

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED COUNCIL MEETING

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March 14, 2012
Start: 2:15 p.m.
Recess: 3:21 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 Chin
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Elizabeth Crowley
Inez E. Dickens
Erik Martin Dilan
Daniel Dromm
Mathieu Eugene
Julissa Ferreras
Lewis A. Fidler

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

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

Natalie Silver
Student
New York City Lab School

Shar Groper
Student
Women's Academy of Excellence

Yolanda Pickney
Student
St. Catherine's Academy

Shika Felix
Student
Computer School

Shelly Jane
Student
Staten Island Technical High School

Serita Bayaha
Student
Brooklyn Latin School

Sharea Jane
Student
Staten Island Technical High School

Asata Crato-Morgan
Student

Sharmaine Dickerson
Student
Talent Unlimited

Sky Jones
Student
Susan S. McKinney School

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

Yataka Yite
Student
PS 116

Kimberly
Student
Shaolin School

Maria Block
Student
Eleanor Roosevelt High School

Floricet Diaz
Student
St. Jean Baptiste High School

Debbie Manilsa
Student
Intermediate School 61

Pamela
Student
PS 81

Sharlise
Student
PS 81

Sara Niemakechin
Student
Harlem High School

Sharon Seru
Student

Michelle Coleman
Student
St. Agnes Academic High School

Rev. Joyce Braithwaite
Life Changing Word Christian Center

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SPEAKER QUINN: So let me just ask all the folks who are here with the Women's Caucus, all the young ladies, to kind of just get in line or come on up if you're not up yet.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Girls rock.

7

SPEAKER QUINN: So, Natalie, come over here, you're the Speaker for the day, got to stay over by me. So shh, today is organized by the Women's Caucus--here's some [off mic]--is Councilwoman and Speaker for the day. So here are all our Councilwomen, and I am going to pass the mic around and ask all of the Councilwomen for a day to tell us your name--shh.

15

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down, please.

17

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet.

18

SPEAKER QUINN: Exactly. Your name, how old--shh. Don't make me kick you out 'cause you're talking while the young girls are talking. Your name, how old you are, where you go to school, and what Councilwoman you are here with. So Natalie, who is like me, a natural redhead--

25

[Laughter]

1
2 SPEAKER QUINN: Girls, please. Let
3 me just have Natalie start. Your name, what
4 school you go to, and how old you are.

5 NATALIE SILVER: Hi, I'm Natalie
6 Silver, I'm 17, I'm a senior at the New York City
7 Lab School in Chelsea, and I'm with Speaker Quinn
8 today.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: And where do you
10 want to go--do you know where you're going to
11 college yet?

12 NATALIE SILVER: I don't know yet.

13 SPEAKER QUINN: Where do you want
14 to go?

15 NATALIE SILVER: I want to go to
16 Duke.

17 SPEAKER QUINN: All right, there
18 you go. Margaret Nelson, our Deputy Chief of
19 Staff for Legislation and Policy is here somewhere
20 and she went to Duke too, so let's make sure
21 Natalie meets Margaret Nelson. Okay.

22 SHAR GROPER: Hi, my name is Shar
23 Groper [phonetic], I'm 16-years old, I'm a junior
24 at Women's Academy of Excellence, and I'm with
25 Councilwoman Annabel Palma.

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VOICES: Yay.

YOLANDA PICKNEY: Hi, my name's Yolanda Pickney [phonetic], I am a freshman at St. Catherine's Academy, I'm 14, and I'm with Councilwoman Helen Diane Foster.

VOICES: Yay.

SHIKA FELIX: Hi, my name is Shika Felix [phonetic], I'm 13-years old and I go to the Computer School.

SPEAKER QUINN: And who are you here with?

SHIKA FELIX: I'm here with Councilwoman Gale Brewer.

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Where are you going to high school?

SHIKA FELIX: Oh, in September, I will be attending Stuyvesant High School.

VOICES: Yay.

SHELLY JANE: Hi, my name is Shelly Jane and I'm a senior at Staten Island Technical High School, and next year I am planning to attend Brooklyn College's eight-year B.A.-M.D. program, so...

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SPEAKER QUINN: Yay.

2

3

SHELLY JANE: And I'm here with
Councilwoman Debbie Rose.

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5

SERITA BAYAHA: Hi my name Serita
Bayaha [phonetic], I am 16, I'm a junior at
Brooklyn Latin School, and I'm here with
Councilwoman Gale Brewer.

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VOICES: Yay.

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FEMALE VOICE: All right.

11

SHAREA JANE: Hello, I'm Sharea
Jane, I'm 15-years old and I'm also from Staten
Island Tech, and I'm here with Councilwoman Debbie
Rose.

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FEMALE VOICE: Yay.

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ASATA CRATO-MORGAN: My name is
Asata Crato-Morgan [phonetic], I'm 13-years old,
and I'm here with Council Member Darlene, and next
year I'll be going to Washington, D.C., for a
World Leadership Forum.

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21

SPEAKER QUINN: Woo.

22

SHARMAINE DICKERSON: Hi, my name
is Sharmaine Dickerson, I'm 15-years old, I'm here
with Councilwoman Letitia James.

23

24

25

FEMALE VOICE: That's all right.

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2

SPEAKER QUINN: Where do you go to school?

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SHARMAINE DICKERSON: I go to school at Talent Unlimited to study ballet.

5

6

FEMALE VOICE: That's right.

7

8

SKY JONES: Hi, my name is Sky Jones, I'm 14-years old, I'm here with Councilwoman Letitia James, and I go to Susan S. McKinney School.

10

11

VOICES: Yay.

12

[Off mic]

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14

SPEAKER QUINN: You went, right? Okay. Great, you're going to, like, Brooklyn Latin.

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YATAKA YITE: Hi, my name is Yataka Yite [phonetic], I'm--my district is two, and I'm representing Rosie Mendez for a day, and I also go to school PS 116, and I'm really glad to be here, and I--oh, and I'm 9-years old, my birthday is in March 20, so I'm turning ten.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Yay, happy birthday.

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YATAKA YITE: And I had campaigned for Rosie seven years ago when I was three.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Yay. Shh.

KIMBERLY: My name is Kimberly and I go to Shaolin [phonetic] School, I'm 10, and I'm representing Margaret Chin.

VOICES: Yay.

MARIA BLOCK: Hi, I'm Maria Block, I go to Eleanor Roosevelt High School, and I'm with Council Member Lappin today.

SPEAKER QUINN: Great, yay.

FEMALE VOICE: Oh, sorry.

SPEAKER QUINN: We'll get everybody, don't worry about it.

FLORICET DIAZ: Hi, my name is Floricet Diaz, I'm 18-years old, I'm a senior at St. Jean Baptiste High School, and I'm very honored to be here with Councilwoman Melissa Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER QUINN: Great, yay.

DEBBIE MANILSA: Hi, my name is Debbie Manilsa [phonetic]--

SPEAKER QUINN: Shh.

DEBBIE MANILSA: --I am in--

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down, please.

1
2 DEBBIE MANILSA: --Intermediate
3 School 61, I am 14-years old, and representing
4 Julissa Ferreras.

5 VOICES: Yay.

6 FEMALE VOICE: You got to pass the
7 [off mic] part.

8 PAMELA: Hi, my name is Pamela, I
9 go to PS 81, I'm 11-years old and I'm with
10 Councilwoman Diana--

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Reyna.

12 PAMELA: -Reyna.

13 SPEAKER QUINN: Yay.

14 SHARLISE: Hi, my name is Sharlise,
15 I'm 11-years old and I'm here--I go to PS 81 and
16 I'm here with Councilwoman Sara Gonzalez.

17 FEMALE VOICE: Yay.

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Great, then we go
19 back over here.

20 [Off mic]

21 SARA NIEMAKECHIN: Hi, my name is
22 Sara Niemakechin [phonetic] and I'm--

23 SPEAKER QUINN: [Interposing] Shh,
24 wait, say your name again 'cause--

25 [Crosstalk]

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2

SARA NIEMAKECHING: Sara

3

Niemakechin and I'm 17, and I'm a senior at Harlem

4

Renaissance High School, and I'm here with Ms.

5

Inez Dickens today.

6

SPEAKER QUINN: Do you know where

7

you're going to college yet?

8

SARA NIEMAKECHIN: Rutgers

9

University.

10

SPEAKER QUINN: My partner Kim went

11

there--

12

SARA NIEMAKECHIN: Yes.

13

SPEAKER QUINN: --all right, very

14

good.

15

SHARON SERU: I'm Sharon Seru

16

[phonetic], I'm 13-years old, and I'm here with

17

Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley.

18

SPEAKER QUINN: Yay.

19

MICHELLE COLEMAN: Hi, I'm Michelle

20

Coleman and I'm 16 and I go to St. Agnes Academic

21

High School, I'm a junior, and I'm with Council

22

Member Karen Koslowitz

23

SPEAKER QUINN: Yay. Now did all

24

of the young ladies introduce themselves? Great,

25

and this was organized by the Women's Caucus,

1
2 which is chaired by Council Member Jessica Lappin
3 and Council Member Rosie Mendez, and I don't know
4 if, Jessica or Rosie, you want to say a few words
5 before we get our group shot?

6 FEMALE VOICE 2: Where is Rosie?

7 FEMALE VOICE 3: Rosie. Rosie.

8 SPEAKER QUINN: We lost Rosie, all
9 right, well Jessica will start and then Rosie will
10 come back. Right, and if not, Rosie--we're good
11 to go either way.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: I just
13 wanted to say what an impressive group of young
14 women you are, and it's been really, really fun to
15 hear your stories, your dreams, and we all know
16 that you can accomplish a great deal. And we're
17 very proud of you, New York City is very proud of
18 you, and we know you're going to continue to make
19 us proud as New Yorkers.

20 [Applause]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you.

22 [Crosstalk]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Just like
24 that, I had to take a phone call. Anyway, it's
25 been so empowering for me to be surrounded by some

1
2 incredible young women, you are our future. Thank
3 you for joining us today. And to my colleagues,
4 you're all very awesome as well. Thank you.

5 SPEAKER QUINN: All right, so the
6 two speakers are going to slip in the picture and
7 then, Bill, you'll get everybody, right? Okay.
8 So let's make sure we don't block anybody. I'll
9 get behind. Turn around, Natalie. Bill, can you
10 see Natalie and Sara? Here, Natalie, come back in
11 the back. Can you see everybody, Bill?

12 BILL: Yep.

13 SPEAKER QUINN: And now let me just
14 say, if you want a copy of the picture Bill is
15 taking, Adam, raise your hand, where's Adam? Adam
16 over there to the left, give him your e-mail
17 number and your home address and everything and
18 then we will send it e-mail or hard copy or both,
19 whichever you want. You got it, Bill? All right,
20 yay. All right. So if I could ask the
21 Councilwomen and the Councilwomen for a day to go
22 back to their seats, we have two more things
23 before we get started.

24 MALE VOICE: Just want to make
25 sure.

1
2 SPEAKER QUINN: She's here. Is
3 Council Member Arroyo here?

4 [Off mic]

5 SPEAKER QUINN: All right.

6 FEMALE VOICE 4: Yes, ma'am.

7 SPEAKER QUINN: All right, come on
8 up. So shh.

9 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down,
10 please, keep it down.

11 SPEAKER QUINN: As Council Member
12 Arroyo makes her way up, we just recognized and
13 celebrated a lot of really great young women, but
14 on Saturday there is going to be a party to
15 celebrate a young woman who started her life off a
16 little tough, but is a fighter in the Arroyo style
17 and more, right? Defining it in a bigger way.
18 This little girl, Lisa, was born a little over one
19 pound, she is home doing amazing, incredibly well,
20 her baby shower--'cause she came a little early
21 before we could have it--is going to be on
22 Saturday. So on behalf of myself and Chuck, we
23 wanted to give her, including pink Yankees t-
24 shirts, some gifts to welcome her and to
25 congratulate Grandma and Ma and to say--and I just

1
2 want to say, other people--before I give Maria the
3 mic--other people and many of us know--and if you
4 don't, this little girl's life has been harrowing
5 already. She's had every medical problem you
6 could imagine a baby could have and Mom wasn't
7 doing so great either in the beginning, honestly,
8 from a health perspective, and Maria never lost
9 faith, always believed her granddaughter would
10 make it and be fine and well and I really think--
11 'cause I don't think--shh.

12 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down,
13 please, keep it down.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: I don't think
15 there's a medical reason this baby has made it and
16 is doing so well, I really don't; if you know all
17 the facts, there isn't. This is a miraculous
18 event in part because of a grandmother's love.
19 So, Maria, wish everyone our best.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Thank you.
21 Somebody better have some tissues, 'cause I think
22 I'll cry in a minute. Thank you. There is a God-
23 -

24 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Yes.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: --and Lisa

1
2 is not with us today because of science alone,
3 although she got the best care any infant in her
4 condition can get--your prayers because every
5 single one of you at some point asked how she's
6 doing. She came home yesterday and slept through
7 the night on her first night at home. We had to
8 wake her up to feed her. I was more nervous than
9 anything else, but she's adorable. I've shown so
10 many of you pictures, I am sure you're sick of
11 seeing them. And please join us on Saturday, I
12 sent out the invitation to all of you, I hope many
13 of you can make it. We're going to sing karaoke
14 because this is a cause for celebration and I want
15 everyone to enjoy themselves. Thank you all for
16 your prayers, it worked, she's home. Thank you.

17 SPEAKER QUINN: And we don't have
18 tissues, but we have Starbuck's napkins. Very
19 classy.

20 All right, so keeping in the theme
21 of, as Tish said, girls rock and celebrations,
22 today is an even bigger day than the day after
23 Lisa came home, even a bigger day than
24 Councilwoman for a day, it is Karen, the Kos,
25 Koslowitz's 70th birthday, so, Karen, Jumaane,

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start singing.

VOICES: Happy birthday to you,
happy birthday to you, happy birthday--

SPEAKER QUINN: Everybody come on
up for a picture.

VOICES: --happy birthday, happy
birthday to you, happy birthday, happy birthday,
happy birthday. Happy birthday.

CLERK: Would all Council Members
come up for a picture, please. All Council
Members, please come up for a picture.

SPEAKER QUINN: Everybody come on.
So shh, as folks make their way back to their
seats, the cake will be on the edge of the dais,
but I was lucky enough to serve once with Karen
Koslowitz on the Council, but no one's luckier
than me that I've gotten to serve with her twice.
Seventy years old and Karen is working as hard now
as she ever did so--shh--so she came to the
Council with the nickname the Kos. On our recent
trip to Israel, Annabel gave her another nickname
of KK, so I give you Karen, Kos, KK, Koslowitz on
her 70th birthday.

[Applause]

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Thank
3 you. I'm trying to wrap my head around my age
4 because my body does not feel it and someone said-
5 -

6 SPEAKER QUINN: Or look it.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Thank
8 you. And someone said before that I can't believe
9 you're 70, neither can I, but I hope to be with
10 you for a long time.

11 And I just have to say something to
12 all of you, I served with Chris when she was the
13 Chief of Staff and then she became a Council
14 Member in '99, and I am so happy I am here as she
15 is the Speaker of the City Council because I
16 rooted for her from day one when she was first
17 elected. So, Chris, I hope our friendship goes on
18 for another 70 years.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: That's a date.

20 [Applause]

21 SPEAKER QUINN: All right, let them
22 eat cake, and let's start the meeting.

23 MALE VOICE: Well I'll show
24 leadership.

25 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: All right,

1
2 everybody, let's rise for the Pledge of
3 Allegiance.

4 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: All rise.

5 VOICES: I pledge allegiance to the
6 flag of the United States of America and to the
7 republic for which it stands, one nation under
8 God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for
9 all.

10 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you.

11 Roll call.

12 CLERK: Arroyo.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

14 CLERK: Barron.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.

16 CLERK: Brewer.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

18 CLERK: Cabrera.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

20 CLERK: Chin.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

22 CLERK: Comrie.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Here.

24 CLERK: Crowley.

25 [Pause]

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CLERK: Dickens.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.

CLERK: Dilan.

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Here.

CLERK: Dromm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

CLERK: Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

CLERK: Ferreras.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: [No
response].

CLERK: Fidler.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.

CLERK: Foster.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Here.

CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

CLERK: Gennaro.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.

CLERK: Gentile.

SPEAKER QUINN: Cake, feel free to
eat cake if you're a Council Member staff or a
Councilwoman for a day, so go on up.

CLERK: Gonzalez.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Here.
3 CLERK: Greenfield.
4 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Here.
5 CLERK: Halloran.
6 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Here.
7 CLERK: Ignizio.
8 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.
9 CLERK: Jackson.
10 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Here.
11 CLERK: James.
12 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here.
13 CLERK: Koo.
14 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.
15 CLERK: Koppell.
16 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.
17 CLERK: Koslowitz.
18 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.
19 CLERK: Lander.
20 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.
21 CLERK: Lappin.
22 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Here.
23 CLERK: Levin.
24 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.
25 CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
Here.
CLERK: Mealy.
COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.
CLERK: Mendez.
COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.
CLERK: Nelson.
COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: [No
response].
CLERK: Palma.
COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.
CLERK: Recchia.
COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: [No
response].
CLERK: Reyna.
COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: [No
response].
CLERK: Rodriguez.
COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.
CLERK: Rose.
COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Yes.
CLERK: Sanders.
COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Here.
CLERK: Seabrook.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Here.

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CLERK: Ulrich.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: [No

5

response].

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CLERK: Okay. Vacca.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

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CLERK: Vallone.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

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CLERK: Van Bramer.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

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CLERK: Vann.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Here.

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CLERK: Weprin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

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CLERK: Williams.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

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CLERK: Wills.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Here.

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CLERK: Oddo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Here.

22

CLERK: Rivera.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Here.

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CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

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CLERK: We have a quorum.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Quorum is present, if we can get silence in the Chambers. My colleagues, please rise for the invocation being delivered today by Reverend Joyce Braithwaite of Life Changing Word--

SPEAKER QUINN: Quiet.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: --Christian Center.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet, please.

All rise.

REV. JOYCE BRAITHWAITE: May we become still, center our focus at the focal point of our individual faith.

Most wise and loving Father, thank you for allowing us to see this glorious day. Thank you for life, and for the strength to carry out our various assignments. Thank you for the ability to be involved in useful work and for the honor of bearing appropriate responsibilities. You established the governing authorities to promote peace, order, and justice. I pray this afternoon for our Mayor, for the various levels of city officials, and in particular, for this

1
2 assembled council. I pray for their personal
3 lives, health, and strength; I pray for wisdom in
4 the midst of conflicting interests, sensitivity to
5 the needs of our people. I pray for confidence to
6 do what is right and fitting and the ability to
7 work together in harmony, even when there is
8 honest disagreement. I pray for the agenda set
9 before them this day, that the outcomes would
10 benefit those who live in and work around our
11 great city of New York. Grant these petitions, oh
12 Lord, I pray to you, most blessed and holy God.
13 Amen.

14 VOICES: Amen.

15 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very
16 much. Council Member Barron.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you
18 very much. I would like to welcome and thank
19 Reverend Braithwaite, who is a reverend in our
20 district, she does outstanding work. Reverend
21 Braithwaite has been a pastor in my district for
22 over 13 years and a pastor over 32 years in our
23 overall ministry, in her overall ministry. So in
24 honor of Woman's History Month--

25 SPEAKER QUINN: [Interposing] Shh,

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just, I'm sorry, just quiet, please.

[Crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: In honor of Woman's History Month, you're standing before one of the outstanding leaders of faith in our district. And with that, we thank you, we honor you, and we welcome you.

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I wish to spread the invocation in full upon the record.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you.

SPEAKER QUINN: And if my colleagues could please rise again. We need to pass a note today the passing of two members of the extended Council family.

On March 3rd, 2012, Dawn Alicia Robinson, 52, the eldest daughter of Assemblywoman and former Councilwoman Annette Robinson and the late Bill Robinson, passed away. For 20 years, she was a hardworking bus driver for our MTA and a loyal member of the Transit Workers Union. A caring and protective mother to her two children, Alicia was a proud grandmother as well. One of her close friends described her as sweet, comical,

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and a person who had a keen eye for character.

A memorial service was held this past Sunday at Bridge Street AME Church. Our thoughts and prayers are with Annette and her entire family during this very sad time, made sadder by the fact that her husband, Bill, passed away at most a year or so ago. I'd like to call on Council Member Al Vann, our Majority Leader, to say a few words.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Yeah, thank you, Madam Speaker. The Honorable Annette Robinson, other than being a longtime colleague, we were also longstanding friends, her family and my family are family friends. And so the Village of Bed-Stuy turned out in great numbers on Sunday, the church was completely packed and standing room around and the community really expressed their love and support for Annette Robinson and her family.

I know that she will--her spirits will be heightened and that her resolve would be strengthened knowing that her City Council colleagues also expressing their love and prayers and thoughts for her and her family. I will

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2 definitely carry that back to her, and I thank you
3 for this moment.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
5 much, Majority Leader Vann--I'm sorry, Majority
6 Whip Vann.

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Let me also note that on March
8 11th, 2012, Ray Frier, 73, passed away suddenly in
9 his sleep. Born and raised in the South Bronx,
10 Ray served in the National Guard and traveled the
11 world as an officer in the Merchant Marines before
12 becoming active in civic and political activities.
13 Ray was committed to improving the city he loved
14 and in particular, the neighborhood of Hell's
15 Kitchen, which he held so dear and called home.

16

He served on Community Boards and
17 was the chairperson of the New York Cornell
18 Hospital Advisory Board, in addition to being an
19 appointee of Congress Member Charlie Rangel to the
20 Congressional Commission on Youth.

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Ray's funeral was held this morning
22 at his beloved Church of the Holy Cross in Hell's
23 Kitchen. He is survived by his wife of 47 years,
24 Irma, and his brother, Robert.

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I just want to say, before I call

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2 on a very close friend of Ray's, Council Member
3 Jim Gennaro, Ray was obviously a member of my
4 community, lived in my district, he and Irma a
5 number of years ago lost their son to AIDS and
6 were outspoken parents in support of the LGBT
7 community and people with HIV/AIDS, they always
8 held him in their heart and spoke of him often.

9 And Ray was, you know, that great
10 guy at the door, even if you didn't really know
11 him, who welcomed you into the party, the event,
12 or the meeting like you were his, you know, long
13 lost brother, so it is very sad to think,
14 particularly on Saturday, St. Patrick's Day, when
15 so many of us would have seen him at the party at
16 Friday's on 42nd Street and other events, that he
17 won't be with us. But I know I mentioned to Irma
18 yesterday that we would be having a moment of
19 silence and comments about Ray on the floor, and
20 she and Ray and her friends were very touched by
21 that.

22 Council Member Gennaro.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you,
24 Madam Speaker. And certainly he talked very
25 frequently, Madam Speaker, of his great friendship

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2 for you, which he deeply cherished, and thank you
3 for being a good friend to Ray and to Irma and to
4 Jimmy.

5 And many people on the Council knew
6 him. My good friend, Pete Vallone, and the whole
7 Vallone family and we all go on retreat together,
8 and Pete has many fond memories of Ray, and
9 Council Member Brewer, Jessica Lappin, I just had
10 Leroy Comrie stop by to say hi, and everybody knew
11 him. And I'm kind of honored to speak on behalf
12 of people that Ray kind of adopted, and that's
13 what Ray did and if you've been adopted by Ray,
14 you know who you are, and he made like a special
15 life commitment to scores of people, he was always
16 there to do for you, to pray for you, to share
17 your every burden, to be your 24/7 port in every
18 storm.

19 And just like the Speaker said, he
20 was a man of deep faith, but he wasn't preachy, he
21 didn't talk about it, he lived his faith every
22 day, his love of God, and what he did tirelessly
23 for those that he loved, for those that, as I
24 said, he took in and adopted, and I was fortunate
25 to be one of those. And Ray did this even when he

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2 went through, you know, very, very tough life
3 circumstances. The Speaker talked about the
4 devastating illness of their son, Jimmy, and how
5 he died of AIDS, how they had to care for him
6 24/7, but it never relaxed his commitment to those
7 that he loved.

8 And I last saw him on Friday, he
9 took me for a medical test, that was part of the
10 Ray package, and he got up and, you know, went all
11 over to the Eastern Queens, picked me up, we went
12 out to Long Island, had the medical test, and then
13 after that we had pancakes, and he took back to
14 the house, he got to see my wife and my daughter.
15 But he seemed very eager and, you know, kind of
16 anxious to get back to his wife, Irma, and so I
17 thought perhaps maybe she wasn't doing well. But
18 it was really something else, it's just something
19 he knew that I didn't know was that he knew, he
20 had some vision or something that he had mere days
21 to live and he wanted to spend as much time as
22 possible with his wife. And we know this from the
23 note that he wrote to his friends that was read
24 out at his mass today that was read by Pete's
25 father, Pete, and where he talked about he knew it

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2 was his time, you know, to go and be with his
3 beloved son, Jimmy, and that he was going to be
4 called very soon by God to go home, and that, you
5 know, did happen very quickly after he wrote this
6 letter. And he did say in his letter that he had
7 a wonderful 73-year visit here on earth and
8 certainly it was very, very special.

9 And rest in peace, Ray, I know I'll
10 not see another like you during my stay on earth
11 and I'll see you again someday. And thank you,
12 Madam Speaker, for your indulgence, and thank you,
13 my colleagues, and may Ray rest in peace. Thank
14 you.

15 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Jim, I
16 will just add to--I was told that he died in his
17 sleep, Ray, and as he went to bed that night, he
18 turned to Irma and said, I love you, I hope I see
19 you in the morning, so he certainly had a sense
20 that his visit was soon to come to an end.

21 Thank you, Jim, and may Ray and
22 Dawn rest in peace. [Long pause] Thank you, Mr.
23 Majority Leader.

24 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very
25 much, Madam Speaker. Before we begin, I just

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2 wanted to point out to all my colleagues here,
3 right above me is a historic flag that was placed
4 here in our renovated Chambers. The flag is a
5 standard regimental flag of the Second Regiment,
6 First Brigade New York State Artillery that was
7 displayed in the parade for the inauguration of
8 George Washington, that is our first President, on
9 April 30th, 1789. It was presented to our city by
10 the regiment on June 11th, 1821, and it's here
11 with us in the Chambers. Just wanted to point
12 that out to my colleagues.

13 Before we move on, I would like to
14 call on Council Member Recchia.

15 SPEAKER QUINN: Shh.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: I'd like
17 to cast my votes on aye on all call-ups and
18 everything on the calendar for today.

19 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.
20 Council Member Van Bramer.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I'd
22 like permission to vote at this time on all
23 coupled General Orders and Resolutions.

24 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.
25 Okay. Now we--

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[Off mic]

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COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I vote

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aye on all.

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

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We move on to Adoption of the Minutes.

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CLERK: None.

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Messages and

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Papers from the Mayor?

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CLERK: None.

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Communication

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from City, County, and Borough Offices?

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CLERK: M 769 Tax Commission

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Report.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Received, ordered,

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printed, and filed.

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CLERK: M 770 Base Station License.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Transportation.

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Petitions and

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Communications.

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CLERK: None.

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Land Use Call-

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ups?

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CLERK: None.

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Let me just

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2 find the next page. Okay. So it is next page.
3 Communication from the Speaker.

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
5 much. We are voting on three significant pieces
6 of legislation today. The first is Intro 707 A
7 coming out of the Contracts Committee. I want to
8 thank the Chair of the Committee, Darlene Mealy,
9 the former Chair of the Committee and sponsor of
10 the bill, Tish James. I want to thank Alix
11 Pustilnik and Shannon Manigault for their work on
12 this bill.

13 And just I want to--before Tish or
14 Darlene speak, seeing Shannon's name also reminds
15 me--I hope some of them are in the room, but we
16 had an amazing oversight hearing, in my opinion,
17 last week. Whatever you think about restaurant
18 gradings, that oversight hearing was thorough,
19 focused, professional, and gave everybody for,
20 against, or in the middle, the opportunity to be
21 heard and have their position put on the record.
22 And Shannon and the rest of the Committees of
23 Government Operations, Contracts, Health, and
24 Oversight and Investigations, those four committee
25 staffs did unbelievable work, as well as the press

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2 staff, so if we could get a round of applause for
3 all of them, I would really appreciate it. So
4 thank you guys.

5 [Applause]

6 SPEAKER QUINN: Shannon, if you
7 keep doing all this, you know, I don't know,
8 you're just going to raise your bar too high. But
9 thank you all very, very much. You and the four
10 chairs did a terrific job, so thank you guys very
11 much.

12 But Intro 707 A and, I guess, as
13 they say, timing is everything, we couldn't have
14 planned that we would pass this piece of
15 legislation about contract cost increases and
16 overruns on the very same day that the Mayor,
17 Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn, and our U.S.
18 Attorney announced that close to \$500 million has
19 been recouped from the CityTime contract. This
20 piece of legislation is very related to CityTime
21 and NYCAPS and other contracts as well. It's a
22 piece of legislation that will now require with
23 all contracts of \$10 million or more, which is
24 over 90% of the City's contracts, when there are
25 cost overruns, when there are other challenges

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2 that show the contract is going off track or
3 falling through the cracks, this will be a safety
4 net. This will be a moment where the agency's
5 chief contracting officers will have to report to
6 the City Council about those overruns. That's
7 information we will share with the public in a
8 transparent fashion on our website. This will be
9 sunlight, transparency, and a moment where we can
10 engage in aggressive oversight, as Tish had done
11 in the past around CityTime, but now with actual
12 hard data in front of us earlier to identify
13 whether this is just a mistake, the contract needs
14 to be tweaked, or is there an enormous problem
15 here that needs to be addressed.

16 So I want to thank the sponsor of
17 the bill, Council Member Tish James, and the Chair
18 of the Committee for their work on Intro 707 A.

19 Let me call on Council Member
20 Darlene Mealy, the Chair, and then Tish James.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Thank you.
22 Thank you, Madam Speaker. Today's vote on Intro
23 707 A continues our Committee's focus on shining
24 more light on the City's contracting practices.
25 While we all heard the saying, it ain't over 'til

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2 the fat lady sing. Well with some of these
3 enormous IT contracts, it seems likely that lovely
4 lady has laryngitis. The scope of work kept
5 expanding, getting more and more costly, and we've
6 been stuck in our seats while this bad show rolls
7 on and on because the information we needed
8 exercise real oversight was hard to come by and
9 often too late. This bill will change that.

10 Rather than having to dig, we'll be
11 informed of cost overruns on a quarterly basis.
12 This information will allow us to ask information,
13 inform questions earlier in the process and
14 balance the growing costs of these contracts
15 against the City's other needs.

16 I'm very happy to Chair the
17 Contract Committee that has produced these bills
18 and look forward to doing more to monitor the
19 ever-expanding contract's budget, and as we move
20 forward, I'm glad that I did pass Outsourcing
21 Accountability and the Transparency Act and this
22 bill will do an extra mmm.

23 So thank you, Madam Chair, and my
24 colleague.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Thank you.

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2 Last fall, I introduced legislation that would
3 require city agencies to report to the New York
4 City Council cost overruns on large contracts.
5 Today's legislation, Intro 707 A, would address
6 construction and service contracts for capital
7 projects with a minimum expenditure of \$10
8 million. The bill would require additional
9 oversight when such projects exceed the original
10 costs by 20% or more.

11 Specifically, the Mayor would be
12 required to notify the Council at two points in
13 time. First, the Council will be notified of the
14 initial request for a cost increase, and
15 additionally, once the project extension or
16 modification has taken place, the Council would be
17 notified of any additional contract extensions or
18 modifications that result in a 10% cost increase
19 above the revised contract value. This
20 legislation, as well as a number of other contract
21 bills I've introduced this legislative session,
22 follow a number of high profile cases, including
23 mismanaged private contracts with the City of New
24 York, the most noteworthy being the CityTime
25 contract which was brought to the attention when I

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2 served as Chair of the Contracts Committee in
3 2008. And today I'm so happy that SAIC announced
4 that they are returning over \$500 million to the
5 City of New York, and I'm hoping that we can
6 restore funds to the safety net in the city of New
7 York.

8 Since 2010, I've requested that the
9 Council's Contract Committee investigate the
10 Emergency Communications Transformation Program,
11 ECTP, a project which went from an initial \$380
12 million to \$666 million, and what was at a time a
13 further \$286 million request from the City. The
14 administrative layoffs of the New York City Deputy
15 Sheriffs and the contracting out of their
16 collection duties and the rising cost of NYCAPS'
17 program, a contract that ballooned from \$66
18 million in 2002 to \$363 million.

19 In the last five years, contract
20 costs have increased at least at nearly twice the
21 rate of overall budget spending, reaching over \$10
22 billion in spent public funds. The vast majority
23 of these expenditures go towards personnel and
24 professional service contracts and there has been
25 considerable evidence that some of these contracts

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2 are poorly managed and lack needed oversight. I
3 hope this legislation strengthens the Council's
4 commitment to contract review and the overall goal
5 of cutting costs, transparency, accountability,
6 and ultimately, saving monies to taxpayers in the
7 city of New York.

8 Congratulatory, Madam Speaker,
9 Chair Mealy, and to all of my colleagues and those
10 who serve specifically on the Contracts Committee.
11 Thank you.

12 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, and
13 congratulations, Tish. Also today we're voting on
14 Intro 791 A, a piece of a legislation that will
15 extend rent stabilization laws and rent
16 protections in the city of New York. I want to
17 thank Council Member Dilan, the Chair of our
18 Housing and Buildings Committee, Council Member
19 Gonzalez, and Council Member Mark-Viverito for
20 their work on this bill. I want to thank Laura
21 Rogers and Ed Atkin for their work on this piece
22 of legislation.

23 And quite simply, our actions today
24 will assure that rent protections continue in the
25 city of New York until 2015. This is one of the

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2 most important powers we have to protect the
3 million plus rent protected tenants of the city of
4 New York. Make no doubt about it, we still have a
5 vacancy rate, only 3.12%, that is by law and by
6 any common sense an indicator that we still have a
7 housing emergency and rent protection, rent
8 stabilization, in my opinion, is one of the most
9 important laws we have to keep the middle class in
10 the city of New York by keeping housing affordable
11 for them and their families. And I want to thank
12 everyone who has been a part of this effort.

13 Let me call on Chair Dilan, then
14 Council Member Gonzalez, and finally Council
15 Member Mark-Viverito.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Thank you,
17 Madam Speaker, and I also wanted to thank Council
18 Members Gonzalez and Viverito for their
19 contributions. And I think the Speaker spoke
20 technically about what the legislation we're going
21 to do today does, but just some background
22 information that came forward during the hearing
23 that I found to be personally proud of and found
24 to be very pleased by because it showed the work
25 that, not only this committee, but our Speaker and

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2 this entire body has done to improve housing
3 conditions throughout the city of New York.

4 So one of the direct quotes by
5 Commissioner Wambua that I found that was in the
6 Housing and Vacancy Survey, the Commissioner
7 stated on the record that New York City's rental
8 apartments are in the best condition ever in New
9 York City's history. So I think a lot of that has
10 to do with the work that you've done, Madam
11 Speaker, the work that the Committee's done, work
12 that Council Member Brewer has done, and Council
13 Member James has done, because it shows that the
14 pro-preservation efforts that we've passed are,
15 indeed, working.

16 Additionally, it showed that during
17 a down economy, we've added about 100,000 units
18 onto the rental market since the last survey three
19 years ago. I found that also to be promising.

20 Now there were some discouraging
21 signs, but I believe they've been rectified by
22 actions of the state legislator. One of the
23 discouraging signs is that, as a result of the old
24 vacancy of the old decontrolled number of \$2,000,
25 we've seen a lot of those units come off the rolls

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2 and become actually market rate units. And what
3 we found in the direct questioning of the
4 Commissioner, he states that the next Housing and
5 Vacancy Survey that we'll see three years from
6 now, as a result of that threshold being raised to
7 \$2,500, will severely turn around that statistic.

8 So I'm personally proud to have
9 been involved in those efforts and working with
10 all my colleagues to get this bill done today, but
11 I'm personally proud of the track record of work
12 this Council, under the leadership of this
13 Speaker, has shown in this regard, and I want to
14 thank you all.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Thank
16 you. Today we are voting on legislation to sign
17 to preserve the nearly 1 million units of
18 affordable housing stock in our city protected by
19 rent stabilization. By extending these new
20 protections until 2015, we are safeguarding the
21 homes of hardworking families with a medium income
22 of 30,000. They represent the fabric of our
23 communities and we must continue to do everything
24 we can to ensure that they are not pushed out of
25 their homes. Failure to do so will result in our

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2 city becoming a city of the very rich and the very
3 poor.

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I would like to thank Speaker Quinn
5 for her tireless leadership on this matter and
6 Chair Dilan and the staff of the Housing and
7 Buildings Committee for all of their hard work. I
8 urge my colleagues to vote yes on Intro 791 A.
9 Thank you.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: I
11 also want to just thank the leadership of the
12 Speaker and Council Member Gonzalez and Chair
13 Dilan, and I'm proud to be sponsor of Reso 1230,
14 which does talk about and say specifically that we
15 continue to have a housing emergency in the city
16 of New York.

17

And just to really echo the strong
18 remarks made by Chair Dilan with regards to the
19 hearing, really the information that came out, but
20 also serving as a testament, not only to the
21 advocacy that we have shepherded from this Council
22 on really working to protect housing for our
23 tenants, but I think also to really keep
24 understanding the emergency that we have and that
25 this is a call to action, that we are and continue

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2 to double our efforts to, not only preserve
3 housing, but to continue to strive to build more
4 affordable housing for those all of us here in New
5 York City.

6 So, again, I want to thank the
7 Speaker for her leadership and this Council for
8 being steadfast as an entity that supports our
9 tenants here in the city of New York and the
10 importance of this law and this resolution speaks
11 to that, so thank you all.

12 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Council
13 Member Mark-Viverito, and I also want to thank
14 Chair Viverito for her work on Intro 448 A, which
15 is a piece of legislation that will rename public
16 places and thoroughfares in the city of New York,
17 and I want to thank Kris Sartori and Patrick
18 Mulvihill for their work on that as well.

19 And that concludes Communications
20 from the Speaker.

21 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very
22 much, Madam Speaker. We now move on to discussion
23 of General Orders. Council Member Seabrook.

24 [Pause]

25 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: --and

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saying I'd like to vote aye on all Land Use Call-ups and General Order.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: I vote aye.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

Anyone else for a discussion of General Orders? And we have Council Member Halloran, followed by Council Member Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Like to thank Madam Speaker, our Chair Melissa Mark-Viverito, and the Parks Committee, particularly their staffers, Jeff Haberman, Kris Sartori, and Patrick Mulvihill, on the work they've done on restoring the Douglaston historic names.

Douglaston is a community in my district that harkens back to the 1600s, it's a community that is still lined with one-family homes of the Tudor and Colonial styles, many of which were built in the 17th and 18th centuries. It has been declared a federal, state, and local historic district, and now it is having its streets restored to their names, the names that they bore for centuries prior to the city's desire

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2 in the latter half of the 1900s to unify us in a
3 grid system.

4 So I'd like to thank the Little
5 Neck Douglaston Historical Society, who's been
6 working on this since 1972, including Julia
7 Schoeck, the president; Bill Sievers, who's here;
8 Stuart Hersh; the Douglaston Civic Association,
9 Elliott Socci; Community Board 11, particularly
10 Chair Iannece; and Community Board Manager
11 Seinfeld; as well as my colleagues in government,
12 Assembly Member Ed Braunstein and Congressman Gary
13 Ackerman, who have worked with me on this; Peter
14 Koo, my colleague to the west, who's also worked;
15 and Council Member Weprin, who's my colleague to
16 the south, and also has a bit of Douglaston in his
17 district.

18 So I'd like to thank them all and,
19 in particular, my staffer John Mulvey, who's
20 worked with my chief of staff, Chrissy
21 Voskerichian, to make sure that the needs of the
22 community were satisfied. They pored over dozens
23 of maps dating back to the 1800s to make sure they
24 got it all right and they did, and I appreciate
25 the work of the Parks Committee laying it over to

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2 make sure that all of those changes were made.

3 And I thank the Speaker for bringing it forward.

4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Council Member

6 Koo.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Mr. Majority

8 Leader, I would like to ask for permission to vote

9 on General Orders and Resolutions for now.

10 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote yes on

12 all matters. Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very

14 much. Seeing no others, we'll now move on to

15 Reports of Special Committees.

16 CLERK: None.

17 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Reports of

18 Standing Committees.

19 CLERK: Report of the Committee on

20 Contracts, Intro 707 A, project cost disclosures.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General

22 Orders. And did I mention it's Karen Koslowitz's

23 birthday? I think it bears mentioning again. Go

24 ahead.

25 CLERK: Report of the Committee on

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Finance, Preconsidered Reso 1245, organization funding.

SPEAKER QUINN: I am not--Coupled on General Orders.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Housing and Buildings, Intro 791--

SPEAKER QUINN: I know.

CLERK: --extending rent stabilization.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders. And I think Intro 707 A, I was supposed to say Amended and Coupled on General Orders, sorry about that.

CLERK: Reso 1230, housing emergency resolution.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land Use, LU 559 through LU 563, application by West Village Residences.

SPEAKER QUINN: Approved with modifications and referred to the City Planning Commission pursuant to Rule 11.70(b) of the Rules of the Council and Section 197-(d) of the New York

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City Charter.

CLERK: LU 566 and Reso 1249

sidewalk café.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General

Orders.

CLERK: LU 568 and Reso 1250,

sidewalk café.

SPEAKER QUINN: Motion to be filed

pursuant to a letter of withdrawal.

CLERK: LU 569 and Reso 1251 and

571 and Reso 1252, sidewalk cafés.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General

Orders.

CLERK: LU 577 and Reso 1253, UDAAP

Bronx.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General

Orders.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on

Parks and Recreation, Intro 448-A, renaming public

places.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and Coupled

on General Orders.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: General Order

calendar.

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2 CLERK: Resolution appointing
3 various persons Commissioner of Deeds.

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
5 Orders. And this time I'd like a roll call on
6 items that have been coupled on the General Order
7 calendar, please.

8 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

9 CLERK: Arroyo.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

11 CLERK: Barron.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye on all.

13 CLERK: Brewer.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye [pause]
15 to indicate how important--thank you. I'd like to
16 indicate how important the housing bills are, I
17 just wish we could get rid of Urstadt so we could
18 make even further decisions locally on housing.
19 And I want to join Council Member Gennaro and
20 Speaker Quinn on showing the appreciation for
21 knowing Mr. Frier and his incredibly wonderful
22 wife, Irma. Thank you very much.

23 CLERK: Cabrera.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

25 CLERK: Chin.

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[Off mic]

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3

CLERK: Chin.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [No

5

response].

6

CLERK: Chin.

7

MALE VOICE: She wants to speak.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

9

CLERK: Comrie.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

11

CLERK: Crowley.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

13

CLERK: Dickens.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

15

CLERK: Dilan.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.

17

CLERK: Dromm.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

19

CLERK: Eugene.

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COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

21

CLERK: Ferreras.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

23

CLERK: Fidler.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

25

CLERK: Foster.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye on all.

3

CLERK: Garodnick.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

5

CLERK: Gennaro.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Mr.

7

Leader, I [off mic].

8

SPEAKER QUINN: Hang on one sec.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you,

10

Mr. Leader, I would ask for consent to speak on my

11

vote?

12

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

13

SPEAKER QUINN: Can we get some

14

quiet for Council Member Gennaro and get some--

15

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Can we get

16

silence?

17

SPEAKER QUINN: --time back on the

18

clock?

19

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: No, it's

20

okay, I wanted to vote yes on everything. And I'm

21

kind of cheating here a little bit 'cause this

22

doesn't really have to do with my vote, but I just

23

want to recognize that my daughter Christina is

24

here and I wanted to give her a big shout out.

25

[Applause]

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: And she
3 didn't want to be recognized, but Daddy did it
4 anyway. So I vote aye on all.

5 CLERK: Gentile.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye on
7 all.

8 CLERK: Gonzalez.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye on
10 all.

11 CLERK: Greenfield.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

13 CLERK: Halloran.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: I vote
15 that [off mic] on 791--

16 SPEAKER QUINN: Wait, speak into
17 the mic [off mic].

18 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Thank
19 you, Madam Speaker, I appreciate it. Seven 91 and
20 1230 are no, aye on all the rest. Thank you.

21 CLERK: Ignizio.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Thank you.
23 Vote no on 791 and 1230, aye on all others.

24 CLERK: Jackson.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on

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2 all.

3

CLERK: James.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye on all.

5

CLERK: Koppell.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye on

7

all.

8

CLERK: Koslowitz.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye on

10

all.

11

CLERK: Lander.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye--

13

[Pause]

14

CLERK: Lappin.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Yes.

16

CLERK: Levin.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye on all.

18

CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye

20

on all.

21

CLERK: Mealy.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye on all.

23

CLERK: Mendez.

24

YATAKA YITE: Yes.

25

CLERK: Nelson.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye on all.
3 CLERK: Palma.
4 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.
5 CLERK: Reyna.
6 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.
7 CLERK: Rodriguez.
8 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.
9 CLERK: Rose.
10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.
11 CLERK: Sanders.
12 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye.
13 CLERK: Ulrich.
14 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye on all.
15 CLERK: Vacca.
16 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye on all.
17 CLERK: Vallone.
18 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on
19 all.
20 CLERK: Vann.
21 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.
22 CLERK: Weprin.
23 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Yes.
24 CLERK: Williams.
25 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

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CLERK: Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: [Off mic].

CLERK: Lappin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

CLERK: Oddo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Vote no on
Intro 791 and Reso 1230, and yes on all others.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

CLERK: Rivera.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: I vote aye.

CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

SPEAKER QUINN: Aye on all. Oh,
did we call Lappin again? Okay.

[Long pause]

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: All items on
today's General Order calendar were adopted by a
vote of 51 in the affirmative, zero in the
negative, and zero abstentions, with the exception
of Intro 791, which was adopted by a vote of 48 in
the affirmative, with three in the negative and
zero abstentions, and Resolution 1230, which was
adopted by a vote of 48 in the affirmative, with
three in the negative, and zero abstentions.
Introduction and Reading of the Bills.

1
2 SPEAKER QUINN: All bills are
3 referred to committees as indicated on the agenda.

4 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Discussion of
5 Resolutions. Council Member Ferreras on
6 Resolution 1064-A.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: I'd like
8 to thank Speaker Quinn for her leadership in
9 making this Reso a priority; my colleague, Council
10 Member Dromm, Chair of the Committee on
11 Immigration for co-sponsoring Resolution 1064-A;
12 the many advocates; DA Donovan of Staten Island;
13 and the middleweight champion Sergio Martinez for
14 being our champion on this cause.

15 The Violence Against Women Act is a
16 historic and crucial piece of legislation that's
17 had tremendous positive impact on our society. It
18 has changed language, legislation, and attitude.
19 It has enhanced services and educated untold
20 numbers. It has saved lives. VAWA has shed light
21 on intimate partner violence, sexual assault,
22 stalking in hidden world of such violence. It has
23 enabled thousands of victims to leave abusive
24 situations, get housing, and help, along with a
25 new beginning and a fresh start.

1
2 VAWA is currently a victim of a
3 logjam of partisan politics in Washington. Today
4 I ask you to vote yes on Resolution 1064-A. Thank
5 you.

6 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very
7 much. We'll now move on to Council Member Dromm
8 on 1064-A. If anyone else is interested in
9 speaking on this resolution afterwards, raise your
10 hand now.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you
12 very much. Since its initial passage in 1994, the
13 Violence Against Women Act has assisted
14 innumerable survivors of gender-based violence
15 with the support for vital initiatives--

16 SPEAKER QUINN: [Interposing] I'm
17 sorry, shh, one second. Can we start the clock
18 over for Council Member Dromm and can we get some
19 quiet?

20 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: We're almost done.
22 Thank you.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Since its
24 initial passage in 1994, the Violence Against
25 Women Act has assisted innumerable survivors of

1
2 gender-based violence with its support for vital
3 initiatives here in New York City and throughout
4 the country. Despite the continuing need to
5 dedicate resources to this endemic problem, the
6 reauthorization of VAWA has gotten caught up in
7 election year politics. Council Resolution 1064-A
8 will send a loud and clear message to Congress:
9 Our sisters, mothers, and daughters deserve to
10 live free from violence.

11 I want to thank Council Member
12 Julissa Ferreras, Chair of the Committee, for her
13 leadership. I also want to thank Council staff
14 Annie Meredith, Joan Povolny, Tai Meah, and
15 Sebastian Maguire, and the advocates who testified
16 before the Committee on Women's Issues. I am
17 proud to stand with the New York City women and
18 hope that you will join me by voting yes for
19 Resolution 1064-A. Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Anyone else on
21 1064-A? Council Member Viverito and then--

22 MALE VOICE: Jackson.

23 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: --and then
24 Jackson.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: I

1
2 just want to thank Julissa and Danny for this
3 Reso. And, you know, at this point in time in our
4 history, we think that we would be beyond having
5 to really send a Reso like this or to adopt a Reso
6 like this. It is a shame that the VAWA Act has
7 not been introduced in Congress. It is a shame
8 that women are constantly being attacked through
9 the different legislatures in terms of laws and
10 legislations that continue to question our ability
11 to make decisions for ourselves, and now to hold
12 hostage legislation that is saving the lives of
13 women who are survivors and expanding the
14 protections to the LGBT community and to natives
15 as well.

16 So it's really, really a shame that
17 we are at this point, but it's great that we have
18 a body which stands strong on these issues and
19 obviously that we can express our position on it
20 as well. And, with that, I obviously hope
21 everyone votes aye on this Reso.

22 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very
23 much. Council Member Jackson.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you,
25 Majority Leader. My colleagues, I rise in support

1
2 of Resolution number 1064-A. And obviously, my
3 colleagues, Julissa Ferreras, the head of the
4 Women's Committee, and my other colleagues that
5 have signed on understand how important it is that
6 we speak out loud and clear against violence
7 against women, but in general, violence in
8 general.

9 But let me just say, as a father of
10 three beautiful girls, I say that I said to
11 myself, if ever anyone tried to hurt my daughter,
12 they're going to have to hurt me because I am not
13 going to accept anyone hitting on my three
14 beautiful girls that my wife and I have raised,
15 and they're 36, 31, and 25. So send a message
16 loud and clear, violence is totally unacceptable,
17 and especially against women.

18 When you look at all of--and you
19 hear on the news--about all of these domestic
20 violence, the hittings, the beatings, the
21 killings, the stabbings and shooting, 99% are
22 against women. Vote yes on this Resolution.
23 Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very
25 much. Council Member Williams.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank
3 you. Just wanted to say thank you to Council
4 Member Ferreras and Dromm for pushing this
5 forward. I wanted to make sure I stood up as a
6 male to support this. Violence against women, of
7 course, not just against women, but of families
8 and communities, and I think if it was violence
9 against men, there would be a lot more things
10 happening a lot faster. So thank you, and I'm
11 happy to support.

12 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very
13 much. Anybody else on 1064-A? Seeing none, we're
14 going to call the vote on this resolution and
15 amended resolution calling upon the United States
16 Congress to reauthorize the Violence Against Women
17 Act, VAWA, amended and adopted by the Committee on
18 Women's Issues. All in favor say aye.

19 VOICES: Aye.

20 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: All opposed
21 say nay. The ayes have it. We'll now move on to
22 Resolution 1225. First person to speak on this is
23 Council Member Jackson.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you,
25 thank you, my colleagues. This Resolution is

1
2 pretty simple and clear. If you did not know,
3 Congress was going to pass HR7, a bill that
4 basically will cut out mass transit funding to the
5 major cities and extend it only to highways. And
6 Jerry Nadler, our Congress Member has been an
7 advocate for, you know, cities around the country
8 for mass transit, and especially for New York
9 City. And the press release that was submitted,
10 our Speaker said loud and clear it will be a
11 tragedy to kill the federal transit funding that
12 keeps our mass transit system moving. Jimmy
13 Vacca, our Transportation Chair, said, as the
14 largest economy in the nation, funding New York
15 City's transit system is not just about
16 transportation, it's about job creation.

17 And I say to all of you, our city
18 cannot afford to be shortchanged when it comes to
19 sustaining its infrastructure. Obviously, this is
20 a very important issue, you should be aware of it.
21 Nadler's amendment would include the continuation
22 of this funding. Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Seeing any
24 others to speak on this Resolution? We'll now
25 call the vote on Resolution 1225, resolution

1
2 calling on the United States House of
3 Representatives to restore the mass transit
4 account that would be eliminated by the American
5 Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act of 2012, HR7,
6 and calling upon the United States House of
7 Representatives to support Congressman Jerrold
8 Nadler's bipartisan amendment to restore transit
9 funding to HR7, and calling on the United States
10 Senate to not adopt HR7 without such restoration,
11 adopted by the Committee on Transportation. All
12 in favor say aye.

13 VOICES: Aye.

14 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: All opposed
15 say nay. Any abstentions? The ayes have it.
16 We'll now move on to General Discussion. Council
17 Member Jackson.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you.
19 Thank you, especially in the month of March, the
20 Women's Committee has taken the lead in bringing
21 forward young female Council Members in order to
22 be presented here today, I met many of them, and
23 I'm so proud of them. And I just say that I spoke
24 to several senators, several state assembly
25 members, future presidents, our future leaders of

1
2 our great society. And as I said to you earlier,
3 of a father of three beautiful girls, you know I
4 support the leadership and development of all
5 women, so I'm proud to stand with the Women's
6 Committee and all of our leaders in congratulating
7 all women, especially in March, Women's History
8 Month. That's number one.

9 Number two, to all my colleagues,
10 as you know, St. Patrick's Day is the 17th, so I
11 want to wish all of you a Happy St. Patty's Day,
12 and wear green to symbolize the love and peace
13 that it brings. And so I say to all of you, Happy
14 St. Patrick's Day, knowing that this month there's
15 going to be a lot of parades. Our Speaker is
16 obviously a proud Irish woman who has stand tall
17 on many, many occasions about her Irish heritage,
18 and especially introducing her father.

19 So I'm just so happy to be a part
20 of this body and to share the love it has put
21 forward. Thank you.

22 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very
23 much. We now have Council Member Koslowitz.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: You're
25 on.

1
2 MICHELLE COLEMAN: I ask for your
3 support of Intro 811. This legislation will give
4 notice for any alterations of traffic patterns
5 throughout New York City. Currently, DOT may
6 alter a traffic pattern and subsequently issue a
7 violation to motorists who are unaware of any
8 changes. This legislation will first address this
9 issue by mandating that DOT must post any
10 modifications to traffic patterns on their website
11 no less than seven days prior to any change taking
12 effect.

13 Second, this legislation will
14 provide a 14-day grace which will--

15 FEMALE VOICE: Keep going.

16 MICHELLE COLEMAN: --which will
17 give motorists and pedestrians ample time to
18 acclimate themselves to any traffic pattern
19 changes.

20 Finally, this legislation will
21 require DOT to inform all Community Boards and
22 Council Members within whose district any
23 alterations occur of any changes not more than
24 seven days after the completion of those changes.

25 I would like to thank my fellow co-

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sponsor, Council Member Vacca, and I ask you to please consider signing on to Intro 811. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very much. Next we have Council Member Foster.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Coming.

YOLANDA PICKNEY: I rise to invite you to the 16th Council District's Women's History Program for our daughters. A documentary will be shown on Thursday, March 22nd, at 6 p.m.--

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: At the Bronx Museum.

YOLANDA PICKNEY: --at the Bronx Museum.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very much. Seeing no others, this meeting is adjourned, and thank you very much to the young ladies who joined us here today, I'm pretty sure we'll see them in elected office in years to come. This meeting is adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Tammy Wittman, 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 *Tammy Wittman*

Date March 31, 2012