

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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March 28, 2012  
Start: 2:36 p.m.  
Recess: 4:48 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E:  
LEROY G. COMRIE, JR.  
President Pro Tempore

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Speaker Christine C. Quinn  
Maria del Carmen Arroyo  
Charles Barron  
Gale A. Brewer  
Fernando Cabrera  
Margaret S. Chin  
Elizabeth S. Crowley  
Inez E. Dickens  
Erik Martin Dilan  
Daniel Dromm  
Mathieu Eugene  
Julissa Ferreras  
Lewis A. Fidler

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

## COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Helen D. Foster  
Daniel R. Garodnick  
James F. Gennaro  
Vincent J. Gentile  
Sara M. Gonzalez  
David Greenfield  
Daniel J. Halloran III  
Vincent M. Ignizio  
Robert Jackson  
Letitia James  
Peter A. Koo  
G. Oliver Koppell  
Karen Koslowitz  
Brad S. Lander  
Jessica S. Lappin  
Stephen T. Levin  
Melissa Mark-Viverito  
Darlene Mealy  
Rosie Mendez  
Michael C. nelson  
James S. Oddo  
Annabel Palma  
Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.  
Diana Reyna  
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)

Claude Trahan  
Executive Vice President, Gas Operations  
Con Edison

John Kane III  
Operating Supervisor, Gas Operations Unit  
Con Edison

John McDonnell  
Mechanic B, Gas Operations Unit  
Con Edison

Michael Santeramo  
Mechanic A, Gas Operations Unit  
Con Edison

Michael Cuthbertson  
Auxiliary Police Captain  
26th Precinct Auxiliary Police Force

Chris Yip  
Police Officer

Reverend Dr. LaKeesha Walrond  
Executive Pastor  
First Corinthian Baptist Church

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SPEAKER QUINN: Okay. The first one led by Council Member Vallone? Oh, there you are. Council Member Vallone and Council Member Halloran. Council Member Halloran and Vallone, actually. We are going to recognize two Con Edison workers and their bravery, so let me give the mic over to Council Member Halloran. And if we could ask Michael Santeramo and John McDonnell and whoever is there with them to come on up to the front, please. Michael and John, where are you?

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Guys come on up. Come on up. Yes, your family too. Yes, yes, everybody. Come on up. They're very shy. There's a third worker, yes. There's actually three workers, John Kane, John McDonnell and Michael Santeramo.

SPEAKER QUINN: Why don't we step up a little bit, folks, and if you can make a little bit of a semicircle behind us.

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Madam Speaker, we're very fortunate to have with us the Executive Vice President, Claude Trahan, who is here with us. The president of Con Edison had to

1  
2 leave. He was here earlier, Craig Ivey, but he  
3 wanted to make sure that you were aware, he was  
4 here, and of course Intergovernmental Relations,  
5 Carol Conslato is here, and she's hiding out, and  
6 John Banks is here, so. We had the good fortune  
7 to have three workers from Con Edison in the Gas  
8 Division out in Bayside, and these brave men heard  
9 the cries of a young woman who was being mugged at  
10 weapon point, and they intervened, came to her  
11 rescue, and then chased down the individual who  
12 attempted to rob the young lady. The police  
13 obviously arrived. And because of the hard work  
14 of these three individuals, that woman is safe, is  
15 sound, her property is secure, and we owe them a  
16 great debt of thanks for their hard work. Thank  
17 you very much, guys. I'm going to--Council Member  
18 Vallone, the Chair of Public Safety, who works  
19 with me on all of these issues.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you.  
21 As Chair of Public Safety, I just want to add my  
22 commendation to Council Member Halloran and  
23 Speaker Quinn. I've always--I've been complaining  
24 that our police force has been dwindling over the  
25 year, we don't have enough, and always ask the

1  
2 community to get involved, but you guys to took  
3 that to a whole other level. I wasn't really  
4 talking about this, but I'm very--we're very glad  
5 that you did this and stepped in when you saw--not  
6 everyone would have done that, and you guys really  
7 deserve the praise of this room, and this room  
8 represents the entire city, and we thought it was  
9 appropriate to bring you down here and really show  
10 you on behalf of the entire city that we  
11 appreciate what you did on this woman's behalf.  
12 Thank you.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: And I  
14 guess Con Edison?

15 SPEAKER QUINN: Well, first let's  
16 just have--we'll have the Clerk read the  
17 proclamation. But I just want to say before we  
18 have the Clerk read the proclamation and then we  
19 hear from Con Edison and our honorees, I just want  
20 to say, wow. Thank you guys. What Peter said is  
21 true. We ask the community to get involved, but  
22 this is above and beyond. I mean, real examples  
23 of heroism. So thank you very, very, very, very  
24 much. And if we could ask Mike if you could read  
25 the proclamation and then we'll hear from the rep

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from Con Ed and then from our heroes?

THE CLERK: Council City of New York Proclamation. Whereas the Council of the City of New York is proud to honor John Kane III, John McDonnell, and Michael Santeramo for courageously rushing to save the victim of a violent purse snatching in Bayside, Queens; and whereas John Kane III from Centereach on Long Island is a hardworking father of three and an Operating Supervisor for Con Edison's Gas Operations Department, he has been with Con Edison since 1988; and whereas John McDonnell, from Rockaway Beach, Queens, is a Mechanic B for Con Edison's Gas Operations Department, he has been with the company since 2005 and is a fourth generation Con Ed employee; and whereas Michael Santeramo from Valley Stream on Long Island is a Mechanic A in Con Edison's Gas Operations Department, he has been with the company since 2007; and whereas on the night of January 25th, 2012, these Con Edison workers were working on a gas leak at the corner of 201st Street and 42nd Avenue in Bayside, Queens, when they suddenly heard a young woman screaming nearby. The crew

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2 from Con Ed flew into action without considering  
3 their own safety and discovered a man violently  
4 assaulting a woman in an attempt to steal her  
5 purse. She was being punched in the face and  
6 bleeding. As the team approached, the suspect  
7 wielded a gun at them, barking at them to step  
8 back. Clearly outnumbered, the armed assailant  
9 then fled by foot. Con Ed's men in blue ran after  
10 him, chasing him through a backyard, but despite  
11 their determination, the perpetrator escaped their  
12 grasp. Nevertheless, the 24-year-old victim was  
13 very grateful for the worker's rescue and for  
14 staying to help her until the NYPD arrived at the  
15 scene. Without their quick response, the incident  
16 would have cost the victim much more than her  
17 broken tooth. And whereas their heroic  
18 intervention serves as an important reminder that  
19 each time we recognize our shared responsibility  
20 for the safety of our neighborhood and help a  
21 stranger in need, we reveal the strength of  
22 character that is the mark of great New Yorkers.  
23 Now therefore be it known that the Council of the  
24 City of New York gratefully honors John Kane III,  
25 John McDonnell, and Michael Santeramo, for their



1  
2 outstanding heroism on March 25th, 2012.

3 Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the entire  
4 Council, Daniel J. Halloran, Council Member 19th  
5 District, Queens, Peter F. Vallone, Jr., Council  
6 Member 22nd District, Queens.

7 [applause]

8 SPEAKER QUINN: Wow, when you hear  
9 the full story, it really completely blows you  
10 away. So, thank you guys. I shouldn't say blow  
11 you away when I'm talking about Con Edison, but  
12 you know what I mean. Sorry, John. But next  
13 we're going to hear from Claude, who is the Vice  
14 President for Gas Operations, and then we'll hear  
15 from our heroes. Thank you very much, sir.

16 CLAUDE TRAHAN: Okay, thank you.  
17 I'm not going to be long. I just want to say that  
18 we at Con Edison are very, very proud of John,  
19 John and Mike for their very heroic acts. We  
20 applaud you and we support you. Thank you.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
22 much.

23 JOHN KANE: I want to say thank you  
24 to everybody for coming. We would do it, you  
25 know, we definitely would do it again for anybody.

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I definitely am glad to stand up here and represent Con Edison, and we're very proud for the company we work for. Thank you.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. There you go.

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JOHN MCDONNELL: I second what John says, ditto.

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SPEAKER QUINN: The true mark of a hero, and I'll tell you, every time there's been a firefighter, police officer, EMS whatever here where they've done the kind of things you guys have done, they never have much to say and just say what you guys said, that's all in a day's work. So, further evidence. So, thank you guys and thank you very much. Bill? Did you get some pictures with her camera? Okay, good. All right. Thanks, John. Oh, next--let's see. All right. We have two more ceremonials. The next one is going to be led by Council Member Robert Jackson and Assistant Majority Leader Inez Dickens, and honor Auxiliary Police Captain Michael Cuthbertson and the 26th Precinct Auxiliary Police Force for their tremendous service to the NYPD and the community at large. So, if we could ask the

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2 Captain and the Officers to make their way up  
3 here.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you,  
5 Madam Speaker. While the Auxiliary Officers of  
6 the 26th Precinct in Harlem come up, you can see  
7 why there are so many of them, and the reason why  
8 is the 26th Precinct Auxiliary Force is the  
9 largest Auxiliary Force of any precinct in the  
10 entire country. And under the leadership of its  
11 Captain and Commanding Officer, Michael Cumbertson  
12 [phonetic] when he moved from the 24th Precinct to  
13 the 26th Precinct, he found out there were only  
14 eight Auxiliary Officers at that particular time.  
15 And in eight years under his leadership, it has  
16 from eight to 150 officers, keeping all New York  
17 City residents who happen to come visit relatives  
18 or walk through the streets of the 26th Precinct,  
19 keeping them safe and sound. And when there's  
20 parades and there's demonstrations, and when  
21 there's other events or when they're just  
22 patrolling the 26th Precinct under the leadership  
23 of its Commanding Officer, we are so proud of all  
24 of these volunteers. They don't get paid; they  
25 volunteer. And we thank all of them for providing

1  
2 the safety and security of the people of the 26th  
3 Precinct and the entire city, under the leadership  
4 of its Captain, who is the Commanding Officer.  
5 Inez Dickens and I represent the 26th Precinct,  
6 and let me just say that I have two huge housing  
7 developments within the confines of the 26th,  
8 Grant Houses and Manhattanville Houses, and  
9 there's a lot of issues and concerns there. But,  
10 in my opinion, if we did not have these fine  
11 officers, both women and men, to patrol the  
12 streets of the 26th Precinct, it would not be as  
13 safe as it is. So, on behalf of myself and Inez  
14 Dickens, we thank you, and let me turn the mic  
15 over to my colleague, Inez Dickens.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you  
17 so much. Captain, you deserve this and more.  
18 This Auxiliary Force from the 26 represents the  
19 community patrolling the community. And we say  
20 thank you, because without you and your  
21 leadership, your dedication, your commitment to  
22 our community, to the residents, to the tenants,  
23 surely there would be other incidents that would  
24 be appalling to all of us. So, here at the City  
25 Council, we say thank you. You don't hear it

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2 often enough because you volunteer. No one forced  
3 you to do this, and you're not doing it for money.  
4 You're doing it for the love of your community.  
5 Thank you, God bless you, and may you always  
6 continue to be safe.

7 [applause]

8 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: So, Madam  
9 Speaker, may I ask the Clerk to read the  
10 proclamation?

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Please.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Here you  
13 go.

14 THE CLERK: Council City of New  
15 York Proclamation. Whereas the Council of the  
16 City of New York is proud to honor Auxiliary  
17 Captain Michael Cuthbertson and the 26th Precinct  
18 NYPD Auxiliary Police Force for their tremendous  
19 service to the NYPD and to the community at large;  
20 and whereas the NYPD Auxiliary Police's program  
21 for civilian volunteers to assist police in their  
22 daily policing duties, these civilian volunteers  
23 are fully trained and provide a uniformed presence  
24 on the street, thereby significantly deterring  
25 crime throughout the five boroughs. These

1  
2 selfless volunteers provide both emergency and  
3 non-emergency assistance, such as quality of life  
4 complaints as well as security at countless  
5 events, including the Harlem Jazz Festival,  
6 concerns in Central Park, monthly community board  
7 meetings, 4th of July fireworks shows, National  
8 Night Out Against Crime, and the New York City  
9 Marathon, accident scenes, street fairs, and our  
10 City's many annual parades, to cite only a few.  
11 They also fulfill these roles in a professional  
12 manner, while forging better relationships with  
13 the police officers and precinct commanders; and  
14 whereas in 2005, after 11 years serving the 24th  
15 Precinct Auxiliary Police, Captain Cuthbertson  
16 became the Commanding Officer of the 26th Precinct  
17 Auxiliary. At the time there were eight active  
18 auxiliaries patrolling the streets of Harlem in  
19 the 26th Precinct. Quickly recognizing the need  
20 for the omnipresence of many officers, he began  
21 recruiting eligible volunteers. Over the course  
22 of five years, he grew the 26th Precinct Auxiliary  
23 from those eight auxiliaries to 150 active  
24 members.

25 [applause]

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2 THE CLERK: Today they are not only  
3 the largest and most decorated Auxiliary in New  
4 York, but also across the nation. And whereas  
5 Captain Cuthbertson and the 26th Precinct  
6 Auxiliary have played a major role in New York  
7 City's continued success as the safest big city in  
8 America. From June 2011 through November 2011  
9 alone, they volunteered more than 20,000 patrol  
10 hours. They are among New York City's finest and  
11 are worth of the esteem of all New Yorkers. Now  
12 therefore be it known that the Council of the City  
13 of New York gratefully honors Captain Michael  
14 Cuthbertson and the members of the 26th Precinct  
15 NYPD Auxiliary Police Force for their outstanding  
16 service to all New Yorkers. Christine C. Quinn,  
17 Speaker for the entire Council; Robert Jackson,  
18 Council Member, 7th District, Manhattan; Inez E.  
19 Dickens, Council Member, 9th District, Manhattan.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you.  
21 So, Captain, Commanding Officer, please address  
22 not only all of my Members and Colleagues of the  
23 City Council, but all the visitors here. We thank  
24 you and all of the officers, 150 strong from the  
25 26th Precinct. Captain.

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MICHAEL CUTHBERTSON: Thank you very much, Council Members. I just want to say thank you, from the bottom of my heart. I want to thank my guys. This is just a few of many of my officers that patrol the streets of Manhattan, and we love doing it. We'll continue to love doing it, and we thank you, the City of New York, Council Member Robert Jackson, Inez Dickens, thank you very much. We appreciate it.

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. Thank you very much, Captain. Thank you all, very, very much. Thank you. And we have one more ceremonial after this. Which, thank you guys. Hey, Lew. All right. The next ceremonial, while folks are exiting, is going to be led by Tish James, in honor of New York City Police Officer Chris Kakit [phonetic] Yip, who gives piano concerns to raise money for neighborhood charities and non-profit groups. It's a great day for the Police Department here today.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Thank you. Hello? How are you? Congratulations. Could my colleagues please join me in honor of Officer Yip? Today this City proclamation is being awarded to



1  
2 an individual who has served the Great City of New  
3 York in more ways than one. He is a leading  
4 example of what one can do for their community.  
5 Chris Kakit Yip came to New York from Hong Kong  
6 with his parents at the age of ten, where after  
7 pursuing an education he earned a teaching  
8 certificate and a bachelor's degree in linguistics  
9 from SUNY Stony Brook. He later decided to become  
10 part of the New York's Finest and serve in the  
11 NYPD in both the 75th Precinct and the 88th  
12 Precinct--that is part of my Council District.  
13 And at present in the Community Affairs Bureau,  
14 Officer Yip, he seeks out new challenges. He  
15 began to play the piano, a talent he decided to  
16 share with the Fort Greene and Clinton Hill  
17 community. Officer Yip keeps his ideal of giving  
18 back to the community first and foremost. He may  
19 be the only police officer on the force to  
20 regularly host benefit concerns for his local  
21 neighborhood charities, giving back all proceeds  
22 from his ticket sales to non-profit organizations.  
23 For the performance in February 2011, Officer Yip  
24 donated half of the ticket proceeds to the  
25 Chinese-American Planning Council. Yay.

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[applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: And the other half to the Brooklyn Music School in Fort Greene, for children who unfortunately are indigent and their families cannot afford to pay the tuition. Most recently, for the holiday benefit, of which I attended, in December 2011 at the Brooklyn Music School, Officer Yip's performance was dedicated to supporting the Auburn Family Shelter, where the vast majority of the children are homeless. At that time Officer Yip told me that no one has ever celebrated him, no one from NYPD has ever--

SPEAKER QUINN: [Interposing] Can we get quiet? Because I just want to make sure everybody hears this extraordinary story of service above and beyond that Tish is telling us, so.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Thank you. Thank you. Officer Yip dedicated all of the proceeds from his performance during the holiday to homeless children in Fort Greene. Some of the poorest children in the City of New York. In fact, the most recent census indicated that part

1  
2 of my District is the poorest census track in the  
3 City, and Officer Yip decided to give back  
4 proceeds to that organization. He indicated to me  
5 that he has never ever been saluted or celebrated  
6 by anyone from NYPD, and so I thought that it  
7 would not be robbery that all of us could come  
8 together to honor this fine man that serves our  
9 community. The work done by Officer Yip serves as  
10 a true illustration on how immigration should be  
11 seen as a good thing, and how we should continue  
12 to allow New York in being a pro-immigration  
13 state. Through the arts he has been able to serve  
14 a community full of diversity and find a common  
15 ground which is shared by everyone. I decided to  
16 honor this great man because I saw what he could  
17 do. He not only patrols our streets, but during  
18 his own time he decides to give back. Not to his  
19 community, but to a community which is full of  
20 diversity. And today, Officer Yip, I say to you  
21 on behalf of the residents of my District and all  
22 citizens throughout the City of New York, we  
23 congratulate you and we say thank you.

24 [applause]

25 SPEAKER QUINN: I just want to echo

1  
2 everything Tish has said. You know, being a  
3 Police Officer is often long, hard days of work,  
4 very grueling on your feet, constantly having to  
5 have your senses about you, and you would be--no  
6 one could blame you if you decided every second  
7 you weren't working you were going to relax, be  
8 with your family, have fun. And instead that  
9 you're drawn to take one of your god given talents  
10 and give it back to the City you serve is just  
11 further example of what--how lucky we all are that  
12 you're in this City and you're part of the NYPD  
13 and really why you are one of New York's finest.  
14 Finest of the finest. So, thank you, and let me  
15 give you the mic. Tish will hold the proc.

16 CHRIS YIP: Okay. Thank you very  
17 much, everybody. Thank you very much. It is  
18 always my interest to help people anyway, and  
19 since I was a little, I enjoyed playing the piano  
20 very, very much. It's one of my passions. I can  
21 easily add the two together and do something to  
22 the community, which is hold benefit shows. In  
23 the past, Councilwoman James already said, that I  
24 already had shows. And actually this May at the  
25 music school, Brooklyn Music School, dedicated to

1  
2 the school for the Centennial Celebration, and a  
3 Mother's Day tribute. In the future I plan on  
4 having more shows, of course, to benefit other  
5 agencies. I'd like to choose a food shelter maybe  
6 in the future, whatever it is I will choose from  
7 talking to other people, learning from different  
8 people with different needs, and hopefully I can  
9 help them out even further. Thank you.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Thank you.

11 [applause]

12 SPEAKER QUINN: And I forgot, I  
13 jumped ahead of the order. But if the Clerk could  
14 please read the proclamation? I was just so  
15 excited by...

16 THE CLERK: Council City of New  
17 York Proclamation. The Council of the City of New  
18 York is proud to honor New York City Police  
19 Officer Chris Kakit Yip, for his outstanding  
20 service to all New Yorkers; and whereas at the age  
21 of ten, Officer Yip came with his parents from  
22 Hong Kong to New York, where they made a new home  
23 in Queens. After earning his bachelor degree in  
24 linguistics and his teaching certificate from SUNY  
25 Stony Brook, he worked for several years as a

1  
2 teacher and youth counselor for the Chinese-  
3 American Planning Council, a community-based  
4 organization which encourages young people to take  
5 an active role in the community. His experiences  
6 there showed him the tremendously positive impact  
7 that such institutions have, particularly in  
8 Manhattan's Chinatown and in other locations in  
9 Queens and Brooklyn, and instilled in him a  
10 commitment to supporting such vital organizations  
11 in the future, and whereas after earlier  
12 assignments proudly serving Brooklyn's 75th and  
13 88th Precincts, Officer Yip is now a part of the  
14 Community Affairs Bureau. In 2007, during his  
15 tenure at the 88th Precinct, he became acquainted  
16 with the Brooklyn Music School and began to take  
17 piano lessons there with the renown Ukrainian  
18 pianist, Valentina Nazarenko. With consistent  
19 practice he honed his skills to such an impressive  
20 degree that his fellow officers nicknamed him  
21 Yiperace. And whereas, Officer Yip is the only  
22 known police officer on the force to regularly  
23 host benefit concerns for local neighborhood  
24 charities, giving back all proceeds from his  
25 ticket sales to non-profit organizations. For his

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2 performance in February 2011, he donated half of  
3 all ticket proceeds to the Chinese-American  
4 Planning Council, and the other half to the non-  
5 profit Brooklyn Music School. His December 2011  
6 Holiday concert at the Brooklyn Music School was  
7 dedicated to supporting the Auburn Family Shelter.  
8 This year, Officer Yip plans to continue holding  
9 more performances to raise funds for non-profit  
10 organizations, as well as provide his audience  
11 with the opportunity to enjoy good music while  
12 supporting important organizations. Now therefore  
13 be it known that the Council of the City of New  
14 York gratefully honors Chris Kakit Yip, for his  
15 outstanding service and contributions to the  
16 community. Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the  
17 entire Council; Letitia James, Council Member,  
18 25th District, Brooklyn.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, and  
20 Officer, thank you very, very much. And Tish,  
21 thank you for bringing Officer Yip to our  
22 attention. So, that concludes our ceremonials for  
23 the day.

24 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Ladies and  
25 gentlemen, can I have your attention please? At

1  
2 this time, please place all cell phones and pagers  
3 to vibrate. All non-council employees, please  
4 leave the main floor of the chambers. For those  
5 of you who are sitting up in the balcony, if you  
6 have a sign, you can hold it chest high. No  
7 higher than that. Thank you.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Pledge of  
9 allegiance. All rise.

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

15 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Roll call.

16 THE CLERK: Arroyo.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

18 THE CLERK: Barron.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.

20 THE CLERK: Brewer.

21 [pause]

22 THE CLERK: Cabrera.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

24 THE CLERK: Chin.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.



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2 THE CLERK: Comrie.  
3 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Here.  
4 THE CLERK: Crowley.  
5 [pause]  
6 THE CLERK: Dickens.  
7 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.  
8 THE CLERK: Dilan.  
9 [pause]  
10 THE CLERK: Dromm.  
11 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.  
12 THE CLERK: Eugene.  
13 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Present.  
14 THE CLERK: Ferreras.  
15 [pause]  
16 THE CLERK: Fidler.  
17 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.  
18 THE CLERK: Foster.  
19 [pause]  
20 THE CLERK: Garodnick.  
21 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.  
22 THE CLERK: Gennaro.  
23 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.  
24 THE CLERK: Gentile.  
25 [pause]

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

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Here.

THE CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

THE CLERK: Mealy.

[pause]

THE CLERK: Mendez.

[pause]

THE CLERK: Nelson.

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Here.

THE CLERK: Palma.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

THE CLERK: Recchia.

[pause]

THE CLERK: Reyna.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.

THE CLERK: Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

THE CLERK: Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

THE CLERK: Sanders.

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Present.

THE CLERK: Seabrook.

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Here.

THE CLERK: Ulrich.

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[pause]

THE CLERK: Vacca.

[pause]

THE CLERK: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

THE CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

THE CLERK: Vann.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Here.

THE CLERK: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

THE CLERK: Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.

THE CLERK: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

THE CLERK: Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Here.

THE CLERK: Oddo.

[pause]

THE CLERK: Greenfield.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Here.

THE CLERK: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.

THE CLERK: Ignizio.

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.

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THE CLERK: Oddo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Here.

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THE CLERK: Rivera.

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[pause]

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THE CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

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THE CLERK: We have a quorum.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Okay. All

11

rise for the invocation, which will be delivered

12

by the Reverend Dr. LaKeesha Walrond, Executive

13

Pastor, First Corinthian Baptist Church,

14

Manhattan.

15

LaKEESHA WALROND: Let us pray.

16

Gracious God, we come to you with grateful hearts.

17

We're so thankful for your presence in this place

18

today. We thank you for your never ending love,

19

and how you continue to keep us. Because of you,

20

and in spite of us. We thank you that as we

21

engage in this conversation, that you will lead us

22

in a way that our hearts and mind will be focused

23

on what's good and what's right and what's best.

24

We pray that you remind us that although we are

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chosen for greatness, we are also called to serve.

1  
2 And in the spirit of service, that we've come that  
3 we might live lives that you've created us to  
4 live, that we might love beyond the limits of our  
5 own prejudices, and that we might serve  
6 graciously, with dignity and with honor. We love  
7 you, God, and we lift this prayer in your holy  
8 name, and we say together, Amen.

9 UNISON: Amen.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council  
11 Member Dickens? Motion to spread the record by  
12 Council Member Dickens.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: I am  
14 pleased that this esteemed member of the Harlem  
15 Community, Reverend Dr. LaKeesha Walrond, the  
16 Executive Pastor and First Lady of First  
17 Corinthian Baptist Church, located at 116th and  
18 Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard, has given our  
19 invocation today. First Corinthian, or FCBC, as  
20 their 6,000 parishioners affectionately call it,  
21 is Harlem's beacon for spiritual guidance and  
22 community service. Dr. Walrond oversees more than  
23 20 ministries designed to engage congregants and  
24 the community with programs such as Healed  
25 [phonetic], helping a race age through love,

1  
2 education, and deliverance; and their enormous  
3 food pantry addresses not only Harlem's needs, but  
4 the entire city, for no one is turned away.

5 Furthermore, they have a thriving youth ministry  
6 that was critical to the fight to save the middle  
7 school at Wadleigh Secondary School for the  
8 Performing and Visual Arts. I want to make note  
9 of the work that Dr. Walrond and her husband,  
10 Pastor Michael Walrond, is doing with our young  
11 people. I am motivated and happy when I come to  
12 their church that is overflowing with positive,  
13 inspirational energy for our young people. And  
14 boy, can they sing. I am thrilled that Reverend  
15 Dr. LaKeesha Walrond is giving today's invocation.  
16 Motion to spread the invocation in full upon the  
17 record.

18 SPEAKER QUINN: If I could ask my  
19 colleagues to please rise again.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: All rise.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: On February 26th,  
22 2012, Trayvon Martin of Miami, Florida, an unarmed  
23 high school student visiting his father's  
24 fiancée's house in Sanford, Florida, was killed  
25 while walking from a convenience store carrying a

1  
2 bag of Skittles and Snapple. Trayvon was engaging  
3 in the most innocent of high school acts. He was  
4 going to see friends and family to watch  
5 basketball. He was by all accounts doing  
6 absolutely nothing wrong. Trayvon had hopes of  
7 pursuing a career in aviation mechanics, but his  
8 life was mercilessly cut short by a self-styled  
9 vigilante, who clearly disregarded the explicit  
10 instructions of the 911 operator, who told him not  
11 to engage, to stand down, not to take any action.  
12 This vigilante, Mr. Zimmerman, was carrying a gun.  
13 There was no need to be carrying a gun in a gated  
14 community as he did his night patrol, or whatever  
15 he was doing. That individual has remained free,  
16 carrying a gun for over a month. So, we are here  
17 today following the passage of resolution on this  
18 matter, following a press conference earlier  
19 today, to first and foremost mark the life that  
20 was cut short of Trayvon Martin, to offer our  
21 deepest sympathies to his mother, Sabrina, and his  
22 father, Tracy, who have acted with such tremendous  
23 grace and dignity in the wake of the most  
24 horrible, horrible of tragedies. But in addition  
25 to marking the loss of this important life, in



1  
2 addition to marking the loss of what Trayvon might  
3 have brought this country and this world, and in  
4 addition to sending our deepest sympathy to his  
5 family, we also stand in this moment of silence in  
6 outrage over this murder, in outrage over the fact  
7 that there has been no real investigation, in  
8 outrage over the fact that the police seem to have  
9 turned a blind eye and a deaf ear to what happened  
10 on February 26th, and in support of the Federal  
11 Department of Justice effort to bring justice in  
12 this case. I'm next going to call on Council  
13 Members Melissa Mark-Viverito and Tish James. I  
14 want to thank them for the resolution that they  
15 sponsored, and the press conference and hoodie  
16 event that they have organized. I also want to  
17 take a moment to thank Chair Debbie Rose of the  
18 Civil Rights Committee who moved very quickly to  
19 hold an emergency hearing today. Let me pass the  
20 mic over to Melissa. Robert, hand that to her.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

22 Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I think a lot has  
23 been said today just through this action, and I  
24 really want to thank all the Council Members, all  
25 the staff, everyone that has been supportive.

1  
2 It's a very moving moment. It was such a tragedy,  
3 what has happened to Trayvon, and the continued  
4 tragedy that is being inflicted upon this family  
5 when justice is not served. So, I'm glad that  
6 today we are taking this action, but we're also  
7 having this resolution that sends a strong message  
8 from New York City and this Council, on us calling  
9 for justice in this case, supporting the  
10 Department of Justice investigation. But deeper  
11 than that, just having us take a moment to reflect  
12 and look at the societal prejudices and racism  
13 that exist that continue to, unfortunately, have  
14 events and tragedies like happened to Trayvon  
15 happen in different communities across this  
16 country, even in our own backyard. So, I am very  
17 touched and moved and thank everyone for the  
18 support, and hoping that the killer will be  
19 brought to justice, and that as a nation we can  
20 strive to better understand and overcome the  
21 prejudices that led to Trayvon's death, and have  
22 contributed to the death of so many others.

23 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Council  
24 Member. And let me next call on Council Member  
25 Tish James, and then the Chair of the Civil Rights

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Committee, Debbie Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: This simple article of clothing has been transformed to a powerful symbol of protest, a protest symbolizing our call and demand for justice. Today I am Trayvon. I am not suspicious. The tragic murder of Trayvon Martin has struck a chord with many Americans, including myself. I thank the diverse coalition of members who stood with us today, recognizing the humanity of all of God's people. And here in New York City, we are telling our young Black men and Latino men that they should not have to be subjected to stop, question, and frisk, without reason; that an institutional change needs to be made, and it needs to be made in this City and in all of our hearts. But on a rainy evening in Florida, a young Black man was stalked, confronted, and murdered without reason, by an individual affiliated with no law enforcement agency. And today the man who pulled the trigger has walked free for over a month, despite overwhelming evidence that implicates him. I'm tired of attending the funerals of young Black and Latino men. I am tired of consoling and

1  
2 holding their mothers. I am tired of being  
3 confronted simply for speaking out with Police  
4 records and school records and blurry pictures on  
5 social networking websites of what someone thinks  
6 is an intimidating or suspicious Black or Latino  
7 man, of a narrative that chews on every mistake  
8 that a person has ever made in their life, as if  
9 any of this makes a child's death less tragic, or  
10 their life less valuable. The demonization and  
11 the stereotyping of Black and Latino men of color  
12 must stop. The presumption that someone is guilty  
13 of a crime simply because of the way that they  
14 look must stop, both on an institutional and  
15 social level. We cannot allow what happened to  
16 Trayvon Martin to ever happen to another child. I  
17 thank all of you here today, for wearing your  
18 hoodies, drinking your iced tea, and eating your  
19 Skittles.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: Chair Rose?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I'd like to  
22 thank the Speaker for her leadership and moving so  
23 quickly to bring this to the floor, and for  
24 Council Members Mark-Viverito and Tish James for  
25 recognizing that a unified voice needed to be

1  
2 heard. You know, wearing a hoodie should not be a  
3 death sentence. We're standing here today in  
4 solidarity with all of the Trayvons, who have been  
5 cut down in their prime solely because of how they  
6 look and what they wear. The choice of clothing  
7 that one chooses to wear should not relegate them  
8 to unwarranted search, negative profiling, or the  
9 most tragic of outcomes, death. All people of  
10 good conscience and a sense of justice must stand  
11 to ensure that this type of vigilante justice is  
12 stopped now. And we must decriminalize walking  
13 while Black. Thank you.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. May  
15 Trayvon rest in peace.

16 [pause]

17 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. And  
18 that concludes our moments of silence for today.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Adoption of  
20 the minutes. Council Member Reyna?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Motion to  
22 [off mic]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Message and  
24 papers from the Mayor?

25 THE CLERK: None.

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE:

Communication from city, county, and borough offices?

THE CLERK: Preconsidered M 771

submitted under the name of Michelle de la Uz, City Planning Commission.

SPEAKER QUINN: Rules, privileges and elections.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Petitions and Communications?

THE CLERK: None.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Land Use call-ups?

THE CLERK: None.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE:

Communication from the Speaker. Quiet, please. Keep it down, please.

SPEAKER QUINN: We're voting on numerous pieces of important legislation and Land Use actions today, the first being Intro 18-A, which is passed out of the Finance Committee. It deals with prevailing wages. I want to thank Chair Recchia for his work on this piece of legislation, and Council Member Melissa Mark-

1  
2 Viverito, the lead sponsor. I want to thank the  
3 staff who have worked very, very long and hard on  
4 this bill, particularly the Counsel to the Finance  
5 Committee, Tanisha Edwards. I also want to thank  
6 Ray Majewski, and Emer Edev, and everyone else in  
7 the Economists team in Finance. I want to thank  
8 Preston Niblack and Jeff Rodus, as well as Rob  
9 Newman and Chuck Mara and members of the Speaker's  
10 Staff who worked on 18-A. 18-A quite simply says  
11 that when the City gives significant subsidies--\$1  
12 million or more in economic development projects--  
13 or rents a significant portion, majority  
14 basically, of a building, when that much City  
15 taxpayer money is going into these projects, into  
16 these buildings, it only makes sense that there  
17 should be a requirement about fair pay for the  
18 building workers who are being paid through the  
19 subsidy or through the rental payment. In our  
20 building service industry, the standard wage is  
21 prevailing wage. The good news is, a majority of  
22 these workers are already making the prevailing  
23 wage. The bad news is, if we don't take this  
24 action, you'll see an outlier part of the industry  
25 potentially begin to destabilize the entire

1  
2 industry, and create a reverse domino effect that  
3 would turn wages down, not up. The last thing we  
4 want taxpayer dollars to do is be moving wages in  
5 the wrong direction. So, I want to thank everyone  
6 who worked very long and hard on this bill to make  
7 sure that we got the final version just right, so  
8 that we can confidently say it is a bill that will  
9 not decrease job growth. It is not a bill that  
10 will cost us jobs, but in fact a bill that will  
11 stabilize an important sector of our economy--  
12 building service workers--a part of our economy  
13 that is often an entry-level for new immigrants in  
14 our city, and help stabilize that sector and raise  
15 wages for those workers. Let me first call on  
16 Chair Recchia and then Melissa Mark-Viverito.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Thank you,  
18 Madam Speaker. First, I'd like to thank Speaker  
19 Quinn for her leadership and support of this great  
20 legislation the sponsor of this bill, Councilwoman  
21 Melissa Mark-Viverito, and the Finance staff who  
22 worked around the clock under the guidance of  
23 Preston Niblack, Jeffry Rodus, Ray Majewski, and  
24 Emrani Bave [phonetic], Antonio Brito and the rest  
25 of my Finance Staff. But I have to give a



1  
2 personal shout out to my outstanding attorney,  
3 Tanisha Edwards. Words cannot say the hard work  
4 she put in and the dedication she had to making  
5 sure that this bill got accomplished. About two  
6 years ago the Finance Committee had its first  
7 hearing on the Prevailing Wage Bill. Speaker  
8 Quinn, the administration, my Finance staff and I,  
9 as well as 32 BJ and REBNY, worked together to  
10 carve out a bill that is balanced, fair, and one  
11 we can be proud of. It is a bill that provided  
12 increased wages to building service workers  
13 without causing damage to the financial health of  
14 our city. Fair and appropriate wages should be  
15 expected in a city as great as New York. It sends  
16 a message that New York City is looking out for  
17 its middle class, and taking steps to ensure a  
18 full economic recovery, and to secure a stable  
19 financial footing for the future. Thank you.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Domenic.  
21 Melissa?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:  
23 Thank you, Madam Chair. And I think what's been  
24 said by you and by Domenic in terms of, like, the  
25 essence of the bill really summarizes it, so I

1  
2 don't want to go too much into it. But just to  
3 say that as a promoter of economic development,  
4 the City commits significant resources including  
5 millions of dollars in subsidies and incentives  
6 for development projects across the city. And as  
7 a tenant, the City spends millions of tax dollars  
8 each year leasing spaces for City agencies from  
9 private landlords. So the bill we're voting on  
10 today stems from the Council's concern that many  
11 individuals benefit tremendously from profitable  
12 city leases or generous economic development  
13 financial incentives. These people are very  
14 fortunate. However, there are some that do not  
15 ensure that the building service employees that  
16 they employ or use receive the prevailing wage,  
17 and that's what we seek to do with this bill.  
18 Because of the Council's work, building service  
19 workers affected by this legislation will now see  
20 a 35% to 45% increase in their hourly wages. And  
21 it's no windfall even at that. The average  
22 cleaner will now make \$22.65 an hour, plus \$8.76  
23 in benefits. And for security guards, they'll  
24 make an average of \$14.35, plus \$4.65 in benefits.  
25 This legislation makes a difference that building

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2 service workers and their families will be able to  
3 see and feel, and will make a tremendous impact on  
4 the lives of many New Yorkers who are in search of  
5 employment opportunities that will serve as a  
6 vehicle to a middle class standard of living. Our  
7 economic development policies have to be rooted in  
8 a desire not only to benefit developers and  
9 business owners, but to create as many good  
10 quality, family-sustaining jobs as possible. And  
11 this legislation moves us further in that  
12 direction, and I'm proud to be a sponsor of this  
13 bill, the prime sponsor. But also as the Speaker  
14 said, and Domenic, it's been a two-year process.  
15 It's been very thoughtful, very deliberate, to  
16 take into account the concerns that had been  
17 raised. So that has to be taken into account.  
18 And obviously all the staff that worked so  
19 incredibly hard on this, Preston Niblack, Tanisha  
20 Edwards, Ray Majewski, Emer Edev, Paul Sturm and  
21 Anthony Brito from Finance Division. 32 BJ  
22 clearly, and REBNY, and also in particular to the  
23 Speaker, for her leadership on this, and really  
24 providing great support for the passage of this  
25 bill. It's a proud day for New York City in that

1  
2 we pass this bill, and once it goes into effect,  
3 and we are a better city for it. Thank you very  
4 much.

5                   SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Melissa.  
6 Next let me speak about the Land Use items that we  
7 are passing today. We'll be voting today on a  
8 rezoning for the West Village. I want to thank  
9 Christian Hylton, Danielle DeCerbo, Chuck Meara,  
10 Wayne Kawadler, Allie Nudelman from my District  
11 Office, and my District Office Chief of Staff  
12 Melanie La Rocca, and all of the other staff who  
13 worked on this rezoning. I want to thank the  
14 Chair of our Land Use Committee, Leroy Comrie, and  
15 the Subcommittee for Zoning Chair, Council Member  
16 Mark Weprin. This rezoning, which deals with the  
17 property that was once the St. Vincent Hospital,  
18 will not bring us back the full service hospital  
19 that we all want in the village. We will continue  
20 that fight to bring back the hospital. But what  
21 this rezoning as reworked by the Council will do  
22 is make sure we have a 24-hour healthcare facility  
23 there. It will make sure--

24                   COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE:

25 [Interposing] Quiet, please. We will not tolerate

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talking.

SPEAKER QUINN: Through the Council's action, this rezoning, in addition to the healthcare facility, is responsive to community concerns. It has fewer apartments than the original proposal, a demand of the community. It has fewer parking spots than the original proposal, a demand of the community. The Reiss Building on 12th Street, which was part of the old St. Vincent's psychiatric facility will not be torn down, an important part of preserving the historic integrity of that block, and also minimizing construction disruption in the village. We also will have very specific restrictions on the commercial space on 7th Avenue and 12th Street, as well as restrictions on the signage that can be used there, to keep in historic context. Also, as part of this overall plan, there will be a significant contribution from the Rudin Organization, the developers, to what was the Foundling Hospital for Orphan Children on 6th Avenue, to convert that into a school. There will also be contributions to art education at PS 3 and PS 41, and most significantly, not in the zoning

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2 actions we will be taking, but as part of this  
3 overall action, we were able to get the State of  
4 New York to reduce the price of the 75 Morton  
5 Street building they own in Greenwich Village, and  
6 we were able to get the Department of Education to  
7 purchase that seven-story building, which will now  
8 become a school or schools desperately needed in  
9 Greenwich Village. So, I want to thank everyone  
10 on the staff and everyone in Land Use who worked  
11 so hard to get this proposal to be responsive to  
12 the needs and demands that were articulated by the  
13 Greenwich Village community. And I assure all of  
14 my colleagues that just as we need to in the  
15 Rockaways, we will continue the struggle in West  
16 Village to bring back a full-service inpatient  
17 hospital. Let me next call on the Chair of our  
18 Land Use Committee, Leroy Comrie. And then the  
19 Chair of our Subcommittee, Mark Weprin.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I want to  
21 thank Speaker Quinn and her staff and all of the  
22 people that were involved in this project. As I  
23 said in the Committee meeting when--

24 SPEAKER QUINN: [Interposing] Can  
25 we get quiet for the Chair?

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: As I said  
3 in the Committee meeting that when you have a  
4 project such as the size of this magnitude with  
5 this impact, to have a completed project, there's  
6 no one that's satisfied, then you've come to an  
7 agreement that at least people have had the  
8 opportunity to be heard. We endeavored. I want  
9 to congratulate Council Member Mark Weprin, who  
10 ran a great committee meeting to make sure that  
11 anyone that wanted to speak, any issue they wanted  
12 to be vetted was allowed to be vetted. I want to  
13 congratulate all of the people that had an  
14 opportunity to speak on this project at that time.  
15 We have to remember that as we move forward, we  
16 are suffering a crisis in hospital and medical  
17 facilities in this country. Right now, as we are  
18 dealing with the issues at Peninsula Hospital in  
19 the Rockaways and in Queens where we suffered four  
20 closings of hospitals since 2008, we have a real  
21 problem with trying to maintain hospitals that are  
22 doing indigent services. We have a real problem  
23 with trying to find a way to fund them and finance  
24 them. The Rudins tried to do everything they  
25 could to find a provider that would want to

1  
2 continue that, and they've come up with an option  
3 that they thought would be the most viable and  
4 actually innovated. We have to work with the  
5 community. The project has been reduced  
6 significantly from its original concept. The  
7 project has been amended to allow for community  
8 input and community input on the park, which is a  
9 historical site for many issues that happened  
10 around making sure that AIDS and the people that  
11 were dealing with AIDS were treated with dignity  
12 and respect. There was a lot of work that went  
13 into developing this project. There was a lot of  
14 work that was developed in trying to meet the  
15 needs of the community and move forward. I want  
16 to urge all my members to vote Aye on this  
17 project. Again, and congratulate to all of those  
18 who--please be quiet. And I want to congratulate  
19 all of those people who worked for so many hours  
20 to try to get this to where it is today.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Chair  
22 Comrie. Chair Weprin?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Thank you,  
24 Madam Speaker. Just briefly. You know, I know  
25 that there are people who are here and are upset



1  
2 about some of the aspects of their not being a  
3 full service hospital. We would have liked  
4 nothing more than to put a full service hospital  
5 somewhere in the area. Unfortunately, as Council  
6 Member Comrie mentioned, Queens we've lost four  
7 hospitals, and there's nobody there ready to build  
8 them. We want hospitals too. Speaker Quinn would  
9 love a hospital there, but unfortunately we didn't  
10 have a magic wand we could wave to make a hospital  
11 appear, and the issues that were brought to us by  
12 the community and the ones that were before us at  
13 the hearing, we tried to address. A lot of  
14 community concerns; the speaker mentioned a lot of  
15 the concessions that were made by the Rudins, her  
16 fighting to get us a piece of land to have a new  
17 school on Morton Street, her putting a park  
18 together that's going to address a lot of the  
19 needs of the community, and North Shore LIJ  
20 putting an emergency care facility on the site,  
21 across the street, to help deal with many of the  
22 concerns of people who need medical care there.  
23 Obviously it's not everything we would want, but  
24 again, we can't make things happen. And those who  
25 said, you know, you have to oppose this; we oppose

1  
2 this measure, it doesn't happen, then there's no  
3 emergency care facility and you still have an  
4 empty building there with no medical services.  
5 So, I can't argue with the passion of the people  
6 who are upset about not having a hospital. I  
7 agree with them. But that's not what is before us  
8 here today. And Speaker Quinn and the staff and  
9 the Committee really tried to address a lot of the  
10 concerns of the community, the quality of life  
11 concerns and other concerns that is going to try  
12 to make this project work and work well for the  
13 community. Thank you very much.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Chair  
15 Weprin. I also want to thank Community Board 2  
16 for their work on this project, and the other  
17 local elected officials, Borough President Scott  
18 Stringer, Assembly Member Deborah Glick, State  
19 Senator Tom Duane, and Assembly Member Dick  
20 Gottfried. Let me also now move on to a number of  
21 bills we are voting on and vetos we are overriding  
22 that come out of the Transportation Committee.  
23 Let me start by thanking Lyle Frank and Molly  
24 Murphy, and Jarret Hova, and Laura Popa, and the  
25 other staff--Dan Avery--who have worked on these

1  
2 pieces of legislation. There's Intro 183-A, which  
3 is in relation to accessible pedestrian signals,  
4 sponsored by Council Member Gale Brewer. Intro  
5 449-A, a piece of legislation that requires a  
6 livery passenger bill of rights to require bill of  
7 rights provisions around wheelchair accessibility,  
8 sponsored by Council Member Oliver Koppell. We  
9 have Intro 745-A, requiring the Department of  
10 Transportation to post on its website pedestrian  
11 related project information in a way that is  
12 accessible to people with disabilities,  
13 particularly the visually impaired. That was  
14 introduced by the Chair of the Committee, Jimmy  
15 Vacca. We also--let me start with those and then  
16 we'll move on to the two overrides after that.  
17 But clearly this package of three bills is  
18 designed to make sure New York City is easier for  
19 people with disabilities to get around in. It is  
20 also designed to make sure that our Department of  
21 Transportation is more responsive to the needs of  
22 people with disabilities particularly by moving  
23 towards having many, many more walk/don't walk  
24 signs in addition to the countdown clocks be  
25 audible, so visually impaired people will be able

1  
2 to hear when it is safe for them to cross the  
3 street and not cross the street, and also have  
4 DOT's website have all the information about bike  
5 lanes, about pedestrian plazas, so when  
6 particularly impaired people set out to plan their  
7 days they can use the website, since it will be  
8 audible, to know where are areas they will have an  
9 easy time going to and from and what areas they  
10 should avoid, and of course making sure that our  
11 livery industry is responsive to the needs of  
12 folks in wheelchairs. So, I want to thank Chair  
13 Vacca first and foremost, also Council Member  
14 Koppell and Council Member Brewer. And I'm going  
15 to ask Council Member Vacca to speak on these  
16 three pieces of legislation, and then Council  
17 Member Koppell--I'm sorry. Council Member Vacca,  
18 then Council Member Brewer, then Council Member  
19 Koppell.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Thank you,  
21 thank you Madam Speaker. I think too often when  
22 we think of disabled individuals, we often don't  
23 think of those who are visually impaired, and we  
24 don't think of people who are blind. They have  
25 unbelievable challenges as they try to navigate

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2 City streets. What we did in the Transportation  
3 Committee, via the bills that we're passing  
4 introduced by Council Member Brewer and I, is to  
5 try to make it easier for this population. We  
6 want them to know via the New York City DOT  
7 website when there are major street configuration  
8 changes. And we want them to know--obviously they  
9 can't see what's printed, so we want that in a  
10 verbal way, so that they can go about their daily  
11 responsibilities with this important information  
12 at their fingertips. Having that type of access  
13 to the internet for a blind person often is not a  
14 luxury, it's a necessity as they go about their  
15 day-to-day chores. And Council Member Brewer's  
16 bill, and I'll let her talk about it even further,  
17 does speak to pedestrian signals and making them  
18 audible, so that a blind or visually impaired  
19 person can be able to press a button and hear  
20 whether they should walk, whether they should  
21 wait, whether they can stop totally. So, we want  
22 to make accessibility for this special community  
23 really a priority. I know we have much more to  
24 do. You know, my father was blind until his  
25 passing six years ago. And I can only tell you

1  
2 that we lived with those challenges. My father  
3 was used to hearing a car coming, because there  
4 was no other way for him to know should he cross  
5 that street or not. I wish that we had that  
6 technology all those years that we have today. I  
7 wish that we had advocates there 30 years ago,  
8 like we have today, fighting for this group of  
9 people. So, it's a special time for me. I hope  
10 that we can do more, and I want to do more, and I  
11 urge my colleagues to vote yes. Thank you.

12 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
13 much, Chair Vacca. Council Member Brewer?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you  
15 very much. I want to thank the Speaker and then  
16 in particular, Council Member Vacca. Intro 183  
17 will require the New York City Department of  
18 Transportation, in consultation with the Mayor's  
19 Office for People with Disabilities, and advocates  
20 for members of the visually impaired community to  
21 install, as you heard, accessible signals,  
22 accessible pedestrian signals, at 25 intersections  
23 every year. This is a beginning. And this  
24 legislation will also require an annual report on  
25 the status of the APS program, which shall include

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2 amongst other things detailed information on the  
3 cost of the program, potential funding sources,  
4 and the ranking, most importantly, of the top 50  
5 intersections. And the reason that's important,  
6 50 intersections recommended for the APS, is that  
7 all of us know, I'm sure, people who might go to  
8 VISIONS, people who might go to Jewish Guild for  
9 the Blind, people who might go to Lighthouse or  
10 other wonderful programs and institutions in the  
11 five boroughs. But people who are blind are just  
12 like anybody else that want to go to all the busy  
13 intersections. They want to be part of the life  
14 of the city. Many people work. Dr. Karen Gourgey  
15 at Baruch College has been instrumental in pushing  
16 this legislation, along with Lester Marks in the  
17 Lighthouse; Ken Stewart, a friend of mine and the  
18 Speaker's, a former member of Community Board 4;  
19 and all the folks who are part of VISIONS, and  
20 particularly Annalyn Barnbier. And I say all of  
21 this because this is a long time in coming, this  
22 particular legislation. We've been working on it  
23 for about five years. I'm very excited. Other  
24 cities have taken leadership, but ours is a bigger  
25 city. And I'm sure that with the advocacy

1  
2 community, we will make sure that this program is  
3 implemented at all the right intersections. The  
4 bottom line is that APS are as essential to the  
5 visually impaired community as crossing signals  
6 are to the sighted. Thank you very much.

7 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
8 much, Council Member Brewer. Council Member  
9 Koppell?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Very  
11 briefly, Madam Speaker and members. This bill is  
12 a movement, further movement towards making sure  
13 that people who need wheelchair accessible cabs  
14 and livery service can get that service and know  
15 that they are entitled to it. Thanks to the State  
16 Legislature and the Governor, we're going to have  
17 many more accessible livery cabs and yellow cabs  
18 on the street. And this makes it clear in the  
19 taxi or the livery cab bill of rights that  
20 accessible vehicles are available. We hope that  
21 before too long all yellow cabs and ultimately all  
22 livery cabs will be wheelchair accessible. We're  
23 moving in that direction, and this is part of that  
24 very worthwhile movement. Thank you.

25 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very



1  
2 much, Council Member Vacca. We are also voting  
3 today to override two vetoes of legislation that  
4 came out of the transportation committee, and  
5 again, I want to thank Lyle Frank, Molly Murphy,  
6 Dan Avery, Jarret Hova, Laura Popa and Rob Newman  
7 for their work on these overrides. First the  
8 Mayor has vetoed Intro 490-A, a piece of  
9 legislation introduced by Council Member Gennaro,  
10 and then he's vetoed Intro 546-A, a piece of  
11 legislation introduced by Council Member  
12 Greenfield. 490-A--both of these came through the  
13 Transportation Committee. 490-A is an  
14 unbelievably commonsense piece of legislation. We  
15 all know how muni meters work. You actually have  
16 to get out of your car and go to the muni meter  
17 and put your credit card in or put the money in.  
18 You can't use mental telepathy to send your  
19 payment from the driver's seat of your car to the  
20 muni meter. It takes time to walk from here to  
21 there, but in those few minutes it takes to walk  
22 from your care to the muni meter and back to your  
23 car, you can until this law, get a ticket. It is  
24 the ultimate governmental kick in the tuchus, that  
25 while you're trying to pay, you're going to get a

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2 ticket that you're going to have to pay more for.  
3 And very simply, we're saying give people five  
4 minutes, the time it takes to walk from here to  
5 there. Now, the Administration has said that this  
6 is going to lead to fraud. Furthest thing from  
7 the truth, because the only tickets that are  
8 covered in this bill, because of concern about  
9 fraud, are electronically written tickets. And in  
10 that electronic system, you will only be able to  
11 void those that are in five minutes, not six  
12 minutes, not seven minutes; it will be programmed  
13 that way. Second, the Department of Finance is  
14 going to be required through this legislation to  
15 issue a yearly report on what tickets have been  
16 cancelled and send that report to the City Council  
17 so this can be monitored. So there really is no  
18 reason not to support this legislation, and I  
19 would urge all of my colleagues to vote to  
20 override the veto today. Second, Intro 546-A is a  
21 piece of legislation that will prohibit the  
22 Department of Sanitation from sticking those big  
23 neon stickers on your car window because you  
24 violated alternate side of the street parking.  
25 When this veto is overwritten you'll still get a

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2 ticket, because when you break alternate side of  
3 the street, you should get a ticket. But you  
4 won't come out with a big neon sticker on your car  
5 that is only there to embarrass you, that it is  
6 incredibly--I know from personal experience--hard  
7 to get off of your window. Now, the Mayor's  
8 Office has said we need these stickers because  
9 they have made our city streets cleaner. The  
10 facts don't bear that out. In the first ten years  
11 that the Department of Sanitation used these  
12 stickers, according to the Mayor's Management  
13 Report Data, the streets of the City of New York,  
14 which were 73% clean before stickers, went up one  
15 tenth of one percent in the first decade that  
16 stickers were used. So, clearly stickers alone  
17 had a statistically insignificant effect on making  
18 our streets cleaner. What changed in the decades  
19 since our city went from 73% of streets cleanest  
20 rating to into the 90s? We hired more people to  
21 clean the street. The City Council allocated and  
22 constantly restores extra money for extra litter  
23 basket pickup. Whether you like the program or  
24 not, WEP workers now go out in the thousands and  
25 clean city streets. So they're not, if you look

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2 at the facts, any cleaner because of these--well,  
3 they're one tenth of one percent cleaner because  
4 of the stickers. But the 20 plus percent jump in  
5 cleanliness has no relationships, if you study the  
6 facts, to these stickers at all. So, I urge all  
7 of my colleagues to override both of these vetoes.  
8 Let me call again on the Chair of our  
9 Transportation Committee, Jimmy Vacca, then on  
10 Council Member Gennaro to speak to 490-A, and then  
11 Council Member David Greenfield to speak to 546-A.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Thank you.

13 This is an important issue for all of us today  
14 because it relates to the issue of parking  
15 fairness. We have had a history in our city of  
16 the I Got You ticket. When we implemented the  
17 five-minute grace period in 2009 pertaining to  
18 alternate side street cleaning, we were told the  
19 roof would cave in, that was a terrible piece of  
20 legislation; and we had to override the Mayor's  
21 veto. But you know what's happened since that law  
22 was enacted? Our streets have not gotten dirtier  
23 and the roof did not cave in. So, this Council  
24 has been on record as taking positions that will  
25 make sure that those who deserve to get a ticket

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2 get the ticket, but those who don't deserve to get  
3 it will not. And if they do, they should have  
4 recourse. It really is finding someone guilty  
5 before they're allowed to plead innocent. When  
6 they get that green sticker on their window,  
7 they're found guilty on the spot. Why, when  
8 they're already receiving a summons that they do  
9 have an opportunity to adjudicate? And with the  
10 growth of muni meters, our city is going to be in  
11 the next 12 months 100% muni metered. And with  
12 the growth of muni meters, well, we have a  
13 challenge before us, for senior citizens, for a  
14 disabled person, for a lady or a gentleman who has  
15 children, baby carriages, they deserve several  
16 minutes--no more than five--to go and get the muni  
17 receipt from the box and put it in their window.  
18 Again, it's only called fairness. So, I do hope  
19 that the Council will override the two vetoes that  
20 the Mayor has issued in both these matters, and I  
21 thank my Committee members and their staff for  
22 their assistance.

23 SPEAKER QUINN: Council Member  
24 Gennaro.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

1  
2 Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
3 I certainly wish to be associated with your good  
4 remarks on both of these bills, but let me talk  
5 about 490. That was the one that I had the good  
6 fortune to put forward. And somewhere in the City  
7 right now, someone is walking to a muni meter,  
8 maybe they're elderly or maybe they have some kids  
9 with them, and maybe they have to wait on line  
10 between one or two people who are also buying the  
11 slip, and when they go back to their car they're  
12 going to have a ticket. And this bill will fix  
13 that. And this can't happen soon enough. I'm  
14 very grateful to the Speaker and all my colleagues  
15 for, number one, passing this bill, and doing the  
16 right thing today and making this override. And  
17 so I thank the Speaker and I thank Chairman Vacca.  
18 Thank you.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: Council Member  
20 Greenfield.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank  
22 you, Madam Speaker. I have to tell you, I'm  
23 actually very excited today. For me, this is why  
24 I became a City Council Member, to solve the  
25 everyday problems of my constituents. And I want

1  
2 to thank the Speaker for her leadership on this  
3 issue, and I want to give special thanks to Rob  
4 Newman and Lyle Frank and Laura Popa, and the rest  
5 of the terrific Council Transportation Committee  
6 for their hard work to the bill, and of course our  
7 Chairman, Jimmy Vacca, and his aide, Andrea  
8 Pender. You know, as a result of this vote,  
9 sanitation workers will no longer be the judge,  
10 jury and punisher when it comes to plastering  
11 impossible to remove stickers on vehicles when  
12 drivers allegedly violate alternate side parking  
13 regulations. I say allegedly, because I've had  
14 more people come to me in praise of this  
15 particular legislation than any other legislation.  
16 And one story hit home, which I mentioned before,  
17 and it's a story of an individual, a constituent,  
18 who was rushed to the hospital in an ambulance.  
19 And thank god, after a couple days he got out and  
20 he was fine, only to find that of course he had to  
21 move his car on alternate side. He had a ticket  
22 and a sticker. He fought the ticket. He won in  
23 court, but that sticker, remnants of it are still  
24 stuck on his window. The bottom line is that our  
25 sanitation crews can now focus on doing what they

1  
2 do best, help keeping our streets clean. If  
3 anything, the City will now get cleaner as  
4 sanitation workers will have more time to clean,  
5 rather than affix these impossible to remove  
6 stickers. And so I thank my colleagues for  
7 standing up for average New Yorkers in helping  
8 making daily life in the City a little bit saner,  
9 a little less frustrating, and simply put, our  
10 government should not be in the business of  
11 defacing private property, and publicly shaming  
12 its citizens for a minor parking violation. Thank  
13 you all so much.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Council  
15 Member Greenfield. I also want to thank Chuck  
16 Davis, and the staff of the Rules, Privileges and  
17 Elections Committee for the appointees today to  
18 the Arts Commission and the City Planning  
19 Commission, and that concludes Communications from  
20 the Speaker.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Discussion  
22 of General Orders. Council Member Barron?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you,  
24 my colleagues. I rise to speak against the St.  
25 Vincent's project. And I want to just bring this



1  
2 to the attention of my colleagues. There are some  
3 West Villagers, residents, who are going to be  
4 severely hurt by this project. The medical  
5 services to that community is dismal. They're  
6 going to have to travel distances. We're not  
7 asking them to build another hospital, but the  
8 rich Rudins can do better than a one-bed or two-  
9 bed medical facility that's not going to have  
10 anything in it that comes near to meeting the  
11 medical needs of that community. In addition to  
12 that, they're going to have luxury housing. They  
13 already lost a hospital. They lost 3,500 jobs.  
14 They jobs that this project is going to create  
15 won't come near that. So there are some people in  
16 that community that are very upset by this  
17 project. The rich Rudins could have gone back to  
18 the drawing board, and maybe not a full hospital,  
19 but put something in on geriatrics, pediatrics,  
20 something, a trauma unit, or something to make the  
21 medical needs of this community met. This is a  
22 life or death issue. People could actually die if  
23 they don't get the proper medical services. So,  
24 to say you're not building a hospital so we have  
25 to take this; no, you're not building a hospital,

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2 but the rich Rudins could have done much better  
3 for the medical services for that community, could  
4 have done much better on affordable housing for  
5 that community. So, there are some people in that  
6 community that are very upset at this, and they  
7 should be, and I want to encourage my colleagues  
8 to vote no on these four or five bills and resos  
9 so that they can go back to the drawing board.  
10 And as hard as they may have worked, the rich  
11 Rudins can do better. Thank you.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Quiet  
13 please. Council Member Koslowitz. Hold on, put a  
14 mic on. Point of special order, we didn't have  
15 Land Use Call-ups, so.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Thank  
17 you, I'd like to vote Aye on all general coupled  
18 orders and also the resolutions for today.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council  
20 Member Gennaro. You've got to get the mic over.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Mr.  
22 Leader, I request consent to vote on the full  
23 calendar and all the resolutions?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: So ordered.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I vote Aye

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on all the bills and all the resolutions.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Thank you.

Okay. Now back to General Order discussions.

Council Member Jackson. Robert Jackson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you, Majority Leader. My colleagues, I rise to express support of Intro 18-A. As it was stated by our Chair of Finance during the Committee hearings, he thanked all of those parties involved, including the Real Estate Board, including 32 VJ and all the others that were involved in moving this forward to where agreement was reached, or consensus. And as you know, when you reach a consensus, you don't get everything, but you negotiate to where agreement can be reached. So, I am proud as a member of this City Council to be able to vote in favor of 18-A, which is going to increase the wages of certain employees over the next several years. Knowing that developers will be receiving City money, hard-earned tax dollars in order to move forward with their projects, and so those employees that are working for them, or we're renting space where there's more than 50% of employees that are not earning a whole lot of

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2 money will benefit from it. But also, my  
3 Colleagues, I rise in support of Intro 183-A, on  
4 page 8, and our Chair Jimmy Vacca spoke about his  
5 father. And let me speak to you as a brother-in-  
6 law, where my brother-in-law and sister-in-law are  
7 totally blind from retinitis pigmentosa. And in  
8 fact, my brother-in-law works in Brooklyn and he  
9 travels every day by public transportation and has  
10 to cross a huge highway in order to get to work.  
11 And in fact about a month ago he was going into  
12 the subway and he came back home because he  
13 crashed into some sign--it may have been a  
14 telephone pole or something--and there was a big  
15 gash and bleeding from his head; he didn't go to  
16 work that day. But he's been travelling the New  
17 York City streets ever since he's been 19, and  
18 he's now 50 years old. So, I ask you to support  
19 all of these particular intros. Thank you very  
20 much.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council  
22 Member Fidler.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Thank you,  
24 Deputy Majority Leader. I am not voting in favor  
25 of the Art Commission nominees today, I'm going to

1  
2 be abstaining. And it's not because they aren't  
3 qualified, such as the Art Commission is set up.  
4 My problem is the Art Commission or the Public  
5 Design Commission, as it's also called, itself. I  
6 have been told by people who work in City  
7 agencies, particularly in the Parks Department,  
8 that 50% of the cost overruns and time delays that  
9 are connected with projects occasioned by the Art  
10 Commission, often on issues that are trivial,  
11 arbitrary and capricious. I don't understand why  
12 we need a commission to tell designers what's in  
13 good taste. Who appointed people to say, this is  
14 good taste? Who decided that a sculptor or an art  
15 historian can tell me what sense belongs around  
16 Frasier Park as opposed to a different fence? Why  
17 can't I put the roof on top of the bocce court in  
18 Marine Park so my bacci players can play in the  
19 rain? Because the Art Commission doesn't think  
20 it's fancy enough and we can't afford the one that  
21 they think is fancy enough? But the Parks  
22 Department thinks it's just fine, and we'll use it  
23 someplace else. And further, you cannot get  
24 minutes to an Art Commission hearing. They do not  
25 have them. Try to FOIL information at the Art

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2 Commission. In a government that's supposed to be  
3 transparent, this is the least transparent agency  
4 in the entire government, and that says a lot.  
5 They hold their meetings in the back room, discuss  
6 their business, do their deliberations, come out  
7 and tell you what they've decided. It is the most  
8 undemocratic non-transparent, money-wasting agency  
9 in the City of New York. So, I am abstaining  
10 today on these nominees, because there is  
11 certainly nothing about these nominees. But I  
12 would urge all of you to look at the bill that  
13 I've introduced to eliminate the Public Design  
14 Commission, the Art Commission. Put your name on  
15 it. Let's make government work more efficiently,  
16 and let's save some money.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Quiet,  
18 please. Members too. Peter Koo? Council Member  
19 Koo?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Mr. Majority  
21 Leader, I would like to ask for permission to vote  
22 on all Land Use matters, and general orders, and  
23 also the other resolutions.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: So ordered.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote Yes on

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all matters. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Thank you.

Anybody else on General Orders? Report on special committees?

THE CLERK: None.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Reports of standing committees.

THE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Finance. Introduction 18-A, prevailing wage requirements.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on General Orders.

THE CLERK: Preconsidered M 772 and Reso 1269 and Preconsidered M 773 and Reso 1270, City Council Budget.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

THE CLERK: Preconsidered LU 582 and Reso 1271, Bronx.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

THE CLERK: Preconsidered LU 583 and Reso 1272, Brooklyn.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General

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Orders.

THE CLERK: Preconsidered LU 584  
and Reso 1273.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
Orders.

THE CLERK: Preconsidered LU 585  
and Reso 1274, Bronx.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
Orders.

THE CLERK: Report of the Committee  
on Land Use. LU 567 and Reso 1275, enclosed  
sidewalk café, Brooklyn.

SPEAKER QUINN: Motion to  
disapprove.

THE CLERK: LU 572 and Reso 1276  
through LU 576 and Reso 1280 on page 3, landmark  
designations.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
Orders.

THE CLERK: LU 578 and Reso 1281,  
unenclosed sidewalk café, Manhattan.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled to be filed  
pursuant to a letter of withdrawal.

THE CLERK: LU 579 and Reso 1282,



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and LU 580 and Reso 1283 on page 4, unenclosed sidewalk cafés.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

THE CLERK: LU 581 and Reso 1284, amendment to the zoning resolution.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

THE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections, M 749 and Reso 1285, approving the appointment of Philip E. Aarons to the New York City Art Commission.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

THE CLERK: M 570 and Resolution 1286, approving the appointment of Maria Elena Gonzalez, New York City Art Commission.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

THE CLERK: Preconsidered M 771 and Reso 1287, approving the appointment of Michelle R. de la Uz, New York City Planning Commission.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

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THE CLERK: Report of the Committee  
on Transportation, Intro 183-A, accessible  
pedestrian signs.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled  
on General Orders.

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THE CLERK: Intro 449-A, livery  
passenger bill of rights.

9

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled  
on General Orders.

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THE CLERK: Intro 490-A, cancelling  
tickets upon showing of a valid muni meter  
receipt.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
Orders.

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THE CLERK: M 746, Mayor's Veto,  
introductory number 490-A.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled to be  
filed.

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THE CLERK: Introduction 546-A,  
enforcement of alternate side of the street  
parking rules.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
Orders.

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THE CLERK: M 747, Mayor's Veto,

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introductory number 546-A.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled, to be  
filed.

THE CLERK: Introduction 745-A,  
pedestrian related project information.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled  
on General Orders.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: General  
Order Calendar.

THE CLERK: LU 559 and Reso 1288  
through LU 563 and Reso 1292, St. Vincent's  
Medical Center.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
Orders.

THE 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 items that have been coupled on  
the General Order Calendar.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Roll call.

THE CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

THE CLERK: Barron.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.

3

I vote No on LU 559 through 563, the St. Vincent's

4

project. I vote No. I abstain on the Art

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Commission appointments, and Aye on all the rest.

6

THE CLERK: Brewer.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you

8

very much. I vote Aye on all. I do want to

9

mention regarding St. Vincent's, I'd like to be

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associated with the remarks of Council Member

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Weprin, who said it so articulately. And having

12

negotiated a lot of deals, I know how hard they

13

are, but I'd like to be associated with his

14

remarks. I do support the Art Commission. Two

15

excellent appointments today, however, I do think

16

the streamlining issue is a real one. I have lots

17

of projects regarding parks. I know how easy it

18

is, or the request is made to go around the Art

19

Commission by doing certain things involving the

20

procurement process. So, I do think there's a lot

21

of streamlining necessary, but I do think that it

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serves a role. Thank you very much.

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THE CLERK: Cabrera.

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COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

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THE CLERK: Chin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

THE CLERK: Comrie.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye on all.

THE CLERK: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

THE CLERK: Dickens.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

THE CLERK: Dilan.

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye on all.

THE CLERK: Dromm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye on all.

THE CLERK: Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

THE CLERK: Ferreras.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Aye on all.

THE CLERK: Fidler.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye on all

with the exception of 749 and 750, resolutions

1285 and 1286 in which I emphatically abstain.

THE CLERK: Foster.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye on all.

THE CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: No on

490-A, Aye on the rest.

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THE CLERK: Gentile.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

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THE CLERK: Gonzalez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye on

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6 all.

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THE CLERK: Greenfield.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I agree

8

9 with Fidler. Though, I am voting Aye on all.

9

10 That's to pre-judge those fine candidates, but I

10

11 do look forward to working with him on his

11

12 legislation and I thank him for his coherent

12

13 point.

13

THE CLERK: Halloran.

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COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: I vote

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16 Nay on 18-A. Nay on 18-A. Aye on the rest, and I

16

17 am enthused by the enthusiasm of Mr. Fidler and

17

18 look forward to joining him in his bill, along

18

19 with the rest of my Republican colleagues, who

19

20 have been saying that for years. Welcome to the

20

21 club.

21

THE CLERK: Ignizio.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: No on 18-

23

24 A, Aye on all others.

24

THE CLERK: Jackson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on

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all.

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THE CLERK: James.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: May I be

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excused to explain my vote?

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: So ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: I

9

congratulate Michelle de la Uz as a Commissioner

10

of the New York City Planning Commission. She's a

11

constituent and a fine individual and I welcome

12

her to the Commission, and I look--with regards to

13

Council Member Fidler's comments, I support his

14

comments, but I think it would be better served

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not to eliminate the Art Commission, but in fact

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merge them with the Department of Design and

17

Construction, since their duties overlap. That's

18

a bill that I have introduced as well. And I

19

believe that their duties are duplicative, and I

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vote Aye on everything else. Thank you.

21

THE CLERK: Koppell.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: May I have

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permission to explain my vote?

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: So ordered.

25

Yes. Unfortunately I can't join in overriding the

1  
2 veto of the Mayor on 490-A. To explain, this is a  
3 problem. Jimmy Vacca explained the problem well,  
4 but it's a problem we've already solved. Because  
5 Dan Garodnick, and I was a co-sponsor, has a bill  
6 that was signed by the Mayor that says that if you  
7 send in the muni meter receipt and it was issued  
8 within five minutes of the ticket, and now those  
9 tickets are electronically issued, as was  
10 mentioned in the discussion, you can automatically  
11 get your ticket cancelled. So, there's a  
12 solution. The solution of this bill will  
13 unfortunately in my view lead to all kinds of  
14 disputes on the streets of our city, between  
15 people who think the parking enforcement agent  
16 shouldn't have issued the ticket, or they say five  
17 minute have not passed, the parking enforcement  
18 says five minutes have passed; they get into some  
19 altercation. I see a lot of disputes on the  
20 streets. We already have a lot of antagonism to  
21 the parking enforcement agents. In addition,  
22 there will be offers of gifts if they would only  
23 cancel the tickets. You know, maybe  
24 electronically that will be made difficult, but I  
25 can see problems. We have problems in the Bronx



1  
2 with ticket fixing. Whether that will happen here  
3 or not I'm not sure. But we've solved the  
4 problem. Why do we want to introduce something  
5 that will solve more problems? So, I can't  
6 support the override of the veto, although I  
7 appreciate the sentiment behind it. So, I will  
8 then withdraw my request, vote Aye on all; No, on  
9 the override on 490-A. Thank you.

10 THE CLERK: Lander.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye on all.

12 THE CLERK: Lappin.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Oh, sorry.

14 It's right in front of me. I would like to  
15 associate myself with the comments of my  
16 colleague, Council Member Fidler. I'd like to  
17 congratulate Councilman Melissa Mark-Viverito and  
18 everyone else on the prevailing wage bill, and  
19 vote Aye on all.

20 THE CLERK: Levin.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye on all.

22 THE CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye  
24 on all.

25 THE CLERK: Mealy.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye on all.

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THE CLERK: Nelson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Me too as

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well, and Aye on all.

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THE CLERK: Palma.

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye on all.

8

THE CLERK: Recchia.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye on

10

all.

11

THE CLERK: Reyna.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye on all.

13

THE CLERK: Rodriguez.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye on

15

all.

16

THE CLERK: Rose.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I'd like to

18

acknowledge the efforts on the part of Chair Vacca

19

and Council Member Brewer for the accessible

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pedestrian signals, and for championing the cause

21

for people with special needs, and I vote Aye on

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all.

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THE CLERK: Sanders.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye on

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all.

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THE CLERK: Seabrook.

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Aye on  
all.

THE CLERK: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye on all.

THE CLERK: Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I ask for  
permission to explain my vote?

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I'm going to  
vote Aye on all, except I'm going to abstain on M  
749, M 750, Resolution 1285 and 1286. At this  
point, this is not personal with me regarding the  
Art Commission. This is institutional. I cannot  
understand how an agency of the City of New York  
in 2012 cannot produce minutes of their  
proceedings. There is something called the Open  
Meetings Act. This is a fact in this state for  
years. I have in my own district--first of all,  
we should all know that the Art Commission, by  
their activity, has increased the cost of capital  
projects in this city unbelievably by their  
procrastination, postponement, years of questions  
that go on and on. And as it goes on and on, the

1  
2 taxpayer pays more and more. A project starts  
3 here and ends up there. Secondly, I mentioned the  
4 issue of minutes. I mentioned that there's a lack  
5 of transparency in this agency. This agency is  
6 driving other agencies in the City crazy. Ask any  
7 other City agency about the Art Commission. They  
8 will tell you that they're being driven out of  
9 their minds. In my own district I have a bridge,  
10 the City Island Bridge. They're going to demolish  
11 the bridge, put a new bridge up. It's going to  
12 cost \$120 million. The Art Commission approved  
13 this. I went to the Art Commission. I called  
14 them up. I said, can I have the minutes of the  
15 meeting where you approved this. They say, Mr.  
16 Vacca, we don't keep minutes. What is this?  
17 They're on the New York City .gov website. What  
18 are they, a private entity? I heard at the  
19 Committee Meeting on Rules today that they  
20 sometimes do these things in executive session.  
21 Well, let me tell you what executive session is.  
22 Executive session is when you discuss pending  
23 litigation. Executive session is when you discuss  
24 personnel items. It's not when you discuss a  
25 public structure that's historic that you've

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decided to approve demolition of, and then you then approve a new bridge to take its place. Give me a break. Until there's reform I'm not voting for anyone else on the Art Commission, period.

[applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Tell us how you're really feeling.

[laughter]

THE CLERK: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: No on 18-A, Aye on the rest.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: You guys got that?

THE CLERK: Yes. Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye on all.

THE CLERK: Vann.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye on all.

THE CLERK: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye on all.

THE CLERK: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS:  
Congratulations to Michelle de la Uz. Very good.  
I'm impression by Lou Barron and Jimmy Barron.

1  
2 But I'm going to vote Aye on all the rest and  
3 hopefully we can do some work to make this thing  
4 happen properly. Thank you.

5 THE CLERK: Wills.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: I vote Aye  
7 on all, except for the override of 490. I believe  
8 that that bill is going to cause alterations  
9 between those who are giving out the tickets and  
10 people on the street. And I believe that the  
11 bills that Garodnick and Oliver Koppell have  
12 already put in solves that problem. Thank you.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Are you  
14 voting No or abstaining on that? We weren't  
15 clear.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: I'm  
17 abstaining on that vote and I'm voting Aye on  
18 everything else.

19 THE CLERK: Oddo.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Thank you.  
21 May I be temporarily excused to explain my vote?

22 THE CLERK: So ordered.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: I'll be  
24 voting No on 18-A and Yes on all others. And I  
25 just want to say that I know that this is the

1  
2 floor of the City Council, and we're not supposed  
3 to talk about raw politics, but they're opening up  
4 some envelopes in Brooklyn for a State Senate  
5 race, and I want to say that I will be rooting  
6 against my colleague, Lew Fidler, in hoping that  
7 he loses for no other reason but for the fact I  
8 want to keep him here in the City Council. When I  
9 listened to him speak just now, it reminds me how  
10 much of a commonsense, smart public official he  
11 is. And I think we could use that here and  
12 continue to use that in the City Council. So, for  
13 very selfish reasons, I hope things don't turn out  
14 all that well in the recount. You know, Lew talks  
15 about a bill, and a few years ago there was this  
16 really smart good-looking guy from Staten Island  
17 who happens to be more on the conservative end of  
18 the spectrum. I said on the conservative end of  
19 the spectrum. And he teamed up with this fabulous  
20 young lady who represented Greenwich Village on  
21 the far, or the left of the spectrum, and whole  
22 bunch of conservative and moderate and progressive  
23 council members joined on this bill. And it was a  
24 bill to do away with the Art Commission. And my  
25 colleague Gale Brewer probably remembers this.

1  
2 Henry Stern was fighting with the Art Commission  
3 about the Yard Arms, I think Reba White Williams.  
4 And it was this big thing. But they were the most  
5 smug, arrogant, insular group of folks in City  
6 Government. You would think they were the Parks  
7 Department. And we introduced this bill. We  
8 introduced this bill and the New York Times  
9 discovered it and said, wow, what bill would have  
10 Chris Quinn and Tom Ognibene and Jimmy Oddo, and  
11 left, and center. And it was a bill to do away  
12 with the Art Commission. And a funny thing  
13 happened. We started getting invites for lunches  
14 to go up to the rarified air to the third or  
15 fourth floor up there, and they started responding  
16 to us, along the lines of what Jimmy Vacca was  
17 talking about, about projects going over budget,  
18 and what Lew was referring to. And it's just  
19 amazing to see that at the end of my tenure here  
20 in the Council that some things never change. And  
21 I would encourage my colleague Lew Fidler and  
22 other colleagues, if it's not a direct  
23 elimination, let's figure out a way. Eric Ulrich  
24 just said, we should have a call-up provision.  
25 There has to be something to inject some



1  
2 accountability into this agency. So, what's old  
3 is new again. I support Council Member Fidler and  
4 any of my colleagues that comes up with a rational  
5 plan to rein in some of the smug, insular,  
6 arrogant attitude that lofts down from high above.  
7 Thank you.

8 THE CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

9 [off mic]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Thank you.

11 All items on today's General Order calendar were  
12 adopted by a vote of 49 in Affirmative, 0  
13 negative, and 0 abstentions, with the exception of  
14 Land Use Item number 559 and Resolution 1288  
15 through Land Use 563 and Resolution 1292, which  
16 was adopted by a vote of 48 in Affirmative, 1  
17 negative, and 0 abstentions, and M 749 and  
18 Resolution 1285, which was adopted by a vote of 46  
19 in the Affirmative, 0 negative, and 3 abstentions;  
20 and M 750 and Resolution 1286, which was adopted  
21 by a vote of 46 affirmative, 3 abstentions; Intro  
22 18-A, which was adopted by a vote of 45 in the  
23 Affirmative, 4 in the negative, and 0 abstentions;  
24 Intro 490-A, which was adopted by a vote of 46 in  
25 the affirmative, 2 negatives, and 1 abstention.

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And that's everything on the general order calendar. Now we'll go to--now we have discussion of resolutions. Introduction and readings of bills. Quiet, please. We still have the meeting going on. Quiet please.

SPEAKER QUINN: Quiet or we're going to have to clear the balcony.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: So, discussion of resolutions. Council Member Jackson, resolution 803-A, please.

SPEAKER QUINN: Officers, if we could clear the balcony.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Please be quiet as you're leaving. The meeting is still going on. Council Member Jackson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Can I get a mic? Thank you. My colleagues, I rise on page 13, is resolution 803, regarding an amended resolution calling upon the State Legislature to pass and the governor to sign the New York State Dream Act, which would grant benefits to eligible undocumented immigrants. If you don't know, I represent Northern Manhattan, which includes Washington Heights, Inwood and Harlem. And in

1  
2 fact, hundreds of thousands of individuals that  
3 are trying to get a higher education, this would  
4 help. And as you know, the more education you  
5 receive, the better off your families will be in  
6 the long run, because the more income a college  
7 educated individual earns compared to a high  
8 school education. And in the long run, this is a  
9 win-win situation for the individual families and  
10 individual members, and also our great city, and  
11 our great state. And I ask all of you to support  
12 Resolution 803, commonly known as the Dream Act.  
13 Thank you.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council  
15 Member Williams.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I just  
17 wanted to lend my voice to the importance of this  
18 resolution. It is a no-brainer. I'm hoping that  
19 people in the state and actually in federal  
20 government will hear what's going on. I think we  
21 have a tendency to use, abuse and accept all of  
22 the good things that immigrants are bringing, and  
23 then not giving them equal share of providing the  
24 best that they can for city, state and our  
25 country. I am a first generation Brooklynite. My

1  
2 parents hail from Grenada. I understand firsthand  
3 what it is like to be from an immigrant family.  
4 This is a no-brainer. What we're saying is that  
5 for students who came through nothing of their  
6 own, who are here, need to have the opportunity to  
7 better themselves, get a better education, so they  
8 can do what's better for the places that they  
9 live. Other than that, they may choose wrong  
10 choices, when then further lead for more police  
11 activity in certain communities. So, I'm hoping  
12 that we see the interconnectedness of all of these  
13 things, pass this overwhelmingly, and I hope  
14 people hear us. Thank you.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council  
16 Member Rodriguez.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank  
18 you. And I'm speaking on behalf of the resolution  
19 to support the Dream Act. Sometimes people, they  
20 ask about work, sometimes it's - - people to rise  
21 and take the streets and hold protests. The  
22 answer is that people get frustrated. People get  
23 to the point and say we will take it no more. And  
24 when we've got talented young people doing good in  
25 school, being there, doing the right thing, and

1  
2 now we getting close to closing the state budget,  
3 and the Dream Act has been left out of this  
4 negotiation. And most likely, this will not pass  
5 at a state level. And we know that. And it is so  
6 unfortunate, that we're sending the message to our  
7 young people that in the City and the State of New  
8 York, that we don't care for them. Now they are  
9 80s, they're getting 90s; they're doing the best  
10 they can. They want to be the next engineer, the  
11 next doctor, the next architect. They need to be  
12 part of the workforce. And the state needs more  
13 of those people ready to compete. And we, as all  
14 of my colleagues, Council Member Barron has said,  
15 we are not begging. We are not asking. We are  
16 demanding because undocumented, we pay a lot of  
17 money. So, it is so unfortunate that we are so  
18 close to getting the state budget passed, and we  
19 know that most likely our--

20 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE:

21 [Interposing] Time's up, Council.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: --

23 Governor Andrew Cuomo and our Majority Leader,  
24 they have not include the Dream Act in their  
25 negotiation.

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Time's up,  
Council Member.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank  
you.

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Thank you.  
Council Member Danny Dromm.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you  
very much. I look forward to passing this  
resolution in the Council today, along with the  
Dream Fund resolution as well. I'd like to thank  
Speaker Quinn for her leadership and championing  
of immigrant rights in the City of New York. What  
happens to a dream deferred, Langston Hughes, gay  
poet of the Harlem Renaissance famously asked.  
Denying educational opportunity to our best and  
brightest, who are Americans in all but name, is  
cruel to these youth and unwise for our city and  
state. Governor Cuomo, these young people's  
dreams have been deferred too long. In hearings  
last Tuesday, the Committee on Immigration heard  
compelling testimony from young New Yorkers  
striving to succeed. These youth bravely came out  
as undocumented in order to shed light on the  
injustices of our immigration system. These

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1  
2 dreamers, who are our greatest asset, are now  
3 clamoring for the opportunity to lead our city  
4 toward a better future. Let's give them the  
5 chance to realize their dreams. We demand that  
6 Governor Cuomo push this legislation forward  
7 before the April 1st deadline. Thank you.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Last  
9 speaker on this, Council Member Eugene.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you  
11 very much. I stand in support of the Dream Act,  
12 and I want to commend the Speaker for her  
13 leadership on this issue, and I also want to  
14 commend the Chairman of the Immigration Committee,  
15 Council Member Dromm, and all my colleague co-  
16 sponsors. You know, United States as you know, is  
17 a country that was founded by immigrants, and the  
18 contribution of immigrants is remarkable. So,  
19 those young people, they are yearning. They want  
20 to go to school. They want the opportunity to  
21 have a good education. And this is our moral  
22 obligation to try to do everything that we can do,  
23 to have the young people get the education that  
24 they deserve, because allowing them to have the  
25 right to go to college is a good investment for

1  
2 the City of New York. It's a good investment for  
3 the State of New York, and it is also a good  
4 investment for United States. And I commend all  
5 of you. We should do everything that we can do to  
6 give the right opportunities to these young people  
7 who will be our future leaders. Thank you.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Speakers on  
9 Resolution 1219, a resolution calling upon the  
10 State Legislator to pass and the Governor to sign  
11 legislation establishing the New York Dream Fund  
12 Commission. No speakers on 1219? So, now we'll  
13 vote on the two resolutions, 803-A, and 1219. All  
14 in favor?

15 VOICES: Aye.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: All  
17 opposed.

18 [pause]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Ayes have  
20 it. And now we'll call on Council Member Rosie  
21 Mendez, who made it before the meeting ended.  
22 Yay.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I vote.  
24 Excuse me, I'm a little out of breath. I vote Aye  
25 on all. Thank you.



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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Thank you.  
Now speakers to our now preconsidered resolution  
1261, a resolution condemning the senseless  
shooting of Trayvon Martin. Speakers to that  
resolution. Council Member Inez Dickens?

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you,  
Deputy Majority Leader. Today we stand and stood  
this morning, symbolically, and in solidarity.  
And I want to thank Council Members Tish James and  
Melissa Mark-Viverito, in bringing us together,  
united. Hoodies in protest to the negative  
stereotypes that protest racism, to protest the  
brutal assassination of Trayvon Martin. We stand  
united against the over 500-year atrocity of  
racism, an unfortunate American institution.  
Symbolization is not the sole answer to right wing  
extremism that is gripping every inch of our  
country. This extremism, this conservative  
plague, has once again given pardon, approval to  
atrocities against humanity, in particularly  
atrocities against brown and black people. I'm  
not speaking of any one political party, because  
the Tea Party philosophy comes in both Republican  
and Democratic flavors. Further, I'm not merely

1  
2 talking about black and brown people, because  
3 racism plague is pandemic and breeds wholesale  
4 destruction without regard for race, color, creed  
5 or sexual preference. But as a Black woman who  
6 has fought for civil rights for my entire life--

7 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE:

8 [Interposing] Time.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: --as an  
10 elected who daily fights for our young people who  
11 are in crisis, I want--

12 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE:

13 [Interposing] Time's up.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: --to say,  
15 that we stood together today. We will continue to  
16 stand together to fight this racism.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Thank you.

18 Council Member Barron.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you  
20 very much. My colleagues, it was good today that  
21 we had our hoodies on and we had our Skittles, but  
22 that's not why Trayvon is dead. That is not why  
23 Ramarley Graham in the Bronx is dead. It's not  
24 because a law in Florida that Trayvon is dead.  
25 There was no law in New York that killed Amadou

1  
2 Diallo and Sean Bell. Neither of them had a  
3 hoodie on. Neither of them was trying to get  
4 Skittles. It wasn't a law that killed little  
5 Timothy Stansbury on a rooftop. Ramarley Graham  
6 is horrible. Police went into his house, killed  
7 him in his bathroom in front of his six-year-old  
8 brother and put a gun to his grandmother's head,  
9 and he didn't have any weapons, or was not  
10 committing any crime. We have to take off these  
11 hoodies when you come back to work tomorrow and  
12 deal with racism, race. We have to deal with  
13 race. Clearly the real criminal in this is not  
14 just Zimmerman, it was the system that did not  
15 arrest him. It was the system that let the  
16 killers of Amadou Diallo go, let the killers of  
17 Sean Bell go. This system is racist; it's still  
18 in place, and any one of us, this could happen to,  
19 and there will not be justice. So, it was good  
20 symbolically today, and to my White colleagues--

21 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE:

22 [Interposing] Time.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: --we thank  
24 you for wearing the hoodies, but you can wear a  
25 hoodie and carry a gun, and you more than likely

1

2 will not be shot and killed.

3

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council

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Member Robert Jackson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you,

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Majority Leader. I rise, my colleagues, and

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obviously the picture of Trayvon Martin, just a

8

couple of facts that people didn't talk about. I

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truly believe that there was racism involved. And

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I read online, the New York Post the other day,

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where it said that this individual who killed him

12

had made approximately 42 complaints to 911 over

13

the past couple of years, and one was even against

14

a little boy that was about seven or nine years

15

old, and he reported him as a suspicious character

16

in the community. And obviously the officer,

17

detective at the scene wanted to file manslaughter

18

charges, but the State Attorney involved said no.

19

And I say to all of you, that even though this is

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symbolic, this is important overall. We must stop

21

racism wherever it stands. As I said, it doesn't

22

matter if I have on a suit or this hoodie, I'm

23

still the same person. Thank you.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council

25

Member Al Vann.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Yeah, I  
3 didn't realize this had to be said in a minute.  
4 It's a very important issue. First of all, I  
5 think the greatest pain that one can experience in  
6 life is to be predeceased by one's own child. I  
7 believe that the unbearable pain is even worse  
8 when such a death is both a violent and an  
9 unjustified one. I believe that I can speak for  
10 everyone here of the heartfelt sympathy that we  
11 extend to the family of Trayvon Martin. I pray  
12 they will be strong. I hope they will eventually  
13 find some measure of peace, and I know that this  
14 peace will only come when justice is found for  
15 their son. We must obtain justice for their son,  
16 and then they will find some measure of peace.  
17 Trayvon Martin's parents have to--they're grieving  
18 and they're suffering, and at the same time, their  
19 dead child is being victimized. I mean, it's the  
20 ultimate insult, the ultimate horrifying thing  
21 that could happen to anyone. They're being--twice  
22 they're being horrified. Their child has been  
23 killed, then secondly those that are responsible  
24 for arresting and holding for trial and  
25 prosecuting, they are attempting to cover up that

1  
2 which has occurred. You can't imagine the pain  
3 and suffering that they must be going through.  
4 I've lived on this planet for seven decades and  
5 some. I've experienced racism down south, up  
6 north, in military uniform, in civilian clothes;  
7 so that, you know, racism is a reality. It's  
8 getting better. We've improved. A long way to  
9 go. But fragments of racism are at the core of  
10 the discrimination and the other injustices that  
11 black and brown people still face in America.  
12 Institutional racism encourages individual acts of  
13 racism. Institutional racism gives license to  
14 those who are sworn to protect the law to become  
15 lawbreakers. There are parallels between Florida  
16 and New York City. They have young Black and  
17 Latino men, and in New York City, we have young  
18 Black and Latino men. In Florida they have a law,  
19 this Stand Your Ground. In New York City we have  
20 Stop and Frisk. We can give voice, as I think  
21 thousands of people are all over this country, to  
22 the injustice for Trayvon, and bringing justice  
23 there. But we can do more than give voice here.  
24 We can do something about the situation in New  
25 York City. Yes, let's demonstrate. Let's

1  
2 protest. Let's demand justice for Trayvon, but  
3 let's make sure that we stop Stop and Frisk. We  
4 must stop Stop and Frisk. Finally, and I  
5 appreciate the opportunity. In demanding justice  
6 for our young brother Trayvon, we're also sending  
7 a message to all of our young men around this  
8 country. We love you. We've failed you, but we  
9 recommit that we are going to do better to  
10 preserve you and protect you. You deserve that  
11 from the country of your birth. Thank you.

12 [applause]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council  
14 Member Williams.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I didn't  
16 want to follow Council Member Vann.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: That was  
18 the only Comrie minute that we're allowing.  
19 Everything else is on the clock, so.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Well, I  
21 just wanted to say I stand here, Black, with a  
22 hoodie, locks, and earrings, and I love hip-hop,  
23 but I am not a criminal. I am a New York City  
24 Council Member, and I am an unarmed civilian. And  
25 I wish there was more humor to that, but perhaps

1  
2 people who look like me should walk around with  
3 these shirts and we'd have some less problems.  
4 And while we are here, and I am here also in  
5 solidarity with Trayvon Martin and his family, I'm  
6 also in solidarity with Ramarley Graham, who also  
7 was wearing a hoodie and closer to home, John  
8 Collado, and all the others seeking justice. So,  
9 we should be doing what we're doing for Trayvon.  
10 We have to do more at home. When we take off the  
11 hoodies, I'm hoping that we will push to end the  
12 policies like Stop and Frisk, to push to fix a lot  
13 of the racist policies that are being allowed to  
14 fester in the police department, that are causing  
15 a lot of our problems here, so young Black men  
16 have to be scared of getting shot by other young  
17 Black men and police officers. And that's a  
18 problem. And we can deal with both of those  
19 issues at the exact same time. And Senator George  
20 Maziarz, from Niagara Falls, who wants to have the  
21 same Stand Your Ground law in New York State as in  
22 Florida, needs to be stopped right now. Thank  
23 you.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council  
25 Member Rodriguez.



1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: First of  
3 all, I would like to thank the Speaker and my  
4 colleagues Melissa Mark-Viverito and Tish James  
5 for their leadership in this. Second, I'd like to  
6 invite those of you who are not Black and Latino  
7 in this room or throughout the City, to please put  
8 yourself in our shoes, to please look at those  
9 experiences that we have when we have lost Leona -  
10 - when we have lost Juan Rodriguez, Diallo, - -  
11 Rodney King, Sean Bell, John Collado back in  
12 September, and Trayvon Martin. I don't want to  
13 see any White family going through this experience  
14 that we've been going through. But when we are  
15 here to call everyone is, first supporters to get  
16 justice to Trayvon Martin, and also please, let's  
17 deal with the reality. Let's deal with the  
18 conditions that make our--especially young people--  
19 -to live in communities without feeling that we  
20 are protected, to live and work in the street  
21 where we don't see that we're being treated equal  
22 to other people. So, I hope that we get justice  
23 for Trayvon Martin--

24 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE:

25 [Interposing] Time.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: --but

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also we have to close the gap, and also we're

4

calling on the Justice Department to continue the

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investigation in Florida, but also to come to the

6

city and look at how the NYPD abuse their forces,

7

also at Stop and Frisk. Close to 700,000 Black

8

and Latino people--

9

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE:

10

[Interposing] Time.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: --and

12

also abusing their power in the protests in the

13

Wall Street Occupation. Thank you.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council

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Member Mealy.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Good

17

afternoon everyone. I want to speak today about

18

the troubling issue of guns in our community.

19

Many of us are wearing hoodies today to show

20

solidarity and support in the fight for justice

21

for Trayvon Martin. Trayvon Martin was killed by

22

a vigilante with a gun. Congresswoman Gabby

23

Giffords was horribly injured by a madman with a

24

gun. Last week, this weekend, cleaning a

25

community garden, I found a .9mm gun, and someone

1  
2 else found a shotgun. It sickens me to think  
3 about what might have happened if a young person  
4 or a criminal had come across these guns. We have  
5 to do all we can to remove guns from our  
6 community. In Florida, Arizona, and in the  
7 Brooklyn, and across this nation. I wear this  
8 hoodie today as a sign of sympathy for victims of  
9 gun violence, and of my commitment to the fight  
10 against gun violence as we move forward. No  
11 justice, no peace.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council  
13 Member Foster.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Thank you.  
15 I wasn't going to stand and speak, because I think  
16 everyone has said everything and something  
17 eloquently. But as a new mother, I couldn't sit  
18 down, because I can't imagine losing my daughter,  
19 and she's only 10-months old. So, my condolences  
20 go out to the family of Trayvon Martin, and the  
21 fact that they have to go through this. But I  
22 want to say, and I think it's important that we  
23 understand that racism is alive and well. And  
24 when people talk about a post-race society, we're  
25 not there. White boys are not killed for being

1  
2 White, walking in a neighborhood with hoods. 88-  
3 year-old White men are not pulled over like my 88-  
4 year-old father is pulled over because he looks  
5 suspicious. We have to start addressing these  
6 issues and talking honestly about race. And we  
7 have to start letting our Black boys know that  
8 they are valued, that their life means something.  
9 Because while police and vigilantes like Zimmerman  
10 are killing them, we are killing each other. And  
11 until they know that they are loved and valued and  
12 comes from kings and princes and have a purpose on  
13 this earth and that God was not on a lunch break  
14 when they were made, they will continue to believe  
15 that their life is worth nothing, so they can take  
16 someone else's life. So, I hope when we take off  
17 these hoodies, when we come back to work tomorrow,  
18 that we are committed talking honestly about  
19 saving our Black boys and Latino boys. Because if  
20 not, our daughters are going to grow up and  
21 they're not going to have husbands, and they're  
22 not going to have anyone to create and build  
23 strong Black and Latino families, because we're  
24 going to be waiting on buses to go visit them in  
25 prison. Thank you.

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council  
Member Seabrook.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I think Helen Foster summed it all up in what she said. And I didn't wear a hoodie today; I wear one all my life on the basis of the color of my skin. And if anybody believes that Trayvon got stopped for a hoodie, there's something wrong. Because as Helen said, White kids wear hoodies too, but they don't get shot like that. And I think that--the reason I want to respond to this is because one of my constituents was killed. Ramarley Graham was my constituent that lived not far from me. And we can't have selective response to injustice. If we're serious about injustice, then it's for everybody or for nobody. We have not had a resolution for a guy that lives in our neighborhood, and we're reaching beyond. Not that I'm condemning it. I applaud it, but I think that it's important that we also take care of the folks at home. And so that response has to be. And I would hope that we would look at it. It is not about Stop and Frisk as much as it's about racial profiling. Stop and

1  
2 Frisk is not an issue. If a guy got a gun, he  
3 should be stopped and frisked and everybody else.  
4 It's you're selective about who you're stopping,  
5 and it's called racial profiling. So let's not  
6 let someone else give us the argument on the basis  
7 of Stop and Frisk, and the real issue is racial  
8 profiling. And let's deal with that issue. Thank  
9 you very much.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: That's it  
11 on the discussion of the resolution. All in favor  
12 of preconsidered Resolution 1261, say Aye.

13 VOICES: Aye.

14 VOICES: Amen.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Amen. Any  
16 opposition? Hearing none, the resolution is  
17 passed. General discussion. Council Member  
18 Dickens, did you still want a general discussion?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Yes, thank  
20 you. Just quickly. This is on preconsidered Reso  
21 1255, which ensures that tenants that currently  
22 receive preferential rent will have their  
23 agreement extend throughout the duration of their  
24 tenancy. It calls upon the CEO of the New York  
25 State Homes and Community Renewal to amend the

1  
2 rent stabilization code to disallow preferential  
3 rents that are not for the duration of the  
4 tenancy. It is also asking the state to amend the  
5 code so that all preferential rent agreements are  
6 amended to include the duration of the tenancy. I  
7 want to thank the Speaker, the Speaker's staff,  
8 and Benjamin Goodman and the rest of the  
9 infrastructure division for working on this. I  
10 ask my colleagues to support this preconsidered  
11 reso. Thank you.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council  
13 Member Jackson. Time to rise.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you.  
15 My colleagues, I rise to ask--yeah, time to rise,  
16 you're right. I rise in respect to Resolution  
17 1263, a resolution submitted by our colleague, Al  
18 Vann and myself, calling upon the State  
19 Legislature to amend the State Education Law in  
20 relation to Mayoral control of the New York City  
21 School System, by requiring that the respective  
22 community education councils approve a co-location  
23 of a school closure or phase-out proposal before  
24 it may be presented to the PEP, the Panel for  
25 Educational Policy, which is comparable to the

1  
2 citywide Department of Education. And I have  
3 attended many PEP meetings where I have called  
4 them a rubber stamp. And some people have said to  
5 me they're less than a rubber stamp, because at  
6 least a rubber stamp leaves an imprint. But  
7 clearly when we talk about having the community  
8 involved in the decision-making process, we need  
9 to have CECs make a determination of a co-location  
10 or a school closure within their own community  
11 district boundaries. So, I ask all of you, if you  
12 have not signed on already, to sign on to  
13 resolution 1263 sponsored by our colleague Al Vann  
14 and myself. Thank you.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council  
16 Member Foster?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Thank you.  
18 I just wanted to, last Saturday on St. Patrick's  
19 Day, I got into a car accident, actually a three-  
20 car accident. And I just want to thank Chuck,  
21 because I can do lots of things, but I'm a  
22 panicker, so I panicked. But EMS was great, my  
23 daughter was in the car. All of us were taken to  
24 Harlem Hospital, and Harlem did an amazing job in-  
25 -just beyond in terms of taking care of us, making



1  
2 sure the baby was fine, and then calming my  
3 husband and myself down, because the whole family  
4 was in the accident. And I'm very appreciative.  
5 Thank you, Chuck. Thank you, Chris. Thank you--  
6 Inez came to the hospital to see me. And  
7 especially, special thank you to the EMS and the  
8 Harlem Staff, because they did go above and  
9 beyond, and made what was a horrible scary  
10 situation much better. So, thank you.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Okay.  
12 Council Member Williams?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank  
14 you. Just first, the continuation from my last  
15 piece, I did want to thank all of my White  
16 colleagues who wore hoodies as well, for showing  
17 some solidarity. And I do hope when we're making  
18 decisions in terms of budget and policy we  
19 remember the speeches that were made here, because  
20 I believe the same racism we're talking about is  
21 pervasive in many of the decisions that are made  
22 in where resources should go. I want to point to--  
23 -some people on their desk may have had some  
24 paperwork from a police package that I put in a  
25 few weeks ago, a few months ago. If you have the

1  
2 paperwork that means you're one who signed on. A  
3 few people actually thought they were signed on  
4 where they weren't. I have some resolutions that  
5 I'm asking people to look at, please. Two of them  
6 have to do with trying to curb the sugar problem  
7 in our communities that is ravaging us. One of  
8 them has to do with supporting the End Racial  
9 Profiling Act of 2011. The other one is another,  
10 a police bill, in relation to making the Police  
11 Commissioner an elected position. I'm just trying  
12 to find creative ways to get some accountability  
13 from a department that I believe is not  
14 accountable enough. I would ask people to sign on  
15 so that we can push the conversation forward. And  
16 I also would like to say, much of my ire is not  
17 related to the many men and women, as I like to  
18 call blue shirts, many of who want to do a good  
19 job, are doing a good job. I believe they deserve  
20 and should have better leadership from the top and  
21 from the Mayor so they can perform their functions  
22 better. Thank you.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Councilman  
24 Gentile.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Thank you.

1  
2 Those unemployed need not apply. That's what  
3 we're reading more and more versions of in  
4 classified ads today, and that's why Council  
5 Member Comrie and I are introducing intro 814.  
6 That intro will help stop that phenomenon of  
7 discrimination against the unemployed, so I'd ask  
8 you to take a look at it, because it really asks  
9 the question, if you're otherwise qualified, how  
10 does being unemployed make you ineligible for a  
11 job. It's really counterintuitive and really  
12 unconscionable. Really, the bottom line is that  
13 any language in an ad that says unemployed need  
14 not apply or anything like that is really nothing  
15 less than another form of employment  
16 discrimination. That's why this piece of  
17 legislation, intro 814 that Council Member Comrie  
18 and I are introducing, will effectively end this  
19 perverse Catch 22 that has served only to deepen  
20 our unemployment crisis here in New York City.  
21 So, I ask all of you to take a look at that, 814,  
22 and please sign on. And just one reminder. Take  
23 a look at the flyer. Remember Library Day out  
24 here in City Hall Park, next Stated--before the  
25 next Stated--on April 18th.

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Finally,  
Council Member Tish James?

4

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: All of the  
comments here today with regards to this  
resolution over Trayvon Martin really speak to the  
pain that all of us are feeling and experiencing.  
It's really therapeutic that we have an  
opportunity to speak here this afternoon about  
this tragedy and the ongoing tragedy in this city  
and in our respective districts. Unfortunately a  
couple of weeks ago Police Commissioner Kelly  
stated that elected officials, particularly  
elected officials of color, had no solutions to  
the crime in our respective districts. That  
remark went unchallenged. That remark was wrong;  
it was inaccurate. Each and every Council Member  
here in the City of New York has spoken out, has  
funded prevention programs, has funded  
intervention programs in their respective  
districts. And so that statement, I thought,  
should not have gone unchallenged, and  
unfortunately the media did not put him on the  
hook. And so I and others this weekend, we're  
having marches in our respective districts,

25

1  
2 marches against violence. I am having a march on  
3 Good Friday with some members of the clergy in my  
4 district and throughout the borough of Brooklyn.  
5 We are marching through a number of public housing  
6 in Brooklyn. I urge all of you to join me and  
7 stop the violence, to get guns off the street, and  
8 to give people hope and inspiration, and to  
9 provide after school programs. Thank you.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Seeing no  
11 others. I'm also--my community is having a march.  
12 I'm honored and privileged to coordinate with my  
13 precinct council and other community groups this  
14 Saturday at 10:00, starting on Linden Boulevard in  
15 Community Board 12, Linden Boulevard and Francis  
16 Lewis, proceeding to St. Albans Park. I invite  
17 any members and any members of the public to  
18 attend, because our communities across the country  
19 are outraged, and my community in District 27  
20 would like to celebrate. Seeing no others, the  
21 meeting, the Stated Meeting--oh, extension of  
22 remarks? None. The Stated Meeting for March  
23 28th, 2012, is hereby closed. Thank you.

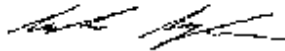
24 [pause]

25 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Hello,

1  
2 hello? Sorry. I have to do an update because  
3 Council Member Mendez joined us, so I have to read  
4 the General Order Calendar vote again. Sorry,  
5 vote tally sheet. All items--can I start? Can I  
6 start? Okay. All items on today's General Order  
7 Calendar were adopted by a vote of 50 affirmative,  
8 0 negative, 0 abstentions, with the exception of  
9 Land Use 559, Reso 1288 through Land Use 563, and  
10 1292, which were adopted by a vote of 49  
11 affirmative, 1 in the negative, 0 abstentions; and  
12 M 749, Reso 1285, which was adopted by a vote of  
13 47 in the affirmative, 3 abstentions; M 750 and  
14 Reso 1286, which was adopted by a vote of 47 in  
15 the affirmative with 3 abstentions; Intro 18-A,  
16 which now is adopted by a vote of 46 in the  
17 affirmative, 4 negatives, 0 abstentions; Intro  
18 490-A, which was adopted by a vote of 47 in the  
19 affirmative, 2 in the negative, 1 abstention, and  
20 that is everything on today's general order  
21 calendar. Thank you all for attending. And now  
22 the Stated Meeting for today, March 28th, is  
23 adjourned. Thank you.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Erika Swyler, 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 4/11/2012