent on voting on the General Order Calendar at  
21 this time.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Thank you.  
24 I vote aye on all.

25 CLERK: Williams?

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

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

CLERK: Wills?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: I'd like to vote aye and have permission--all Land Use Call-ups and have permission to vote all General Calendar orders.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye.

CLERK: Oddo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

CLERK: Rivera?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

SPEAKER QUINN: Yes.

[Pause]

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All call-ups on today's Land Use calendar were adopted by a vote of 46 in the affirmative with zero in the negative and zero abstentions. Communication from the Speaker.

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. First, I want to thank the Finance staff and the Finance Chair for approving the Westchester BID in Council Member Jimmy Vacca's district. I want to thank,

1

2 again, Domenic Recchia for that. Could we get a  
3 little quiet?

4

I know this Westchester Square BID  
5 is something that Council Member Vacca feels  
6 strongly about. I want to call on Council Member  
7 Vacca to say a few words regarding the BID.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Thank you,  
9 Madame Speaker. This BID has been in the works  
10 now for five years and it represents the heart of  
11 the commercial district in my councilmatic  
12 district.

13

Westchester Square has a proud  
14 history. And because it's so perfectly situated,  
15 from a transportation point of view, with access  
16 to the entire East Bronx, we think that it's ready  
17 for a rebirth and that it is ready for the  
18 commercial type businesses that we had there in  
19 the past. This BID is the work of merchants.  
20 This BID is the work of a community that wants to  
21 see this happen.

22

I very much want to thank John  
23 Bonizio and Greg Perry very specifically for their  
24 hard work on making this become a reality. I want  
25 to thank Chairman Recchia and the members of this



1  
2 Council. We look forward to having this BID in  
3 place as we move forth on making Westchester  
4 Square once again the vibrant hub of the East  
5 Bronx and I thank all those from the Finance  
6 Committee and the staff for their assistance.

7 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
8 much. We are also voting today on Intro 698-A, a  
9 piece of legislation introduced by Council Member  
10 Margaret Chin and shepherded through the  
11 Government Operations Committee by Council Member  
12 Gale Brewer. I want to thank Seth Grossman and  
13 Alex Pustilnik for their work on 698-A, a bill  
14 which modernizes the notice requirements for  
15 public hearings on proposed rules.

16 Basically, this piece of  
17 legislation will expand the requirements under  
18 CAPA for how we notify people about hearings on  
19 rules and regulations, which is obviously, as  
20 demonstrated by our recent lawsuit filed against  
21 the Department of Homeless Services, following  
22 CAPA is an incredibly important thing to us in the  
23 Council, an important part of our legislation  
24 process and expanding notification beyond the City  
25 Record.

1  
2                   There are only about 300-400 New  
3 Yorkers not in government who get the City Record.  
4 Using social media, getting the word out there  
5 will help us make sure that more New Yorkers are  
6 aware of the process and we have more input from  
7 diverse New Yorkers. I want to thank Chair Brewer  
8 and Council Member Chin and first call on Chair  
9 Brewer and then Council Member Chin to discuss  
10 698-A.

11                   COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Well, I  
12 want to thank certainly--

13                   SPEAKER QUINN: [interposing] Can  
14 we get some quiet.

15                   COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: --thank  
16 Council Member Chin for initiating this as the  
17 proud author of many bills that offer  
18 transparency, this is just one more example. And  
19 I also want to thank Council Member Chin because,  
20 once again, she has a real life example, which  
21 she'll share with you as to why this bill came  
22 about. And I think that's why Council Member Chin  
23 is so wonderful representing her district, but  
24 it's another check in the world of transparency  
25 for the public. Thank you very much, Madame

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

Speaker.

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yes, I first wanted to thank Speaker Quinn and Chair Brewer for your support, and also the Mayor's Office for supporting this bill and all the committee staff and my staff that worked on this bill.

Last year, when we attended a hearing from DOT, it was on an issue about bus parking down at World Trade Center. It's such an issue that everyone was concerned about. We were getting calls from constituents. And when we went to the hearing, my staff told me that there was only a handful of people that showed up, because people didn't know about the hearing.

My question was: wasn't the hearing date posted on their website? No, because city agency was only required to post it in the City Record, a newspaper that costs about \$4, more than the New York Times, and only about 300 people in New York City subscribe to it. So we've got to get with the times and modernize of informing the public about hearings. And that's why this bill is so important. All the agency have to do is

1  
2 post a notice about their hearings on the website  
3 and connect it to the website about route changes  
4 so that people can get the information at hand.  
5 And everyone uses social media, so I think the  
6 city agency also need to do that so that we could  
7 get the word out to the public and get more people  
8 to get themselves involved and attend those  
9 hearings.

10 So I wanted to thank, again,  
11 Speaker Quinn and Chair Brewer for their support.  
12 I urge my colleagues to vote for it. Thank you.

13 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
14 much, Council Member Chin. We are also, in the  
15 effort of greater governmental transparency,  
16 passing Intro 29-A today, a piece of legislation  
17 introduced by Council Member Gale Brewer and  
18 passed through the Technology Committee, chaired  
19 by Council Member Cabrera. I want to thank Jeff  
20 Baker and Rob Newman and Laura Popa for their work  
21 on this bill.

22 This has been three years of work  
23 on the part of Council Member Brewer and many  
24 members of the staff. 29-A, when it passes into  
25 law, will be the most aggressive open data piece

1  
2 of legislation anywhere in the country. I think  
3 many of us are aware that there's a movement  
4 towards expanding government documents that are  
5 open to the public and expanding the degree to  
6 which that information is presented to the public  
7 in a form that is usable.

8           The point of this is to make sure  
9 that local legislative bodies, advocates, and  
10 members of the public have the ability to get  
11 data, to look at that data with the hope of  
12 finding out information in there that'll help us  
13 come up with legislation, policy, budget ideas  
14 that can address the problems and challenges that  
15 are plaguing New Yorkers on a daily basis.

16           Prior to the passage of 29-A, San  
17 Francisco had what would be considered the best  
18 open data bill. Once 29-A is passed, I think we  
19 clearly have left San Francisco in the dust yet  
20 again. This piece of legislation will be really  
21 the gold standard for open data.

22           I want to thank Council Member  
23 Brewer and the staff for their work. I also want  
24 to thank some of our good government advocates:  
25 Common Cause, Citizens Union, NYPIRG, there's

1  
2 Reinvent Albany and a few others that Gale will  
3 mention, but they've been terrific partners in  
4 this. Let me call first on Chair Cabrera and then  
5 Council Member Brewer.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you,  
7 Madame Speaker. I want to applaud Council Member  
8 Gale Brewer's leadership of this bill. Passage of  
9 Intro 29-A will mark an historic transition in the  
10 way our city is governed, by making raw data  
11 available to the public, having raw data  
12 accessible to anyone interested in analyzing it,  
13 will capitalize on the resourcefulness of our  
14 city's business and nonprofit communities as they  
15 will surely use the data in innovative ways that  
16 will ultimately make our city better. There will  
17 be no limit on the extent of versatile uses.

18 This bill will also have a profound  
19 effect on the city handling of FOIL requests,  
20 because it will reduce the personnel costs of  
21 handling them. This bill is about innovation,  
22 transparency and openness, and I am proud to stand  
23 by my colleague Council Member Gale Brewer.  
24 Congratulations.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you,

1  
2 Madame Speaker. Thank you, Chair Cabrera. I want  
3 to echo the Speaker's support of mentioning Jeff  
4 Baker and Rob Newman. I also want to mention the  
5 DoITT Commissioner Carole Post, who when she first  
6 came to DoITT as commissioner, testifying before  
7 the City Council, mentioned her interest in this  
8 topic. Certainly, Deputy Mayor Cas Holloway who  
9 is very tech savvy.

10 I want to mention the groups to  
11 thank them because over the last few years of  
12 shepherding this bill, we've had a technology  
13 posse that's also known as the New York City  
14 Transparency Working Group, which is a much better  
15 name. It includes NYPIRG and Citizens Union and  
16 Reinvent Albany, Common Cause, Civic Commons Open  
17 Pan. It's the first time that the good government  
18 groups have come together with the technology  
19 world.

20 I think there are a couple of  
21 aspects that are great on this. One is that not  
22 only will the data be available it will be in a  
23 format that people can work with and add their own  
24 information to. Second, it'll have a feedback  
25 mechanism so that the many people in the tech

1  
2 world and the good government and in the academic  
3 world and the press world can say what they're  
4 interested in, what works and doesn't work in  
5 terms of publishing the datasets.

6 Third, it will open up transparency  
7 in New York City, shining a light onto the data  
8 maintained by city agencies. Obviously, there is  
9 an app program that the Mayor has been successful  
10 with, but this will take it a great deal further.  
11 Exciting day for the tech development world and  
12 obviously exciting for good government advocates.

13 Finally, I want to thank Will  
14 Colgrove who's in our office now, Bruce Lai, who  
15 was involved with this bill from the very  
16 beginning in my office, is now working for a  
17 private tech company; Sam Wong, who is now the CIO  
18 for Treasury in Washington, DC; and Kunal  
19 Malhotra, who is in law school, focusing on  
20 technology. Look at all the things 29-A has done.

21 Thank you very much, Madame  
22 Speaker.

23 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
24 much, Council Member Brewer. Let me also thank  
25 the folks in Transportation for their work on



1  
2 Preconsidered Intro 790, particularly Council  
3 Member Garodnick and Council Member Vacca. Also,  
4 thank the Majority Leader Rivera and his staff for  
5 the three appointments that went through Rules,  
6 Privileges and Elections. That concludes  
7 communications from the Speaker.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you,  
9 Madame Speaker. We move on to Discussion of  
10 General Orders. Seeing none, we'll move on to  
11 report of special committees.

12 CLERK: None.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Reports of  
14 standing committees.

15 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
16 Finance, Intro 644, Westchester Square BID.

17 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
18 Orders.

19 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
20 Governmental Operations, Intro 698-A, notice  
21 requirements for public hearings.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled  
23 on General Orders.

24 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
25 Land Use, LU 499 and Reso 1237 UDAAP Brooklyn.

1

2 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
3 Orders.

4

CLERK: LU 557 and Reso 1238,  
5 sidewalk café.

6

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled to be  
7 filed, pursuant to a letter of withdrawal. Whose  
8 ever phone that is, if you can turn it off?

9

CLERK: LU 558 and Reso 1239,  
10 sidewalk café.

11

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
12 Orders.

13

CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
14 Parks and Recreation, Intro 761-A, naming of 32  
15 thoroughfares and public places.

16

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled  
17 on General Orders.

18

CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
19 Rules, Privileges and Elections, M 741 and Reso  
20 1240, approving the appointment of Erika Thomas-  
21 Yuille, Conflicts of Interest Board.

22

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
23 Orders.

24

CLERK: Preconsidered M 748 and  
25 Reso 1241, approving the appointment of Thomas D.

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

Shpetner, Environmental Control Board.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CLERK: Preconsidered M 768 and Reso 1242, approving the re-designation of Bishop Mitchell G. Taylor, Civilian Complaint Review Board.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Technology, Intro 29-A, publishing open data.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on General Orders.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Transportation, Preconsidered Intro 790.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: General Order Calendar.

CLERK: Resolution appointing various persons Commissioner of Deeds.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders. And at this point I'd like to ask for a roll call on all matters that have been coupled on

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

the General Order Calendar please.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

CLERK: Arroyo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

CLERK: Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: [off mic]

Aye, and I'd like to also say thank you for--

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye on all.

I'd also like to thank Nick Sbordone from DoITT  
for his efforts on 29-A. Thank you.

CLERK: Cabrera?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: [No  
response].

CLERK: Chin?

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye on all.

CLERK: Comrie?

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: [off mic]

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye on all.

CLERK: Crowley?

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Yes.

CLERK: Dilan?

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye on all.

CLERK: Dromm?

1

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

2

3

CLERK: Eugene?

4

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

5

CLERK: Ferreras?

6

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye on

7

all.

8

CLERK: Garodnick?

9

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

10

CLERK: Gennaro?

11

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: [No

12

response].

13

CLERK: Gentile?

14

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Yes.

15

CLERK: Greenfield?

16

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

17

CLERK: Halloran?

18

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN:

19

Permission to explain my vote.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Mr.

22

Chair, I would like to point out that in Intro

23

761-A, one of the streets that we are renaming is

24

for Lieutenant Peter J. Farrenkopf of the New York

25

City Fire Department. He is the first member of

1  
2 the Fire Department to have died from post-9/11  
3 related illnesses. I was very honored to join  
4 Council Member Levin and others who recognized the  
5 failings in the Zadroga Act to address cancer and  
6 other related 9/11 injuries and illnesses. I  
7 would just like to say that it's wonderful to know  
8 that across the aisle everyone is pushing for the  
9 brave men and women who rushed in when everyone  
10 rushed out. So I'd just like to salute the  
11 Farrenkopf family, constituents of my district,  
12 who lost someone after 9/11 to injuries sustained  
13 at 9/11. So we shouldn't forget that our heroes  
14 are still to this day dying for the service they  
15 gave this great city. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
16 Aye on all.

17 CLERK: Ignizio?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

19 CLERK: Jackson?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on

21 all.

22 CLERK: Koo?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye on all.

24 CLERK: Koppell?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

1

CLERK: Koslowitz?

2

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

3

CLERK: Lander?

4

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [off mic]

5

Aye on all.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: --

7

Environmental Control Board who is a constituent and also I gratefully call attention to the fact that one of the streets we're co-naming today is 13th Avenue that Council Member Greenfield and I are sponsoring in honor of Raoul Wallenberg, a real hero of humanity. Aye on all. Thank you.

8

9

10

11

12

13

CLERK: Levin?

14

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: [off mic]

15

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I vote aye

17

on all. And with regard to Intro 761-A, I want to acknowledge Alain Schaberger Way in the Borough of Brooklyn in my district. Alain Schaberger was a New York City police officer who last year lost his life while responding to a domestic violence dispute. The 84th Precinct where he served for a number of years greatly misses him as does the entire community. I also want to acknowledge

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1  
2 Sergeant Nicholas Aleman Way, in the Greenpoint  
3 section of Brooklyn. Sergeant Aleman, United  
4 States Marine, was killed in Afghanistan in  
5 service of protecting our country. Our city is a  
6 lesser city for the loss of these two great  
7 individuals and this is a fitting acknowledgement  
8 of their service to the city and to this country.  
9 Thank you.

10 CLERK: Mark-Viverito?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

12 CLERK: Mealy?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: [No  
14 response].

15 CLERK: Mendez?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

17 CLERK: Nelson?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.

19 CLERK: Palma?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

21 CLERK: Recchia?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye on  
23 all.

24 CLERK: Reyna?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye on all.



1

CLERK: Rodriguez?

2

3

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye on

4

all.

5

CLERK: Rose?

6

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

7

CLERK: Sanders?

8

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: [off mic]

9

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: I vote aye

11

on those and I vote aye on all.

12

CLERK: Ulrich?

13

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

14

CLERK: Vacca?

15

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

16

CLERK: Vallone?

17

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

18

CLERK: Van Bramer?

19

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: [off

20

mic] Permission to explain my vote.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

22

SPEAKER QUINN: You need a mic.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank

24

you very much. I vote aye on all. And I wanted

25

to just recognize that today we are voting for

1  
2 Bishop Mitchell Taylor back onto the CCRB Board.  
3 He's a constituent of mine and a pastor at the  
4 Center of Hope International Church and the CEO  
5 and Founder of ERDA, the East River Development  
6 Alliance. He does amazing work in the community  
7 and I'm proud to support him.

8 We're also, however, voting today  
9 to rename the street outside of Center of Hope  
10 International in favor of Bishop Taylor's father,  
11 Bishop Moses Taylor. So today, we are voting for  
12 both Bishop Mitchell Taylor and we are renaming  
13 the street in front of that church in honor of  
14 Bishop Taylor's father, Bishop Moses Taylor, who  
15 founded the Center of Hope International 50 years  
16 ago this year.

17 Then I just want to say one word  
18 about Police Officer Kevin Czartoryski. We're  
19 also voting today to rename a street in Council  
20 Member Crowley's district in honor of Kevin. He  
21 was a friend and a great police officer. He was a  
22 gay man who did amazing work with the Hate Crimes  
23 Task Force. And after the Towers fell on 9/11, he  
24 rushed to the pits and he got very, very sick with  
25 multiple cancers. He was a really, really fun

1  
2 guy. His sister, Diane Ballek lives in my  
3 district and is president of the 108th Precinct  
4 Community Council. We miss Kevin. We love him  
5 and today we honor his life. Thank you.

6 CLERK: Vann?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: May I explain  
8 my vote?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Among the  
11 many co-namings in this bill there is a Charles C.  
12 Pinn Triangle which is Bed-Stuy in Brooklyn. This  
13 young man left us at a very, very early age, a  
14 young man. He was a former employee of mine. His  
15 family and I and my family were family friends.  
16 His father was chairman of Brooklyn Corps back in  
17 the day and remained very involved in the  
18 community still, likewise, his mother C. Doris  
19 Pinn, very, very active person within our  
20 community. So I wanted to make note of the fact  
21 that this is a young man who was a community  
22 organizer to the highest order, left us all too  
23 soon. He comes from a family of service and I  
24 just want to acknowledge that. I vote aye on all.

25 CLERK: Williams?

1

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

2

3

CLERK: Oddo?

4

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

5

CLERK: Rivera?

6

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye

7

on all.

8

CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

9

SPEAKER QUINN: [No response].

10

[Pause]

11

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All items

12

of today's General Order Calendar were adopted by

13

a vote of 48 in the affirmative with zero in the

14

negative and zero abstentions, with the exception

15

of Intro 761-A, which was adopted by a vote of 47

16

in the affirmative, zero in the negative and one

17

abstentions; and the revised Land Use Call-ups

18

were adopted by a vote of 48 in the affirmative

19

with zero in the negative. Introduction and

20

reading of the bills.

21

SPEAKER QUINN: All bills are

22

referred to committees as indicated on the agenda.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Discussion

24

of resolutions. We'll first move on to Council

25

Member Eugene, who will speak on Resolution 1096-

1  
2 A. All looking to speak on 1096-A, raise your  
3 hand at this moment. Council Member Eugene?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you  
5 very much. First and foremost, let me thank  
6 Speaker Quinn for her leadership, recognizing the  
7 importance of this issue and also the impact that  
8 this legislation will have on many Haitian  
9 families living in New York City. And I want to  
10 take the opportunity also to thank my colleague  
11 and Chairman Dromm, you know for his leadership  
12 also, and all my colleagues from the Immigration  
13 Committee and all my colleagues from the City  
14 Council for your support.

15 We all know that on January 12,  
16 2010, Haiti was struck by a horrific earthquake  
17 and that the devastation was of epic proportion.  
18 We are more than two years after the horrific  
19 tragedy. The situation in Haiti is still  
20 critical. The life of people in Haiti is still  
21 difficult. As we speak, there are people who are  
22 still in tents and need of basic necessities.  
23 Those people, those Haitian people, they are  
24 suffering. But I'm talking about people who have  
25 applied way before the tragedy. They applied for

1  
2 the visa to come to the United States. And their  
3 visa application have been approved by the  
4 Immigration Services.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Council  
6 Member?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: They are  
8 waiting for be approved to come to the United  
9 States. What we are asking, we are asking--

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:  
11 [interposing] Council Member, we need to--

12 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: --that the  
13 Homeland Security allow them to come to the United  
14 States to wait for their visa as they did it for  
15 the Cuban. And I'm urging my colleagues to vote  
16 yes on this resolution. Thank you very much.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
18 very much, Council Member. Council Member  
19 Jackson?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you,  
21 my colleagues. I'm rising to support this  
22 resolution on the Haitian Family Unification  
23 Parole Program. I stood with Dr. Mathieu Eugene  
24 and other members of the City Council, clergy from  
25 different denominations, basically urging our

1  
2 President Barack Obama in order to allow the  
3 Haitians that are in camps right now in Haiti,  
4 some of them are starving, some of them are dying,  
5 they are sick. And these are individuals that  
6 have been approved and based on their family's  
7 petition to have them to come into this country.  
8 And the bottom line is this: we are wasting time.  
9 They have been approved. What are we waiting for?  
10 The time is now. If not, people are getting sick,  
11 people are dying. Their families are here in  
12 order to support them. We're asking all of our  
13 colleagues to support this resolution asking our  
14 president to move on this particular item and not  
15 delay. The more you delay, the more people are  
16 getting sick and dying. Thank you.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
18 very much, Council Member. Council Member  
19 Williams?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank  
21 you. I'm also rising to stand with my colleague  
22 Council Member Eugene, who also happens to be the  
23 first Haitian American elected--Haitian actually  
24 elected to the City Council. Between him and I we  
25 share a Haitian constituency that's the largest

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

outside of Haiti and possibly Florida.

The bill is a good bill. It's frustrating that this is something they have to fight for. It's something that other people have and I believe the Haitian community needs it more than anyone else that I could think of at this moment in time.

They should be able to spend time and fighting for resources that were promised to them and never given, they should be spending time to ask Americans and Obama to follow up on a lot of promises and promises around the world. The red carpet that was laid out when the earthquake hit, people came and took pictures, and we're still waiting for them to follow up with the promises. The people living in shanty towns, I don't believe any other country would be allowed to languish the way it's being allowed to languish today.

This bill is very important but it shouldn't be what they have to ask for, it should be something that is automatically given, and we need more. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you



1  
2 very much, Council Member. Council Member  
3 Greenfield?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank  
5 you. I just also wanted to speak out today in  
6 support of Council Member Eugene's resolution.  
7 Just to echo what my colleague Council Member  
8 Williams was saying, it's really incredible as we  
9 look a couple of years later at the difference  
10 between talk versus action. There was a lot of  
11 talk. Now is the time for action. It's time to  
12 actually create this Haitian Family Reunification  
13 Parole Program and to make a difference for the  
14 lives of many people in Haiti. Thank you very  
15 much.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
17 very much. Seeing no others on Reso 1096-A, we  
18 will--Council Member Rodriguez?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I would  
20 like to speak on support of my colleague Eugene.  
21 This is an important resolution that will allow  
22 more 14,000 Haitians to be reunified with their  
23 family. I believe it the right thing to do and I  
24 hope that passing this resolution we will send an  
25 official support--we will send an official to

1  
2 President Obama and the White House that we need  
3 to move quickly on this. Thank you.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
5 very much. Seeing no others, we will now take a  
6 vote on Resolution 1096-A. Resolution calling  
7 upon the Department of Homeland Security to create  
8 a Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program  
9 which would benefit the Haitians recovering from  
10 the January 12, 2010 earthquake by allowing  
11 Haitians with approved family sponsored immigrant  
12 visa petitions to come to the United States. All  
13 in favor, say aye.

14 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All opposed  
16 say any. Any abstentions? The ayes have it.  
17 Resolution 1096-A passes. We will now move on to  
18 Resolution 94-A. Anyone interested in speaking on  
19 this issue? Council Member Vallone?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: I speak in  
21 opposition to this. This particular bill that  
22 this resolution is supporting is a prescription  
23 for disaster. Unlike other states, the New York  
24 bill does not require a prescription from a doctor  
25 for marijuana, nor does it define the diseases

1

2 that are covered, and it does not limit the amount  
3 or the location of marijuana dispensaries. That  
4 means that they can and will be opening up right  
5 next to our schools. And you don't have to take  
6 my word for it, that's exactly what happened in  
7 California and other places where this type of  
8 bill has been tried. It's been a failure.

9 So, as I said, this bill, this  
10 particular bill is way too broad and will actually  
11 lead just to the legalization of marijuana. If  
12 you're going to support a bill, it should be much  
13 more specific and tailored than this one, and I'm  
14 going to vote no.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
16 very much. We now have Council Member Dromm.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you  
18 very much. The passage of Resolution 94 will send  
19 a powerful message to Albany that our city and our  
20 state are ready to join 16 states and the District  
21 of Columbia in legalizing medical marijuana. It's  
22 time for the New York State Legislature to catch  
23 up with what a majority of New Yorkers already  
24 know: that it's wrong to deny this palliative  
25 measure to patients who so desperately need it.

1  
2                   Medical studies have shown the  
3 effectiveness in marijuana in treating a wide  
4 range of conditions, including glaucoma, loss of  
5 appetite and cancer treatment. Passing medical  
6 marijuana legislation means that these patients  
7 will no longer be criminalized by the state for  
8 seeking relief from crippling pain and other  
9 debilitating symptoms.

10                   Resolution 94 is about valuing true  
11 compassion over rigid bureaucracy. It is about  
12 prioritizing the health of our community members  
13 over the federal war on drugs. I hope this  
14 resolution will not only push state legislators to  
15 act on medical marijuana but will also move along  
16 the larger discussion about the drug policy and  
17 enforcement in New York City.

18                   I want to thank all of my  
19 colleagues who signed on as co-sponsors--

20                   COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:

21 [interposing] Council Member?

22                   COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: --with  
23 special thanks to Council Member Oliver Koppell,  
24 and I also want acknowledge Jamin Sewell, counsel  
25 from Council Member Koppell for his efforts.

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

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you very much. We'll now move on to Council Member Koppell.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Just briefly, while New York likes being in the lead on matters of social, policy and certainly health measures, we're not in the lead on the use of medical marijuana, 16 states are ahead of us. I have not heard or seen any reports, and we had hearings on this, of any significant adverse consequences in those states.

Many years ago, we decriminalized small amounts of marijuana. People who have that for personal use are no longer subject to criminal penalties, although there is a fine. But the fact of the matter is that marijuana is far less harmful, even for healthy people, than many, many, many other substances that people can take legally. And the bill, contrary to what one of my colleagues said, the bill is tailored only for people who use marijuana for medicinal purposes. It is not intended nor will it permit general distribution of marijuana, whatever your view on

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

that subject.

The fact is that thousands and thousands of people--

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:

[interposing] Council Member?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: --benefit from the use of marijuana in serious, critical conditions, people who are dying, people who are seriously afflicted--

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:

[interposing] Council Member?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: --and the fact is we should have permitted this years ago. I'm delighted we're passing the resolution. I hope Albany will act.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you very much. Council Member Levin, followed by Council Member Sanders.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you very much. I just wanted to voice my support for Resolution 94-A. I think that the medical evidence is overwhelming. And again, 16 states in our country have already taken this step. It's been well known for decades at this point that the

1

2 use of marijuana for medical purposes has positive  
3 benefits for those suffering from glaucoma, those  
4 under treatment for chemotherapy and other serious  
5 medical conditions, that there are no other  
6 substances that are as effective in certain  
7 treatments.

8                   And just on a personal note, I'd  
9 like to say that I know individuals suffering from  
10 cancer, I know individuals that are using  
11 chemotherapy and being treated by chemotherapy,  
12 and I know individuals doing so that use medical  
13 marijuana and that it is, according to them, the  
14 only substance that is able to get them through  
15 that difficult position.

16                   COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Council  
17 Member?

18                   COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: So I just  
19 want to acknowledge that publicly. Thank you.

20                   COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
21 very much. Council Member Sanders, followed by  
22 Council Member Jackson.

23                   COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: I just  
24 want to add my voice in support of Resolution 94-  
25 A. But at the same time, it does not take away

1  
2 from us to hear what my colleague Council Member  
3 Vallone has said. We need to also send to the  
4 state further restrictions, suggestions that we  
5 should do, to make sure that this is not done near  
6 schools or churches or anyplace that we hold  
7 sacred, to make sure that it is in an area that it  
8 can be controlled.

9 Yes, the studies are in. It will  
10 do more good than harm, far more good than harm.  
11 We should have done this long ago, but we should  
12 do it in a thinking rational manner, as advocated  
13 by Council Member Vallone. Thank you.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
15 very much. Council Member Jackson, followed by  
16 Council Member Brewer.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you.  
18 My colleagues, let me just say that I have had  
19 individuals that are in need of marijuana  
20 regarding their medical conditions come to me and  
21 ask me personally as a member of the City Council  
22 to please support the medical use of marijuana.

23 We're not talking about smoking a  
24 joint to get high. We're talking about  
25 individuals that need it. And in fact, if you



1

2 need medication yourself, you know that you will  
3 travel wherever you have to go to get it. They  
4 should not be criminalized if in fact they have  
5 marijuana right now, which is illegal, in their  
6 possession, in order to treat an illness. Put  
7 yourself in their situation, what would you do in  
8 order to get relief?

9                   So I ask you, on behalf of all of  
10 those tens of thousands of people, probably more  
11 than that in New York City, to support this  
12 resolution. It's the right thing to do. Thank  
13 you.

14                   COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
15 very much. Next we have Council Member Brewer.

16                   COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you  
17 very much. I want to join those supporting 94-A.  
18 Thank Council Member Dromm for bringing it to our  
19 attention; the hearings in the Mental Health  
20 Committee were excellent. There were long,  
21 comprehensive and full of information.

22                   I want to join those who know  
23 people who use it, obviously illegally now. It is  
24 the only medicine that is calming and keeps the  
25 pain away. And I think that not only should we be

1  
2 joining the 16 states, but it should be a national  
3 effort. It's also something that is revenue  
4 producing, ironically, for the state and it's  
5 another aspect, good for getting rid of pain and  
6 good for revenue and really does save people's  
7 lives as they go through any kind of treatment, be  
8 it HIV/AIDS, cancer or anything else. Thank you  
9 very much.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
11 very much. Seeing no others on this topic, we'll  
12 move on. We'll take a vote on this resolution.  
13 Resolution calling upon the New York State  
14 Legislature to pass A 7347-Senate 2771 legislation  
15 that would legalize the medical medicinal use of  
16 marijuana, amended and adopted by the Committee on  
17 Mental Health, Mental Retardation, Alcoholism,  
18 Drug Abuse and Disability Services. All in favor  
19 say aye.

20 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All opposed  
22 say any. Any abstentions? The ayes have it; the  
23 resolution passes.

24 We'll now move on to Resolution  
25 1193-A. First to speak on this is Council Member

1

2 Rodriguez, followed by Council Member Jackson.

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I is calling on your support on this Resolution 1193-A, which is a resolution supporting the Corporation Counsel's decision to join an amicus brief on behalf of the New York City in support of the plaintiff in the litigation captioned the United States of America versus the State of Arizona, which is basically fighting--giving the power for the city to join this case against the anti-immigrant law of Arizona that give the power to the police department there to stop anyone and asking for green card, also to stop anyone who is suspect to be undocumented. So I am calling for your support on this resolution.

17

18

19

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you very much. Council Member Jackson, followed by Council Member Halloran.

20

21

22

23

24

25

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: My colleges, I rise in order to support Resolution 1193-A. As an individual that was born and raised in this country, as the co-chair of the Black, Latino and Asian Caucus, and as you know, the Black, Latino and Asian Caucus, there are 27

1  
2 members of us. We understand that this--and I  
3 speak on behalf of myself--this resolution to  
4 support this is basically wants to stop the  
5 profiling that's taking place.

6 In fact, I thought for a minute  
7 myself and I said look at the profiling that's  
8 taking place right now with the stop-and-frisk.  
9 Over approximately 700,000 people have been  
10 stopped and frisked in New York City, and about 94  
11 percent of them, nothing has been found  
12 whatsoever. In my personal opinion, many of those  
13 stops and frisks were profiling of individuals.  
14 We want to stop profiling of people that are in  
15 our country. So this is standing up for freedom  
16 and rights for people to walk without being  
17 racially or ethnically or religiously profiled.  
18 Profiling is divisive and that will ruin our  
19 country. This is the United States of America and  
20 we are strong and powerful and we should not have  
21 to profile anyone. Thank you.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
23 very much, Council Member. Council Member  
24 Halloran, follow by Council Member Williams.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: I rise in

1  
2 opposition to this resolution. This body not two  
3 months passed a resolution that I joined in, a  
4 bill that I joined in preventing our police  
5 department from sharing information with  
6 Immigration and Naturalization Services, because  
7 we felt it was necessary for the local government  
8 to make a stand and to do things based on our  
9 understanding of what was necessary to protect our  
10 citizens. It is incredibly hypocritical of us to  
11 now attack the State of Arizona, which has  
12 separate problems that we are not privy to. A  
13 separate sovereign state that is doing what it  
14 needs to do on the local level to combat a problem  
15 that their facing.

16 I support comprehensive immigration  
17 reform. I think our country has to acknowledge  
18 that there are millions of people in this country  
19 right now who deserve recognition. Not necessary  
20 citizenship, but recognition, who can contribute  
21 to the future of this great nation, which is an  
22 immigrant nation. However, it is not the role of  
23 this body to spend money and resources of this  
24 city to deal with the immigration issues of the  
25 sovereign state of Arizona when we ourselves

1  
2 passed a law to prevent the police department from  
3 doing what we're alleging in a sense Arizona has  
4 done. Thank you.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
6 very much. We move on to Council Member Williams.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank  
8 you. I agree that we do need comprehensive  
9 immigration reform. I think that will solve a lot  
10 of this problem. But I do think it is our place  
11 and our duty to point out injustice anywhere,  
12 wherever it is, even if it's local or not. I  
13 think if there's injustice anywhere that means  
14 there's injustice everywhere. This type of  
15 profiling for immigrants that benefit this country  
16 in a way that this country refuses to admit is a  
17 problem and I'm very happy to support this bill.  
18 Thank you.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
20 very much. Seeing no others to speak on this  
21 Reso, we'll now take a vote on Resolution 1193-A.  
22 Resolution supporting the Corporation Counsel's  
23 decision to join in amicus brief on behalf of New  
24 York City in support of plaintiff appellant in the  
25 litigation captioned the United States of America

1  
2 versus the State of Arizona, case CV 10-1413-  
3 PHXSRB, which is currently pending before the  
4 United States Supreme Court, amended and adopted  
5 by the Committee on Immigration. All in favor say  
6 aye.

7 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All opposed  
9 say nay.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Any  
11 abstentions? The ayes have it. We'll now move on  
12 to general discussion. We have Council Member  
13 Jackson, followed by Council Member Garodnick.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you.  
15 My colleagues, I rise again from an informational  
16 point of view. If you don't know, tomorrow  
17 morning at 10:00 a.m. on the 16th Floor hearing  
18 room, there will be a joint hearing with Education  
19 and Finance on the issue of Medicaid claims for  
20 special education related services by the  
21 Department of Education.

22 This is a very serious hearing  
23 process in which the fact, the whole issue is we  
24 are losing out on hundreds, hundreds of millions  
25 of dollars that the Department of Education has

1  
2 not claimed for over the years. And at the times  
3 where we are cutting back on funding for  
4 community-based organizations, after school  
5 programs, closing of firehouses, we as the City of  
6 New York cannot afford to not file claims that are  
7 normal process and lose, over the course of  
8 several years, hundreds of millions of dollars.

9 So I ask you to join our colleague  
10 Domenic Recchia, the chair of Finance, Speaker  
11 Quinn and myself tomorrow morning at 10:00 a.m. at  
12 this very, very important hearing on the 16th  
13 Floor hearing room. Thank you very much.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
15 very much. Council Member Garodnick, followed by  
16 Council Member Viverito.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank  
18 you very much. Last year, the Consumer Affairs  
19 Committee held an oversight hearing on business  
20 practices of used car dealers and determined that  
21 we need further strengthening of the law governing  
22 that industry. Dealers frequently violate the  
23 used car buyer's rights and contract terms and  
24 consumers aren't always reimbursed, even after a  
25 judgment is made ordering a dealer to pay



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

restitution.

Today, I'm introducing a bill that would demand greater used car dealer accountability and another that would make dealer record inspections more efficient. Intro 788 would require used car dealers to furnish a surety bond, which would provide a mechanism to help ensure that consumers are paid restitution to which they're entitled, even if a used car dealer closes shop before meeting all of his or her financial obligations for that consumer.

To bring used car dealer record keeping into the 21st century and to allow city agency inspectors to move more efficiently to identify fraudulent business practices, Intro 787 would require a used car dealer to maintain in electronic form a record of all used car sales and purchases.

We're going to be holding a hearing tomorrow in the Consumer Affairs Committee on these two bills, along with a model contract bill and a buyers' rights disclosure bill that were introduced last year.

A third bill that I'm introducing

1  
2 today, Intro 789, would prohibit general and food  
3 vendors from vending on sidewalks abutting no  
4 standing zones around hospitals. No standing  
5 zones are intended to keep curbside spaces free of  
6 obstructions. However, carts and tables located  
7 on sidewalks abutting those spaces create  
8 obstructions for anyone trying to exit or enter a  
9 motor vehicle, and those are frequently sick and  
10 elderly people.

11 So I encourage my colleagues to  
12 take a look at Intro 789 and we hope you will join  
13 us at the Consumer Affairs Committee hearing  
14 tomorrow. Thank you.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
16 very much. Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito,  
17 followed by Council Member Nelson.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:  
19 Thank you. I rise today to speak about the  
20 affront to the reproductive rights of women taking  
21 place in Virginia and other parts of our nation.  
22 In Virginia, the Republican-led legislature and  
23 the governor, Robert McDonnell, are putting Roe v.  
24 Wade on trial almost 40 years after the fact.

25 Rather than recognize a woman's

1  
2 constitutional right to make fundamental choices  
3 about their reproductive health without government  
4 interference, Virginia conservatives intend to  
5 intrude into what many women regard as their most  
6 personal, private and sacred space. I mean this  
7 quite literally.

8 Had Governor McDonnell not exerted  
9 the most basic form of common sense last week and  
10 asked the legislature to amend SB484, misleading  
11 called Informed Consent Abortion Legislation, but  
12 what many have called state-sponsored rape  
13 legislation, women who had already made the  
14 difficult decision to terminate a pregnancy would  
15 have needed to have a probe inserted into their  
16 vagina before the abortion could be carried out.

17 These Virginia Republicans believe  
18 that their religious priorities should be  
19 substituted for every woman's constitutional and  
20 fundamental human right to govern her person as  
21 she sees fit. Adding insult to injury, these  
22 representatives of the people also determined that  
23 women should be forced to pay out of pocket for  
24 the state-mandated invasive procedure.

25 The situation in Virginia is so

1  
2 absurd that it would be laughable if the stakes  
3 were not so high. This conservative legislature  
4 and others like in Alabama and Arkansas are taking  
5 drastic steps to repeal women's rights.

6 Virginia will continue to pursue  
7 this bill in amended form, no longer mandated a  
8 vaginal probe but still requiring a noninvasive  
9 ultrasound, again to be paid for by the woman  
10 because insurance companies do not consider the  
11 ultrasound medically necessary.

12 Pursuing laws that attack women and  
13 the poor simultaneously and will have a  
14 disproportionate impact on minorities to be sure  
15 is deplorable. That is why I want to recognize  
16 Virginia House Delegate Charniele Herring in  
17 particular and her Democratic colleagues for  
18 speaking out against these horrendous measures.  
19 And I join hands with women everywhere who are  
20 saying "my body, my choice, hands off."

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
22 very much. Council Member Nelson, followed by  
23 Council Member Sanders.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Thank you.  
25 I'm addressing all of you in reference

1  
2 Preconsidered Reso 1232. I thank Speaker Quinn  
3 and my fellow Council Members. I'm pleased to  
4 have the opportunity to let you know that we  
5 should enact this legislation, or the state  
6 should. It will help us in the battle against  
7 drug abuse. This legislation is called I-STOP,  
8 which is Internet System for Tracking Over-  
9 Prescribing Act. It would lead to the creation of  
10 real time online database that would record and  
11 track the dispensing of certain addictive  
12 prescription drugs.

13                   Prescription drug abuse is the  
14 nation's fastest growing drug problem and  
15 prescription drug overdose is the second leading  
16 cause of accidental death in the United States.  
17 Unfortunately, the current controlled substance  
18 laws no longer provide a complete safeguard  
19 against prescription drug abuse, which the Centers  
20 for Disease Control and Prevention has classified  
21 as an epidemic. There is a real time information  
22 gap between medical practitioners and pharmacists  
23 that allow abuses to escape existing regulations.

24                   The I-STOP resolution, when enacted  
25 into law by New York State, will implement

1  
2 prescription drug monitoring programs that will  
3 effectively fight prescription drug abuse. New  
4 York's proposed monitoring program would utilize  
5 the internet to effectively detect multiple  
6 prescriptions issued to individuals engaged in  
7 doctor shopping, which as we know is visiting  
8 several doctors and pharmacies for prescription  
9 drugs as well as other illegal acts of diversion  
10 from people who originally received the  
11 prescription for a legitimate purpose.

12           The latest national survey on drug  
13 use in health has found that 70 percent of people  
14 abusing prescription drug pain relievers are  
15 received from friends or relatives. I therefore  
16 urge your enthusiastic support for this most  
17 important legislation. Thank you.

18           COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
19 very much. We now move on to Council Member  
20 Sanders, followed by Council Member Williams.

21           COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Thank you.  
22 Thank the Speaker. I rise to speak about  
23 Resolution 1233 and ask for your joining me on  
24 this one. There are wonders of technology that we  
25 have this day and age and one benefit is that it

1

2 makes things faster, but if we don't watch it, it  
3 can lead us amuck.

4 In this great recession that we  
5 find ourselves in, with so many of our neighbors  
6 unemployed, technology has been used in a very  
7 positive way. Now they get a card and they can go  
8 to a bank and as a debit card and they can  
9 withdraw their unemployment that the state gives  
10 them. But technology has also led to an insult to  
11 injury, where every time that our unemployed  
12 neighbors are going to the bank, they are actually  
13 being charged up to \$3 to use this money.

14 So under these conditions, my  
15 friends, if a person uses their card ten times,  
16 that's 30 hard earned dollars that they don't have  
17 while they are unemployed. We who sit in the  
18 people's house have to look out for the people. I  
19 ask all of us to join in this just common sense  
20 resolution. We call upon the state to stop  
21 charging, stop taking these fees from our worthy  
22 citizens as so many other states have done. They  
23 don't do this. And therefore, we can show that  
24 just a little bit that we care about our neighbors  
25 who are unemployed as we fight this great

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

recession. Thank you very much.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you very much. Next we move on to Council Member Williams, followed by Council Member Koppell.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you. I'd like to direct my colleagues' attention to five pieces of legislation based on police accountability. Three in particular I'd like to speak about. Intro 800 is based on profiling. What we're trying to do is strengthen the law that already exists. Right now it says that police have to be intentionally profiling in order to be against the law. We'd like to add that even if it is not intentional but it has the effect of profiling that it's also against the law. In addition, we put some extra categories in there for profiling, like sexual orientation and HIV/AIDS.

On Intro 799, basically right now a lot of police searches use what's called implied consent. Someone does not object, it's said they have implied to allow the search to occur. We want to change that so that express consent must be given and the people understand that they do



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

have the authority to say no to the searches.

          Last but not least: Intro 801, which basically is saying that police officers should give business cards, for lack of a better word, identifying: who they are, their badge number, the precinct they belong to and their rank. It's just the information that would be given on a uniform anyway. This is not for police that are undercover or would otherwise jeopardize something that's going on with a police department. What it's to do is prevent the tension that sometimes occurs when someone is trying to get this information.

          These bills together, and I'm thankful for CPR and all the colleagues that came and joined me at the press conference today. We are trying to get to the issue of police accountability, particular around issues like stop-and-frisk that we believe are harming our communities. We are all for better policing and safer streets, not anti NYPD.

          And I just want to make sure that everybody understands the people who are supporting these bills and these initiatives are

1  
2 generally the same people where a lot of the  
3 shootings are happening in. We do not want the  
4 shootings. We also want better policing. So  
5 thank you for that and I hope you all join me.  
6 Thank you.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
8 very much. We now move on to Council Member  
9 Koppell, followed by Council Member Levin.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Mr.  
11 Majority Leader, I didn't realize that the Speaker  
12 was going to recognize Jerry Koenig. I couldn't  
13 leave today without just saying Jerry was a  
14 marvelous legislative assistant, someone who spent  
15 his whole life devoted to the proper  
16 administration of the Election Law and the  
17 improvement of the Election Law, which is of  
18 course important to all of us here as elected  
19 officials. He was also an active citizen, as Gale  
20 Brewer said. He was a very good friend to me and  
21 worked closely with me for many years in Albany.

22 It's just interesting to note that  
23 he had people who came to get his advice from  
24 every end of the political spectrum. I think it  
25 was mentioned at his funeral that Mayor Bloomberg,

1  
2 even as a Republican, went to Jerry Koenig to make  
3 sure that he did his petitions right. Jerry  
4 Koenig will be sorely missed in the political  
5 world and in the civic world of New York.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
7 very much. Council Member Levin, followed by  
8 Council Member Vann.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you.  
10 I just want to ask my colleagues to sign on to  
11 three resolutions. Resolution 1227 that I am  
12 introducing today that will call on the New York  
13 City Department of Education to phase out and  
14 eliminate the use of polystyrene food trays within  
15 two years to the use of biodegradable food trays  
16 or biodegradable containers instead. This is an  
17 important message to be imparting to our young  
18 people, that is to be environmentally conscious  
19 and to be aware of how we impact our earth.

20 Resolution 1228 is calling on the  
21 MTA to investigate how the New York City Police  
22 Department is enforcing Section 1050.7j, which is  
23 the MTA rules of conduct, regarding disorderly  
24 conduct on the subway. After it came to our  
25 attention that individuals throughout New York

1  
2 City have been getting arrested and taken into  
3 Central Booking because they've been putting their  
4 feet up on the subway in the middle of the night.  
5 Obviously this is a practice that is not something  
6 that we find ideal in New York City, but nobody  
7 should be getting arrested, charged with a crime  
8 because they put their feet up because they're  
9 tired. We're afraid that this is unfairly  
10 impacting homeless individuals and we would like  
11 to see the MTA really look into it.

12           The last thing I call on my  
13 colleagues to sign onto and support with me and  
14 Minority Leader James Oddo, Resolution 1229, a  
15 resolution declaring the third Monday in September  
16 as Teen Suicide Awareness day in the City of New  
17 York. This is something that I met with Youth  
18 Action NYC a couple of months ago. The young  
19 people that I met with brought this to my  
20 attention and asked us as a City Council to take  
21 action on this and make sure that we're calling  
22 attention to the challenges that young people,  
23 that our teenagers are facing day in and day out  
24 in New York City and making sure that they have a  
25 place to go--

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

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:

[interposing] Council Member?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: --and a shoulder to lean on. So I ask my colleagues to sign on to Resolution 1229. Thank you very much.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you very much. We now move on to Council Member Vann, followed by Council Member Greenfield.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Thank you, Majority Leader. Following the leadership of Jumaane Williams, I'm introducing legislation aimed at increasing police accountability and transparency. Specifically, as it relates to the disciplining of police officer for misconduct.

While administrative judges and the CCRB make discipline recommendations for officers they find to have violated rules or committed acts of misconduct, the police commissioner maintains the ultimate authority for deciding what penalties are imposed on officers. The commissioner's decisions often differ from the recommendations sent to them and many times are less severe. The police commissioner exercises this discretion without having to explain such decisions.

1  
2 Therefore, there is no accountability or  
3 transparency to the public, the very public  
4 they're responsible for protecting and serving.

5 The legislation I am introducing  
6 today, 798, would change that. It would require  
7 the police commissioner to provide written  
8 explanation to the public when discipline  
9 decisions differ from the recommendations of the  
10 NYPD deputy commissioner of trials or the  
11 administrative law judge or for the CCRB.

12 The legislation would also require  
13 the CCRB and the commissioner to combat police  
14 corruption to analyze these explanations, evaluate  
15 them in their respective semiannual and annual  
16 reports. I urge all my colleagues to sign on as  
17 co-sponsors to this common sense and necessary  
18 legislation, Intro 798. Thank you.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
20 very much. Council Member Greenfield, followed by  
21 Council Member Lander.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank  
23 you very much. I just wanted to thank the Council  
24 for passing this bill today renaming 13th Avenue  
25 in honor of Raoul Wallenberg. I want to thank my

1  
2 colleague Brad Lander for co-sponsoring this  
3 legislation. Many people know that Raoul  
4 Wallenberg saved as many as 100,000 lives. What  
5 people don't know is that the largest  
6 concentration of survivors because of the  
7 incredible actions on his part live actually in my  
8 and Brad's district. So we're very grateful to  
9 rename that avenue.

10 I also just want to encourage folks  
11 to sign onto the legislation that's sponsored by  
12 myself and Council Member Cabrera, Intro 792.  
13 Intro 792 would prevent the administration from  
14 moving forward with their nonprofit trash tax.  
15 Effectively, they would like to start charging  
16 nonprofits for trash pickup, which is a basic  
17 service and I think all of us know the great work  
18 that nonprofits do in this city. I think it would  
19 just really hurt the nonprofit organizations that  
20 service our communities every day. So please sign  
21 on to Intro 792. Thank you.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
23 very much. Council Member Lander?

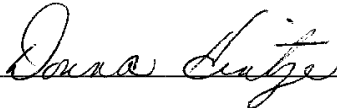
24 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you,  
25 Mr. Majority Leader. I'd like to ask my





C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Donna Hintze 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 March 15, 2012