

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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May 31, 2012
Start: 2:58 p.m.
Recess: 4:17 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:

CHRISTINE C. QUINN
Speaker for the Council
JOEL RIVERA
President Pro Tempore

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

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

Judy Haber
Dean
New York University School of Nursing

Yvonne Wesley
Director
Leadership Institute of Black Nurses

Unknown Speaker
100th Fellow
Leadership Institute of Black Nurses

Unknown Speaker
Pioneer (Moses or Brathway, presumably)
Leadership Institute of Black Nurses

Michael Perry
Pastor
Our Lady of Refuge, Catholic Church

Sidney Johnson
Council Member for the Day
For Council Member Comrie

1
2 SPEAKER QUINN: --U College of
3 Nursing to come on up to celebrate the Leadership
4 Institute for Black Nurses at NYU. So if I could
5 ask folks from the Institute and also Council
6 Members to come on up, for this, the Chair of our
7 Health Committee and others to come on up. Nice
8 to see you. And this is Judy Haber, the Dean of
9 the Nursing School. Come on up everybody. And
10 [applause, background noise] as we, as the nurses
11 and others make their way up, I just wanted to
12 salute everyone at NYU's College of Nursing. We
13 have been very proud to support this program,
14 which provides management and leadership training
15 for African and Caribbean-American nurses and
16 hopefully we helped you break through in career
17 advancement and become the leaders in the field of
18 nursing that we know you already are. But we want
19 you to have the title, the pay and the benefits
20 you should get to go along with the leaders you
21 already are, out there on the floors, so to speak.
22 And you're here today particularly to celebrate
23 the fact that in only seven years, they've
24 graduated their hundredth fellow, which sounds
25 like a funny word to use, [applause] but hundredth

1
2 fellow right here. Yay! [cheering] And you got
3 to love it when the fellow ain't a fellow, you
4 know what I'm saying? So, congratulations to all
5 of you. And let me ask the clerk to read the
6 proclamation, and then we'll hear from the Dean,
7 the hundredth and others.

8 CLERK: Council, City of New York
9 Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of
10 New York is proud to honor the New York University
11 College of Nursing's Leadership Institute of Black
12 Nurses, and to congratulate the Institute upon the
13 graduation of its 100th participant, since its
14 inception just seven years ago. And whereas, the
15 Leadership Institute for Black Nurses was founded
16 in 2005, by Yvonne Wesley, an alumna of NYU
17 College of Nursing, who is now both an Adjunct
18 Associate Professor of Nursing there, as well as
19 the Institute's Director. Historically, both race
20 and gender have been barriers to career
21 advancement. The Leadership Institute was founded
22 not only to help black nurses break through such
23 barriers and achieve their goals, but also to
24 address the extreme disparities in health between
25 African-Americans and other groups in the United

1
2 States. And whereas, building upon the NYU
3 College of Nursing's longstanding commitment to
4 black nursing leadership, the Leadership Institute
5 for Black Nurses holds six monthly training
6 sessions, addressing topics such as leadership,
7 leadership paradigms, negotiation and
8 collaboration. And whereas, this year, with the
9 financial support of the New York City Council,
10 the Leadership Institute for Black Nurses had
11 enrolled ten new fellows, bringing the Institute's
12 seven year total--

13 SPEAKER QUINN: Let me just
14 underscore that financial support, let's hear it
15 for Council Financial Support Program. [applause,
16 cheering] I'm not saying, I'm just saying.

17 CLERK: --bringing the Institute's
18 seven year total to 100. And whereas, the
19 Leadership Institute for Black Nurses ensures that
20 a diversified nurse leadership is available to
21 support the diverse patient population which makes
22 our City such an extraordinary place to live.
23 With our continued support, we can help all nurses
24 break through racial and gender barriers and
25 inspire now our daughters and granddaughters to

1
2 reach their highest aspirations. Now, therefore,
3 be it known that the Council of the City of New
4 York honors the New York University College of
5 Nursing Leadership Institute of Black Nurses for
6 its outstanding service and contributions to the
7 community. Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the
8 Entire Council, Margaret Chin, Council Member,
9 First District Manhattan, Daniel Garodnick, Fourth
10 District Manhattan, and many other Council
11 Members.

12 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. And
13 [applause] just before, whether Yvonne or Judy or
14 anybody else wants to say a few words, I just
15 really want to thank everyone who is part of this
16 important institute. You know, we have, across
17 the world, but certainly in this City, a
18 tremendous shortage of nurses. And we have a
19 particular shortage of nurses who are multilingual
20 and a shortage of nurses as it relates to
21 diversity, which means we have less culturally
22 competent care. And one of the things we're
23 doing, not just in this City, but in this country,
24 is going to other countries, and taking their
25 nurses. So to deal with our crisis, we're making

1
2 crises in other countries worse. And this
3 Institute is addressing the potential we have in
4 this city, state and country to take of ourselves,
5 not just helping New York, but by elevating nurses
6 and men and women from New York here, making sure
7 we are not doing things that hurt other countries.
8 And so, I just want to thank you for this so much.
9 We've really been trying to take this issue on for
10 a number of years here in the Council, and the
11 other thing about being a nurse, in addition to
12 being the people who are there 24/7, when your
13 family members are sick, no offense against
14 doctors, but they are not there 24/7, they're not
15 the ones you're crying to, they're not the ones
16 you're yelling at in frustration, they're not the
17 ones you're begging to, they're not often the ones
18 who are telling you really the truth about what
19 happened in the operating room, I'm just saying, I
20 know from a nurse when my father had his knee
21 replaced. But ... they're also not the people who
22 just are there for families, when you need them.
23 So, I just want to thank all of you for the great
24 work that you're doing, the great care you're
25 giving, but also the great example you're giving,

1
2 that you can have a selfless career that helps
3 people, and make a living where you're able to
4 support your families and be intellectually
5 challenged. So, thank you all so much for your
6 work and your leadership. And I don't know
7 whether Judy or Yvonne or the hundredth or whoever
8 wants to - -

9 JUDY HABER: Thank you, Speaker
10 Quinn. And it is my honor to have been part of
11 the Leadership Institute for Black Nurses at NYU
12 College of Nursing, since its inception. And we
13 are so proud of the 100 fellows who have pioneered
14 groundbreaking accomplishments in healthcare. And
15 the model has been so successful that we have just
16 been funded to transport LIBN to Ghana.

17 [cheering, applause] Where we will contribute not
18 to brain drain, but to strengthening the
19 healthcare workforce for the nursing profession,
20 in Ghana, over the next three years of the
21 project, and Yvonne Wesley will be the Co-Director
22 of that project. So [applause, cheering] thank
23 you so much for your support, City Council, of
24 this important project. And now--

25 YVONNE WESLEY: And to the, and to

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2 the Speaker, who I know is the speaker, thank you
3 so very much to the Council who all support us
4 here, thank you, thank you, thank you, so very
5 much. I have my Pioneers here from the Leadership
6 Institute, Mrs. Moses, Mrs. Brathway [phonetic],
7 the two of them there. [cheering, applause] As
8 black nurses still represent less than five
9 percent of the nursing force, I really want people
10 to understand, especially black nurses, that there
11 were those who had it harder than us even. And so
12 as Ms. Brathway and Ms. Moses stand here, I thank
13 them for their commitment and will now turn the
14 mic over to our youngest yellow, our 100th fellow
15 [cheering] this year. [laughter, applause]

16 100TH FELLOW: Thank you so very
17 much, Dr. Wesley, Dr. Haber. This has been an
18 exciting semester for me. And I just, I'm so
19 overwhelmed and I'm so grateful to be the 100th,
20 and to represent LIBN. Thank you.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: Would either of
22 your pioneers like to say a few words?

23 [applause]

24 PIONEER: Thank you to all of the
25 City Council Members, Speaker Quinn. It has

1
2 really been a pleasure and a privilege to be one
3 of the pioneers associated with this organization.
4 It's great to be able to see younger nurses take a
5 leadership role in nursing. We have been
6 underrepresented in so many instances, and I am
7 learning, along with them, but whatever expertise
8 are, experience I have, I've been able to share
9 and I'm always glad to share, and keep working as
10 a nurse. And I used to be an HHC nurse.

11 [laughter]

12 SPEAKER QUINN: Well, thank you all
13 very much, and congratulations on the Ghana
14 expansion [applause] that's amazing. Thank you
15 all very much, thank you. All right, we have one
16 more, which is the Grand Street Campus Wolves
17 Wrestling Team, led by Council Member Erik Dilan.
18 And they won their second New York City PSAL Dual
19 Meet Championship. Eric! No, all right.

20 [background noise]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: So we'll
22 call the guys up. [pause, background noise] All
23 right, so, thank you, thank you, Speaker Quinn.
24 And just wanted to take a moment to, to
25 congratulate the Grant Street Campus Wolverines

1
2 Wrestling Team on winning their second City
3 championship. It was a captivating match, and I
4 think the hero was Dooley Espinal [phonetic], I'm
5 not sure if Dooley's here. But yeah, we hear
6 [cheering] we hear you brought it home for the
7 team. And it's a program in about seven years
8 they got about two City championships, so we
9 wanted to take the time to recognize the team for
10 all the good work that they're doing. A lot of
11 these young men are headed off to college, and a
12 few of them are going to be wrestling in college
13 next year, at Division One programs for wrestling.
14 So we wanted to take the time to congratulate them
15 publicly for what they've done in wrestling and
16 there being men of example in the North Brooklyn
17 area, so we wanted to congratulate them, their
18 principal, Mr. Justino, all the coaches, and
19 congratulate you all on your great success. And
20 Madam Speaker, I'll give you back the microphone.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: Well, I just want
22 to congratulate all of you, congratulate Eric and
23 Diana, I know, who share the area that the team
24 exists in, so to speak. And, okay, it's Diana's
25 areas, too, I'll give her the mic in a second.

1
2 But just congratulate all of you and who's going
3 off to college? Let's see a show of hands. All
4 right! [applause. That's terrific. That is
5 really great. So, congratulations on the
6 championship and congratulations on going off to
7 college. So, Diana, I don't know if you want to
8 add a few words?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Thank you,
10 Madam Speaker, I just want to make sure that I
11 wish you all of, your hard work, up until now, has
12 measured up to be only success, and that your
13 years ahead, academically and in the sports arena,
14 will continue to show your best showmanship in
15 whatever you do. And I, as a mother of two young
16 sons, I hope that you are leaders that will guide
17 my children, my boys, into a better future for
18 tomorrow, and congratulations to the 850 Grant
19 Street Campus who has an amazing sports program,
20 and many of its community students have gone on to
21 pro baseball or whatever other team, I don't keep
22 up with the sports as much as Eric does, as well
23 as football, as well as football. So, I want to
24 just make sure that you balance your academics
25 with your sports, and be the best men you can be.

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You, I only expect the greatest of you. Thank you.

SPEAKER QUINN: Now, before we have the Clerk read the proclamation and then hear from the coach or director or captain or whoever, I just want to say, I heard that part of the deal was that if you guys won again, Eric was going to come and wrestle.

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: [off mic]
No, they'd beat me.

SPEAKER QUINN: [laughs] I'm only teasing, only teasing. So, we could read the proclamation.

CLERK: Council, City of New York Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of New York is proud to honor the members of the Grand Street Campus Wolves Wrestling Team for their relentless pursuit of excellence, which led the Wolves to their second victory at the New York City PSAL Dual Meet Championship. And whereas, led by Coach John Zarcon [phonetic], the Assistant Coaches Brian Garcia and Umberto Soto, the Grant Street Campus Wolves Wrestling Team has had a stellar season. The Wolves include Josh Antoine,

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2 Godhi Tavares, Yuri Tavares, Elijah Vasquez, David
3 Agosto, Keanu Thompson, Isaiah Sagara, Dooley
4 Espino, Anthony Lubo, Justin Vasquez, Joshua
5 Thomas, Jorge Jimenez, Elvin Ortiz, Anatole
6 Anchackov, Shvaughn Henry, Alberto Ruiz, Clifford
7 Cruz, Ismael Coeto, Emmanuel Perez, Julio Medina,
8 Jamal Aaron, Isael Coeto, Andres Galindo, Joshua
9 Lawson and Eric Pacheco [phonetic]. Each of these
10 players trained tirelessly to be the very best,
11 both individually and as a team. And whereas, on
12 Wednesday, January 18, 2012, in the days
13 penultimate match, Dooley Espino pinned a fierce
14 competitor, and whipped the audience and teammates
15 into a climactic frenzy. This decisive move
16 clinched a 46/27 win for the Grant Street Campus
17 at the PSAL Wrestling Dual Meet City Championship.
18 And whereas, the Wolves Victory marked Grant
19 Street's first title since 2007 and the second
20 champion--[background noise, quieting audience]
21 and the second championship for a program that
22 Coach Zarcon started only seven years ago. And
23 whereas, the Grant Street Campus Wolves have
24 reaffirmed the importance of wrestling and other
25 sports in high school. Now therefore be it known

1
2 that the Council of the City of New York honors
3 and congratulates the Grant Street Campus Wolves
4 Wrestling Team upon winning its second victory,
5 New York City PSAL Dual Meet Championship.

6 Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the Entire
7 Council; Erik Martin Dilan, Council Member 37th
8 District, Brooklyn.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: Yay! [applause]

10 And let's hear from the coach.

11 COACH ZARCON: I would just like to
12 thank everybody who made this possible, it's a
13 great honor to be here. It's an honor to call
14 myself coach of a wonderful bunch of young men
15 like this, who are examples in our community and
16 in our school. This proclamation represents not
17 only the hardworking gentlemen behind me, but
18 anybody who's ever been a part of any athletic
19 program at Grant Street Campus, we have great
20 leadership from our Principal, Dr. William Husino
21 [phonetic], and our athletic director, Bernard
22 Mackawayne [phonetic] who are here with us today.
23 And without the support of many people who are
24 behind the scenes, none of this would be possible
25 at all. So, thank you for everybody who made it

1
2 possible and for taking the time to recognize us
3 today. And we plan to see you in the future with
4 another one.

5 [applause]

6 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very,
7 very much. All right, and I think, I don't know,
8 is Council Member Comrie here? That's it for you
9 guys, thank you very much, we'll see you back next
10 year. Yeah, is Council Member Comrie here? Okay,
11 we're--[background noise] All right, well that
12 concludes for today's ceremonials, and we may do a
13 break for a picture when Council Member Comrie
14 comes back up.

15 [pause, background noise]

16 CLERK: Could I have your
17 attention, please? Could I please have your
18 attention? At this time, please place all cell
19 phones, all cell phones and pagers to vibrate, and
20 will all non-Council employees please leave the
21 main floor of the chambers? There is seating up
22 in the balcony. Thank you.

23 [pause, background noise]

24 [gavel]

25 PRESIDENT RIVERA: My colleagues,

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2 please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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[Pledge of Allegiance]

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PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you. Roll

5

call.

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CLERK: Arroyo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [off mic]

8

Here.

9

CLERK: Barron.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [off mic]

11

Here.

12

CLERK: Brewer.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: [off mic]

14

Here.

15

CLERK: Cabrera. Chin.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [off mic]

17

Here.

18

CLERK: Comrie. Crowley. Dickens.

19

Dilan. Dromm.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: [off mic]

21

Here.

22

CLERK: Eugene.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: [off mic]

24

Here.

25

CLERK: Ferreras.

1

STATED MEETING

19

2

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: [off mic]

3

Here.

4

CLERK: Fidler.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: [off mic]

6

Here.

7

CLERK: Foster. Garodnick.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: [off

9

mic] Here.

10

CLERK: Gennaro.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: [off mic]

12

Here.

13

CLERK: Gentile.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: [off mic]

15

Here.

16

CLERK: Gonzalez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: [off mic]

18

Here.

19

CLERK: Greenfield.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [off

21

mic] Here.

22

CLERK: Halloran. Ignizio.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: [off mic]

24

Here.

25

CLERK: Jackson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: [off mic]

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Here.

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CLERK: [pause] James.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: [off mic]

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Here.

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CLERK: Koo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: [off mic]

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Here.

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CLERK: Koppell.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: [off mic]

11

Here.

12

CLERK: Koslowitz.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off

14

mic] Here.

15

CLERK: Lander.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [off mic]

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Here.

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CLERK: Lappin. Levin.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: [off mic]

20

Here.

21

CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: [off

23

mic] Here.

24

CLERK: Mealy.

25

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2

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: [off mic]

3

Here.

4

CLERK: Mendez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: [off mic]

6

Here.

7

CLERK: Nelson.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: [off mic]

9

Here.

10

CLERK: Palma.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: [off mic]

12

Here.

13

CLERK: Recchia.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: [off mic]

15

Aye.

16

CLERK: Reyna.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: [off mic]

18

Here.

19

CLERK: Rodriguez. Rose.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: [off mic]

21

Here.

22

CLERK: Sanders.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: [off mic]

24

Present.

25

CLERK: Seabrook.

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: [off mic]

3

Here.

4

CLERK: Ulrich. Vacca.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: [off mic]

6

Here.

7

CLERK: Vallone.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [off mic]

9

Here.

10

.CLERK: Van Bramer. Vann

11

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [off mic]

12

Here.

13

CLERK: Weprin.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: [off mic]

15

Here.

16

CLERK: Williams.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [off mic]

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Here.

19

CLERK: Wills.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: [off mic]

21

Here.

22

CLERK: Lappin.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: [off mic]

24

Here.

25

CLERK: Oddo.

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2

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: [off mic] Hey

3

now, here.

4

CLERK: Rivera.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Here.

6

CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

7

SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic] Here.

8

CLERK: We have a quorum.

9

PRESIDENT RIVERA: Quorum is

10

present. My colleagues, please rise for the

11

invocation being delivered today by Father Michael

12

Perry.

13

[All rise]

14

[pause]

15

MICHAEL PERRY: May the higher

16

power whose name we each invoke, send blessings

17

down and make them rise up. May the spirit who

18

dwells in each human soul lead us to seek the

19

common good, and then make it happen in this

20

chamber, and in the hearts of all who call this

21

City home. May all that is negative turn to good,

22

may all that is good be done in the name of the

23

Almighty, whose name we each invoke and all of us

24

together, for the good of all, amen.

25

AUDIENCE: Amen.

1
2 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Council Member
3 Williams.

4 [background noise]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I want to
6 thank Father Michael from Our Lady of Refuge
7 Church in my district. Always very active, always
8 on the right side of what is just and righteous
9 and I appreciate that. More importantly, one of
10 the liaisons to Brooklyn Congregations United,
11 very active church group who is in the process of
12 organizing also what is right and what is just.
13 And I would like to motion to spread the
14 invocation to fall upon the record. Thank you.

15 PRESIDENT RIVERA: So ordered.
16 Council Member Seabrook. Seabrook.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Yes, Mr.
18 Majority Leader, with unanimous consent I'd like
19 to be voted present and vote aye on all call-ups.

20 PRESIDENT RIVERA: So ordered.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: And if could ask
22 my--

23 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: I vote
24 aye.

25 SPEAKER QUINN: --counsel, my

1
2 colleagues to please rise. On May 21, 2012, Hal
3 Jackson, 96, one of the most important men in
4 radio history, passed away. Over the years, Hal
5 Jackson was a music host, talk host, sportscaster,
6 TV host, live show MC, and a historian of music
7 and radio. He began his career in the late 1930s,
8 stayed on the air with Sunday classic show on
9 WBLS, until a few weeks before his death. He took
10 the greatest pride in using radio as a means of
11 helping people, particularly young people, make
12 the most of their lives. In 1990, Hal Jackson
13 became the first African-American host inducted
14 into the National Association of Broadcasters Hall
15 of Fame, and in 1995 was the first inducted into
16 the National Radio Hall of Fame. In 2010, he was
17 named a Giant of Broadcasting by the Library of
18 American Broadcasting. During his long,
19 distinguished and groundbreaking career, he
20 received four Presidential commendations. Hal
21 Jackson's funeral was held this morning at
22 Riverside Church, our thoughts and prayers go out
23 to his wife Debbie, his entire family, and all of
24 his loyal listeners. I'd like to now call on our
25 Deputy Majority Leader, Leroy Comrie, to say a few

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2 words, and our Assistant Majority Leader, Inez
3 Dickens.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Thank you,
5 I have a Council Member for the Day, Sidney
6 Johnson, she's going to say the words for me, if
7 you don't mind, thank you.

8 SIDNEY JOHNSON: Today we are
9 celebrating the life of Hal Jackson, a radio and
10 civil rights pioneer. Having been a former DJ
11 myself, I listened to Hal on Sunday afternoons,
12 where his show on WBLS was a mainstay for those
13 who loved R&B music. Before coming to New York,
14 Hal broke racial barriers in Washington, D.C.,
15 where he was the first person to broadcast a Negro
16 baseball league, despite the onerous of the local
17 station refusing to do so. From a young age, Hal
18 was an entrepreneur. By getting local store areas
19 to sponsor him and hiring a white promoter, he was
20 able to buy time on the air and let the community
21 know the latest scores and standings. He
22 eventually expanded to play music in the D.C. and
23 Baltimore markets, but after speaking out for
24 employees looking to earn higher salaries, Hal
25 moved to New York where he became a household

1
2 name. Here he formed the Inner City Broadcasting
3 Corporation, ICBC, with former Manhattan Borough
4 President, Percy Sutton. Through this new
5 company, they formed WBLS, which was the first
6 African-American owned and operated radio station
7 in New York. By being the first person to have an
8 integrated staff, he mixed artists like Frank
9 Sinatra and Duke Ellington, that broadened his
10 audience. Many people throughout the City knew
11 Hal's voice and enjoyed listening to the music he
12 played. As Hal would always say, "It's nice to be
13 important, but it's important to be nice." Thank
14 you.

15 [applause]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: You know,
17 I want to join in with my colleague, Council
18 Member Comrie, in recognizing and paying tribute
19 to the life of Hal Jackson. He was a
20 philanthropist, he held a lifetime of achievements
21 to the communications industry, and he was also a
22 friend. Many may not be aware of the indelible
23 mark Hal Jackson left on us. Just to name a few
24 of his many accomplishments, he was the first
25 black radio announcer in network radio; the first

1
2 black host of a jazz show on the ABC Network, a
3 major network; and the first black sports
4 announcer on radio in the entire country,
5 providing play-by-play action. Perhaps more
6 importantly, he cared about our young people, and
7 worked hard to provide mentoring and career
8 opportunities for all of our youth. His valuable
9 contributions to New York City will afford future
10 generations of African-Americans and all people of
11 color, the chance to participate in the radio and
12 communications industry. I want to just mention
13 that at the Apollo Theater, on Wednesday nights,
14 there was amateur night, and Hal always had young
15 people that aspired to be singers and dancers and
16 comedians to come and play on the stage of the
17 Apollo. But if the audience wasn't feeling you,
18 and they didn't, they didn't hear the melody, then
19 there was Sandman Sims who came out with a hook to
20 physically remove the unfortunate performer from
21 off the stage, providing so much laughter. Hal
22 [laughter] Hal, we, we love you. Jimmy, I love
23 you, too. And your legacy will last an eternity.
24 And in your own closing words, "It is nice to be
25 important, but it's more important to be nice."

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Thank you.

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Inez;
thank you, Leroy; and thank you very much, Sidney.
On May, on May 29, 2012, Joel Morales, who was 12
years old, which is a far cry from the 96 years
that we just celebrated for Hal Jackson, 12 years
old, hung himself in his East Harlem apartment.
It appears that this was as a result, according to
his family, of merciless bullying by other fifth
grades in his school and in his neighborhood. To
avoid bullying over his height and in his
intelligence, his mother had him transferred to
another school during the winter. The alleged
bullies then continued to torment Joel in the
neighborhood, his mother took out an order of
protection against the ringleader of the fifth
graders, a request to NYCHA to move the family
from Jefferson Houses to another development was
denied. We obviously, this tragedy was just
reported today and recently happened. And we
don't know all of the circumstances, and can't yet
say what could have been done or should have been
done in this case. But what we can say, and I'm
going to call on Council Member Melissa Mark-

1
2 Viverito in a minute, in whose district Joel and
3 his family lived, what we can say is this is
4 unacceptable. That there, this cannot be a city
5 where 12 year old boys are so mercilessly bullied
6 they feel they have no nowhere else to go, nothing
7 else to do, but take their own lives. So I can
8 rest assured that this institution will work with
9 the Morales Family and others and find out what
10 happened and what could have been different in
11 this case. And then we have to do more than that,
12 to make sure that in the future, when other
13 bullies target children, that they know that there
14 is somewhere in this building and in this City and
15 in our school system, and in our five boroughs
16 that they can go, 'cause this can never, ever be
17 an option for our children. Melissa.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

19 Thank you, Speaker Quinn, and for taking a moment
20 to remember this young life of Joel Morales, just
21 12 years old, and I think you've just outlined
22 what's been reported as the reasons why, again,
23 someone who was just beginning his life, was at
24 the dawn of his lifespan, would feel that he would
25 have to take his own life. His mother did

1
2 everything, did possibly everything within her
3 power to make life better for her son, moving him
4 to a new school, trying to transfer him out of
5 where they lived, looking at restraining orders.
6 So she did everything she could, and yet she was
7 not able to protect her son. So, the cruel and
8 painful sting of bullying drove him to end his own
9 life. And so my heart, obviously, as many in this
10 room as they hear the story, breaks for Ms.
11 Babilonia, as well as Joel's entire family. So, I
12 thought it would be important that in memory of
13 Joel and an effort to prevent other tragedies like
14 this one from taking place, I know that we're
15 going to be working closely with local schools and
16 youth groups to send a message that bullying will
17 not be tolerated in our community, and that there
18 is help out there for young people who feel over
19 come with pain. We need all of our youth to play
20 a role, even if they are not the bullies, or the
21 ones being bullied. We need our young people to
22 stand up for one another, and also to become
23 familiar with the signs of when a friend might
24 need some extra help, and how to get that help. I
25 am proud of the work that we do in this Council,

1
2 around bullying and suicide work. Tragedies like
3 this one underscore the importance of our efforts
4 and the efforts to this end. So, with that, Joel
5 Morales, [Spanish], may you rest in peace.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: Also, we lost
7 another important leader in our City this week,
8 Leonard Allen, we'll have a formal remembrance of
9 him at the next Stated Meeting, but let me call on
10 Council Member Brewer to say a few words.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Leonard
12 Allen was a longtime activist at DC37. He was
13 President of 2021 Local, which are the OTB'd
14 workers. He was the head of the political action,
15 the PAC chair for some time. He was head of the
16 screening committee, and he fought till the end
17 for his OTB members. He had great, great
18 grandchildren, some of whom he was raising, and I
19 got to know him because when the OTBs went from
20 one kind of parlor to another, he was head of the
21 union and very active in trying to figure out the
22 best community responses as well as the best
23 working opportunities for those who are OTB
24 workers. He was practical, he was professional,
25 he was just a great leader in every sense of the

1
2 word, died this week and he'll be missed. Thank
3 you, Madam Speaker.

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
5 much, Council Member Brewer. I also want to make
6 note for colleagues who may not be aware, that our
7 colleague, Council Member Halloran, has recently
8 undergone brain surgery for a benign tumor that he
9 had in his brain. This was very serious surgery,
10 but the very, very good news is that he is
11 recovering ahead of schedule. He and I have had
12 many funny texts back and forth about how his
13 thickeheadedness may have been what is helping him.
14 But the doctors are amazed, he's kind of five days
15 ahead of schedule in the recuperation, and doing
16 very well. So, I just wanted to let everyone know
17 on that, so they could keep Dan in their thoughts
18 and prayers, and maybe send him a text or just
19 reach out to him, I think he's at the points now
20 where he would very much appreciate that.

21 Minority Leader Oddo, did you want to add on?

22 Okay, thank you. [pause] Thank you very much.

23 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you, Madam
24 Speaker. We now move on to adoption of the
25 minutes. Council Member Mendez.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I make a
3 motion that the minutes of the [gavel] Stated
4 Meeting [background noise]

5 PRESIDENT RIVERA: So ordered. Can
6 we please get silence in the chambers.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: --of, I
8 didn't finish, of April 30, 2012, be adopted as
9 printed. Thank you.

10 PRESIDENT RIVERA: So ordered.
11 Messages and papers from the Mayor.

12 CLERK: M816, Mayor's Veto of Intro
13 No. 251-A.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Contract.

15 CLERK: M817, Mayor's Veto, Intro
16 No. 485-A.

17 SPEAKER QUINN: Finance.

18 CLERK: M818, Mayor's Veto, Intro
19 No. 658-A.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: Civil Service and
21 Labor.

22 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Communications
23 from city, county and borough offices.

24 CLERK: Preconsidered M819.

25 SPEAKER QUINN: Finance.

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PRESIDENT RIVERA: Petitions and communications.

CLERK: None.

PRESIDENT RIVERA: Land Use Call-ups.

CLERK: None.

PRESIDENT RIVERA: Communication from the Speaker.

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. We have a number of individuals who are being reappointed today to the Equal Employment Practices Commission, and I want to thank Chuck Davis and Chair Rivera for their work on these reappointments. I also want to thank Scott Crowley and Chair Foster for their work on the home rules that we're voting on today. I want to make note that we're going to vote on two important resolutions later on in today's stated meetings. I want to thank Gail Benjamin and Chair Comrie for their work on the special Hudson Yards District, and the special TriBeCa mixed use district that we will be voting on out of Land Use, as well. Out of our Government Operations Committee today, shhh, we are voting on a package

1
2 of legislation that deals with protections of
3 whistleblowers, and I want to first thank Seth
4 Grossman and Alex Pistilnik and Tim Matusov, for
5 their work on this package of legislation. I want
6 to thank Chair Brewer, who is the Chair of the Gov
7 Ops Committee, and also a sponsor of one of these
8 bills, and Council Member Garodnick who is a
9 sponsor of the other two pieces of legislation.
10 Collectively, Intros 479-A and 816-A and 828-A do
11 a couple of important things. One, they extend
12 whistleblower protections to employees of
13 contractors and subcontractors. And in this
14 institution, we don't have to dwell on the fact we
15 well know that the contracts budget of the City of
16 New York is expanding at a rate that we all
17 believe is too fast and gives us concern from a
18 financial perspective. But also within that, is
19 the question of how many employees are there,
20 then? And we want to make sure those employees
21 know that if they see something going on they
22 think is wrong, they should come forward and blow
23 a whistle. And that if they do, if they go to our
24 Department of Investigations, it is in fact their
25 Department of Investigations, and they will get

1
2 protection. You know, in the recent fraud that
3 came out around Bovis [phonetic], the formerly
4 known Bovis Company, it was shown that an employee
5 did blow a whistle. What happened when the
6 employee did that? He was fired. How--you'll
7 never know what a chilling effect that had. This
8 piece of legislation will put an end to that and
9 give protection. It will also require a second
10 piece of counsel, legislation by Council Member
11 Garodnick, will require that all of the
12 protections and informations relevant to
13 whistleblowers in contractors and subcontractors,
14 now be posted and posted and distributed so
15 employees are aware. This clearly intersects with
16 the renewal and making permanent of the New York
17 City False Claims Act, 'cause one of the important
18 things there is to get the information out on that
19 Act more broadly, and that will help us do that.
20 And I want to just make note that the City, New
21 York City's City False Claim Act, we were the
22 first local jurisdiction to take this type of
23 action the federal government had taken, and
24 implement it on a local level. So, I again want
25 to thank Seth and Alex and Tim, and thank Council

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2 Members Brewer and Garodnick. Let me first call
3 on Chair Brewer and then Council Member Garodnick.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you
5 very much. I think that these bills do as you
6 state, signal a significant expansion of
7 protection for City whistleblowers, and taxpayers.
8 The False Claims Act was originally passed by
9 former Council Member David Yassky, and it does
10 help the City uncover fraud by rewarding
11 whistleblowers who provide information about fraud
12 being brought to the City. And individuals are
13 entitled to ten to 25 percent of the proceeds in
14 the case that the Corporation Counsel pursues, and
15 between 15 and 30 percent of the proceeds when the
16 Corporation Counsel designates a private
17 individual to bring a case on their own. I
18 mention all of that because they are, it is a
19 companion bill to the State and federal laws, also
20 known as False Claims Act. I want to thank
21 Council Member Garodnick, because I think these
22 three bills are definitely a package. And the
23 good news, when he talks, he'll mention the way in
24 which he is publicizing, using his legislation to
25 do so, and that will bring even more people,

1
2 hopefully to use the False Claims Act. We heard
3 good testimony at the hearings from the Law
4 Department and the Department of Investigation,
5 both indicating that even in the current state,
6 which is a sunsetted bill, people were starting to
7 bring cases to the attention of the DOI and the
8 Law Department, and I feel sure that with Council
9 Member Garodnick's legislation and more publicity
10 about this bill, even more people will come
11 forward, because they don't have to feel any kind
12 of retaliation. Thank you very much, Madam
13 Speaker.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank
15 you very much to Speaker Quinn and to Chair Brewer
16 for moving these very important bills. You just
17 heard from Speaker Quinn and Chair Brewer about
18 how these important bills will empower employees
19 of City contractors and their subcontractors, to
20 report suspected or known corruption without any
21 fear of retaliation by their employers. Now,
22 here's why New York City needs this legislation:
23 currently, the City provides strong whistleblower
24 protections for its employees. Today, City
25 agencies may not take retaliatory action against

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2 employees if an employee reports suspected or
3 known fraud to the Department of Investigation.
4 That is an excellent mechanism to prevent
5 fraudulent activity from occurring in the first
6 place, while also helping to ensure robust
7 protection of taxpayer dollars. Employees of
8 businesses that contract with the City and their
9 subcontractors, however, are not afforded any such
10 protections under the law; even though in the
11 City's 2013 Fiscal Year Budget, will again include
12 over 17,000 contracts with an aggregate value of
13 over \$10 billion. Given the enormity of the
14 City's contract budget, why wouldn't we extend
15 whistleblower protections to the employees of
16 contractors and subcontractors, and ensure that
17 those employees are made aware of their rights.
18 The CityTime scandal is still fresh in all of our
19 minds. While the City ultimately recouped close
20 to half a billion dollars in penalties from that
21 debacle, it makes sense to put protections in
22 place before work commences on any contract. It's
23 time to empower the employees of City contractors
24 and subcontractors with the whistleblower
25 protections that are today afforded to public

1
2 employees. They are the ones who are in the best
3 position to report corruption, and they should be
4 encouraged to help safeguard our taxpayer dollars
5 without fear of retaliation. Again, I thank the
6 Speaker and Chair Brewer for moving these bills
7 and I certainly urge my colleagues to join me in
8 voting for all of them. Thank you.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
10 much. And that concludes Communications from the
11 Speaker.

12 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very
13 much, Madam Speaker. We now move on to discussion
14 of General Orders. First on the list is Council
15 Member Lappin.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: I request
17 permission to vote on the General Order Calendar.

18 PRESIDENT RIVERA: So ordered.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

20 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Next we have
21 Council Member Gonzalez.

22 [pause, background noise]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER: Oh, she's - - .
24 Okay.

25 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Okay.

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COUNCIL MEMBER: I request

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unanimous permission to vote aye on all the

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General Order calendar items, all Land Use items

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and Resos.

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PRESIDENT RIVERA: So ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you.

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PRESIDENT RIVERA: Next on the list

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we have Council Member Recchia.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: I'd like

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permission to vote aye on all General Orders and

12

Resolutions and Land Use items, vote aye on all.

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PRESIDENT RIVERA: So ordered.

14

Next on the list we have Council Member Eugene.

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COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you

16

very much. I request permission to vote on all

17

General Order Calendar and all Resolution. I vote

18

aye. Thank you.

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PRESIDENT RIVERA: So ordered.

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Next we have Council Member Vallone.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you,

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also request permission to vote aye on all General

23

Order Introductions, please.

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PRESIDENT RIVERA: So ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you.

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2 PRESIDENT RIVERA: And next we have
3 Council Member Koo.

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5 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Mr. Majority
6 Leader, I'd like to have permission to vote on all
7 today's General Calendar Orders and Land Use
8 Orders and Resolutions.

8

9 PRESIDENT RIVERA: So ordered.

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10 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote aye on
11 all.

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12 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Next we have
13 Council Member Vann.

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14 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [off mic] - -
15 unanimous consent to vote on all - - resolutions.
16 [on mic] Majority Leader, unanimous consent to
17 vote on all Land Use Call-ups.

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18 PRESIDENT RIVERA: So ordered.

18

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: All coupled
20 on General Orders, all Resolutions, I vote aye on
21 all.

20

21

22 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you.

22

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Thank you, my
24 colleague. [laughs]

23

24

25 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Next we have
Council Member James.

25

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Unanimous
3 consent to vote on all Land Use Call-ups, General
4 Orders and Resolutions, and welcome to Council
5 Member Melissa Mark-Viverito's mommy. Hello,
6 welcome. I vote aye.

7 PRESIDENT RIVERA: So ordered.
8 Next we have Council Member Vacca.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I ask
10 permission to vote on all General Order Calendar
11 items, Land Use and Resolutions, and I vote aye on
12 all.

13 PRESIDENT RIVERA: So ordered. And
14 next we have Council Member Barron.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I request
16 unanimous consent to vote no on LU-609 and the
17 accompanying Reso 1363; no on LU-610 and the
18 accompanying Reso 1364; and I abstain on
19 Preconsidered SLR 15; and aye on all the rest.

20 PRESIDENT RIVERA: So ordered.
21 Next we have Council Member Sanders.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Thank you,
23 sir, I request unanimous consent to vote on all
24 Land use Call-ups and Resolutions and General
25 Order items.

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PRESIDENT RIVERA: So ordered.

Next we have Council Member Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK:

Permission to vote aye. [laughter]

PRESIDENT RIVERA: So ordered.

[laughs] Seeing no others, we will now move on to reports of special committees.

CLERK: None.

PRESIDENT RIVERA: Reports of standing committees.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Finance, Preconsidered LU-617 and Reso 1354 through 620 and Reso 1367.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Governmental Operations, Intro 479-A, Whistleblower Protection.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on General Orders.

CLERK: Intro 816-A, Whistleblower Protection for City contractors.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and couple on General Orders.

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CLERK: Intro 828-A, False Claims

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Act.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled

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on General Orders.

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CLERK: Report of the Committee on

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Land Use, LU-603 and Reso 1358.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General

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Orders.

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CLERK: LU-604 and Reso 1359, and

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605 and Reso 1360, Hudson Yards.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General

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Orders.

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CLERK: LU-606 and Reso 1361,

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TriBeCa mixed use district.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General

17

Orders.

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CLERK: LU-608 and Reso 1362, UDAAP

19

Bronx.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General

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Orders.

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CLERK: LU-609 and Reso 1363,

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zoning map amendment.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General

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Orders.

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CLERK: LU-610 and Reso 1364, UDAAP

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Bronx.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General

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Orders.

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CLERK: Report of the Committee on

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Rules, Privileges and Elections, Preconsidered M-

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820 and Reso 1365, approving the reappointment of

9

Arva R. Rice, Equal Employment Practices

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Commission.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General

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Orders.

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CLERK: Preconsidered M-821 and

14

Reso 1366, approving the reappointment of Malini

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Cadambi Daniel, Equal Employment Practices

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Commission.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General

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Orders.

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CLERK: Report of the Committee on

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State and Federal Legislation, Preconsidered SLR-

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15, St. Michael's Cemetery.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General

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Orders.

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CLERK: Preconsidered SLR-16, Fire

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Officer Training.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

PRESIDENT RIVERA: General Order Calendar?

CLERK: Resolution appointing various persons Commissioner of Deeds.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders. And right before I ask for a roll call on all the coupled General Orders, which will be led of course by a City Clerk stamp, I just wanted to take a moment to let all of my colleagues know that later tonight, Mike McSweeney and the other members of the City Clerk's Office will be honored by the Gay and Lesbian Independent Democrats for their amazing work implementing marriage equality. So, Mike and everyone else at the City Clerk's office [applause] congratulations, so. And with that, I ask for a roll call. Let me just make one other note for people to pay attention to. You'll be getting an updated Land Use schedule for the month of June, there are some very important Land Use hearings at the end of the month, which obviously can intersect with July 4th and people's travel schedules, so please alert your schedule,

1
2 learn if you're on Land Use or you're interested
3 in the issues in general, to please watch for
4 those, 'cause they're very important that we have
5 adequate attendance. And also, due to the, how do
6 you say that word? The exigencies--no, that's
7 not right. Exigencies, thank you, let's do it
8 again, due to the--

9 MALE VOICE: Exigencies.

10 SPEAKER QUINN: Due to the
11 exigencies, that Gary and I can't really discuss,
12 of the budget adoption process, meetings of the
13 Finance and State and Federal Legislation
14 Committee, and Stated Meeting of the Council, when
15 we end today, are not adjourned, but are recessed
16 subject to call back. So, we'll keep you advised
17 of that word we can't say. All right, that said,
18 let's just have a regular old roll call.

19 CLERK: Arroyo.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [off mic]
21 Aye.

22 CLERK: Brewer.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: [off mic]
24 Yes.

25 CLERK: Cabrera.

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COUNCIL MEMBER CARBRERA: [off mic]

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Aye.

4

CLERK: Chin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [off mic]

6

Aye.

7

CLERK: Comrie.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: [off mic]

9

Aye.

10

CLERK: Crowley. Dickens.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [off mic]

12

Aye.

13

CLERK: Dilan.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: [off mic]

15

Aye.

16

CLERK: Dromm.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: [off mic]

18

Aye.

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CLERK: Ferreras.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: [off mic]

21

Aye.

22

CLERK: Fidler.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: [off mic]

24

Aye on all.

25

CLERK: Foster.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: [off mic]
3 Aye.
4 CLERK: Gennaro.
5 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: [off mic]
6 Yes.
7 CLERK: Gentile.
8 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: [off mic]
9 Yes.
10 CLERK: Gonzalez.
11 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: [off mic]
12 Aye.
13 CLERK: Greenfield.
14 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [off
15 mic] Aye.
16 [pause]
17 CLERK: Ignizio.
18 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: [off mic]
19 Aye.
20 CLERK: Jackson.
21 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: [off mic]
22 Aye.
23 CLERK: Koppell.
24 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: [off mic]
25 Aye.

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CLERK: Koslowitz.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off

4

mic] Aye.

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CLERK: Lander.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [off mic]

7

Aye.

8

CLERK: Levin.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: [off mic]

10

Aye.

11

CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: [off

13

mic] Aye.

14

CLERK: Mealy.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: [off mic]

16

Aye.

17

CLERK: Mendez.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: [off mic]

19

Aye.

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CLERK: Palma.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: [off mic]

22

Aye.

23

CLERK: Reyna.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: [off mic]

25

Aye.

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CLERK: Rodriguez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: [off

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mic] Aye.

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CLERK: Rose.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: [off mic]

7

Aye.

8

CLERK: Ulrich. Vacca.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: [off mic]

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Aye.

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CLERK: Van Bramer. Vann

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [off mic]

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Aye.

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CLERK: Weprin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: [off mic]

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Aye.

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CLERK: Williams.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [off mic]

19

Aye.

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CLERK: Wills.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: [off mic]

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Aye.

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CLERK: Oddo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: [off mic]

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Yes.

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CLERK: Rivera.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic] Aye.

[pause, background noise]

PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you. All items on today's General Order Calendar were adopted by a vote of 49 in the affirmative, with zero in the negative and zero abstentions, with the exception of LU-609 and 610, and Resos 1363 and 1364, which was adopted by a vote of 48 in the affirmative, with one in the negative and zero abstentions; and SLR-15 which was adopted by a vote of 48 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and one abstentions. We now move on to Introduction and reading of the bills.

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

PRESIDENT RIVERA: So ordered. Can you call on Karen Koslowitz.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Thank you. Resolution 1351 calls upon the State Legislature to pass bills A9869 and S6868. These bills would require--

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SPEAKER QUINN: Shhh! Let's give Karen a little more time back on the clock.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: These bills would require the State of New York to reimburse the City of New York for the--

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PRESIDENT RIVERA: Okay--

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: --actual cost of--

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PRESIDENT RIVERA: Pardon me,

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Council Member, Council Member, I apologize, I think that needs to be discussed during general

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13

discussion. I think--[pause, background noise]

14

Okay, apologize about that. [background noise,

15

laughter] Okay. So, we'll now move on to

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discussion of Resolutions. We have Resolution

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1329-A, an amended Resolution calling upon the New

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York State Legislature to pass and the Governor to

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sign Senate Bill S741-B, and its Assembly

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companion bill, A6394-B, in relation to the Rent

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Guidelines Board, amended and adopted by the

22

Committee on Housing and Buildings. Council

23

Member Levin is the first to speak on this item.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you

25

very much, Mr. Majority Leader. I am very

1
2 grateful to Speaker Quinn, Chair Dilan, Council
3 Member James, for supporting this Resolution, that
4 will call on the Rent Guidelines Board to have
5 members that will be appointed with the advice and
6 consent of the City Council. Currently, of the
7 nine members of the Rent Guidelines Board, two are
8 made up of landlord interests, two for tenant
9 interests and five appointed to represent the
10 public interest, and currently the definition of
11 those public, that public interest is experts in
12 fiancé, economics or housing. What we want to do
13 is expand that definition to include experts in
14 philanthropy, public service, social services,
15 urban planning and the social sciences. In
16 addition, there will be advice and consent will be
17 granted to the New York City Council on all
18 proposed appointees because I believe, and I think
19 we believe, that there, we can offer a more varied
20 view of what currently constitutes the public
21 interest. In addition, we will have the ability,
22 the City Council, to remove Rent Guidelines Board
23 members. That power is currently granted to the
24 Mayor. And I want to thank the Speaker again for
25 moving this Resolution quickly. Thank you.

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2 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very
3 much. Next we call on Council Member Williams.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I just
5 want to rise in support of this Resolution. I
6 thank my colleague, Steve Levin, for putting this
7 in. The real answer to a lot of these problems
8 would be the repeal of the Erstat [phonetic] law;
9 unfortunately, that seems longer way than it
10 should be, and hopefully resolutions like this
11 will actually inch away at making sure that the
12 people who need to be represented are represented.
13 Currently, the Rent Guidelines Board is nothing
14 more than a sham, with five supposed public
15 members that vote with the landlord members more
16 often than not. We want to make sure this is
17 really representative and do what the board is
18 supposed to be doing, which is figuring out
19 whether or not we should even have a rent
20 increase, as opposed to how much that rent
21 increase should be. So, thank you, and I hope you
22 support this.

23 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very
24 much. Seeing no others to speak on this
25 Resolution, I'm going to call the vote on this

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Resolution. All in favor say aye.

COUNCIL: Aye.

PRESIDENT RIVERA: All opposed say nay. [pause] Any abstentions? The ayes have it. We will now move on to Preconsidered Resolution 1342, a Resolution calling on the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate to pass and the President to reauthorize an adequately funded Farm Bill that creates a strong and healthy food system, adopted by the Committee on Health. Council Member Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very much. I want to thank Health Chair Arroyo and Speaker Quinn for their support of this Resolution. This is basically, Preconsidered 1342 is in support of an agrically [phonetic] funded federal farm bill. I know that under the Speaker's leadership, we have talked constantly about the need for healthy, locally grown food, and certainly we've talked about the need for food stamps to exist and certainly not to be cut to the--as some of the federal government houses want to suggest a bill that would cut food stamps, also known as SNAP, by \$4.49 billion. So we want a

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2 fully funded Farm Bill, that's what this
3 particular Resolution urges. And we want to
4 include farmers markets, producer grants ,and
5 obviously anything that would help our local
6 farmers upstate. And this particular resolution
7 urges federal support of all of these important
8 programs. Thank you very much.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Anyone else
10 to speak on the Resolution? Then we'll call for a
11 vote. All those that are in favor of the
12 Resolutions that have been proposed today, say
13 aye.

14 COUNCIL: Aye.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: And all
16 those opposed. I'm sorry, all those in favor of
17 today's Resolution say aye. I got all of you, you
18 all voted no on those resolutions. [laughter]
19 All of those in favor of Resolutions 1342, please
20 indicate by saying aye.

21 COUNCIL: Aye.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: All those
23 opposed? Any abstentions. [laughter] All right,
24 it's passed. General discussion. Again, I just
25 wanted to reintroduce, you heard her speak on, in

1
2 the, honoring of Hal Jackson, but I'm honored
3 today to be joined by Ms. Sydney Johnson, a sixth
4 grader at PSIS 270 in Queens. Sydney Johnson is
5 serving as Council Member for a Day, working and
6 following me around today. She is here with her
7 mother, Candace. And I just want to say that
8 Sydney at a young age has demonstrated her strong
9 sense of community. She has a internet radio,
10 internet television program, she is interviewing
11 people throughout the community and going to many
12 community service events in Southeast Queens. So,
13 I just want to day say that she is truly looking
14 to be a major participant in the quality of life
15 in our City, and I just want to honor her today by
16 presenting her with this award certificate and
17 announcing her as Council Member for the Day in
18 the 27th Council District, for Sydney Johnson.
19 Please [applause] [pause] All right, Council
20 Member Koppell for discussion, general discussion.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Thank you
22 very much, Mr. Acting Majority Leader. The Mayor
23 very surprisingly yesterday announced that he is
24 going to propose and ask the Board of Health,
25 without Council approval, to ban what are called

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2 "super-size drinks." Now, I don't stand second to
3 anyone in trying to protect the public health, and
4 I'm not opposed to government regulation
5 generally. But this proposal is wrong for several
6 reasons. First of all, it is the ultimate nanny
7 government, telling people what they can do in a
8 very private way. We, we always say people should
9 have control over their own bodies, and now this
10 is not kids, this is everybody who is being told
11 they can't get a big drink. Where are we going to
12 go with this? This is not an inherently dangerous
13 substance, this isn't something like a, like an
14 illegal drug. There's nothing wrong with drinking
15 it, obviously it's best to drink in moderation,
16 but where are we going with this? Are we going to
17 say you can't buy more than one candy bar? Are we
18 going to regulate the size of candy bars? Are we
19 going to say you can't eat more than one piece of
20 pizza at a time? I mean, it just, it just is a
21 proposal that goes much too far in the direction
22 of controlling people's lives, and I think most of
23 us feel that people should have control over their
24 own lives in matters large and small, unless it
25 somehow or other threatens other people.

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2 Otherwise, you have, you should have those rights.
3 Secondly, I don't think it's enforceable. Does it
4 mean you can't have a 20 ounce drink, that the
5 owner of the establishment can't say two-for-the-
6 price-of-one? And give you two ten ounce drinks,
7 instead of a 20 ounce drink? I mean, it's
8 totally, does it limit the number of packets of
9 sugar you can put in a big coffee? I guess if you
10 sell the coffee without sugar, it's 20 ounces,
11 that's okay, but are you going to fine people now
12 if they put more than, you know, two packets of
13 sugar in that big coffee? It just doesn't make
14 any sense. Furthermore, it doesn't make any sense
15 to do this without Council approval. Put it to a
16 vote of the representatives of the people. Don't
17 pass something like this which controls everyone's
18 lives, by Mayoral fiat. I say this today because
19 I hope there'll be a general outcry. And I would
20 ask Counsel--

21 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Time's up,
22 sir.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: --I would
24 ask Counsel to the City Council, your counsel,
25 Madam Speaker, to look into whether we can

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2 prohibit the Department of Health from doing this
3 without a Council vote. Thank you.

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

6 [laughter]

7 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Well,
8 thank you. Deputy Majority Leader. I rise, my
9 colleagues, this afternoon, to ask you to sign on
10 to Resolution 348, 349 and Resolution 350. 348
11 deals with the Student Loan Affordability Act,
12 which would prevent the current student loan
13 interest rate of 3.4 percent from doubling to 6.8
14 percent, effective July 1, 2012. And to say that
15 what would be the impact, the USPIRG, a national
16 nonprofit advocacy organization, almost eight
17 million undergrad students are staff and loan
18 recipients, and by doubling the interest rate,
19 such students may be subject to an increased
20 financial burden of approximately \$5,000 over ten
21 years. 349 calls with the, calls upon the New
22 York State Legislature to amend the New York DREAM
23 Act, to provide benefits to any children of a
24 professional immigrant recruited to serve in the
25 United States through a public service at the

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2 local, state or federal level, regardless of the
3 age at the time of arrival in the country. Bottom
4 line, there are many people that are teachers
5 here, and they're process of becoming citizens
6 have taken too long, and their children are stuck
7 in limbo. And this would give them the
8 opportunity to afford to get tuition assistance at
9 the college level. Intro 350 deals with a
10 resolution calling upon the U.S. Congress to pass
11 and the President to sign into law the Weekend
12 Voting Act, which would move federal,
13 congressional and presidential elections from
14 Tuesdays to Saturday and Sunday. Tuesdays,
15 because years ago, when there was an agricultural
16 base, people were working the farm and what have
17 you; and now, on Tuesdays, most people are
18 working. Saturday and Sundays would free them up.
19 So, I ask you to sign on to 348, 349 and Reso 350.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Thank you.
21 Council Member Koslowitz, then Council Member
22 Brewer.

23 PRESIDENT RIVERA: There you go.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Thank
25 you. Resolution 1351 calls upon the State

1
2 Legislature to pass bills A9869 and S6868. These
3 bills would require the State of New York to
4 reimburse the City of New York for the actual cost
5 of health insurance and supplemental benefit
6 programs. By passing both bills, the legislature
7 will take a stand for all retirees of New York
8 City OTB, who serve the organization throughout
9 their careers. The Senate and the Assembly must
10 act quickly before the summer recess and by doing
11 so, they will honor the commitment made to those
12 retirees. When OTB closed, nearly 800 people and
13 their dependents were left without the assurance
14 of having health coverage during retirement.

15 Please consider cosponsoring this Resolution so we
16 can assist those people who relied on the promises
17 made by OTB. And I just want to say I know that
18 Leonard Leeds [phonetic] is looking down and
19 smiling right now, because he was really wanted
20 this to pass. So, this is for you, Leonard.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: All right,
22 Council Member Brewer.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you
24 very--

25 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Followed by

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Council Member Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very much. I have Intro 863, 864 and Resolution 1343, all mentioned, and I hope you will sign on them. I do want to mention four individuals who are working with us this summer, who are terrific as interns: Cheyenne Rosenbaum who's at Hunter College; Steven Macky [phonetic] who's at New York University; Zachary Borotkin [phonetic] who just graduated from the University of New Haven; and Becka Laurie [phonetic] who recently received her Master's in Public Policy from the University of Maryland. Cindy, you're terrific, also. And congratulations to all the summer interns who are working with us this summer.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council Member Williams followed by Council Member Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you. I just wanted to call attention to a letter that I put on my colleagues desks, it is a letter to Eric Holder, our Attorney General. So far we have about 23 people who've signed on, I'm hoping people who haven't would sign on. Asking for the

1
2 Department of Justice to look into the Stop,
3 Question and Frisk practices of the NYPD. It's
4 worth it to say that we are not against Stop,
5 Question and Frisk, we are against its overuse and
6 abuse, and asking that you, no specific thing to
7 fix or change it, but just asking that the DOJ
8 investigate. Hopefully that makes it comfortable
9 for the majority of people to sign on. And then
10 my colleague just pointed something to me that I
11 wanted to share with everyone, and I wanted to
12 thank Council Member Koppell for his speech. The
13 Mayor, tomorrow, I believe it is, will be
14 celebrating National Donut Day, and we couldn't
15 make this up, as he is now trying to--Donut Day
16 [laughter] National Donut Day, the Mayor will be
17 celebrating. And I think Linda Gibbs said, "It's
18 just a name of a holiday," but this is our dear
19 and consistent Mayor. Thank you very much.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: [laughs]
21 Council Member Gentile.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: That's a
23 hard one to follow. That's a hard one to follow.
24 [laughs] My colleagues, if, have you ever heard
25 this announcement on the radio, "Alternate side

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2 parking regulations are suspended today, but you
3 still have to feed the meter." Well, my bill that
4 I'm introducing today, 868, would suspend parking
5 meter regulations on all legal and religious
6 holidays when the City suspends alternate side
7 parking rules. Think about it, if you don't have
8 to move your car, why do you have to feed the
9 meter? If alternate side parking is suspended on
10 holidays, why aren't parking meters also
11 suspended? It doesn't make sense, it's confusing
12 to motorists. It's another step, I think, in
13 putting a stop to the City's never ending "gotcha"
14 mentality, so I ask you to sign on to Intro 868.
15 With Reso 1347 also being introduced today, it
16 calls on the New York State Legislature and the
17 Governor to pass legislation that would prohibit
18 public funding to facilities that provide aversive
19 intervention, such as electric shock therapy.
20 This legislation would also remove facilities from
21 any registry of approved schools in New York
22 State. The Judge Rotenberg Educational Center is
23 a extremely controversial facility for special
24 needs students in Canton, Massachusetts, and they
25 employ experimental behavior modification tactics,

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2 such as electric shock therapy. Today, there are
3 115 children from New York City at this Rotenberg
4 Center in Massachusetts. The tactics employed
5 there have been condemned as savage and barbaric,
6 and yet countless injuries and six deaths later,
7 the Massachusetts Center continues to get
8 students, get children from our state, as--and
9 they continue to be approved as a special needs
10 school. If New York State Legislature and
11 Governor pass this piece of legislation that's
12 pending, New York State would withdraw its
13 students and the Judge Rotenberg Center would
14 likely close, and we could bring our kids home
15 once and for all. So, I ask that you join me in
16 signing on to Reso 1347. Thank you.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council
18 Member Ferreras.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Today I
20 ask your support of Resolution 1346, which calls
21 on the New York State Legislature to pass and the
22 Governor to enact the Trafficking Victims
23 Protection and Justice Act. In its landmark anti-
24 trafficking laws, New York State has taken the
25 lead in recognizing that many women and children

1
2 in prostitution are victims of human trafficking,
3 and holding accountable those who organize,
4 support and patronize traffic industries.

5 Although a growing number of traffickers are being
6 brought to justice, our State legislative anti-
7 trafficking regime contains gaps and
8 inconsistencies that must be remedied. Too often,
9 women and children trafficked by commercial sexual
10 exploitation are stigmatized as prostitutes, and
11 re-victimized by the Justice system that is
12 supposed to protect them. Please support Reso
13 1346 and stand as a voice against trafficking in
14 New York and around the world. And I'd also like
15 to acknowledge that oftentimes we ask our young
16 people to get involved in the process of
17 government, and just to acknowledge our young
18 people from Wrap, and thank you very much for
19 being here today.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Okay, and
21 thanks, now we'll ask Council Member Crowley--

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote aye
23 on all General Order items and Resolutions, thank
24 you.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council

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Member Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. I would like to call attention to everyone to our Speaker, to my colleague, about a act of discrimination and racism that can happen at Columbia University. The Dean of the School of Engineer, Feniosky Peña-Mora, is on the attack by some faculty. This Dean is someone of color, Columbia - - in the last five year. They removed two other people of color from high rank position. The contribution that Dean Feniosky Peña-Mora go from taking, improving the ranking of the institution, the School of Engineer, from number 21, which was at 2009, to number 15 today. He has increased people of color at the student body and at the faculty of the School of Engineer, especially women has been increased by 20 percent. He have attract top professor to the School of Engineer and he has increased the donation to the School of Engineer by a big margin. The argument that has been used for some faculty, is that he has not fulfilled promise of providing more space to some faculty. When it come to the academic work, he has proven that he's a true leader, that

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2 he's someone not just because he is from
3 Washington Heights, nor is because he's a people
4 of color, but a dean that is a good access that
5 Columbia has been able to bring to the
6 institution. So, I call on all my colleague to
7 please stand with the support to this dean and to
8 call Columbia University to ask for explanation on
9 how they planning to remove someone that has made
10 so important contribution, and the argument is
11 only about a spacing issue, that some faculties is
12 using, trying to remove this dean. Tomorrow, more
13 than 300 people will meet at the Malcolm X and
14 Betty Shabazz Center, and we're planning to have a
15 big march at Columbia University. Thank you.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council
17 Member Rodriguez, you need to vote. You made a
18 statement, but did you say how you vote? Oh, you
19 voted already?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I did
21 vote, yes.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Okay, thank
23 you. Council Member Reyna.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: My
25 colleagues, I rise asking for your support on

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2 Resolution 1353, calling upon the New York State
3 Legislature to amend State Education Law to
4 replace Mayoral control of New York City public
5 school system to municipal control. Our current
6 educational system under Mayoral control has
7 marginalized families and communities while also
8 failing to deliver on promises of education
9 reform. While education is one of the most
10 important functions of government, because it
11 affects our society on the most intimate of
12 levels, the decision to entrust an entity with
13 your child and his or her future, the City of New-
14 -the New York City Council has limited power over
15 the Department of Education. Municipal control
16 would provide amendments to the State law,
17 providing Council with greater legislative
18 oversight and budgeting power, while
19 simultaneously allowing the Comptroller greater
20 auditing power over the Department of Education
21 and the School Construction Authority. In the
22 last few days, in the last three weeks, I've
23 participated in a courtroom process where over 200
24 parents had their day in court with an Article 78,
25 a granted injunction for temporary restraining

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2 order to stop a Department of Education execution
3 to shut down a charter school in our district,
4 that was founded by community members. And after
5 six years of a successful school, in one day this
6 school was decided with Department of Education
7 bureaucrats that it no longer met the needs of our
8 community. And no parent was notified. Today, we
9 have finalized our arguments and it has been
10 demonstrated, and we hope that the judge will see
11 the light, as far as what has been presented to
12 her. And I want to just pay acknowledgement to
13 the parents who fought and had their day in court,
14 to hear and have due process. And that's what
15 this, the Resolution, is calling for: due process
16 in an educational law that fails to give back
17 community control. Thank you.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Thank you.
19 Seeing no others, we just, I just want to announce
20 that my legislative and budget director, Richard
21 Lee, his wife Michelle gave birth to their first
22 child, the wonderful Gabrielle Rose Lee, on
23 Monday, May 28th, so [applause] congratulations to
24 him and may they only have happy days from their
25 daughter. And today's meeting will be adjourned.

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2 I just want to announce the final vote. All items
3 on today's General Order Calendar were adopted by
4 a vote of 50 in affirmative, zero in the negative-
5 -

6 SPEAKER QUINN: Mr. - - , today's
7 meeting is not adjourned, it stands in recess.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Oh, sorry,
9 sorry, the meeting will be put in recess. Today's
10 meeting will be put in recess, as we're moving
11 into budget season. Today's General Order
12 Calendar items were by a vote of 50 in the
13 affirmative, zero in the negative and zero
14 abstentions, with the exception of LU-609 and 610
15 and Resolutions 1363 and 1364, which was adopted
16 by a vote of 49 in the affirmative, one in the
17 negative, zero abstentions; and SLR-15, which was
18 adopted by a vote of 49 in the affirmative, zero
19 negative, and on abstention. And with that, this
20 meeting is now in recess. Thank you.

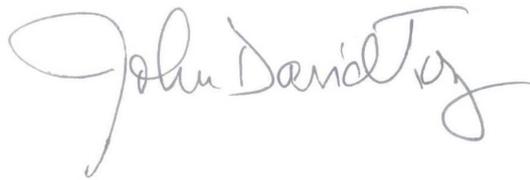
21 [gavel]

22 [background noise]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, JOHN DAVID TONG 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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John David Tong". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the printed word "Signature".

Date June 19, 2012