

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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May 15, 2012
Start: 2:11 p.m.
Recess: 3:45 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

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

Randy Kaminsky
Coach of the Moot Court Team
Fort Hamilton High School

Rebecca Victoros
Teacher
Public School 122

1
2 SPEAKER QUINN: We have two
3 ceremonials—the first one of which is led by
4 Council Member Vinny Gentile, which is for the
5 Fort Hamilton High School Moot Court Team, who are
6 the city champions, so if we can have them and
7 Council Member Gentile make their way up that
8 would be great. Let's hear it. Give them a round
9 of applause on their way up.

10 [applause]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: and I'm
12 also joined by my other two colleagues who are
13 graduates of Fort Hamilton High School,
14 Councilwoman Letitia James and Councilwoman Sara
15 Gonzalez.

16 [applause]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Where did
18 Sara go? - - Sara was right here. Okay. She'll
19 be back for the pictures. The law program at Fort
20 Hamilton High School is over 20 years old, but
21 this is the first team to win the citywide
22 championships in moot court. They lost a close
23 final last year against Bronx Science, and then
24 they had that taste of victory. They kept their
25 eyes on the prize and worked tirelessly to debate

1
2 their way back to the finals this year. The
3 competition had 48 teams this year. Fort Hamilton
4 High School persevered. They worked their way
5 down to a nail biting showdown with Brooklyn Tech
6 at Manhattan Federal Courthouse on Pearl Street
7 and this year's case--there's Sara, okay. Great.
8 Under the guidance of Coach Randy Kaminsky from
9 Fort Hamilton, Randy Kaminsky and their assistant
10 principal, George Abboud [phonetic] and the
11 lawyers at Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy, their
12 arguments were written and based on facts and real
13 Supreme Court cases. They had to defend both
14 sides of the argument throughout the entire
15 competition as a judge interrupted their speeches
16 and asked the hard questions just as a judge would
17 do in a real court of law. A large part of their
18 score was based upon how well they answered the
19 judge's questions, and they did a wonderful job.
20 The four speakers were Amy El Sayed, Stelios
21 Kakleas, Viola Peno and Ledia Duro, and some of
22 them are here, and I'll introduce them. The
23 tireless research was completed--and if you're
24 going to do a moot court, you have got to do legal
25 research--by Alyssa Burgos [phonetic], Carrie

1
2 Nguyen [phonetic] and Kdeha Hamad [phonetic]. The
3 members of the team are members of the National
4 Honors Society and the seniors on the team, Amy
5 and—where's Amy? She's going to Cornell.

6 [applause]

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Stelios,
8 Stelios is going to Binghamton [phonetic].

9 [applause]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: And
11 Alyssa, Alyssa, right here, she is going to
12 University of Connecticut.

13 [applause]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: So now
15 along with a top notch marching band and - -
16 championship football team, Fort Hamilton has a
17 brilliant and victorious moot court team, so let's
18 congratulate the Fort Hamilton High School moot
19 court champions.

20 [applause]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: And may
22 the clerk please read the proclamation.

23 CLERK: Council, City of New York
24 Proclamation. The Council of the City of New York
25 is proud to honor the members of the Fort Hamilton

1
2 High School moot court team for their city
3 championship victory. And whereas, the law
4 program at Fort Hamilton High School has existed
5 for more than 20 years. The city championship won
6 by the moot court team is the first to be won by
7 the law program. The competition started with 48
8 teams and they advanced through the round of 48,
9 the round of 12 and the final 4 before facing
10 Brooklyn Tech in the finals on December 19th, 2011
11 at Manhattan Federal Courthouse on Pearl Street.
12 And whereas, this year's case dealt with a parent
13 that was suing the school due the school not
14 providing the services the student was promised in
15 their IEP [phonetic]. The team members had to
16 defend both sides throughout the competition. The
17 team had to write speeches based on facts and real
18 Supreme Court cases. They would present the
19 speeches before judges who would interrupt the
20 speeches and ask questions. A large part of the
21 score was based on how well the team answered the
22 questions. And whereas, the four speakers were
23 Amy El Sayed, Stelios Kakleas, Viola Peno and
24 Ledia Durio. The research was done by Alyssa
25 Burgos, Carrie Nguyen, and Kdeha Hamad, and they

1
2 were coached by Randy Kaminsky from Fort Hamilton
3 High School and the lawyers from the firm of
4 Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy. Now therefore be
5 it known that the Council of the city of New York
6 gratefully honors the Form Hamilton High School
7 moot court team and congratulates them upon
8 winning the city championship. Christine C.
9 Quinn, Speaker for the entire Council; Vincent J.
10 Gentile, Council Member 43rd District Brooklyn;
11 Sara M. Gonzalez, Council Member 38th District
12 Brooklyn; Letitia James, Council Member 35th
13 District Brooklyn.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Okay, and
15 I'll ask Coach Kaminsky to say a few words.
16 Coach?

17 RANDY KAMINSKY: Thank you, Speaker
18 Quinn and the City Council for having us. I want
19 to say how proud I am of the kids. They are great
20 representatives of the New York City School system
21 and of New York City as whole, and I think they
22 will definitely follow in the footsteps of the
23 Councilmen and the Councilwomen as Fort Hamilton
24 graduates who will continue to make the city
25 proud. Thank you again for having us.

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[applause]

SPEAKER QUINN: Well, congratulations to all of you on making these three Council Members alma maters even prouder, and congratulations on the city championship and also, congratulations to the three of you on the really terrific colleges you guys are going to, so we look forward to the non-seniors being back next year, right, Vinny, where you successfully defend your city championship, so congratulations, guys.

[applause]

SPEAKER QUINN: Alright, and our next and final ceremonial is going to be led by Council Member Peter Vallone, Jr. recognizing a New York City public schoolteacher who put public service and her commitment to public service—

[break in audio]

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: --with her kids and they were testifying on behalf of our idling bill, which reduced idling from three minutes to one minute in front of the school. These kids were here testifying and I was so impressed, and then I found out that it's from a school a half a block from my house where my

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2 father went, and I went to that class every year
3 and they've done other presentations to me on
4 getting toxins out of our cleaning fluids at
5 school, natural labeling, making sure that
6 labelings [phonetic] are accurate. This year they
7 are working on getting fluoride out of our water,
8 which is why I'm wearing this button, but these
9 kids are just amazing. I go and I watch these
10 presentations, and it's like going to a college
11 presentation. Year after year, Ms. Victoros
12 [phonetic] has taught this gifted and talented
13 class in the fifth grade. They are just so
14 impressive and in fact, when those controversial
15 teacher report cards came out—she didn't want me
16 to say this—but it just verified what we had
17 known—

18 SPEAKER QUINN: [Interposing]

19 Telling him you didn't want to say it means he is
20 going to say it. Trust me.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [laughs]

22 Pretty true actually. But yes, it just verified
23 what I had known all along—she was one of the top
24 two teachers in the entire city, so—

25 [applause]

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: So it
3 really was, and this was in the works well before
4 that, but really did verify everything that we
5 knew in Astoria, and I just wanted to bring you
6 down here. I rarely give procs, but you have done
7 so much for the kids of New York City that you and
8 your principal, Pam Sable [phonetic], who is here
9 with you, we just wanted to recognize your great
10 work, so Rebecca Victoros. Thank you.

11 [applause]

12 [background conversation]

13 SPEAKER QUINN: Oh, I'm sorry.
14 Read the proc.

15 CLERK: Council, City of New York
16 proclamation. Whereas the Council of the city of
17 New York is proud to honor Rebecca Victoros for
18 her exemplary service to the students of Astoria's
19 P.S. 122 and our entire community. And whereas,
20 Ms. Victoros began teaching the gifted and
21 talented fifth graders at P.S. 122, she has
22 consistently encouraged excellence among all
23 students, so they leave her class prepared
24 students for achievement and success in the years
25 ahead. And whereas, in 2010 for the second year

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2 in a row, her gifted and talented fifth grade
3 students were involved in a research project that
4 impacted citizens on a daily basis. When Ms.
5 Victoros entered the class in the annual city-wide
6 contest Project Citizen, the students studied the
7 health effects of common household cleaning
8 products. In their research they found many
9 common household products contained harmful
10 chemicals, including formaldehyde and - - to cite
11 only two. And whereas under the guidance of Ms.
12 Victoros a fifth grade class wrote to Council
13 Member Peter F. Vallone, Jr. to request
14 legislation mandating labels on cleaning products
15 that list ingredients and any possible hazardous
16 health effects. New York cannot require product
17 labeling because of the commerce clause.
18 Congressman Steve Israel introduced legislation
19 that would require companies that produce
20 household and other cleaning products to provide a
21 label listing the ingredients. After receiving
22 the letter from Ms. Victoros' students, Council
23 Member Vallone drafted a resolution in support of
24 Congressman Israel's bill. And whereas, in 2009
25 Ms. Victoros' fifth grade class helped pass

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2 tougher legislation on bus idling in front of
3 schools. The students presented lawmakers with
4 research from their yearlong project, which
5 ultimately became a New York City law. And
6 whereas, Ms. Victoros has not only focused on
7 nurturing her students' knowledge and enhancing
8 their skills, but she has also deepened their
9 understanding of how everyone can and must work
10 together to fulfill the promise of our
11 communities. She has truly excelled in her work
12 and has earned the esteem of all New Yorkers. Now
13 therefore be it known that the Council of the City
14 of New York gratefully honors Rebecca Victoros for
15 outstanding service to P.S. 122 in Astoria and to
16 all of New York City. Christine C. Quinn,
17 Speaker for the entire Council; Peter F. Vallone,
18 Jr., Council Member 22nd District Queens.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: Congratulations.

20 It would be enough if you had just done all of
21 this, but then to also hear what Peter said about
22 you being rated the second best teacher in the
23 city, you know, it's just—your commitment clearly
24 beyond what your obligated to do in the classroom
25 and your commitment to work to try to help

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2 children recognize what it means to be a public
3 citizen and then do it, and the real power that
4 they have is really just so exciting to see that
5 happening and just such a great example, and I'm
6 really very glad that Peter brought you down here
7 so we could all meet you and thank you.

8 REBECCA VICTOROS: I would like
9 personally thank Council Member Vallone and the
10 members of the City Council for honoring me with
11 this remarkable proclamation. There is truly
12 nothing more rewarding than working with the
13 children. I am driven by the thought that one day
14 we will all be replaced by these young citizens
15 who will have the knowledge needed to care for the
16 common good. My dream goal to be a teacher who
17 makes a difference is further encouraged by this
18 enormous honor. Along with my students, I would
19 like to thank you for helping me keep my dream
20 alive. Thank you.

21 [applause]

22 FEMALE VOICE: I thank you as well
23 for Rebecca along with countless other teachers
24 recognize the commitment that we owe our children.
25 This is the future, and we have to generate the

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2 passion and the capacity to empower our children
3 to be the future citizens and improve our world.
4 Thank you.

5 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you and
6 congratulations and that concludes ceremonials.

7 [applause]

8 MALE VOICE: Ladies and gentlemen,
9 can I have your attention please? At this time,
10 please place all cell phones and pagers to
11 vibrate. All cell phones and pagers to vibrate.
12 Will all non-Council employees please leave the
13 main floor of the chambers? Have a seat up in the
14 balcony. Thank you.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: My
16 colleagues, please rise for the pledge of
17 allegiance. I pledge allegiance to the flag of
18 the United States of America and to the republic
19 for which it stands, one nation under God
20 indivisible with liberty and justice for all.
21 Roll call?

22 MALE VOICE: Arroyo?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [no audible
24 response]

25 MALE VOICE: Barron?

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

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COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Ferreras?

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COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Fidler?

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Foster?

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COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Garodnick?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Gennaro?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: [no

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audible response]

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MALE VOICE: Gentile?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Gonzalez?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: [no

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audible response]

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MALE VOICE: Greenfield?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [no

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audible response]

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MALE VOICE: Halloran?

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COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Ignizio?

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Jackson?

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Here.

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MALE VOICE: James?

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COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Koo?

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Koppell?

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Koslowitz?

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Lander?

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COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Lappin?

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COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Levin?

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COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: [no audible

17

response]

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MALE VOICE: Mark-Viverito?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

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Here.

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MALE VOICE: Mealy?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.

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MALE VOICE: Mendez?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Nelson?

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COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: [no audible

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response]

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MALE VOICE: Palma?

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Recchia?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: [no

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audible response]

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MALE VOICE: Reyna?

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: [no audible

12

response]

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MALE VOICE: Rodriguez?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: [no

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audible response]

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MALE VOICE: Rose?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: [no audible

18

response]

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MALE VOICE: Greenfield?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Sanders?

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COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: [off mic]

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MALE VOICE: Seabrook?

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COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: [no

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audible response]

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MALE VOICE: Ulrich?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Comrie?

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Vacca?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Vallone?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [off mic]

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MALE VOICE: Van Bramer?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Vann?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [no audible

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response]

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MALE VOICE: Weprin?

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Williams?

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Wills?

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: [no audible

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response]

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MALE VOICE: Cabrera?

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COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Wills?

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: [no audible

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response]

MALE VOICE: Oddo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: [no audible
response]

MALE VOICE: Rivera?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Here.

MALE VOICE: Speaker Quinn

SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Can we get
silence in the chambers?

MALE VOICE: Dilan?

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: [no audible
response]

MALE VOICE: We have a quorum.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Alright,
quorum is present. My colleagues, please rise for
the invocation being delivered today by Minister
Joe Youngblood [phonetic] from Mount Pisgah
Baptist Church.

MINISTER YOUNGBLOOD: Oh God, our
help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our
shelter from the stormy blasts and our eternal
home, under the shadow of thy throne still may we
dwell secure sufficient is - - alone and our

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2 defenses sure. We first and foremost come before
3 you, oh God, our creator, for your grace allowing
4 us to see another day. We thank you that we have
5 the activities of our limbs, the gift of speech
6 and the full activity of our ears and mouths. We
7 believe that we have been positioned so that we
8 might attempt to fulfill the work that your hands
9 have created for us to do. Hear us now, oh Lord,
10 as we pray for New York City. Pray for it not
11 from without as though its dust and noise and pain
12 were beneath us and beyond, but from within as
13 those who know its squeeze and take to heart what
14 would seem to be its burned out hopes and
15 facelessness. Help us to look for you and find
16 you in the life we live and the work we do. We
17 ask, oh God, that you would have your way in this
18 session on today and that when it is all said and
19 done, your will and way will be manifested. This
20 is indeed our prayer. Amen.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
22 very much. Council Member Vann?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: I'd like to
24 take this opportunity to welcome Minister Joe
25 Youngblood to our chamber and thank you.

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[applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Thank you for your presence and for your prayers. Would you please convey to your father, Reverend Johnny Ray Youngblood, who is indeed a legend in our time, our highest and best regards. Thank you very much. I'd like to spread the motion in full upon the record.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered. Can we get silence in the chambers? And if our colleagues can please rise... We need a microphone for the Speaker.

SPEAKER QUINN: We're told someday we'll get our desk mics back. On May 1st, 2012 Gregory Jackson who was 59 and the legendary center manager for the Brownsville Recreation Center passed away suddenly from an apparent heart attack suffered at the Parks Department Brooklyn headquarters. He was born in Brooklyn, attended Samuel J. Tobin [phonetic] High School and Gilford [phonetic] College before being drafted by the New York Knicks in 1974. After his NBA career, Greg joined the Parks Department where he served 26 years. He took over leadership of the

1
2 Brownsville Recreation Center in 1997 and
3 transformed it into a facility where world
4 renowned events took place and residents every age
5 and background were served. Greg routinely
6 mentored young people, problem solved for
7 families, seniors and others facing adversity and
8 established a legacy of education through sports.
9 Greg was the founder of Old Times, an annual
10 celebration of Brownsville that has grown into a
11 multi weeklong event bringing together thousands
12 in the spirit of the community. Greg Jackson
13 never forgot the community that raised him and
14 returned the favor by returning and changing and
15 bettering the lives of countless Brownsville
16 residents, who were mentored by this devoted and
17 loved leader. Our thoughts and prayers go out to
18 his wife, Carmen, his children and the entire
19 Brownsville and Brooklyn community and let me call
20 on Council Member Darlene Mealy in whose district
21 the center is.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Thank you,
23 Madam Speaker. I want to thank even the mayor and
24 all that came to the funeral. This is an icon in
25 this city I must say. This young man fed people.

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2 I can say he touched hundreds of lives and at the
3 funeral I did say if he can touch hundreds of
4 lives, how many lives can each one of us touch to
5 change this world? We can make this world a
6 better place. Think about Old Timer's Week.
7 Thousands of people would come from all over the
8 city---this nation really--to come to Old Timer's
9 because they know that was a whole week long event
10 that you could come to Brownsville, have a great
11 time, family orientated and we didn't lose just a
12 young man, we lost someone that loved people, who
13 really looked out for the community and it was my
14 best friend, and Madam Speaker, I feel that the
15 borough president said he wanted to change the
16 name of BRC, and I think that should happen. This
17 was someone who gave not asking for nothing in
18 return. I know I'm going to miss him and
19 Brownsville will miss him and his family. Parks
20 Department got a lot. They just didn't get him.
21 They had his whole family working in that center,
22 and that's what made BRC the center that everyone
23 wants to be at, so I thank you, Madam Speaker for
24 this time.

25 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. Thank

1
2 you. I also just before we start today's meeting
3 want to make note of a special visitor that we
4 have with us none other than Jimmy Van Bramer's
5 mother, Elizabeth Markham [phonetic], is with us
6 today. Don't get back up. It's alright. Don't
7 worry about it.

8 [applause]

9 SPEAKER QUINN: And Jimmy and his
10 mom are going to have to vote early and leave
11 because she clearly raised politically active,
12 civically minded children, and Jimmy's sister is
13 running for school board in Rockland County and
14 they are going to run up where I'm sure it will be
15 sunny and not raining to give out leaflets, so
16 good luck with that. We want a full report
17 tomorrow. I also want to recognize Alessandra
18 Moore [phonetic], a high school senior, who is
19 going to be shadowing me and working in the press
20 office for the next week or two as part of her
21 high school Capstone project, so and...

22 [applause]

23 SPEAKER QUINN: Let me turn the mic
24 back over to you, Mr. Majority Leader.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you

1

2 very much, Madam Speaker. We now move on to
3 adoption of the minutes. Council Member Foster?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Yes, I'd
5 make a motion that the minutes of April 18th, 2012
6 of the Stated Meeting of April 18th, 2012 be
7 adopted as printed.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered,
9 and can we please get silence in the chambers?
10 Messages and papers from the mayor?

11 MALE VOICE: M 803 through M 810,
12 various budget documents.

13 SPEAKER QUINN: Finance.

14 MALE VOICE: M 811, city debt and
15 reserved.

16 SPEAKER QUINN: Received, ordered,
17 printed and filed.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:
19 Communications from county, city and borough
20 offices?

21 MALE VOICE: M 812, chancellor's
22 five-year capital plan.

23 SPEAKER QUINN: Finance.

24 MALE VOICE: M 813, third party
25 transfer program.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Housing and buildings.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Petitions and communications?

MALE VOICE: None.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Land Use call ups?

MALE VOICE: M 814 and 815.

SPEAKER QUINN: If we could please couple those two Land Use call ups and have a roll call on all Land Use call ups.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

MALE VOICE: Arroyo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [no audible response]

MALE VOICE: Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I request unanimous consent to vote aye on all general order items.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered. Charles, did you lose your voice there? So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: That's a wish of yours, but it's not going to happen.

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[laughter]

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: There's an
applause for that.

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MALE VOICE: Brewer?

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: [no audible
response]

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MALE VOICE: Cabrera?

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COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: [no
audible response]

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MALE VOICE: Chin?

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COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

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MALE VOICE: Comrie?

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: [no audible
response]

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MALE VOICE: Cabrera?

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COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Permission
to vote on all call ups, general orders and
resolutions?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye on
all.

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MALE VOICE: Comrie?

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

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MALE VOICE: Crowley?

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COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [no
audible response]

MALE VOICE: Dickens?

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Dilan?

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Dromm?

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: [no audible
response]

MALE VOICE: Eugene?

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Ferreras?

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Fidler?

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Foster?

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Garodnick?

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: [no
audible response]

MALE VOICE: Gennaro?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Mr.

Leader, I vote yes on the call ups and I ask
permission to vote on all the items on the general

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order calendar and resolutions.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I vote
yes.

MALE VOICE: Gentile?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Yes.

MALE VOICE: Gonzalez?

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: [no
audible response]

MALE VOICE: Greenfield?

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [no
audible response]

MALE VOICE: Halloran?

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Ignizio?

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Jackson?

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on
all.

MALE VOICE: James?

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: May I be
excused to vote on all general order, Land Use
call ups and resolutions?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: I vote aye.

MALE VOICE: Koo?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote aye and
I want to have permission to vote on all general
orders and Land Use call ups.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote aye on
all.

MALE VOICE: Koppell?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: I vote
aye. I'd like the unanimous consent to vote aye
on all matters on the general orders calendar and
resolutions.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Thank you.

MALE VOICE: Koslowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Lander?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Lappin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Levin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Mark-Viverito?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.
3 MALE VOICE: Mealy?
4 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.
5 MALE VOICE: Mendez?
6 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.
7 MALE VOICE: Nelson?
8 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.
9 MALE VOICE: Palma?
10 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.
11 MALE VOICE: Recchia?
12 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.
13 MALE VOICE: Reyna?
14 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.
15 MALE VOICE: Rodriguez?
16 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I vote
17 aye. I would like to ask permission to vote aye
18 on all general orders.
19 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.
20 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye. I
21 vote aye.
22 MALE VOICE: Rose?
23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.
24 MALE VOICE: Sanders?
25 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye.

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MALE VOICE: Ulrich?

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Vacca?

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Vallone?

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Van Bramer?

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: With permission, I'd like to vote aye on all Land Use call ups and general orders and resolutions.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I vote aye.

MALE VOICE: Vann?

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Weprin?

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: - - unanimous consent to please vote on all Land Use items and general order calendar please.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

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

MALE VOICE: Williams?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

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MALE VOICE: Wills?

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: [no audible

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response]

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MALE VOICE: Oddo?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

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MALE VOICE: Rivera?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote yes.

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MALE VOICE: Speaker Quinn

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SPEAKER QUINN: Yes.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Today's

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Land Use call ups are adopted by a vote of 44 in

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the affirmative with zero in the negative.

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Communications from the Speaker?

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SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. We're

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voting on a number of important pieces of

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legislation today and also a veto override and I

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just want to remind folks we're also voting later

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on on two important resolutions that we'll hear

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about later. First we're voting on Intro 784-A, a

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piece of legislation sponsored by the Chair of our

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Transportation Committee, Jimmy Vacca and

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shepherded through that same Committee by Jimmy.

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I want to thank Lyle Frank and Molly Murphy for

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their work on this bill. This piece of

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2 legislation basically says you buy an hour of time
3 on a muni meter, you buy 15 minutes of time,
4 whatever it is, you get credit for that whole
5 time. So if you buy an hour of time, and you
6 spend 15 minutes in front of one store and then
7 you drive to another store, you can put that
8 receipt back in the window and use the other 45
9 minutes. It basically says you get what you pay
10 for as it relates to parking in the city of New
11 York. We think it's fair. I also want to thank
12 the Chair because through his oversight work, it
13 became clear there was tremendous ambiguity as it
14 related to this issue. The Department of
15 Transportation said on the record, "Yes, that's
16 how it works," but yet people were getting tickets
17 going before judges and having those tickets
18 upheld because the judges said the law was not
19 clear. After today, the law will be clear, and I
20 want to thank the Bloomberg Administration for
21 working with us on this bill and agreeing to sign
22 it, but I particularly want to thank Jimmy Vacca,
23 who had a terrific metaphor about this bill today
24 in the pre-stated press conference, which he can
25 elaborate on, but he has changed the name of the

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2 bill to the Muni Meter Doggie Bag Bill, which he
3 will now explain for all of us, so our parking
4 czar, Jimmy Vacca.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Thank you.
6 Thank you, Speaker Quinn. I think the Speaker
7 explained the bill. The reality is that by the
8 end of the year our entire city will have muni
9 meters, but with the advent of muni meters comes
10 some confusion, and that is what happens when you
11 leave the muni meter, what can you do with that
12 receipt? Can you use that receipt to exhaust all
13 the time you've bought? Well, some people in the
14 city agencies have said yes, some have said no.
15 This bill clarifies that the time you bought is
16 the time you have, the entire time you bought. So
17 if you bought one hour and you only were parking
18 for 15-20 minutes and you're finished, you can
19 take your car with the muni meter receipt under
20 this bill and complete the rest of the time that
21 you paid for. God knows we get over \$600 million
22 a year in parking summonses. This is something
23 where people should not be summonsed and there
24 should not be confusion between DOT, traffic
25 enforcement, then the administrative judges as to

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2 who says what. We have no legislation on the
3 books. This is the legislation we need. I thank
4 the Administration and the Speaker. I did draw a
5 comparison that Speaker Quinn mentioned. I went
6 out the other night for dinner, and I had salmon,
7 and I had too much to eat. So what did I do? I
8 took half of the meal and I put it in a doggie bag
9 and I brought it home, and I said to my wife and
10 myself, I said, "That's the analogy I'm going to
11 use about my parking meter bill." I paid for the
12 meal. The meal is mine. I have the right to take
13 half home if I so decide, and that restaurant is
14 not telling me no. It's the same analogy that I
15 use and this bill is relative to that comparison,
16 and the salmon was damn good, I want you to know.

17 [laughter]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: So I have
19 good recollections of it after all the takeout we
20 eat in this job, so I thank you, Madam Speaker.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Jimmy,
22 and I really enjoy that metaphor and that
23 comparison, so thank you for repeating it for us
24 today. I appreciate that.

25 Second we are voting on Intro 485-

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2 A, a piece of legislation passed out of our
3 Finance Committee under the great leadership of
4 our chair, Council Member Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.
5 So I want to thank you. He was very, very
6 particularly helpful in the final weeks
7 negotiating this bill. He's been going back and
8 forth and back and forth and back and forth. Most
9 significantly I want to thank Council Member Al
10 Vann, the prime sponsor of the Responsible Banking
11 Act and-

12 [applause]

13 SPEAKER QUINN: --and I was just
14 going to thank all the advocates in the balcony,
15 including my former employer, the Association for
16 Neighborhood and Housing Development, who was one
17 of the lead sponsors and one of my former housing
18 organizers I worked with, Margaret, who is up
19 there, but this bill and in particular on the
20 staff, Tanisha Edwards and Preston Niblack, who
21 now know more about bank transparency than trust
22 me Tanisha and Preston ever wanted to, and I just
23 want to say, and I hope it's okay, during the
24 process of working on the banking bill, Tanisha's
25 mom passed away, and Tanisha did not miss a beat.

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2 She made it very clear. We told her, "Don't worry
3 about it," but if we needed her, she was there,
4 came back to make sure anything we needed was
5 taken care of, so Tanisha, just thank you for your
6 hard work and your just tremendous care about our
7 neighborhoods that even in a time like that you
8 thought about city, so thank you, Tanisha.

9 [applause]

10 SPEAKER QUINN: And this bill will
11 make the banking capital of the world the
12 responsible banking capital of the world. It will
13 make sure that the banks who get the very
14 significant business of being the banks where we
15 deposit tax payer money that those banks act in a
16 transparent way, that they report info to the city
17 of New York; info that will then be made public.
18 We know that sunlight is the best disinfectant.
19 We know that having this info--not at a city-wide
20 level, not at a borough level, but at a real
21 neighborhood level--will help us finally answer
22 the questions, "what are banks doing for our
23 neighborhoods" and "what aren't banks doing for
24 our neighborhood?" This will also help us add
25 information beyond what the community reinvestment

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2 acts require that banks disclose and will make
3 information even included in the CRA transparent
4 in a way that CRA is not. Beyond that, this bill
5 will create an advisory committee made up of
6 advocates like the ones in the balcony, made up of
7 small business representatives, made up of the
8 banking industry, to actually do a plan for what
9 our neighborhoods need around responsible banking.
10 We need banks to help us take care of our
11 neighborhoods, to lend to small businesses, to
12 support people whose homes are at risk, to help
13 people get mortgages to buy homes, to deal with
14 buildings that they now own because the people
15 they lent money to should never have had that
16 money lent to them and they've walked away from
17 their tenants. That is now a phenomenon we're
18 seeing all throughout our city. This bill is
19 going to help us get the information to support
20 those tenants, to support those small businesses.
21 I really want to thank everyone who has been a
22 part of this important responsible banking effort,
23 and look forward to more reforms coming out of the
24 information we will now get and be able to
25 analyze. So let me first call on the Majority

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2 Leader of the City Council, someone who has
3 dedicated his whole life to New York City
4 Neighborhoods, Council Member Al Vann and then the
5 chair of our Finance Committee, Domenic Recchia,
6 who is not going to speak, but I just want to
7 recognize him again. Thank you, Domenic. Al
8 Vann.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Thank you.
10 Thank you, Speaker. Thank you so much. You have
11 adequately and more than adequately expressed the
12 provisions of this bill and our expectations once
13 this bill becomes law. Perhaps no one is aware of
14 how arduous an endeavor it was for you and
15 leadership to go through those negotiations for
16 almost two years now and to be at this point where
17 we're getting ready to pass the Responsible
18 Banking Act. The banking industry is very
19 powerful and I think it would be fair to
20 characterize some as being resistant to change,
21 understandably, but accommodating the concerns of
22 the banking industry simultaneously while dealing
23 with those of a very determined group of advocates
24 obviously was not an easy task. As the Speaker
25 before me, Chairman Domenic has indicated, as well

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2 as myself, it was not about bashing the banks. It
3 was not an anti-bank bill. Our objective in
4 pursuing this legislation was to create a process
5 that better informs New Yorkers about the banking
6 needs of its neighborhoods and how the city's
7 depository banks could begin to meet those needs.
8 Intro 485-A, the Responsible Banking Act, is in
9 essence a transparency bill that will help us
10 achieve that objective, addressing the unmet
11 banking and financial needs of many of our
12 neighborhoods. Now, the foreclosure backlog in
13 New York City is actually getting worse, while
14 other cities around the country are seeing
15 improvements. As many of us know, our small
16 businesses desperately need access to credit and
17 generally, are struggling to have their credit
18 needs met by many banks. Middle and working class
19 families are struggling to stay in our city as the
20 cost of housing increases and the need for
21 affordable housing continues to remain high. The
22 2011 report of the state of bank reinvestment by
23 the Association for Neighborhood and Housing
24 Development showed that despite a \$38 billion
25 increase in local deposits in the two preceding

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2 years, there was a \$4.4 billion decrease in bank
3 reinvestment and of course, that money could go
4 for home purchase lending or multi-family
5 apartment lending, community development project
6 lending and mortgage modifications - - . The role
7 of banks is not solely to generate tax revenues
8 for our budgets, but it also to play the crucial
9 role of supporting economic activity and vitality
10 within our city. The city and the public should
11 know whether the banks who hold or would like to
12 hold out money are attempting to meet the core
13 financial needs of our neighborhoods. New York
14 City deposits more than \$1/2 a billion dollars
15 into banks giving them a significant power as a
16 consumer. While approximately 17 banks hold the
17 city's money, 31 of them have been designated as
18 possessing the capability to do so by the Banking
19 Commission. Three depository banks hold more than
20 half of the city's deposits, but there is no
21 existing mechanism that illustrates how those
22 banks holding our money and those would like to
23 are meeting the needs of our neighborhoods. This
24 bill will create a collaborative process that
25 evaluates the banking and financial needs of our

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2 city's neighborhoods on a community district and
3 census track level. In the same inclusive manner,
4 they will also assess what our city's depository
5 banks are doing to meet these needs and how well
6 they are performing in this regard. We should
7 know the banks that are providing credit to small
8 businesses we need to know who they are. If they
9 are financing affordable housing, we need to know
10 that, and if they are modifying mortgages to keep
11 our constituents in their homes, we need to know
12 that. To do nothing is - - supporting
13 irresponsible banking behavior and we've seen many
14 examples of that in the past few years. Today we
15 are taking an affirmative step to ensure,
16 encourage and support responsible banking in our
17 city. Our bill does not regulate banks; it simply
18 creates transparency which 90% of the time, 99% of
19 the time is in the best interest of our society
20 and indeed our city. This bill before us evolved
21 into a great bill because our Council leadership
22 took into consideration both the advice and
23 concerns and the issues of our advocates and also,
24 of the banking industry as well. This legislation
25 continues that collaborative process with other

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2 public stakeholders to assess the financial needs
3 of our communities and how our banks should
4 address them. I would like to acknowledge and
5 thank all of those that have participated in what
6 has been a lengthy almost two year process of
7 negotiations and meetings and organizing. First,
8 thanks to you, Speaker Quinn and my co-sponsor
9 Domenic Recchia, for maintaining their commitment
10 and persistence in guiding the bill to this point.
11 I would also like to thank and congratulate A and
12 HD [phonetic] all its member organizations, all
13 the other advocate groups and their supporters
14 because their expertise, hard work and - -
15 organizing were critical for the success of this
16 particular bill. I would like to thank all of the
17 staff who worked on this bill. Many times they
18 are unseen and unsung and we cannot always
19 identify all of them, but let me start with
20 Council Finance staff, Preston Niblack and Tanisha
21 Edwards--Tanisha, the highest compliment I guess I
22 can give you is that you are becoming to Finance
23 what Gale is to Land Use--brother Jeff Rodus
24 [phonetic] as well, Lauren Axelrod [phonetic] and
25 Jeff Messner [phonetic] of the general counsel's

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2 office, Bob Newman [phonetic], Ramon Martinez
3 [phonetic] at the Speaker's office, Liz Shmoakler
4 [phonetic] of Chairman Recchia's office and of
5 course, my own staff, Dottie Lebron [phonetic],
6 who was with this from the very beginning--she
7 took a break to have a baby and while she took
8 that break, Mandela Jones [phonetic] stepped in
9 and carried the ball - - from our staff. Finally,
10 I would like to applaud Los Angeles Council Member
11 Richard Halcyon [phonetic] and the Los Angeles
12 City Council. They are in the process of passing
13 similar responsible banking legislation today or
14 they may have passed it already today. The fact
15 that two largest cities in the United States are
16 passing responsible banking bills on the same day
17 is noteworthy, not only for the obvious reasons,
18 but because it symbolizes a growing recognition
19 that banks must play an essential role in helping
20 to ensure the vitality of the neighborhoods of our
21 country. Finally, all of our members of the
22 Council, who have joined to sponsor this
23 legislation, making it veto proof, I thank you for
24 your support, for your insight, for your
25 understanding of the mission that we're upon, and

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2 Madam Speaker, I cannot thank you enough for your
3 forbearance and your confidence, indeed, your
4 leadership in this very important legislation.
5 Thank you very much.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Al.

7 Thank you very, very much.

8 [applause]

9 SPEAKER QUINN: And Al deserves a
10 round of applause, so thank you, Al. I want to
11 thank Pete Janicik [phonetic] and Christian Hilton
12 and Leroy Comrie and Mark Weprin of our Land Use
13 Committee and Zoning Subcommittee for the cable
14 television authorizing resolution that we are
15 going to pass today. Lastly, we are going to also
16 pass out of the Finance Committee, we're going to
17 override the veto of the Prevailing Wage
18 legislation, Intro 18-A and-

19 [applause]

20 SPEAKER QUINN: --I want to take a
21 moment to thank Jim Caris [phonetic], Lauren
22 Axelrod, Tanisha Edwards, Preston Niblack and the
23 other staff, who worked on this legislation and
24 the veto override. I want to thank Finance Chair,
25 Domenic M. Recchia, Jr. for his leadership on

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2 this bill and on the veto override and also, the
3 sponsor of the legislation, Melissa Mark-Viverito.
4 This veto override very simply will send a message
5 that the City Council believes that it is
6 appropriate that when businesses or building
7 owners take city subsidies, when they decide it is
8 good for their business plan to rent space to the
9 city of New York as tenants, that it is
10 appropriate for the city when using taxpayer
11 dollars to set a standard that is fairer around
12 wages. That when we use taxpayer dollars in this
13 way, that it is appropriate for us to say that
14 those taxpayers who are the workers paid for with
15 their own taxpayer dollars get a higher wage
16 standard. It's exactly what this Council did in
17 the early 2000s around a living wage bill. It's
18 what we'll do when we override the living wage
19 bill veto and it's what we will do today when we
20 override this veto. We will send a message that
21 it is right when people make a decision that they
22 believe is in their best business interests for us
23 to put a requirement that we believe is in the
24 best interest of taxpayers and will help taxpayers
25 as they struggle through these tough financial

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2 times. I want to thank everyone who has been part
3 of this effort, particularly the great members of
4 32 BJ [phonetic], who have been part of this
5 effort.

6 [applause]

7 SPEAKER QUINN: Melissa, do you
8 want to speak? And let me now call on the sponsor
9 of Intro 18-A, Council Member Melissa Mark-
10 Viverito.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

12 Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I will be brief, but
13 I just want to thank you for your leadership.
14 Obviously 32 BJ [phonetic], all the staff that has
15 been mentioned, Preston, Tanisha, and everyone
16 else that contributed to this and just to add that
17 as the Speaker said about the message that we're
18 sending as a Council, it's clear our largest
19 taxpayer subsidies shouldn't go towards
20 undercutting working families in a race to the
21 bottom. In particular in overriding this veto,
22 we're sending a message that our city's economic
23 development policy must aim to produce family
24 sustaining middle class jobs, especially at a time
25 when we are seeing a poverty rate of 21% in the

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2 city of New York, including 27% of our children in
3 the city of New York living in poverty. We must
4 do all we can to say that those who are doing
5 business or those who are benefitting from doing
6 business with the city of New York must do right
7 by our workers, so I want to thank again, the
8 Speaker for her leadership and everyone that has
9 made this possible, all the colleagues that have
10 supported this and Domenic Recchia as well, so
11 with that, I'm very proud that we are standing
12 strong and overriding this veto today. Thank you.

13 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
14 much, and that concludes communications from the
15 Speaker.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
17 very much, Madam Speaker. We move on to
18 discussion of general orders. First we have
19 Council Member Jackson.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you.
21 My colleagues, I rise in order to express support
22 for these very, very important bills. With
23 respects to as the Speaker indicated any time that
24 we allocate at least a million dollars to any type
25 of business, they should pay at least the minimum

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2 standard that we're setting in this law. It's a
3 given. If you don't want to pay it, then don't
4 take our money. That's just simple and clear.

5 [applause]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I mean
7 obviously we want to see affordable housing. We
8 want to see all types of developments that are
9 going to benefit our city and increase our tax
10 base, but if you're going to request that we
11 supplement your money in order to build that, we
12 are going to require that you pay employees that
13 type of funds. And with respects to the override
14 of the minimum wage bill that's currently pending,
15 I've said loud and clear at a press conference
16 that if you're not in favor of this bill, to
17 override it to pay the minimum wage and which my
18 understand is the state may be moving to do that,
19 let's just turn the tables, and you earn \$7.25 an
20 hour and if you times that by 40, that's \$290 a
21 week. And if you times that by 52, that's \$15,800
22 a year. You live off of that for a year, and then
23 come back here and vote no on a bill like that.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
25 very much. Now we move on to Council Member

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2 Sanders.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Thank you.

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In regards to the veto override when we do

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business with New York City, we've been given an

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image. An image has been given to us of a garden

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where the business community should be cultivated.

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Now this of course reminds us that people are just

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one of the inputs—a type of fertilizer to be used

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up. This garden of course would have to be fenced

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to keep just those who have inside. I invite us

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to look at this in another way. I invite us to

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look at all of the workers in New York City as a

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whole as a sustainable farm. Something

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sustainable where all of us have our place, and we

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have a place where we can afford to live here,

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afford to feed our families, afford to go to

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school and other things. So we invite with this

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veto, we invite the business community and others

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to join us. Not only is there a place for you, we

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will actually leave the light on for you. Thank

22

you very much.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you

24

very much. We now move on to Council Member

25

Mealy.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: First I
3 would like to thank Madam Speaker and the one who
4 chaired this legislation and want to thank the
5 Finance Committee, and the 32 BJ [phonetic],
6 supporters for nurturing Intro 18-A. We've all
7 heard the saying, "It ain't over until it's over."
8 And this is an important bill. It is certainly
9 not over. Even though this bill was vetoed, we,
10 the members of the City Council continue to press
11 on to get it passed. We press on because this
12 bill is vital to improving the lives of New
13 Yorkers. We press on because this bill is
14 fundamentally about fairness, and the question we
15 all must ask ourselves is it fair for certain
16 entities to receive sufficient breaks from the
17 city and not pass those benefits down to New
18 Yorkers they employ? By passing this bill, I and
19 my colleagues not only answer that question with
20 an enthusiastic no, but ensures that this
21 unfairness will not continue. I'm proud to be on
22 this bill and I hope all my colleagues get on this
23 bill and as I stated before, a lot of people say
24 that businesses and entities will leave New York.
25 And I say again if you cannot make it in New York,

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2 you cannot make it anywhere, and I know that this
3 bill passing, people will come back to New York.
4 Thank you.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
6 very much. Next we move on to Council Member
7 Halloran.

8 [applause]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Mr.
10 Chair, I rise in opposition to two of the bills
11 before us. One is our override of the living wage
12 and prevailing wage. Obviously, I take a
13 completely different approach. I don't believe at
14 any point of the government should be dictating to
15 our small and midsize businesses what they should
16 be doing with their wages and simply trading off
17 lower end jobs for middle end jobs is not the
18 solution. This universe will not be solved by
19 these problems. Perhaps, if instead of talking
20 about a living wage, we talked about not letting
21 citizens have to pay 44% of their income in taxes
22 and they could have the \$4 on that \$11 wage back
23 in their pockets instead of in the city's coffers,
24 we wouldn't have those problems. That's the
25 reality—43% of their paycheck disappears to the

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2 government every time they are paid. Perhaps
3 instead of looking for ways to squeeze it out of
4 the small business owner we should look for ways
5 to squeeze it out of the government that takes it
6 from them. With regards to 485-A, responsible
7 banking, I understand the need for transparency,
8 but it's going to muddy the water on what are
9 predominantly federal and state issues, which are
10 not the business of this City Council to regulate.
11 I would note that both of these bills have an
12 onerous that somehow or another we the government
13 feels it's our money. No, it's the people's
14 money. It's not the government's money. There is
15 no entitlement to our money by the government and
16 that is a delusion that it seems everybody seems
17 to be falling for. The government is not entitled
18 to the fruits of my labor. I work for my family
19 and for me, and not for the government, and we
20 continue to believe that the government is
21 entitled to take our money. Well, that's just
22 wrong. In fact, our founding fathers got so fed
23 up with a one half of one percent tea tax that
24 they had a revolution. That's what sparked the
25 events of 1776—the overreach of government into

1
2 the pockets of the people who produce the jobs in
3 this country. One day we might remember that. I
4 hope it's not when it's too late, and with regards
5 to jobs and whether they'll leave New York. The
6 answer is unequivocally yes. 90% of jobs that
7 have been created in the United States in New York
8 City have left New York City in the period between
9 1840 and 2012.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
11 very much. Council Member Lander. [gavel] We ask
12 that everybody keep their emotions to themselves
13 and don't applaud or don't speak against anyone
14 who speaks on the floor. Thank you.

15 SPEAKER QUINN: I just want to
16 reiterate with what the Majority Leader said.
17 We've been fairly lax about the clapping and what
18 not because there are some bills that people
19 really want to celebrate, but we cannot have
20 people hiss. We cannot have a council member
21 booed, and if it happens again, we'll just clear
22 everybody out of the chambers, not beyond who was
23 doing the hissing and the booing. Council Member
24 Halloran has a right to his opinion, and I give
25 him credit for standing up and saying it in front

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2 of a room full of people he knows disagrees with
3 it. That's what we want elected officials to do
4 is say what they thing and vote the way they
5 think, whether we agree or not, so thank you very
6 much, Mr. Majority Leader, for reminding everyone
7 of the way we'll conduct ourselves in these
8 chambers.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you,
10 Madam Speaker. We will now move on to Council
11 Member Lander.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thanks,
13 Madam Speaker for providing a good forum debate in
14 this body, so that all points of view can be
15 heard. I would just say in reply to Council
16 Member Halloran, the people's money is currently
17 being kept in depository institutions that aren't
18 letting us know for example are they giving
19 mortgage modifications to the people in our
20 community who face bad loans, who are now trying
21 to exercise a programs offer by the federal
22 government to get back in their homes, to save
23 their homes, and what we simply want to know is,
24 are you making mortgage modifications? What's
25 your plan to do so? How are you going to help

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2 extend responsible credit and do responsible
3 banking in New York City's communities? And if
4 we're going to deposit the people's money in your
5 banks, then tell the people what your plans are to
6 meet the needs of credit in the neighborhoods of
7 New York City, so congratulations to A and HD
8 [phonetic], to the Speaker, to Councilman Vann for
9 this great piece of legislation.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
11 very much. We'll now move on to—seeing no others,
12 we will now move on to reports of special
13 committees?

14 MALE VOICE: None.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Reports of
16 standing committees?

17 MALE VOICE: Report of the
18 Committee on Finance, Intro 18-A, prevailing wage
19 requirement.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
21 orders.

22 MALE VOICE: M 798, Mayor's veto of
23 Intro No. 18-A.

24 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled to be
25 filed.

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MALE VOICE: Report of the
Committee on Land Use, L.U. 552 and Reso 1333,
UDAP [phonetic] Bronx.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
orders.

MALE VOICE: L.U. 590 and Reso
1334, cable television franchises.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
orders.

MALE VOICE: L.U. 595 and Reso
1335 through 598 and 1338, Department of Small
Business Services applications.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
orders.

MALE VOICE: L.U. 599 and Reso
1339, Zoning Map amendment.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
orders.

MALE VOICE: L.U. 603 and Reso
1340, sidewalk café.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
orders.

MALE VOICE: L.U. 607 and Reso
1341, Battery Maritime Building.

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
3 orders.

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MALE VOICE: Report of the
5 Committee on Transportation, Intro 784-A, transfer
6 of muni meter time.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled
8 on general orders, now to be known as the doggie
9 bag bill.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Our general
11 order calendar.

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MALE VOICE: Intro 485-A,
13 responsible banking act.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
15 orders.

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MALE VOICE: Resolution appointing
17 various persons, Commissioner of Deeds.

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

22

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

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MALE VOICE: Brewer?

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye
25 and also vote aye on all Land Use items, and I

1
2 want to thank and congratulate Melissa Mark-
3 Viverito, Al Vann and thank goodness that all of
4 the workers and people who will benefit from the
5 bank bill will do so. Thank you.

6 MALE VOICE: Chin?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [no audible
8 response]

9 MALE VOICE: Comrie?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: [no audible
11 response]

12 MALE VOICE: Crowley?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye on
14 all, and I ask for permission to vote for all Land
15 Use items.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

17 MALE VOICE: Dickens?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

19 MALE VOICE: Dilan?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye on all.

21 MALE VOICE: Eugene?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

23 MALE VOICE: Ferreras?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

25 MALE VOICE: Fidler?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Majority
3 Leader Rivera, may I have a moment to explain my
4 vote?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Thanks. I
7 along with the many other items on this agenda
8 today is a project that has literally taken 14
9 years to - - its way through the Economic
10 Development Corporation and the City Council.
11 It's really an incredible story that obviously we
12 don't have time for today, but I just want to say
13 that the end result is a good one. The city of
14 New York will get approximately \$20 million from
15 the sale of the property, a local business will
16 remain open, 70 jobs will be saved, the local
17 minority car dealership locally owned will remain
18 in business, parkland will remain safe, we will
19 not have a big box store for at least 20 years at
20 that location. All of those things will have been
21 accomplished. The only sad thing is it took 14
22 years to get there. I want to thank - - Benjamin
23 [phonetic], Alonzo and Christian from Land Use,
24 Land Use Committee staff and chairs and the folks
25 at EDC at the end who get this over the hump. And

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2 particularly, I want to thank the gentleman by the
3 name of Sammy Bacall [phonetic], who is a
4 businessman who has endured 14 years of trying to
5 deal with the city of New York to keep his
6 business open and to keep his employees employed
7 here. He could have picked up shop and left town
8 and a lot of other people would have done it, and
9 I thank him for staying with it, for hanging with
10 us, for letting us get it done. It's been a
11 win/win for everybody and thank him for his
12 perseverance in getting this done. I vote aye on
13 all.

14 MALE VOICE: Foster?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye on all.

16 MALE VOICE: Garodnick?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: [off
18 mic] Land Use call ups?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: I vote
21 aye, and I vote aye on all the rest. Thank you.

22 MALE VOICE: Gentile?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Yes.

24 MALE VOICE: Gonzalez?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye on

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all.

MALE VOICE: Greenfield?

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: - - ?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: My colleagues, thank you. I rise today to recognize several of my constituents who have come out today from the Turo College [phonetic] political science club. I just wanted to welcome them. Thank you all for coming. I vote aye on all of the bills. Thank you very much.

MALE VOICE: Halloran?

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Mr. Chairman, I would to vote no to 485-A, responsible banking and 18-A, the revision of 798-A. The rest I will vote aye on.

MALE VOICE: Ignizio?

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Halloran broke the mic. I'm voting no on Intro 485-A and Intro 18-A, and aye on all others.

MALE VOICE: Jackson?

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

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I think I
3 wanted to compliment Al Vann and everyone else who
4 worked on the transparency banking bill, and
5 obviously, we don't want anyone to hide where they
6 are investing our money. It is our money. We
7 want to know that they're going to invest in the
8 communities in which we serve, and that's
9 extremely important, so Al and everyone who worked
10 on this over the long haul, the people of New York
11 thank you, and that's why this particular bill is
12 going to pass today. I vote aye on all.

13 MALE VOICE: Koslowitz?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye on
15 all.

16 MALE VOICE: Lander?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye on all.

18 MALE VOICE: Lappin?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

20 MALE VOICE: Levin?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Permission
22 to explain my vote?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: With a great
25 compliment to Council Member Al Vann and Melissa

1
2 Mark-Viverito on the prevailing wage bill and the
3 responsible banking bill, I vote aye on all.

4 MALE VOICE: Mark-Viverito?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye
6 on all.

7 MALE VOICE: Mealy?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I want to
9 salute our Council Member, Al Vann, and our
10 colleague, Mark-Viverito, on the great legislation
11 and I vote aye on all.

12 MALE VOICE: Mendez?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

14 MALE VOICE: Nelson?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye on all.

16 MALE VOICE: Palma?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

18 MALE VOICE: Recchia?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: [off mic]
20 my vote?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: First of
23 all, I want to thank my Finance staff under the
24 leadership of Preston Niblack, Jeff Rodus, Tanisha
25 Edwards, and the entire Finance staff for these

1
2 two bills that they've all been working on,
3 especially the banking bill. I want to thank my
4 colleague, Al Vann. Al, you deserve this. You
5 waited a long time for this. You worked hard, and
6 the community should be proud, but I also want to
7 thank the advocates for standing up and working
8 with us and we heard you loud and clear about what
9 you think and what transparency is all about, and
10 how we're going to make life for many people
11 better in New York City. - - again, this is not
12 against banks. This is about transparency and
13 making the community know what banks are doing in
14 our community. In addition, I would just like to
15 recognize Hayley Meyers [phonetic] from my staff.
16 She is leaving me. Today is her last day. I want
17 to thank her for all that she has done and working
18 with me these last several months. She's been a
19 wonderful asset and I vote aye on all.

20 MALE VOICE: Reyna?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: [no audible
22 response]

23 MALE VOICE: Rose?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

25 MALE VOICE: Sanders?

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COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: [off mic]
heroic stand and favor working people, and thank
32 BJ and all advocates and I proudly vote aye on
all.

MALE VOICE: Seabrook?

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Yes, Mr.
Majority Leader, with permission, I'd like to vote
aye on all the Land Use call ups and general call
ups.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: I vote
aye.

MALE VOICE: Ulrich?

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye on all.

MALE VOICE: Vacca?

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: [no audible
response]

MALE VOICE: Vallone?

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: No on 485-
A and 18-A and aye on the rest.

MALE VOICE: Vann?

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: May I explain
my vote?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: I did not
3 want this moment to pass without us recognizing
4 how important is the role of advocates in our
5 society and - - city. When - - intelligent and
6 aggressive advocates that are progressive
7 leadership team then anything is possible, such as
8 the bill we just passed today. Keep up your
9 advocacy. We need it, the city needs it. One
10 other thing, one of my staff members Mandela
11 Jones, this is his last Stated Meeting. With my
12 blessings, he is moving on to bigger and better
13 things—well, not better, but bigger, and I want to
14 thank him for his service and so if you see
15 notices coming out from me, and there are some
16 misspellings and grammar is not right, - - Oh,
17 Mandela is gone. Again, I want to thank - -
18 advocacy for all the roles that you have played
19 that are instrumental and critical to our city. I
20 vote aye.

21 MALE VOICE: Williams?

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

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank

1
2 you. I just wanted to say congratulations to
3 Council Member Vann and - - and to the Speaker for
4 her leadership. I'm very proud to be voting on
5 the responsible banking act. I know - - much
6 needed clarity. I'm even more proud to be
7 overriding the veto on the prevailing wage bill.
8 It makes me proud to be a Council Member today to
9 stand up for what we know is correct and what will
10 help the citizens and residents of this city. I
11 vote aye on all.

12 MALE VOICE: Oddo?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: - - . I vote
14 no on 18-A and 485-A and yes on all others.

15 MALE VOICE: Rivera?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye
17 on all.

18 MALE VOICE: Speaker Quinn

19 SPEAKER QUINN: Aye on all.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All items
21 on today's general order calendar are adopted by a
22 vote of 48 in the affirmative, with zero in the
23 negative and zero abstentions with the exception
24 of Intro 18-A, which was adopted by a vote of 44
25 in the affirmative and 4 in the negative and zero

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2 abstentions, and Intro 485-A, which was adopted by
3 a vote of 44 in the affirmative with 4 in the
4 negative and zero abstentions, and the revised
5 Land Use call ups were adopted by a vote of 48 in
6 the affirmative with zero in the negative. Can we
7 get silence in the chambers? Thank you. We will
8 now move on to introduction and reading of the
9 bills.

10 SPEAKER QUINN: All bills are
11 referred to Committees as indicated on the agenda.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Discussion
13 of resolutions. We will talk about Resolution
14 1226-A an amended resolution calling on the
15 Village Voice Media to stop accepting adult
16 service advertisement on its online classified
17 site, Backpage.com, because it serves as a
18 platform to traffic minors and adult victims for
19 sex. The first person to speak on this reso—can
20 we get silence in the chambers—will be Council
21 Member Jackson.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Can I
23 allow Melissa Mark-Viverito the first, my
24 colleague?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: - - .

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Sure.

SPEAKER QUINN: Let's start with the two sponsors, Council Member Lander and then Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito, and go to the list as seen, and then do the same thing on the second resolution as well.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Perfect. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thanks, Madam Speaker. Thanks, Council Member Jackson, Madam Speaker and the Majority Leader. Trafficking women and girls for sex is a heinous and violent form of modern day slavery that unfortunately is taking place around the world and right here in New York City. I want to thank Speaker Quinn and also Chair Julissa Ferreras for their work to date to do everything we can to end it, and now for having New York City join the growing chorus calling on Village Voice Media to stop accepting adult service ads facilitating sex trafficking on Backpage.com. At the hearing on this reso, we heard devastating testimony from a 13 year old girl who had been repeatedly bought and sold on Backpage.com often dozens of times a

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2 day. We heard from the Brooklyn DA, the office of
3 the Manhattan DA. They have seen a rampant
4 increase in trafficking on Backpage.com and while
5 they have prosecuted a few cases, they believe the
6 increased demand as a result of Internet commerce
7 is increasing sex trafficking far beyond their
8 ability to keep up and yet we heard from the
9 general counsel for Village Voice Media that they
10 know better than 51 state attorneys general and
11 our district attorneys how to fight trafficking
12 and that somehow they're doing everyone a favor -
13 - transparent. So they may have the legal right
14 to do it, but we all know it's wrong. I want to
15 say thanks for the advocates for working with us
16 to make this happen. Thanks again to the Speaker
17 and Chair Ferreras.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you,
19 and just a reminder, the resos are one minute in
20 talk time. Council Member Viverito?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VIVERITO: I don't
22 want to add more beyond what Brad said, but I'm
23 really proud that as a Council under the
24 leadership of the Speaker and Julissa Ferreras as
25 Chair of the Women's Committee that we are taking

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2 this position. I want to thank my colleague, Brad
3 Lander, as well for his leadership that we're
4 taking this position to be very strongly and
5 obviously this position is one that is being very
6 much supported across the nation—the 51 attorneys
7 general. We have our DAs here in the city of New
8 York. We've got Senator Gillibrand now that has
9 been taking on the charge. There is a lot of
10 support from law enforcement in general to say
11 that we need to shut this down. Primarily, it is
12 women and also, young girls that are impacted. It
13 is women and young girls of color in particular,
14 and Backpage is not only here in New York City.
15 It is nationwide and international, so the message
16 that we're sending is very powerful, very strong,
17 and it is gaining momentum and I look forward to
18 the day that we can stand strong and say that we
19 contributed to make sure that Backpage.com is shut
20 down.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
22 very much, Council Member. Next we have Council
23 Member Ferreras.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Thank
25 you. I just wanted to thank the Speaker. This is

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2 the fifth hearing that we have on the topic of sex
3 trafficking and the pervasive problem that we have
4 as a city, but in the month of March alone,
5 Village Voice made \$2.6 million in online
6 prostitution ad revenue and their profits continue
7 to rise. This is a clear message that as a
8 society we must open our eyes and face the grave
9 and pervasive problem of sex trafficking. I'd
10 like to thank the Committee staff and the
11 Speaker's staff on their work for this hearing
12 that got national attention, but this conversation
13 must continue. Thank you.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
15 very much. Council Member Jackson?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you.
17 My colleagues, I rise in order to support this
18 resolution even though the resolution was heard
19 and adopted by the Committee on Women's Issues,
20 this is not only a women's issue, this is an issue
21 for all people to stand up and say that this type
22 of trafficking minors and adults for sex must
23 cease, and we must stand up and say so, and I'm so
24 happy that Brad Lander was a primary sponsor along
25 with many others on this particular resolution.

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2 This is clearly expressing the will of our City
3 Council that this is totally unacceptable to us
4 and we're going to stand up and say it loud and
5 clear. Thank you.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
7 very much, Council Member. Next we have Council
8 Member Halloran followed by Council Member Levin.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Thank
10 you, Mr. Chair. I would be the last person in
11 this room to stand up for the Village Voice, but
12 nonetheless, I would like to point out that this
13 Mayor's Office has continuously underfunded our
14 district attorneys and our police department, and
15 the police department does not have the resources
16 to go after these vice issues and the district
17 attorneys are still fighting to make sure they
18 have baseline funding. Well, it's impossible to
19 eradicate the issue by eliminating the Village
20 Voice from our scenes, although I'd be happy to
21 have us do that, no problem with that on my front,
22 but the real solution is making sure the DA's
23 office is able to prosecute these cases. They are
24 barely staying open as it is. Finally, we also
25 need to make sure that there is adequate resources

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2 in our social support networks for the victims of
3 these crimes and in particular, we need to fix the
4 problem with illegal immigration. One of the
5 problems underlying the sex trafficking industry
6 that has come out in all of the hearings is almost
7 70% of the persons caught up in underage
8 trafficking are people who have been stolen away
9 from their home countries or are here illegally.
10 We need to fix the problem however it takes us to
11 do that. Thank you.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
13 very much. Council Member Levin?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you
15 very much. I just want to rise in support of
16 Resolution 1226-A and congratulate Council Members
17 Lander, Mark-Viverito, Ferreras and the Speaker
18 for moving this resolution quickly. This is a
19 very important that we're today getting the City
20 Council's voice on the record strongly condemning
21 the Village Voice. I grew up reading the Village
22 Voice, so it gives me great sadness to have to do
23 this, but the reality is that they have betrayed
24 their heritage and what they stand for by engaging
25 in what is in reality a modern day slave trade.

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2 Women and girls are trafficked in a way that has
3 robbed them of their dignity, of their freedom and
4 for the Village Voice to stand by and engage in
5 this purely for profit motives is a real shame and
6 I'm glad that the Council is taking a firm
7 position today. Thank you very much.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
9 very much. We will now move to the second
10 resolution, Reso--well, we'll vote on this one
11 first. Resolution 1226-A, all in favor say aye.

12 MULTIPLE VOICES: Aye.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All opposed
14 say nay. Any abstentions? The ayes have it.
15 We'll now move to resolution 1319-A, and amended
16 resolution in support of A 9148 and S 6413, which
17 would raise the state minimum wage and calling
18 upon the New York State Legislature to pass and
19 the governor to sign this legislation. Amended
20 and adopted by the Committee on Civil Service and
21 Labor. First to speak on this item is Council
22 Member Williams.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank
24 you. First I offer my prayers for peace and
25 comfort to Tanisha Edwards for the loss of her

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2 mother. Second, I'm very happy to be supporting
3 this bill. I want to thank the Speaker for her
4 leadership on the City Council. Thank you Senate
5 Member Speaker Sheldon Silver [phonetic], Assembly
6 Member Keith Wright and State Senator Jeff Klein
7 for pushing it forward in the legislature. I
8 surprisingly thank the mayor for his support, even
9 though it's a little schizophrenic. I hope that
10 Governor Cuomo and Dean Skellos [phonetic] will
11 follow suit. According to data, New York State is
12 50 out of 50 states in terms of the economic
13 indicator that provides for income equality. That
14 is the worst possible that we can be. All
15 economists show that this will only improve
16 economics, not make it worse. So I'm thankful
17 that we're passing this and as a supporter of
18 Occupy Wall Street, I want to end with a quote I
19 saw on a sign. Our economic system encourages the
20 growth of great fortunes alongside desperate
21 poverty. I'm hoping this reso along with the
22 bills we passed today will help take a step in the
23 right direction.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Okay.

25 Thank you very much. Next we have Council Member

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2 Jackson.

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4 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you,
5 Majority Leader. My colleagues, I wanted to stand
6 up in support of this resolution. If you're not
7 aware there was a poll, a statewide poll, where
8 the majority of New Yorkers in the poll supported
9 this particular bill and the leadership of Speaker
10 Shelly Silver, with respects to raising the
11 state's minimum wage from \$7.25 an hour to \$8.50
12 an hour. And in fact, the poll that indicated
13 even republicans the majority of them support this
14 particular bill to raise the minimum wage. It
15 doesn't matter if you're democrat or republican;
16 what matters is that if you're living off \$7.25 an
17 hour, you're like starving, starving. And as my
18 colleague, Jumaane Williams, indicated we're
19 number 50 out of 50 as far as states as far as the
20 type of income that we receive. So I ask my
21 colleagues to support this resolution to speak up
22 and say New York City supports an increase in the
23 minimum wage. Thank you.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: thank you
very much. Seeing no others, we will now move on
to vote on Reso 1319-A. All in favor say aye.

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MULTIPLE VOICES: Aye.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All opposed say nay. Any abstentions? The ayes have it. We will now move on to general discussion. First we have Council Member Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: yes. I just wanted to rise in this Council in an homage to say congratulations to our Speaker, who will be getting married on Saturday. Congratulations to you.

[applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: We were all sitting here talking about how the Speaker congratulates everybody for everything. Your mother is here, your kid is here, your grandma is here, and you have a very special day coming your way and we all just wanted to stand and congratulate you on your pending nuptials. You're welcome.

[applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Council Member Dickens?

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Reso 1326 calls upon the New York State Legislature to pass

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2 and the governor to sign a Senate bill 1155 and
3 Assembly bill 5222 to amend the New York State
4 education law in the current practice of placing
5 charter schools at existing school buildings,
6 which takes place without adequate consideration
7 of whether the site is appropriate and often
8 without considering—

9 SPEAKER QUINN: [Interposing] If we
10 could get quiet for Council Member Dickens. Thank
11 you.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: --without
13 considering communities' views. What this reso
14 does is calls upon that the process will come back
15 to the New York City through the ULEP [phonetic]
16 process, which will allow time and community input
17 and the City Council Members in whose district the
18 schools are located will be able to really have an
19 impact to either support or reject the co-location
20 of charter schools in existing public school
21 buildings. I want to thank the Speaker and her
22 staff and - - and the rest of the Human Services
23 division for working on this resolution. Thank
24 you.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Next we

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have Council Member Jackson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you. My colleagues, I rise to let you know if you're not aware that this Saturday, May 19th, from 11am to 3pm, the New York City Council's Black, Latino and Asian caucus is sponsoring a jobs and business resource fair at the armory at 168th Street and Broadway. If you as members of the City Council, if you want to stop by anytime between 11 and 3, please come by and join us in helping to help New Yorkers find jobs and business opportunities at the Black, Latino and Asian caucus jobs and business resource fair at the 168th Street Armory in Manhattan. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you very much. Next we have Council Member Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you very much. My colleagues, I am asking that you sign on to two resolutions, Resolution No. 1330 that we are introducing today that would call on the New York State Legislature to pass and the governor to sign Assembly bill 9861 and Senate bill 7015, which would amend the State Education Law to enable New York City to require that all

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2 five year old children in New York City attend
3 kindergarten. I want to thank the Speaker for
4 calling attention to this issue and her support in
5 making this front and center in our city's debate
6 on education. As it is now, over 2500 children a
7 year do not attend kindergarten as a result of
8 loophole in the law, which does not require
9 children to attend kindergarten as five year olds
10 where the law does require them to attend first
11 grade when they turn six. This is just closing
12 that loop and making sure that every kid is
13 getting access to quality education here in the
14 city. Also, I am asking my colleagues to sign on
15 to Resolution 1329, which will call on the New
16 York State Legislature to pass and the governor to
17 sign Senate bill 741-A and its Assembly companion
18 bill 6394-A, which would give this Council advice
19 and consent on appointees to the rent guidelines
20 board ensuring that—I'm introducing this with my
21 colleague, Council Member Letitia James and Erik
22 Dilan—and this is an essential way that we could
23 establish checks and balances of the rent
24 guidelines in order to make sure that people
25 voices are heard, that tenants' voices are heard

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and fully listened to, so with that, I thank you very much.

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

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you. I just want to call my colleagues' attention to Intro 861. It's a local law to amend the charter and the code of New York to requiring hotel developers to present their plans to effected community boards. In my district, there is a hotel coming up now on a strip of land that there is no business to have a hotel, a motel and probably it's only going to be the full definition of a hotel we believe there with negative people coming in and out all hours of the night. There is no other hotel around. No one is stopping in east Flatbush [phonetic] on the way to an airport or on the way to the city. The only reason that we found out about is someone happened to be walking by the site and read the postings. What we're asking is since we don't have the power to change it or force them to change something, if it's legally allowed as the one in my district is,

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2 at least we want them to present it to the
3 community boards so that we would have the
4 information and the community can get all of the
5 information that they need. Also, I want to make
6 sure I mention that I'm very disappointed in
7 President Obama for forcing our state and other
8 states to continue to secure communities, which
9 are decimating communities and districts like the
10 one I live in. He has deported more people than
11 the past president. This combined with stop,
12 question and frisk and other policies are
13 devastating to communities like mine and I
14 actually have to question my support of him, if he
15 does not retreat on this. Thank you.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Council
17 Member Dickens?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you.
19 I just wanted to congratulate and thank my
20 colleagues, Council Member Vann for the work that
21 he was diligent in doing to protect all of our
22 communities and to Melissa Mark-Viverito for her
23 hard work, and I wanted to acknowledge I was
24 remiss in Council Member Diana Reyna for the work
25 that she provided to me in support of the reso

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2 about the co-locations of our charter schools in
3 the public schools, so thank you, Council Member
4 Reyna.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Next we
6 have Council Member Lander.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you,
8 Mr. Majority Leader. My colleagues, I ask you to
9 consider signing on to Intro 857-A, the stop
10 credit discrimination and employment act, which
11 would prohibit employers in New York City from
12 denying people jobs based on their credit history.
13 In these times of economic insecurity, millions of
14 families face the challenge of poor credit due to
15 catastrophic medical expenses, the death of a
16 spouse, predatory lending, the rising cost of
17 education, and spiraling student loans. Many
18 people have poor credit reports simply due to
19 identity theft of the sloppy mistakes of credit
20 reporting agencies. Indeed, more than 20% of the
21 information in credit reports has been shown
22 simply to be mistaken or false and many households
23 who go into debt to pay for basic expenses like
24 groceries, utilities, childcare, health care are
25 also come out [phonetic] with bad credit reports,

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2 and we simply shouldn't let employers discriminate
3 against people based on their credit history. It
4 offends our sense of fairness. How could it be
5 right to discriminate against a student who had to
6 borrow and take a loan to go to school versus one
7 lucky enough to have parents who could cover the
8 cost of tuition? There is strong evidence that
9 credit checks have no validity in predicting job
10 performance and of course, it puts people in a
11 catch 22 that can't get a job due to bad credit
12 and then they can't pay their debts because
13 they're unemployed, and yet this discriminatory
14 practice is growing rampantly in recent years from
15 fewer than 1 in 5 employers just 15 years ago to 6
16 in 10 today. That's why California, Oregon and
17 Illinois, Washington D.C. and others states and
18 cities have acted to prohibit employment
19 discrimination based on credit history and I hope
20 we'll join them. Please consider signing on to
21 Intro 857. Thank you.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
23 very much. Next we have Council Member Brewer.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you
25 very much. I just want to continue to support the

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2 computer staff, the IT staff, as they do the
3 webcasting, and it has at least from my
4 constituents and my staff's perspective been very
5 positive and now I want everyone to know we do
6 have a bill pending that says that the
7 Administration should do the same. I think it is
8 correct for us to have waited until we have a
9 satisfactory program for webcasting City Council
10 meetings, and I hope that the bill will pass and
11 that the city of New York will make its meetings
12 as transparent as the City council is doing.
13 Thank you very much.

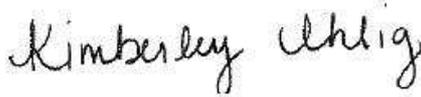
14 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
15 very much. Seeing no others, this meeting is
16 adjourned.

17 [gavel]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Kimberley Uhlig certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature _____

Date 5/25/12