

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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November 27, 2012

Start: 3:30 p.m.

Recess: 4:26 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)

Dr. Bernice Sandler

Daniel Delgado

Pastor

House of Victory Church

1
2 SPEAKER QUINN: The 100th
3 anniversary of Albanian independence, which I know
4 Detective Ray Hattie [phonetic] is very excited
5 about over there in the Speaker's detail,
6 pretending he wasn't just singled out on the floor
7 of the City Council, but let me turn the mic over
8 to Jimmy Vacca as representatives of the Albanian
9 community make their way up.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Thank you.
11 Thank you. I would like all of the
12 representatives of the Albanian community that are
13 here to come up please and I want to recognize
14 that we are celebrating this year the 100th
15 anniversary of Albanian independence, and for
16 those of you who do not know, we in the Bronx have
17 the largest Albanian community in the city. In my
18 district Pelham Parkway and Morris Park and
19 Belmont represented by Councilman Joel Rivera, so
20 we have selected honorees with proclamations, but
21 we do want you to accept the official proclamation
22 from the City Council of the city of New York
23 celebrating 100th anniversary of Albanian
24 independence due to your rich cultural history and
25 all you have done in the United States of America,

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2 all you represent, and make us an even richer
3 place to live. I'd like to ask the Ambassador to
4 please say several words.

5 [background conversation]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Okay. He
7 had to leave, so it's my honor to present to you,
8 Father, this proclamation from the City Council of
9 the city of New York. I would like to take a
10 picture with the Speaker.

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Why don't we ask
12 the clerk to read the proclamation?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Okay. Would
14 the clerk read the proclamation?

15 CLERK: Council city of New York
16 proclamation. The Council of the city of New York
17 is proud to honor New Yorkers of Albanian ancestry
18 and the nation of Albania in recognition of its
19 100th anniversary of independence; and whereas,
20 Albania has been widely recognized as the most
21 ancient race in southeastern Europe. Under the
22 Byzantine empire, the Albanian people developed a
23 national identity with a united language and a
24 cultural heritage, which its people embody to this
25 day; and whereas, Albania has a rich cultural

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2 history dating back to the Illyrians and the pre-
3 Hellenic, terano peligasian [phonetic] population;
4 and whereas, formerly known as Illyria, Albania
5 was named after the Albanoi tribe that inhabited
6 the country and the Ottoman empire's rule began in
7 1506 and continued for more than four centuries;
8 and whereas, in 1909 Albania launched a three year
9 armed resistance that culminated on November 28th,
10 1912 with the declaration of Albania's
11 independence; and whereas, every year since 1912
12 Albanians celebrate Flag Day on November 28th in
13 commemoration of Albanian independence; and
14 whereas, on November 28th, 2012 Albanians both in
15 the U.S. and in Albania celebrate the 100th
16 anniversary of the Albanian nation and the values
17 of renewed freedom, autonomy and optimism, and now
18 therefore be it know that the Council of the City
19 of New York gratefully honors Albanian
20 independence day on the occasion of its 100th
21 anniversary. Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the
22 entire Council, James Vacca, Council Member 13th
23 District the Bronx.

24 SPEAKER QUINN: Well, thank you
25 very much, Jimmy, for helping us with this

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2 commemoration and giving us an opportunity to
3 thank the Albanian community for all that you have
4 done for this city and all you will do as your
5 community grows in this city, and I don't know if
6 somebody representing the delegation would like to
7 say a few words?

8 [background conversation]

9 MALE VOICE: Speaker Christine
10 Quinn, Councilman Jim Vacca, and all of the
11 members of the City Council, we thank you for this
12 great honor. We humbly accept this on behalf our
13 Albanian people that really deserve it. We thank
14 God that we have been blessed with such good
15 people, and our Albanian community here in New
16 York, they are so active in organizing different
17 functions to keep the community together. We
18 always stress the things that unite us and not the
19 things that separate us. These people are
20 hardworking, dedicated to their families, their
21 community, the city. They love God. They love
22 America. As you stated tomorrow we celebrate the
23 100th anniversary of our independence from the
24 Ottoman empire. We thank God in heaven and the
25 good allies on Earth that made our liberation

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2 possible. We never forget the great favors
3 America did for us in our first liberation and
4 recently with the liberation of Kosovo. We are
5 proud of this country. We love this country. God
6 bless America. God bless you all. Thank you.

7 [applause]

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Thank you,
9 everyone. Thank you, Speaker Quinn.

10 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
11 much. Sure, of course, sir.

12 MALE VOICE 2: Honorable New York
13 City Member, James Vacca, a friend of ours, I am
14 so grateful for this great honor on the eve of our
15 country's 100 years jubilee. My journey as a
16 rolling stone started from - - Albania region and
17 Greece, where I was born. Albania motherland
18 where I was raised, orphan and worked, and landed
19 in the land of opportunities in United States as
20 the last stop. I feel that the only hope for us -
21 - to resolve our issue is United States of
22 America. That is why I am so lucky, proud and
23 grateful to live here and all side by side with
24 this blessed country for our justice case. God
25 bless America. It's blessed this country. God

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2 bless Albania, and thank you very much.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much. Happy anniversary tomorrow. Thank you. Thank you. So next we have a ceremonial that is going to be led by Gale Brewer and the Women's Caucus recognizing Dr. Bernice Sandler for her groundbreaking contributions to Title 9 on its 30th anniversary. Doctor Sandler was dubbed by the New York Times as "the godmother of Title 9." So if Dr. Sandler, Gale Brewer and the Women's Caucus could make their way up, that would be terrific. And as the Women's Caucus makes its way up, let's say happy birthday to Danny Dromm, whose 40th birthday is today. That's Danny and my position and we're sticking with it.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Anyway, I hope the women will come up to talk-to honor Dr. Sandler, who is considered the godmother of Title 9, and I think as we were watching the Olympics in London, we thought often of Title 9 because the women did a great job in terms of sports in the Olympics and that was in large part because of the lawsuits that were brought in 1970 and that produced not only on the sports arena, but also in

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2 the academic arena the opportunity for women to
3 advance, and I thought of them every single time,
4 a woman won in London. I also want to say that
5 Dr. Sandler is a product of Erasmus High School,
6 P.S. 230, and got her graduate degree from
7 Brooklyn College and City College. She is a New
8 Yorker, and it's a real privilege to have her here
9 today to think about if Danny Dromm is really only
10 40 years old. Then, we will recognize that 40
11 years ago, we did not have these opportunities for
12 women when he was born, but anyway, we are very
13 ecstatic to have the godmother of Title 9 here
14 today, and to know that there is a lot more work
15 to be done, but that thanks to Dr. Sandler a
16 great deal of work has been done, and thank you,
17 Madam Speaker.

18 SPEAKER QUINN: If we could ask the
19 clerk to read the proclamation, and then we will
20 get to hear from the Doctor/godmother herself.

21 CLERK: Council city of New York
22 proclamation—

23 SPEAKER QUINN: [interposing] Could
24 we get a little quiet? You can make noise if you
25 yourself won a gold medal in the Olympics.

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Otherwise, we need quiet. Okay.

CLERK: Whereas the Council of the city of New York is proud to honor Brooklyn native, Dr. Bernice Sandler, for her groundbreaking contributions with Title 9; and whereas, Title 9 has dramatically changed the course of education for women in academics and athletics in the United States. Dr. Bernice Sandler dubbed by the New York Times as the godmother of Title 9 pioneered gender equality and education and in January 1970, began filing the first lawsuits against more than 250 colleges; and whereas, inspired toward social justice by her New York upbringing and education, Dr. Sandler and a small band of women and a few men of good will compiled 1200 pages of data on sex discrimination in higher education and because of their tireless work the U.S. government became directly involved in investigations related to sexual discrimination in higher education, resulting in the adoption of Title 9. And whereas, in 1972, Title 9 of the education amendments was enacted into law. Strongly supported in the House by Representative Patsy Mink after whom the legislation is now named

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2 and in the Senate by Senator Birch Bayh
3 prohibiting federally funded educational
4 institutions from discriminating against students
5 or employees based on sex; and whereas, in the
6 four decades since Title 9 was enacted women's
7 opportunities and participating in sports has
8 grown exponentially. Title 9 has not only led to
9 an enormous increase in the number of female
10 athletes, but is also credited with decreasing the
11 female dropout rate while increasing the number of
12 women who pursue higher education and complete
13 college degrees. Now therefore be it known that
14 in celebration of the 40th anniversary of Title 9,
15 the Council of the City of New York gratefully
16 honors Dr. Bernice Sandler for her pioneering
17 achievements empowering women everywhere to reach
18 for and attain their highest aspirations.

19 Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the entire
20 Council, Rosie Mendez, Women's Caucus co-Chair,
21 Council Member 2nd District, Jessica S. Lappin,
22 Women's Caucus Co-Chair, Council Member 5th
23 District, Gale A. Brewer, Council Member 6th
24 District Manhattan and all of the members of the
25 New York City Council's Women's Caucus.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Yay. Well, Dr.

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Sandler, just before I give you the microphone, I

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think I want to say on behalf of the all of us,

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thank you.

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DR. BERNICE SANDLER: Thank you

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very much to the Council and everyone who made

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this possible. It's never one person that does

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something like this. I have the help of lots and

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lots of other women and a lot of men as well. I

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just want to tell one story. This means so much

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to me being here. As a child on Sunday nights,

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the only night my father wasn't working during the

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depression, we would come to New York to eat,

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usually in Chinatown. We would walk around this

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building and my father who was an immigrant would

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tell me about each of the statues of the men who

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line this area, and so—I have never been in this

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building. It never occurred to me—if anyone had

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said someday you're going to be in this building,

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and they are going to say nice things about you, I

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would have laughed. I thank you all for this. It

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is really a great honor for me, and I appreciate

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it very much. Thank you.

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[applause]

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SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much. It was an honor for all of us to get to meet you today. Thank you very much. So you got us? Alright. Great. Alright, and last but certainly not least, and if I could ask all of the Council Members to come up. We have a very important ceremonial. We are celebrating and thanking Elias Cabrera on his retirement as the chief sergeant at arms who has served the Council for over 20 years, so Elias...

[applause]

SPEAKER QUINN: Everybody move up a little bit, so they can scootch [phonetic]. Well, Chief, we just want to on behalf of all of us and many of us who have been here as advocates, as members of the public, as staff members and as Council Members just to say thank you to you for your dedicated service, for your tireless energy, for the dignified and respectful way you have treated everyone who has come through this building or 250 Broadway--

[applause]

SPEAKER QUINN: --for the way you helped us transition smoothly to the bank and

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2 back, which was a tough time and also for the
3 difficult moments in this chambers when there are
4 have been moments of violence, moments of
5 disruption, moments of confusion, et cetera, where
6 you really have been a very, very steady voice and
7 steady helpful hand. I also want to give a
8 particular shout out to Elias' wife who has always
9 been particularly encouraging of me and sending me
10 little encouragements here and there, a big
11 supporter of all of our human rights efforts, so
12 Elias, I don't know what we are going to do
13 without you, but we just I think on behalf of all
14 of us want to say congratulations and if I could
15 ask the clerk to read the proclamation and you
16 know it's killing Elias that he is not getting to
17 scream be quiet, roll call, turn your cellphone
18 off, anything right now—members upstairs. Go
19 ahead, clerk.

20 CLERK: Council city of New York
21 proclamation. Whereas the New York City Council's
22 sergeants at arms perform essential duties at city
23 hall and at legislative offices within 250
24 Broadway and at countless special events and
25 parades throughout the year. These duties

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2 encompass a unique combination of law enforcement
3 protocol and administrative responsibilities.

4 Sergeant at Arms Elias Cabrera, a resident of
5 Staten Island for the last 15 years has excelled
6 in this capacity since the day he began-

7 SPEAKER QUINN: [interposing]

8 Originally from the Bronx.

9 CLERK: --April 12th, 1993, and upon
10 his retirement, it is fitting that we publically
11 pay tribute to his stellar service. And whereas,
12 born in the Dominican Republic, Elias came to New
13 York City at the age of 11. When he was still a
14 young man himself he worked as youth director for
15 the Transfiguration Youth Center in Brooklyn,
16 providing counseling and changing the course of
17 life for many at risk teens. Soon however his own
18 life was dramatically interrupted by the war in
19 Vietnam; and whereas, drafted into the military
20 Elias served from 1972 to 1975 with the U.S. Army
21 Signal Corps as a specialist 5th Class, performing
22 advanced instrument repair and calibration and was
23 stationed not in Southeast Asia, but in Germany.
24 When he completed his service to our nation, he
25 returned to new York where destiny altered his

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2 life once again, this time when he fell in love
3 with Doris. Today Elias and Doris have been
4 happily married for 36 years, and they are the
5 proud parents of Alexander, who is attending
6 college in New Jersey, and whereas, while Elias
7 earns his undergraduate degree from the City
8 College of New York and his MBA from Adelphi
9 University. He also worked for 15 years at Loral
10 [phonetic] Electronic Systems in the Bronx, a
11 major player in the global aerospace and defense
12 industry. In the recession of the early 1990s led
13 to many layoffs including his own. Council Member
14 Lucy Cruz of the 18th District alerted him to the
15 sergeant at arms position that he has fulfilled
16 with dignity and respect for the last 20 years;
17 and whereas, upon Elias' retirement the Council
18 commends him for his excellent work and we wish
19 him continued happiness in the years ahead. Now
20 therefore be it know that the Council of the city
21 of New York gratefully honors Elias Cabrera for
22 his outstanding service to the Council and to the
23 community at large. Christine C. Quinn, Speaker
24 for the entire Council, Vincent M. Ignizio,
25 Council Member 51st District Staten Island.

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: Yay. Elias, the
3 mic is yours.

4 ELIAS CABRERA: When I first came
5 here 20 years ago, I was a little leery, and I was
6 leery because of the reputations that politicians
7 have, but you know what? I was mistaken and I was
8 proven wrong, but for a few exceptions. It has
9 been a group of people that I have met that are
10 honorable, that are people that care for the
11 communities and they have been inspiring to me.
12 They have been a great example of what people can
13 do when they put their minds together to help
14 others. There was a learning experience that I'd
15 to relate and that is the art of a spin. I didn't
16 know what that was, but one time in the lounge,
17 Council Member Duane at that time got into it with
18 Council Member Ruiz about Ruiz calling a
19 commission from the Housing Department un pato, so
20 Duane was very upset, and they went at it. He
21 told Ruiz he was a homophobic, and Ruiz says I
22 didn't call him a pato. I called him a duck.
23 Right, Elias? That's what a duck is? I said I
24 don't speak Spanish.

25 [laughter]

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2 ELIAS CABRERA: This is a lesson
3 that I will never forget. There will many others
4 like it, but overall the lesson that I take with
5 me is the experience that I have had here for the
6 last 20 years and all of the people that I have
7 met—the great people, the great staff and I'd like
8 to thank the speakers that I served, Mr. Vallone,
9 Mr. Miller, and Madam Quinn. I thank you all.
10 Thank you very much.

11 [applause]

12 SPEAKER QUINN: You know how much
13 Tom Duane liked a little attention, so he will be
14 very happy when I call him later and he was part
15 of your retirement - - . If I could just ask a
16 little bit of the passing of the baton, where is
17 Raphael [phonetic]?

18 [applause]

19 SPEAKER QUINN: We are going to
20 have Elias give you the chief's badge, as our new
21 chief sergeant at arms.

22 [applause]

23 SPEAKER QUINN: Here is the little
24 - - envelope. Thank you, and that concludes
25 today's ceremonials.

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[background conversation]

MALE VOICE: Can I have your attention please? Can I please have your attention? Quiet please. At this time, please place all cell phones and pagers to vibrate. Will all non-Council employees please leave the main floor of the chambers? Thank you.

[background conversation]

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: All rise for the Pledge of Allegiance. I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Roll call.

MALE VOICE: Arroyo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [no audible response]

MALE VOICE: Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.

MALE VOICE: Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: [no audible response]

MALE VOICE: Cabrera?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Chin?

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COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Comrie?

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Present.

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MALE VOICE: Crowley?

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COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [no

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audible response]

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MALE VOICE: Dickens?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Dilan?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: [no audible

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response]

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MALE VOICE: Dromm?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

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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?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.

MALE VOICE: Gentile?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

MALE VOICE: Gonzalez?

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Here.

MALE VOICE: Greenfield?

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [no
audible response]

MALE VOICE: Halloran?

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Here.

MALE VOICE: Ignizio?

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.

MALE VOICE: Jackson?

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: [no
audible response]

MALE VOICE: James?

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here.

MALE VOICE: Koo?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

MALE VOICE: Koppell?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.

MALE VOICE: Koslowitz?

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: [no audible

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response]

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MALE VOICE: Levin?

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COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Mark-Viverito?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: [no

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audible response]

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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: Here.

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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: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Reyna?

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Rodriguez?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Rose?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Sanders?

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COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: [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: Vacca?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Vallone?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

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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: Here.

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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: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Crowley?

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COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

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MALE VOICE: Brewer?

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

MALE VOICE: Oddo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Here.

MALE VOICE: Rivera?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Here.

MALE VOICE: Speaker Quinn?

SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

MALE VOICE: We have a quorum.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: We are

honored to have the invocation delivered by Reverend Daniel Delgado, pastor, House of Victory Church in Staten Island. Please rise for the invocation.

SPEAKER QUINN: Get a little quit please in the chambers for the invocation. Thank you.

PASTOR DANIEL DELGADO: Thank you, Speaker and thank you. Let us pray. Eternal God and Father and creator of the universe, we come together today as your children, citizens of this great that have been affected greatly by a natural disaster and many of residents are hurting and have been displaced and were going through situations that we have never encountered before,

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2 so we come before you today to ask you, Lord, as
3 our legislators here gather to meet that you would
4 give them the wisdom for the hard decisions that
5 they will need to make to get help to the
6 residents that have been affected in this time. I
7 pray and I thank you because you have been good to
8 the city. We thank you for being in a country
9 that we can - - on you, that we can come together
10 and have representatives reach us and thank you
11 for all of these council people that have showed
12 up in the disaster areas and have sent volunteers
13 and are trying hard to bring resources into all of
14 the areas that they serve, and I pray that you
15 encourage them, the long hours that they are
16 working and their staff is working to help the
17 people and their constituents. So Lord we come
18 for you and we thank you in this day. Help our
19 city, Lord. Help our city, give us for those that
20 have been affected and have lost lives, give them
21 help at this time. We thank you, Lord in the name
22 of He who the ancients called the rock of ages, he
23 who has been our present help in the time of
24 disaster and times of need. We thank you today.
25 Amen.

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council

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Member Rose?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: It gives me

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great pleasure to spread the invocation in full

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upon the record for Reverend Daniel Delgado, who

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has been a stalwart warrior in terms of not only

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doing the Lord's work, but helping in all of the

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relief efforts on Staten Island for Hurricane

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Sandy. We are indeed blessed and privileged to

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have such representation. Thank you, Reverend

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Delgado.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Council

14

Member Rose and thank you, Reverend Delgado. If I

15

could ask my colleagues to please stand again, on

16

November 6th, 2012, New York State Court of Appeals

17

Judge Theodore T. Jones, 68, suffered a heart

18

attack and passed away at his home in New City.

19

Born in Brooklyn on March 10, 1944, his family

20

moved to Jamaica, Queens where his mother was his

21

teacher and his father worked for the LIRR. Judge

22

Jones graduated from Hampton University and from

23

St. Johns University Law School. He was a

24

Vietnam veteran before becoming a criminal defense

25

attorney for the Legal Aid Society, and then later

1
2 in private practice. He was first elected to the
3 Brooklyn Supreme Court in 1989. Judge Jones was a
4 leading proponent of measures to prevent wrongful
5 convictions and was appointed to the Court of
6 Appeals in 2007. He is survived by his wife of 45
7 years, Joan, two sons, two grandchildren, and a
8 brother and a sister. On October 25th, 2012, Lou
9 Rispoli, 62, died after being brutally beaten near
10 his home in Sunnyside, Queens. Lou was a well-
11 known LGBT activist, a champion of the arts, a
12 mentor to young musicians, including our
13 communication director, Jamie McShane's son, Jack,
14 and a devoted friend who cooked and cared for
15 friends who were suffering from HIV and AIDS. Lou
16 had just celebrated one year of legal marriage to
17 his partner of 31 years, Danyal Lawson, had gone
18 out for a walk in his neighborhood when three
19 unknown assailants jumped out of a car and used
20 their fists and some sort of blunt instrument to
21 beat Lou into a coma. Five days later, Danyal had
22 to make the heart wrenching decision to take his
23 husband off of life support. At a candlelight
24 vigil for Lou held just over a week ago and
25 attended by community residents, friends, family

1
2 and others who came to mourn his senseless death,
3 the overall sentiment expressed was that one only
4 had to meet Lou once to remember him for a
5 lifetime. I know he was an incredibly close
6 friend of Council Member Van Bramer's, and I
7 believe his campaign treasurer too, which if you
8 are that to somebody it really means you are a
9 giver and you loved that person a great deal, so
10 our sympathies do Danyal and also to Jimmy and his
11 husband Dan, and I'd like to ask if he would,
12 Councilman Van Bramer to say a few words about his
13 dear friend Lou.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank
15 you very much, Madam Speaker. As you noted, Lou
16 Rispoli was a great guy and a proud Woodsider for
17 over 30 years. He was a longtime gay rights
18 activist and marriage equality supporter and early
19 GMHC buddy, who nursed many gay men dying of AIDS
20 at a time when the president still wouldn't utter
21 the word. He brought his good humor and biting
22 wit to everything he did in his 62 years. He
23 loved his husband, Danyal Lawson, very very much.
24 They spent 32 years together helping others in
25 need at every turn, and I am so grateful that they

1
2 were able to legally get married before this
3 tragic murder took place. I first met Lou at a
4 meet and greet when I was running for City
5 Council. He came up to me, and he said he liked
6 what I had to say. He was thrilled that an openly
7 gay man was running in Sunnyside and Woodside. He
8 told me he would do everything he could to help me
9 win, and he never stopped fighting for me, but he
10 did more than that. He became a very good friend
11 to me and to Dan. When I first heard that Lou was
12 attacked and not expected to live, we were all in
13 shock. Such a strong guy who survived the AIDS
14 epidemic, was expected to lose his life in a
15 senseless act of violence. His attackers who are
16 still at large must know that Lou was loved, that
17 his loss is felt, and that we will not rest until
18 justice is done. I want to thank Speaker Quinn
19 and Chuck Mara for their help and assistance when
20 Lou was in the hospital and the painful decision
21 to take him off of life support was made. Your
22 quick and compassionate acts of kindness made a
23 real difference, and I want to thank city clerk,
24 Mike McSweeney, himself a Woodsider for his
25 unbelievable acts of compassion that he performed

1
2 that day. Mike performed the wedding ceremony of
3 Lou and Danyal in the summer of 2011. He
4 remembered them, and he was there for them at the
5 end of Lou's life. Lou's life was so full of love
6 and friendship and caring, and it must not be
7 defined by the circumstances surrounding his
8 death. He fought for a better world, and today we
9 remember his courage and gifts, which will last
10 forever. Thank you.

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Jimmy,
12 and I just want to underscore what Jimmy said
13 about our city clerk. Chuck called Mike I don't
14 know it was Saturday or Sunday and said the
15 hospital—it had nothing to do with LGBT, it just
16 needed documentation of the marriage as they would
17 for any couple, and Danyal couldn't find—didn't
18 know where the certificate was. He was at the
19 hospital. He was distraught, et cetera. Mike
20 came into Manhattan, got their certificate,
21 brought it to Elmhurst Hospital without any
22 fanfare, middle of a weekend, and I actually had
23 forgotten that part of what had happened that
24 weekend, so Mike on behalf of Lou and Danyal and
25 all of us in the city of New York, thank you very

1
2 much. That was above and beyond, and thank you,
3 Jimmy, for reminding us of that. I also want to
4 make note and turn the mic over to Council Member
5 Robert Jackson that we lost a terrific community
6 activist, Pat Jones, someone who was so committed
7 to the role of the community board as a voice for
8 our city and northern Manhattan and RJ, if you
9 would share a few words with us about Pat please.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Well,
11 thank you, Speaker Quinn, my colleagues, I was at
12 the funeral this morning for Pat Arlene Jones, who
13 was a former chair of Community Board 9 in
14 northern Manhattan. Also, she co-chaired and
15 chaired the 197-A plan through its process, along
16 with being the former chair of the West Harlem
17 Local Development Corp, and through the West
18 Harlem rezoning, which we voted on the rezoning,
19 the 197-A. Let me just tell you, she was a
20 dynamic leader in our community, in Community
21 Board 9, and she passed away in her sleep. She
22 had had a heart attack. We didn't hear from her.
23 No one was in contact with her for several days.
24 She missed a couple of meetings, and so members of
25 the community went to her home with NYPD, and they

1
2 found her in her bed deceased, and let me just say
3 that her parents and everyone didn't know her
4 involvement in the community. She was a workhorse
5 that got the job done on behalf of the community.
6 We celebrate her life and obviously her legacy
7 will continue on. I'd just like to read—take one
8 minute. There is a poem that she wrote when she
9 was in the fourth grade, and it says—the name of
10 the poem is "I am thankful." I am thankful for
11 many things. One is that I have a nice home and
12 wonderful parents in them. Some children overseas
13 don't have homes as we do, and some do not even
14 have parents. I am thankful for the schools we
15 have in New York because some children in other
16 countries don't have schools and need the
17 education badly. Many people in the United States
18 are grateful for the world peace we have. In some
19 countries, people do not want their leader says to
20 do, and what they don't have the right to do what
21 they want to and tell their feelings. I am very
22 grateful for all the things that I have, and I
23 hope that many people all over the world have the
24 things that I have. Pat Jones, fourth grade. A
25 dynamic community leader. Thank you, Madam

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Speaker.

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, RJ. I would just ask also that if all of you could do me a favor and keep two members of the Council family in your prayers; Helen Foster's sister Rebecca [phonetic] was on vacation in Switzerland and in a tour bus accident and is in intensive care now in Switzerland, but if everyone could keep her in your thoughts and prayers as Helen and her family make their way to her sister, and Helen will be leaving during the call up vote after that, and also my brother in law, Anthony Catullo [phonetic], Kim's brother who some of you have met, many of you may have known was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer the day before our wedding, and has taken a turn for the worse today, so I will be voting and leaving, but if you could keep Anthony in your prayers, I would appreciate that. Thank you, Mr. Majority Leader.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Adoption of minutes by Council Member Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Motion that the minutes of the Stated Meeting of October 11th, 2012 be adopted as printed.

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2 COUCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Messages and
3 papers from the mayor?

4 MALE VOICE: Pre-considered M943
5 resubmitting Nicholas Scoppetta appointment New
6 York City Conflict of Interest Board.

7 SPEAKER QUINN: Rules, privileges
8 and elections.

9 MALE VOICE: M944, disapproval City
10 Council regarding ULERP [phonetic].

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Land Use.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE:
13 Communication from city, county and borough
14 offices.

15 MALE VOICE: Communication from the
16 New York City Districting Committee dividing New
17 York City into 51 districts.

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Received, ordered,
19 printed and filed.

20 MALE VOICE: M946 to M972 on page
21 5, new renewal and relocation based - - licenses.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Transportation.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Petitions
24 and communications?

25 MALE VOICE: None.

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2

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Land Use

3

call ups?

4

MALE VOICE: M973 through M978,

5

various unenclosed sidewalk cafes.

6

SPEAKER QUINN: If we could couple

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all of those please and have a roll call on the

8

coupled Land Use call ups.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Roll call.

10

MALE VOICE: Speaker Quinn?

11

SPEAKER QUINN: Aye on all.

12

MALE VOICE: Foster?

13

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye on all,

14

and ask to be excused and aye on everything that

15

is coming up next.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: So moved.

17

SPEAKER QUINN: And having never

18

voted and left before, I need to also ask to be

19

excused to vote on the general order calendar and

20

any resolutions as well as call ups. Hearing no

21

objections, that is what I am going to do. Thank

22

you.

23

MALE VOICE: Mealy?

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Can we get a mic

25

to Council Member Mealy please?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: May I vote on all calendar orders and Land Use call ups and general orders?

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: So moved.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye, and thank everyone for their prayers for me. Thank you.

MALE VOICE: Mendez?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: There we go. Permission to vote on the Land Use call ups and the general order calendar?

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: So moved.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I vote aye on all.

MALE VOICE: Arroyo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Cabrera?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Chin?

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

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MALE VOICE: Comrie?

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

3

MALE VOICE: Crowley?

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COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

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MALE VOICE: Dickens?

6

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

7

MALE VOICE: Dilan?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: [no audible

9

10 response]

MALE VOICE: Dromm?

11

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

12

MALE VOICE: Eugene?

13

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

14

MALE VOICE: Ferreras?

15

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: [no

16

17 audible response]

MALE VOICE: Fidler?

18

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

19

MALE VOICE: Garodnick?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye and

21

22 I'd like permission to vote on the general order

22

23 calendar as well?

23

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: So moved.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: I vote

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aye. Thank you.

MALE VOICE: Gennaro?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I vote
yes, and with permission I ask to vote on the
general order calendar.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: So moved.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I vote
yes.

MALE VOICE: Gentile?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Yes.

MALE VOICE: Gonzalez?

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Greenfield?

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I vote
aye - - general order calendar?

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: So moved.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I vote
aye.

MALE VOICE: Halloran?

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Voting
aye. Request unanimous consent to vote on items
on the general order calendar.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: So moved.

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Aye.

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MALE VOICE: Ignizio?

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

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MALE VOICE: Jackson?

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on

5

6 all.

MALE VOICE: James?

7

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: I vote aye.

8

MALE VOICE: Koo?

9

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: [off mic] and

10

11 I also want to have permission to vote on the

12 general order items.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: So moved.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote aye on

14

15 all.

MALE VOICE: Koppell?

16

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

17

MALE VOICE: Koslowitz?

18

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

19

MALE VOICE: Lander?

20

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I vote aye

21

22 and I also request permission to vote aye on all

23 items on the calendar - - .

23

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: So moved.

24

MALE VOICE: Lappin?

25

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COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

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MALE VOICE: Levin?

4

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

5

MALE VOICE: Mark-Viverito?

6

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: I

7

vote aye and with permission, I'd like to vote aye

8

on the general order calendar.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: So moved.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK VIVERITO:

11

Thank you.

12

MALE VOICE: Nelson?

13

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.

14

MALE VOICE: Palma?

15

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

16

MALE VOICE: Recchia?

17

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye on

18

all.

19

MALE VOICE: Reyna?

20

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye on all.

21

MALE VOICE: Rodriguez?

22

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye on

23

all. I'd like to ask permission to vote aye on

24

all general orders. I would like to ask

25

permission to vote aye on all general orders.

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: So moved.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

4

MALE VOICE: Rose?

5

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I vote aye

6

and ask permission to vote aye on general order

7

calendar.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: So moved.

9

MALE VOICE: Ulrich?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

11

MALE VOICE: Vacca?

12

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

13

MALE VOICE: Vallone?

14

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

15

MALE VOICE: Van Bramer?

16

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

17

MALE VOICE: Vann?

18

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

19

MALE VOICE: Weprin?

20

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

21

MALE VOICE: Williams?

22

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

23

MALE VOICE: Wills?

24

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye.

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MALE VOICE: Oddo?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

MALE VOICE: Rivera?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Today's Land Use call ups were adopted by a vote of 48 in the affirmative, zero in the negative. Communication from the Speaker?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Majority Leader. Today we are going to be voting on several items on the calendar. For today we have from the Consumer Affairs Committee, Intro 597-A in related to pedi cab fares and receipts. We have Council Member Garodnick, who will say a few words on that item.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank you very much, Mr. Majority Leader, and thank you to my colleagues for the support of the pedi cab fare bill. We are all committed to taming midtown's wild west where pedi cab drivers appear to do whatever they want when it comes to pricing, and that means that the most unscrupulous among them include a host of fees and surcharges in order to jack up fares and to extract as much money from unsuspecting tourists as possible. We

1
2 have heard reports as recently as this summer of
3 families being charged over \$440 for a pedi cab
4 ride of about a dozen blocks. We have per
5 passenger minimums that are unknown, mandatory
6 gratuities, even taxes that are not required.
7 Deception cannot be a legitimate business practice
8 in New York City. That is why we are setting up
9 new rules today, which will require that all pedi
10 cabs charge on a per minute basis, and that their
11 rates be clearly posted on the side of the pedi
12 cabs, and that individual riders be handed a piece
13 of paper at the beginning of the ride indicating
14 the driver's license number, the permanent charge
15 and where to file a complaint. This is a common
16 sense new regulation for pedi cabs, and I want to
17 thank the members of my Committee for their hard
18 work on this legislation. I certainly encourage
19 my colleagues to vote yes. Thank you.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
21 very much, Council Member Garodnick. We also want
22 to thank the Committee staff, Rachel Cordero and
23 Rob Newman, for their efforts and their hard work
24 on this piece of legislation as well. Next we
25 have from the Committee on Standards and Ethics we

1
2 have pre-considered Intro 968 in relation to
3 filing of annual disclosure reports. Council
4 Member Inez Dickens, the chair of the Committee,
5 would like to say a few words.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you,
7 - - leader. The legislation before us today would
8 require that members of uncompensated policymaking
9 boards and commissions and members, officers and
10 certain employees of public authorities file
11 financial disclosure statements with the Conflicts
12 of Interest Board. Additionally, the legislation
13 would authorize the use of a short financial
14 disclosure form for those filers to use rather
15 than the current long form used by elected
16 officials. As some of my colleagues may recall,
17 the Council reviewed previous versions of this
18 bill. Unlike those versions, this legislation
19 does not reduce any of the disclosure requirements
20 for current filers who are required to use the
21 long form. Also, the Board has ruled that
22 community boards are not policymaking boards and
23 as such are not subject to this legislation or
24 financial disclosure filing requirements. I want
25 to thank the Speaker and her staff for direction

1
2 on this and Nadir Joshua [phonetic], my committee
3 attorney and Liz Fine [phonetic] and the legal
4 team for their hard work. I also want to
5 acknowledge the Speaker and Congressman Rangel for
6 bringing FEMA and SBA to northern Manhattan. We
7 have got two sites in east Harlem because of the
8 loss that was sustained there, and we have got one
9 site on 142nd Street in central Harlem for central
10 and west Harlem. Anyone can come to those three
11 sites. They will be there for the next month, and
12 I just wanted to say thank you because these are
13 people that own homes, that own buildings, that
14 own their own businesses that were impacted in
15 northern Manhattan and they have a place in our
16 community to come to. Thank you.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: thank you
18 very much, Council Member Dickens. Again, we want
19 to thank the Committee staff members, Nadir Joshua
20 and Ms. Fines and the entire team on that side.
21 We are now going to talk about an issue in the
22 Transportation Committee, Intro 599-A in relation
23 to requiring that taxi cabs be accessible to
24 people with vision impairments. We are going to
25 hear from Council Member Jimmy Vacca on that item.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Thank you,
3 Mr. Majority Leader and this legislation provides
4 a requirement that cabs be fitted for the visually
5 impaired. Right now if you are a visually
6 impaired person, you have to take the word of the
7 taxi driver as to how much your fare is. We want
8 there to be an audible component, so that the
9 visually impaired person has the same right as
10 anyone else to know and understand what the taxi
11 cab fare is. This is important. It provides
12 transparency. It addresses a civil right for
13 people who are visually impaired, and there are
14 over 200,000 people in our city who are visually
15 impaired, so I want to thank Lighthouse
16 International, CMT Technologies that worked very
17 hard with my Committee on this, and I thank the
18 Speaker, and I hope the Council will be voting in
19 favor of the legislation today. Thank you.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
21 very much, Council Member. We also want to thank
22 the Committee staff, Lionel Frank and Molly Murphy
23 for their efforts on this piece of legislation.
24 Next we have from the Land Use Committee, Zoning
25 ULERPS, UDAPS, Landmarks and the override of civic

1
2 center veto. We want to call on Council Member -
3 - . He will not speak. We will now—we have
4 another item in the Rules, Privileges and
5 Elections, which I chair. I won't speak on that
6 item, but we will move on discussion of general
7 orders.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council
9 Member Van Bramer? Councilman Gentile to vote.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Thank you.
11 I ask for permission to vote on general orders? I
12 vote yes.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council
14 Member Van Bramer?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank
16 you very much. Today we are voting on Hunter's
17 Point South in the Long Island City portion of my
18 district, which will ultimately be 5,000 new units
19 of housing, and today we are approving a tax
20 exemption for Phase I, which I am pleased to say
21 is 100 percent middle class, affordable homes,
22 almost 1,000 units, and while we always want more
23 and deeper affordability, this is a deal that the
24 Community Board 2 in Queens fought for. I was
25 proud to be on the community board when we fought

1
2 this fight, and I am thrilled that we will have
3 1,000 units, many of which are affordable to
4 working and middle class folks, so I want to thank
5 the Land Use Committee, Amy Levitan [phonetic] and
6 Chris Gonzalez, and Matt Wallace and Joe Kinton
7 [phonetic] from my staff, and also Community Board
8 2 and its chair, Joe Connolly. Thank you very
9 much.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council
11 Member Ulrich to vote.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Mr.
13 Majority Leader, I ask for unanimous consent to
14 vote on all orders on the general order calendar.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: So ordered.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council
18 Member Wills to vote. Council Member Wills to
19 vote.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Yes, Mr.
21 Majority Leader. Mr. Majority Leader, I would ask
22 for consent to vote on all general order calendar.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: So moved.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Thank you.

25 I vote aye.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council
3 Member Barron to speak.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I stand to
5 thank my colleagues for supporting the override of
6 the mayor's not approving our disapproval of 22
7 Reade Street. As everybody knows, the African
8 burial ground African people built in New York
9 City under this edifice right here is the bones of
10 our ancestors, so we are going to keep pushing the
11 administration to turn that into the international
12 museum it really should be and respect those who
13 built this city and built this country. This is a
14 find that the entire world, the entire world took
15 notice to an archaeological find of the bones of
16 the Africans who really built New York City, so I
17 want to thank you. I want to thank Council Member
18 Inez Dickens for trying to work with the city and
19 make a decent offer I thought that could have
20 gotten us somewhere, Council Member Margaret Chin,
21 who supported us and her community supporting us.
22 I want to thank Ramon Martinez from the Speaker's
23 Office for the great work he did trying to
24 negotiate a settlement and we're not finished to
25 Robert Jackson to Jumaane Williams and all, we

1
2 thank you. We thank you for the support and for
3 Leroy Comrie, we thank you so much for your
4 support on this issue. I also rise to say that I
5 think that Nicholas Scoppetta, who is going to be
6 heading up the Conflict of Interest Board, is a
7 conflict of interest, and I don't think he should
8 have that position. I think he headed up the most
9 racist agency in New York City--that was the fire
10 department. 97 percent of the fire department was
11 white. We couldn't even get people in, and he was
12 very, very antagonistic and fought against the
13 Vulcan Society, the black firefighters, so I think
14 he should not be approved. New York, you have
15 better than Nicholas Scoppetta.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Anyone else
17 on general order calendar? Council Member
18 Koppell?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: [off mic]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Yes.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: As members
22 know, the Committee I chair includes the
23 responsibility with respect to disability rights
24 of the disabled and I am delighted that we are
25 doing the bill sponsored by Council Member Vacca

1
2 that deals with accessibility for those with
3 vision impairments. This bill is inadequate
4 however, and should have also provisions that
5 require accessibility for those who have
6 impairments that prevent them from walking, and
7 that is not in the bill. It should be there. The
8 fact that we are doing this bill indicates that we
9 do not defer to decisions of the Taxi and
10 Limousine Commission on the design of new
11 taxicabs. We feel that is part of our purview.
12 More than a majority of members of this house are
13 on a bill that I have put forward that would
14 require that taxi cabs be accessible to those
15 wheelchair bound. It is technically feasible.
16 It's economically feasible, and it should be part
17 of this legislation, and I hope that it will come
18 before us very soon as a separate bill. It's too
19 bad it's not before us today. Because I don't
20 want to get up too many times, I want to divert
21 from that subject for a moment and just recognize
22 our city clerk, Mike McSweeney who did something
23 very similar for a gay couple who needed to get
24 married or wanted to get married before one of
25 them was about to pass away, and extraordinarily

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2 quickly within an hour, he arranged for that
3 wedding to proceed. I don't think it actually was
4 able to proceed because one of the members got
5 more seriously ill, but I want to thank you, Mike,
6 enormously for the way you responded. It's quite
7 extraordinary, and just another example. Thank
8 you, Mr. Acting Speaker.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council
10 Member Williams?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank
12 you. I also want to thank Council Member Barron,
13 Chin, Dickens and Comrie and all the colleagues
14 for voting against what the mayor was trying to
15 do. I'm very disappointed that the mayor could
16 not come to an agreement. As I mentioned before,
17 I was educated in the public school system, a very
18 good education; however, we did very much lack
19 getting the education I believe I should have
20 gotten on people of African descent and this city
21 and this country and this world, and it's a big
22 part of this city, this country and this world,
23 and too often is ignored. I remember when they
24 were building the African burial ground, when they
25 found the bones, they had to be forced to even

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2 stop the construction out of respect and I feel
3 like the same thing is happening again. As I
4 mentioned, I represent a district that has names
5 of slave owners, and I'm told it should have no
6 effect on the current psyche of the people that
7 live there, and I think this is an opportunity
8 that the mayor could have used to move this
9 conversation forward in a very good way and use it
10 as what they call a teachable moment, and he
11 sorely missed that, and I'm very disappointed. I
12 hope when it comes back and we can reach a deal
13 that we were so close to, and I vote aye on all.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Seeing no
15 others... Report of special committees?

16 MALE VOICE: None.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Report of
18 standing committees?

19 MALE VOICE: Report of the
20 Committee on Consumer Affairs, Intro 597, pedi cab
21 fares and receipts.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Amended and
23 coupled on the general order calendar.

24 MALE VOICE: Report of the
25 Committee on Land Use, M944, disapproval ULERP

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[phonetic]

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Coupled to
be filed.

MALE VOICE: L.U. 721 and Reso
1578, disposition of two city owned properties
Manhattan.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Coupled on
the general order calendar.

MALE VOICE: L.U. 681 and Reso
1589, exemption of real properties Queens.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Motion to
be filed pursuant to letter of withdrawal.

MALE VOICE: L.U. 708 and Reso
1590, unenclosed sidewalk café Manhattan.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Motion to
file pursuant to exploration of time to act.

MALE VOICE: L.U. 725 and Reso
1591, amendment to the zoning resolution
Manhattan.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Coupled on
the general order calendar.

MALE VOICE: L.U. 727 and Reso 1592
and L.U. 728, Reso 1593, primary school facilities
Queens.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Coupled on
3 the general order calendar.

4 MALE VOICE: L.U. 729 and Reso 1594
5 and L.U. 730 and Reso 1595. Exemption of real
6 property taxes Queens.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Coupled on
8 the general order calendar.

9 MALE VOICE: Report of the
10 Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections, pre-
11 considered M943 and Reso 1596, approving the
12 appointment by the mayor of Nicholas Scoppetta,
13 Conflict of Interest Board.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Coupled on
15 the general order calendar.

16 MALE VOICE: Report of the
17 Committee on Standards and Ethics, pre-considered
18 Intro 968, filing of annual disclosure reports.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Coupled on
20 the general order calendar.

21 MALE VOICE: Report of the
22 Committee on Transportation, Intro 599-A requiring
23 that taxicabs be accessible to people with vision
24 impairments.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Amended and

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coupled on the general order calendar.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: General order calendar.

MALE VOICE: Resolution appointing various persons to commissioner of deeds.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Coupled on the general order calendar, and at this time, I ask for a vote call on all items on the coupled general order calendar please.

MALE VOICE: Arroyo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote no on L.U. 729 and the accompanying Reso, no on L.U. 730 and the accompanying Reso, no on pre-considered M943 and the accompanying reso and aye on all the rest.

MALE VOICE: Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Cabrera?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Chin?

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Comrie?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.
3 MALE VOICE: Crowley?
4 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.
5 MALE VOICE: Dickens?
6 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: - -
7 MALE VOICE: Dromm?
8 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.
9 MALE VOICE: Eugene?
10 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.
11 MALE VOICE: Ferreras?
12 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.
13 MALE VOICE: Fidler?
14 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.
15 MALE VOICE: Gonzalez?
16 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.
17 MALE VOICE: Ignizio?
18 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: [no
19 audible response]
20 MALE VOICE: Jackson?
21 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on
22 all.
23 MALE VOICE: James?
24 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye.
25 MALE VOICE: Koppell?

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye on

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all.

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MALE VOICE: Koslowitz?

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

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MALE VOICE: Lappin?

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COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

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MALE VOICE: Levin?

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COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

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MALE VOICE: Nelson?

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COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.

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MALE VOICE: Palma?

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

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MALE VOICE: Recchia?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.

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MALE VOICE: Reyna?

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Can we get

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some silence in the chambers?

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MALE VOICE: Vacca?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: [no audible

22

response]

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MALE VOICE: Council Member Vacca?

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Vallone?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

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MALE VOICE: Van Bramer?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

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MALE VOICE: Vann?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

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MALE VOICE: Weprin?

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

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MALE VOICE: Williams?

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [no

9

audible response]

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MALE VOICE: Ignizio?

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

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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 aye

16

and happy birthday to Liz Crowley and to Danny

17

Dromm.

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: all items

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on today's general order calendar were adopted by

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a vote of 48 in the affirmative, zero in the

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negative and zero abstentions with the exception

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of Land Use Item Number 729, accompanying

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Resolution 1594, which was adopted by a vote of 47

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in the affirmative, one negative, Land Use Item

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2 730 and accompanying Reso 1595, which was adopted
3 by a vote of 47 in the affirmative and one
4 negative, pre-considered M943 accompanying Reso
5 1596 which was adopted by a vote of 47 in the
6 affirmative, one in the negative and the revised
7 Land Use call up vote is 48 in the affirmative and
8 zero in the negative. Introduction and reading of
9 bills.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All bills
11 are referred to Committees as indicated on the
12 agenda. Quiet in the chambers.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: No
14 resolutions. We have general discussion. One
15 person. Please be quiet for the general
16 discussion. Council Member Brewer?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you
18 very much. Two quick things. One is December 5th
19 we have a hearing in Governmental Operations
20 oversight of the Board of Elections. I think this
21 is something that people want to discuss and we
22 would like your input. Number two, I am
23 introducing Intro 967. It would require owners of
24 buildings to fix underlying conditions and would
25 give HPD the authority to order an owner to repair

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2 a leaky roof, rather than just covering up the
3 water damage in a tenant's ceiling. That is
4 something that has been of tremendous concern for
5 decades in buildings. And number three, I just
6 want to mention support for all of the work that
7 is going on for 22 Reade Street. I was actually
8 head of the federal office under Mayor Dinkins
9 when I got the call that there was a burial
10 ground, and we had to bring the information to
11 then Senator Moynihan, who had allocated the
12 funding for the building, and I have never said
13 this before, but he was not happy that his
14 building was slowed down, but it is obviously a
15 great thing, and I look forward to the museum at
16 22 Reade Street. Thank you very much,

17 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council
18 Member Tish James?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: I just
20 wanted to congratulate all of the first responders
21 who have been involved in Sandy recovery, but
22 specifically the men and women of the Sanitation
23 Department, as chair of Sanitation, they have done
24 an excellent job. Congratulations. You make us
25 proud.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I just want
3 to say happy birthday to Council Members Elizabeth
4 Crowley and Daniel Dromm, and-

5 [applause]

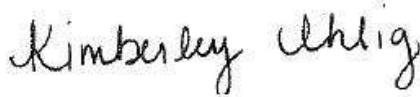
6 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: --and with
7 that, I'll declare the Stated Meeting for November
8 27th, 2012 closed. Thank you all.

9 [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

12/10/12