

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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December 10, 2012

Start: 1:54 p.m.

Recess: 3:14 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Maria del Carmen Arroyo
Charles Barron
Gale A. Brewer
Fernando Cabrera
Margaret Chin
Elizabeth Crowley
Inez E. Dickens
Erik Martin Dilan
Daniel Dromm
Mathieu Eugene
Julissa Ferreras
Lewis A. Fidler
Daniel R. Garodnick

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

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

Larry DePrimo
Officer
NYPD

Ivan Marcano
Detective
NYPD

Donia Waldman

Reverend Duane Sleet
Pastor
First Baptist Church of Far Rockaway

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: Get the ceremonials
3 started, we have three today. And the first one--

4 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet, please.

5 SPEAKER QUINN: Let's move Office
6 DePrimo over here for a second. Oh, so you're
7 going to be in the middle right over here. Right
8 on that black thing or whatever it is that were
9 there, okay. Want a couple folks just go on the
10 other side just so we balance out a little bit.
11 Great, thank you, Peter.

12 Jessica, why don't you come on?

13 Jessica and Ydanis come on up and Annabel.

14 Well we're here today 'cause we
15 wanted to take a moment to thank Police Officer
16 Larry DePrimo for what he did a little bit ago on
17 the streets of New York City. Officer DePrimo is
18 a member of the 6th Precinct, which I've said
19 before is my favorite precinct in the city of New
20 York, in Greenwich Village, the best precinct.
21 And I think we all have now--or most of us now
22 have heard and seen this story, seen the picture.
23 This police officer, doing his work, protecting
24 New York City residents went out of his way when
25 he saw a homeless person, a homeless man with no

1
2 shoes on, took money out of his pocket--and we all
3 know how much police officers make, and it ain't
4 that much, but let's not go there now--and went
5 and bought a really nice pair of boots for this
6 homeless person. I assume 'cause he didn't want
7 to go home at night and put his head down in a
8 warm bed and know that that man was going to sleep
9 all night with his feet freezing.

10 It was a very simple gesture, but
11 it was an enormously kind gesture that has caused,
12 as I just said to the officer, a ripple effect in
13 this city. Conversation after conversation that I
14 have heard of individuals reminded that we need to
15 be generous, reminded that we need to see our city
16 as a bigger community, and reminded that we need
17 to stop walking down the street not noticing each
18 other, or even worse, looking away sometimes from
19 the people we think we don't want to see.

20 You, instead, Officer, saw in that
21 person, that homeless man, not a nuisance, not a
22 vagrant, not a bum, you saw somebody who needed
23 help and you went out of your way and you gave
24 them help. And you not just helped him, you
25 helped our entire city post-Sandy at a time we

1
2 needed to be reminded of the power of helping each
3 other. And that is not something they taught you
4 at the academy, it's not something you learn in a
5 roll call training, it's just something you have
6 inside of you.

7 So I just want to thank you. You
8 are clearly exactly the kind of person we want to
9 be on the NYPD, exactly the kind of New Yorker we
10 need more of. And, you know, I don't know why we
11 all walk by people sometimes and don't do what you
12 did, but you did it, and you've raised the bar
13 about what it means to be a member of the NYPD and
14 what it means to be a New Yorker, so on behalf of
15 all of us, thank you so much.

16 [Applause]

17 SPEAKER QUINN: And if I could ask
18 the clerk to please read the proclamation.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Council, City of
20 New York Proclamation.

21 WHEREAS, the Council of the City of
22 New York is proud to honor NYPD Officer Larry
23 DePrimo, whose selfless generosity has inspired
24 countless people to act upon their own spirit of
25 compassion; and,

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2 WHEREAS, on one freezing night in
3 mid-November, Officer DePrimo, a two-year veteran
4 of the NYPD, was working a counterterrorism post
5 in Times Square when he saw an older barefoot man
6 huddled on the sidewalk who appeared to be
7 homeless and shivering. Seeing the large blisters
8 on the man's bare feet, Officer DePrimo approached
9 him and asked him if he wanted a pair of socks,
10 then went into the shoe store nearby and returned
11 not only with a pair of thermal socks, but also a
12 pair of \$75 insulated winter boots; and,

13 WHEREAS, while Officer DePrimo
14 helped the man put them on his feet, a passerby
15 said later the man's face lit up like it was
16 Christmas and he had just been given literally \$1
17 million. His simple act of kindness would have
18 gone unnoticed and mostly forgotten, but that
19 passerby, Jennifer Foster, photographed the moment
20 on her cell phone. Ms. Foster, the director of
21 Public Safety Communications at a county sheriff's
22 office in Arizona and the daughter of a Phoenix
23 police department officer, is no stranger to the
24 everyday courage of law enforcement, but she was
25 very moved by Officer DePrimo's generosity and

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shared the photograph with the NYPD; and,

WHEREAS, when the NYPD posted the photo on its Facebook page, it garnered hundreds of thousands of comments and went viral online and through news outlets. A simple image of a police officer providing warmth to a stranger on the street warmed hearts around the world; and,

WHEREAS, Officer DePrimo did not seek the spotlight for his charity, but it is a privilege to publicly pay tribute to him on this occasion for he has reminded everyone of the character and caliber of individuals who make up the NYPD, the greatest law enforcement department in America. He is truly one of New York City's finest.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT KNOWN that the Council of the City of New York gratefully honors NYPD Officer Larry DePrimo for his inspiring compassion and outstanding service to his fellow New Yorkers.

Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the entire Council.

[Applause]

SPEAKER QUINN: --say a few words?

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LARRY DEPRIMO: Thank you so much.

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SPEAKER QUINN: You're very

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welcome. Would you like to say a few words?

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LARRY DEPRIMO: Sure.

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SPEAKER QUINN: I'll hold that for

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you.

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LARRY DEPRIMO: Thank you for

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having me, it's absolutely, it's such an honor to

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be in this room and with all these people here

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standing next to me.

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I just wanted to say, you know,

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thank you, everybody, for their support and this

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has been such an unreal moment in my life. And,

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you know, again, I just really hope that this

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inspires people to go out there and help other

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people in such a hard time for our country and New

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York state.

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[Applause]

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SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. You're

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terrific, thank you.

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LARRY DEPRIMO: Thank you.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Be safe. Thank you

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very much, and you be safe. Happy Holidays to you

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and--

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[crosstalk]

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: --parents,
are those your parents, those your parents?

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LARRY DEPRIMO: No, my parents--

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[Crosstalk]

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: You gave
credit to them for--

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LARRY DEPRIMO: [Interposing]

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Absolutely, my parents and grandparents are the
biggest inspirations.

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[Crosstalk]

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Thank you.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, wish

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them a Happy Holidays for us, Officer. You be
safe, thank you very much.

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And our second ceremonial today is
keeping on the theme of great police officers is
going to be led by Council Member Fernando
Cabrera. Is Council Member Cabrera here?

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MALE VOICE: Yes.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Oh, great, there he

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is, sorry, I didn't see you. And it is

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recognizing NYPD Detective Ivan Marcano, who was
shot while off duty, didn't have to do it, while

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1
2 he was trying to stop a mugger. So if Detective
3 Marcano and anyone he has with him could please
4 come up, and let me turn the mic over to Council
5 Member Cabrera, and thank him for bringing this
6 detective to us today so we can thank him.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you
8 so much, Madam Speaker. We're here to recognize a
9 true hero from the Bronx, a true hero from the
10 Bronx, and he's here with his wonderful family and
11 his very brave girlfriend, who was part of the
12 pursuit and going after those who were trying to
13 commit a robbery in the Bronx. He put his life on
14 the line, he was shot after he identified himself
15 as a police officer, and then pursue three--the
16 three people who were involved in the crime, and
17 he was able to really go and triumph on that day
18 and protect our neighborhood. You're truly a role
19 model for our young people, thank you so much for
20 really putting your life on the line and bringing
21 the best of the Bronx.

22 The clerk at this moment will be
23 reading the proclamation.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Council, City of
25 New York, Proclamation.

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2 The Council of the City of New York
3 is proud to honor Ivan Marciano in recognition of
4 his courageous service and outstanding dedication
5 to the community; and,

6 WHEREAS, Ivan Marciano is one of the
7 thousands of tireless NYPD officers who protect
8 and serve our city with professionalism and
9 selflessness, yet he has distinguished himself by
10 going above and beyond the call of duty.

11 While off-duty really means off-
12 duty to many people, this Bronx native has proven
13 that his dedication to our city and its residents
14 remain uncompromised long after the end of his
15 shift; and,

16 WHEREAS, on October 24th, 2012,
17 while off-duty, Officer Marciano risked his own
18 life to protect the life of a citizen in need. He
19 was with his girlfriend in her car when they
20 witnessed two armed assailants attempting to rob a
21 helpless man and he immediately leapt into action.
22 After identifying himself as a police officer, one
23 of the suspects fired at him, hitting him in the
24 chest. The bullet barely missed his vital organs.
25 The two gunmen jumped in a car driven by a third

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person and sped off.

Incredibly, despite his wound, Officer Marcano climbed back into his girlfriend's car and, with her at the wheel, pursued the three suspects in a harrowing chase until the getaway car crashed and they fled on foot. With one hand applying pressure to his own wound, Officer Marcano fired at them, taking down one of the assailants. While following the others, he came across an ambulance which took him to the hospital. The getaway driver was arrested later that night and the other robber turned himself in; and,

WHEREAS, shortly after the incident, at a cozy ceremony at Officer Marcano's bedside in Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center, the New York City Police Department rewarded him for his bravery, marksmanship, and calm under pressure with a promotion to detective.

[Applause]

COUNCIL CLERK: And, WHEREAS, Detective Marcano's quick thinking action is another reminder that great risks that members of the NYPD confront in their daily lives, both on

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2 and off duty, the courageous men and women put
3 their lives on the line and protect our own, and
4 they have all earned our deepest respect for their
5 service. Whether on or off duty, Detective
6 Marcano is truly one of New York City's finest.

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT KNOWN, that
8 the Council of the City of New York gratefully
9 honors Detective Ivan Marcano for his lifesaving
10 heroism on October 24th, 2012.

11 Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the
12 entire Council; Fernando Cabrera, Council Member,
13 14th District, the Bronx.

14 [Applause]

15 SPEAKER QUINN: Detective, that is
16 really an unbelievable story. I mean, it's like
17 on of those things you see, you know, on Law &
18 Order or something like that and think, that
19 couldn't really happen. But I just want to thank
20 you. I mean, you were off-duty, you didn't have
21 to do what you did, and you clearly put your life
22 on the line, literally continuing to chase a bad
23 guy putting just your hand over your wound. So I
24 wish there was more we could do than just give you
25 a detective shield, but we just want to say thank

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2 you so very much for being so incredibly,
3 incredibly selfless and so dedicated to this city.

4 And thank you for bringing us such
5 a pretty little girl today in such a beautiful
6 party dress, you're making us all--wow. So thank
7 you very much, Detective, and would you like to
8 say a few words?

9 DETECTIVE IVAN MARCANO: I just
10 want to say thank you to everybody--my family, my
11 co-workers, the city--for the support, it's
12 tremendous. And it helped put me through--or
13 helped me get through this and thank you guys
14 also.

15 [Applause]

16 SPEAKER QUINN: And you're all
17 well, you're all better? Thank you guys, Happy
18 Holidays to all of you, be well and be safe.
19 Thank you, Detective.

20 Okay. And then we have one more
21 ceremonial. Council Member Levin and Council
22 Member Rodriguez, who--

23 [Off mic]

24 SPEAKER QUINN: Council Member
25 Levin and Council Member Rodriguez and we are

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going to remember the late Elana Waldman, a beloved teacher who tragically passed away from breast cancer at the very early age of 45. So if whoever is here for that ceremonial could join us. Why don't you go over there, Steve, in the middle?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We are here to honor Elana Waldman, who tragically passed away earlier this year after a long battle with breast cancer.

SPEAKER QUINN: Why don't you guys step up a little bit? Come on, everybody just-- you could line up over here.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Elana was a dedicated--

SPEAKER QUINN: [Interposing] What pretty girls.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I know. And we're joined by her family and colleagues and friends and her principal at I.S. 52 in Inwood, where she had made her home over the last eight years. She touched my office through family, friends of my legislative director, Rami Metal, and his family. And I would like to ask her sister to say a couple of words about Elana, who

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2 she described as a red-headed firecracker, which
3 is well-known to this chamber.

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5 DONIA WALDMAN: Elana was
6 headstrong and many other words that you normally
7 associate with redheads. She was tough, she was
8 tough on her students, but she cared about them.
9 The kids were really what she was always about.
10 She would go above and beyond, she would buy prom
11 dresses for her kids, she would visit some and at
12 least one in who was struggling in juvenile
13 detention. She went above and beyond, she
14 arranged for me and for anybody who had any
15 interesting job to come in and do an assembly to
16 teach the kids that there are many, many things
17 out there, many possibilities. She lived for
18 those children and they knew it and they loved
19 her, and her whole school just loved her. And we
20 appreciate it and we appreciate this honor. Thank
21 you so much.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Could we
have the clerk read the roll, please?

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COUNCIL CLERK: Council, City of
New York Proclamation.

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WHEREAS, the Council of the City of

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2 New York is proud to posthumously honor Elana
3 Waldman for her outstanding service and
4 contributions as a New York City public school
5 teacher; and,

6 WHEREAS, Elana Waldman was born in
7 Brooklyn on May 27th, 1967. Although she and her
8 family moved to Nebraska for five years, they
9 returned to New York and settled in Jackson
10 Heights, Queens. There, she attended a Jewish
11 primary school before graduating from a Jewish
12 high school in Manhattan and earning a Bachelors
13 of Arts degree in English literature from Queens
14 College in 1989.

15 Eventually, she found her true
16 calling when she became an assistant teacher in
17 March 2003 and worked for Goodwill Industries
18 teaching Adult Basic Education and English as a
19 Second Language. One year later, with her passion
20 for education fully ignited, she entered the Pace
21 Teaching Fellows Program, where she earned her MS
22 in Secondary Education; and,

23 WHEREAS, Ms. Waldman began teaching
24 seventh and eighth graders at I.S. 52 in Inwood.
25 From the start, she was known for always being

1
2 ahead of the curve as a teacher. She always tried
3 innovative techniques before they were required or
4 became commonplace. For example, she created a
5 teacher portfolio, a collection of her work and
6 her students' work throughout the school year that
7 invited reflection and helped identify success, as
8 well as areas for improvement. She also
9 integrated units of study to deepen her students'
10 understanding of a subject and pushed them to
11 higher levels of learning.

12 As a founding member of the I.S. 52
13 Inquiry Team, she helped her colleagues learn to
14 analyze student data and use such information to
15 drive teaching and learning in their classrooms;
16 and,

17 WHEREAS, Ms. Waldman understood
18 that quality education involves not only books,
19 facts, and homework assignments, education also
20 concerns the building of character. Her
21 colleagues and friends say that her most important
22 contributions as an educator cannot be measured by
23 looking at test scores or data, her greatest
24 contribution to teaching was, quite simply, her;
25 and,

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2 WHEREAS, on August 24th, 2012, at
3 the age of 45, Ms. Waldman passed away after
4 battling breast cancer for several years. Though
5 the disease may have ended her life, it will never
6 erase the profoundly positive impact she has had
7 in the lives of her students, colleagues, friends,
8 and family.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT KNOWN that
10 the Council of the City of New York proudly honors
11 the life and memory of Elana Waldman for her
12 enduring contributions to New York City public
13 schools.

14 Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the
15 entire Council; Stephen Levin, Council Member,
16 33rd District, Brooklyn; Ydanis Rodriguez, Council
17 Member, 10th District, Manhattan.

18 [Applause]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I'd also
20 like to thank her sister, Donia [phonetic], for
21 being here as well, thank you.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you all for
23 coming, I know these are things are nice, but
24 often not easy on the family and so we just really
25 appreciate you coming and sharing her with us and

1
2 inspiring us to make sure we're all more focused
3 on our public schools and the children of New York
4 City. So thank you guys and we wish you the best
5 holiday season you can possibly have. Thank you,
6 take care.

7 [Long pause]

8 SPEAKER QUINN: Well with three
9 lovely stories of great New Yorkers who are all
10 terrific public servants and gave so much to us,
11 this concludes today's ceremonials. And also with
12 some beautiful additions, who made our chambers
13 much more fun today, so thank you, girls, for
14 being here. This concludes today's ceremonials.

15 [Long pause]

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Ladies and
17 gentlemen, could I have your attention, please?
18 Can I please have your attention? Quiet, please.
19 Quiet, please. At this time, please place all
20 cell phones and pagers to vibrate. Will all non-
21 Council employees please leave the main floor of
22 the chambers? Thank you.

23 [Pause]

24 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Pledge of
25 Allegiance.

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[Pause]

MULTIPLE VOICES: 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.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Roll call.

[Pause]

COUNCIL CLERK: Arroyo.

[Pause]

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [No
response].

COUNCIL CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Brewer.

[Pause]

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: [No
response].

COUNCIL CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet, please.

COUNCIL CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Comrie.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Here.
3 COUNCIL CLERK: Crowley.
4 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.
5 COUNCIL CLERK: Dickens.
6 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.
7 COUNCIL CLERK: Dilan.
8 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Here.
9 COUNCIL CLERK: Dromm.
10 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.
11 COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene.
12 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.
13 COUNCIL CLERK: Ferreras.
14 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.
15 COUNCIL CLERK: Fidler.
16 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.
17 COUNCIL CLERK: Foster.
18 [Pause]
19 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: [No
20 response].
21 COUNCIL CLERK: Garodnick.
22 [Pause]
23 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: [No
24 response].
25 COUNCIL CLERK: Gennaro.

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

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: [No
response].

COUNCIL CLERK: Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Gonzalez.

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Greenfield.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Halloran.

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: [No
response].

[Pause]

COUNCIL CLERK: Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: [No
response].

[Pause]

COUNCIL CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Jackson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: [No
response].

[Pause]

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COUNCIL CLERK: James.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Koo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Koppell.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Koslowitz.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Lander.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Lappin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Levin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: [No

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response].

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[Pause]

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COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: [No

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response].

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[Pause]

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COUNCIL CLERK: Mendez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

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2 COUNCIL CLERK: Nelson.
3 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Here.
4 COUNCIL CLERK: Palma.
5 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.
6 COUNCIL CLERK: Recchia.
7 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Here.
8 COUNCIL CLERK: Reyna.
9 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: [No
10 response].
11 [Pause]
12 COUNCIL CLERK: Rodriguez.
13 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.
14 COUNCIL CLERK: Rose.
15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: [No
16 response].
17 [Pause]
18 COUNCIL CLERK: Sanders.
19 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: [No
20 response].
21 [Pause]
22 COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich.
23 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.
24 COUNCIL CLERK: Vacca.
25 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: [No

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2 response].

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[Pause]

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COUNCIL CLERK: Vallone.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Van Bramer.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Vann.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [No

10 response].

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[Pause]

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COUNCIL CLERK: Weprin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: [No

14 response].

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[Pause]

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COUNCIL CLERK: Williams.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Wills.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Here.

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[Pause]

21

COUNCIL CLERK: Oddo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: [No

23 response].

24

[Pause]

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COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Ignizio.

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Oddo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: We have a quorum.

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: We are

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going to have the invocation delivered by Reverend

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Duane Sleet, Pastor, First Baptist Church of Far

13

Rockaway.

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[Long pause]

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REV. DUANE SLEET: Let us pray.

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Dear God, as we gather today, we ask for your

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special providences for this day of business. We

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thank you for allowing us to meet to discuss the

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important issues of our time. Please guide the

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leadership of our great city; guide all of our

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elected officials. Prepare us to be ambassadors

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for peace and prosperity. Encourage our hearts as

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we seek to provide quality leadership. Keep those

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of us who continue to struggle in the aftermath of

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Superstorm Sandy and as we celebrate Advent,

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2 Hanukkah, Kwanza, or whatever our faith tradition
3 is, help us to see your favor in grace. Amen.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Spread the
5 motion--do the motion to spread the Invocation in
6 full upon the record. I want to thank Rev. Duane
7 Sleet for the First Baptist Church of Far
8 Rockaway. They're located right in the flood
9 zone, in fact, his church has been devastated, the
10 basement of his church was devastated and flooded
11 out in the storm, but he has still since been
12 providing food and clothing and support for not
13 only his parishioners, but all of the members of
14 the Rockaways and during this difficult time, even
15 though his church is still under difficulty
16 because they have not been able to make the
17 repairs yet. There's still repairs underway as
18 they have to restore their basement where their
19 facilities were and many of their supplies were.
20 So I want to thank Rev. Duane Sleet for coming all
21 the way from the Rockaways today to deliver the
22 invocation. Thank you.

23 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. And if
24 I could ask my colleagues to remain standing and I
25 want to also echo leader Comrie's thanks to the

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2 Reverend.

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On December 5th, 2012, Jon Kest, 57, the Executive Director of New York's Communities for Change, and one of New York City's leading organizers and progressive community activists, passed away due to complications of cancer. The sad news of Jon's death is further compounded by the tragic loss of his daughter, Jessie, during Hurricane Sandy. Some of you may remember, she and her boyfriend were walking their dog and a tree fell on them and they were both killed.

Jon's devotion and dedication will be deeply missed by thousands and thousands and thousands of tenants, parents, low wage workers in communities who benefited from his tireless commitment to those in need. He was truly an advocate for so many without a voice. Jon's funeral was held yesterday at the UFT headquarters. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Fran, their son, Jake, to his parents, his siblings, his in-laws, and his nieces and nephews.

I also just want to take a moment

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2 to--at the last Stated Meeting, I had to leave
3 early, I mentioned to folks that my brother-in-
4 law, who had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer
5 the day before our wedding in May, had taken a
6 turn for the worse and last night he passed away
7 at Sloan Kettering and I just wanted--before I
8 vote and leave, to let folks know that I wanted to
9 thank all of you for your incredible expressions
10 of support, e-mails, calls, offers of help over
11 the past 6 1/2 months and in particular over the
12 past two weeks. I more importantly want to thank
13 all of you for the great kindness you showed
14 Anthony when he was here with us on so many
15 occasions.

16 Anthony grew up and was a gay man
17 and was in New York in the seventies at a very
18 different time when there never have been an
19 openly gay Speaker or a Pride celebration in City
20 Hall. So for him to come here in the city, a city
21 he loved, and be so welcomed by so many elected
22 officials of so much diverse background, you'll
23 never know what that meant to him. They just were
24 cleaning out his room and they opened up his
25 drawers and found programs from our events and

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2 news clippings of the events. And I want you all
3 to know how you made him happy by making him feel
4 so very much a part of New York City in a way he
5 never had until he got to be part of the wonderful
6 extended family of the New York City Council. So
7 thank you all.

8 I am going to vote aye on all, I'd
9 encourage you all to do that as well, 'cause even
10 though I'm not here, I will know. And see you all
11 later, thank you. I vote aye on all.

12 [Long pause]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Adoption of
14 the Minutes. Council Member Levin is here.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Motion that
16 the Minutes of the Stated Meeting of November 13th
17 be adopted as printed.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Messages
19 and Papers from the Mayor?

20 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE:
22 Communication from City, County, and Borough
23 Offices?

24 COUNCIL CLERK: M 979,
25 Communication from the Kings County Democratic

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County Committee, Julie--

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:

[Interposing] Rules, Privileges, and Elections.

COUNCIL CLERK: M 980,

Communication from the New York City Districting
Commission withdrawing M 945.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Received,
Ordered, Printed, and Filed.

COUNCIL CLERK: Preconsidered M
981, Communication from the Office of Management
and Budget, MN-1.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Finance.

COUNCIL CLERK: M 982 through M
1001 on page four, Approval of New, Renewal, and
Relocation Base Stations.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:
Transportation.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Petitions
and Communications.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: None.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Land Use
Call-Ups?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: None.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE:

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Communication from the Speaker.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Today we have a couple of items that we're going to be voting on, my colleagues--

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE:
[Interposing] Oh, I'm sorry, Council Member, Council Member Cabrera has to leave. Council Member Cabrera to vote.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Permission to vote on all items generally couple resolutions.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: So moved.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye on all.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Sorry.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you very much. We now have a couple of items that we're going to be voting on today, my colleagues. The first one is from the Committee of Housing and Buildings. We have Intro 575-A in relation to requiring newly constructed multi-family residences to provide adequate space to store and sort designated recyclable materials. We have Council Member Garodnick, who is the sponsor of the bill, who will be speaking on the item.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank
3 you very much. I want to thank you, Mr. Majority
4 Leader, Speaker Quinn, Chair Dilan, for moving the
5 Recycling Space bill. The Council has passed
6 important environmental legislation over the past
7 number of years from the Greater Greener Buildings
8 package to individual pieces of legislation, like
9 the Recycling Space bill that we're going to pass
10 today.

11 As we pledge to reduce the city's
12 greenhouse gases 30% by the year 2030, it became
13 clear that the Council needed to focus on policies
14 that both upgraded existing buildings and created
15 better standards for new construction. This
16 legislation joins the list of commonsense--with
17 copyright citation to David Greenfield here--
18 changes that we have made to encourage a
19 sustainable city. By requiring better, more
20 accessible recycling space on every floor of
21 larger, new multi-family residential buildings,
22 just as we require space for garbage, we hope to
23 make the act of recycling as built into our daily
24 routines as brushing our teeth is in the morning.

25 As policy makers, we need to do

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2 everything we can to encourage recycling, as New
3 York City's rates lag far behind other cities.
4 Last year, the proportion of waste that we recycle
5 was 15%, compared to cities like Seattle, 54%, and
6 San Francisco, 77%.

7 [Crosstalk]

8 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Okay. All
9 right.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: So this
11 legislation couldn't come at a better time and we
12 need to do more to make recycling as accessible as
13 possible to meet the city's goal as part of PlaNYC
14 of doubling the amount of waste that we can divert
15 from landfills by 2017, this will help us get
16 there.

17 When this legislation takes effect
18 on January 1, 2014, it will be even easier for New
19 Yorkers to make smart decisions. By placing
20 recycling bins right next to our garbage
21 containers, there will be a daily reminder to
22 recycle. This is an important next step in
23 protecting our environment and I encourage my
24 colleagues to join me in support of 575-A. Thank
25 you.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
3 very much, Councilman Garodnick. We also want to
4 thank the chair of the Committee, Council Member
5 Dilan, for his support on this measure and we also
6 want to thank the staff, Jeff Baker, Laura Rogers,
7 and Jarret Hova as well for their hard work on
8 this particular item.

9 We now move on to the Finance vote
10 on today's agenda. We have a couple of items
11 there, Intro 926, Intro 958-A, and Preconsidered
12 Intro 979. On Intro 926, we're going to have the
13 sponsor of the bill, Council Member Lappin, say a
14 few words.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Thank you.
16 I just wanted to remind the Council that we at
17 first initiated this biotech tax credit back in
18 2009, and the reason we are here today renewing
19 it, and I ask for your support to renew it, is
20 because that it has been very successful in
21 keeping small businesses here in the city and
22 enabling us to compete with other cities across
23 the country. And given that we do have 9 world-
24 class research institutions, 26 medical centers,
25 and 175 hospitals in this city, and really an

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2 unparalleled talent pool, it's important for us to
3 keep the businesses and the products that spin out
4 from those institutions here employing people in
5 New York.

6 So I wanted to thank the Speaker
7 and the Finance chair for their support, and urge
8 you all to vote in favor of it today.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Okay.
10 Thank you very much, Council Member. We also want
11 to thank the chair of the committee, Council
12 Member Domenic Recchia, for his hard work on these
13 bills, as well as the staff, Ray Majewski, Paul
14 Sturm, Emre Edev, and Tanisha Edwards for their
15 hard work.

16 Next, we're going to be talking
17 about Intro 958-A. We have Council Member Oddo,
18 who will be speaking on this item, and also Intro
19 979.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Thank you.
21 If I could just real quickly address one other
22 item. Last Stated Meeting was the first Stated
23 Meeting that the Staten Island delegation had been
24 back to since Sandy hit and I wanted to say a few
25 words, but I wanted Christine to be here, but,

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2 obviously, God had other plans. But I don't want
3 another week to go by without saying this.

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And I just want to tell all of you
on behalf of Council Member Ignizio and Council
Member Rose and the people of Staten Island, we
want to thank you for your prayers, your well
wishes, your food, your supplies, your volunteers,
and for the mad love that Jumaane sent me via
Twitter. We really needed it.

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I want to thank the--

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Man love?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: --Chris used
the phrase extended family, I want to thank all
the folks in the staff who came out to Staten
Island who worked helping people. It was really,
truly appreciated.

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I want to thank Edgar Moya in
particular who, the night Sandy hit, I truly
believe helped us save lives as Council Member
Ignizio and I were pulling names of people trapped
in homes off of Facebook and sending them to
Edgar, who was putting them in the OEM site.

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I want to thank Ramon for his
friendship. And John Madden [phonetic] in the

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2 Speaker's detail who spent five weeks out on
3 Staten Island.

4 I am--yeah, Chris got weepy, I
5 guess I can--I am so grateful for your friendships
6 for the phone calls. Charles, you touched my
7 heart as you often do. And the people of Staten
8 Island noticed the friendships that Debbie and
9 Vinnie and I have here, and I'm so proud of all of
10 them. And you guys have made me a better person
11 being around you for 20 years and 10 years and 5
12 years and I really appreciate you being there for
13 us in our time of need.

14 We have two bills on today, one is
15 Sandy related, it provides just a little bit of
16 help to the people who were hit the hardest. For
17 folks who have been red-tag, this allows the
18 Council to do to the extent of our powers, to do--
19 provide them a little bit of relief. It delays
20 the payments of the property bills from January to
21 April. The genesis of this is a business owner on
22 Staten Island by the name of John Toto [phonetic],
23 who, on top of everything else he's going through,
24 pointed to his business and said I have \$13,000
25 tax bill I have to pay. This particular bill

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2 helps him for his home that was wiped out, it
3 doesn't help him for his business. We have some
4 more work to do, but, frankly, but for the Speaker
5 and her staff, we wouldn't be standing here
6 providing this relief for those Staten Islanders
7 and those New Yorkers who were hardest hit, so I
8 want to thank you for that.

9 The other bill which seems sort of
10 petty at this point, but--or less important, but
11 we talk about transparency in this body, we talk
12 about transparency in this building, everybody in
13 government talks about transparency, the biggest
14 single investment most of us will make in our
15 lifetime is for our homes, yet in this era of
16 transparency, no one understands how their
17 property taxes are reached, and every year when we
18 send out those two bills and there are increases,
19 people naturally think the City Council somehow
20 voted and raised their property taxes and you guys
21 know we did not. When the class shares are voted
22 on, it's the one time that room nine and this
23 chamber probably groans in unison because we have
24 to explain it to them and then they have to try to
25 digest it and explain it to the public, and none

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2 of us succeeds. And what we're doing today is
3 passing a law to mandate that the Department of
4 Finance try to put this convoluted process, this
5 process that culminates three decades of state law
6 and city law and court decisions and political
7 backroom deals that is our property tax system, it
8 tries to explain it. It was supposed to be a one-
9 pager, it's this draft of a 13-page little
10 booklet, that's how convoluted this process is.

11 Now, it doesn't change anybody's
12 taxes, it doesn't lower their property taxes, I
13 get that, please don't go on SI Live and say,
14 Oddo, you gave us nothing. If you want to change
15 the system, you have to understand the system, and
16 mostly, 99.9% of our general public, they have not
17 the foggiest clue how their bills are reached.
18 Hopefully, this will start the process of
19 educating the public.

20 I want to thank Tanisha for her
21 wonderful job. I want to thank the Council staff,
22 I want to thank counsel, Chairman Recchia for his
23 help, Preston, obviously, Emre for all of their
24 hard work on this. And I thank you for your
25 indulgence.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you very much, Council Member. We also want to hear from Council Member Ignizio on Preconsidered Intro 979 as well.

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Thank you very much, and thanks to my colleague, Minority Leader Jimmy Oddo, for articulating exactly what we're doing here today. And I just wanted to just give voice to some of my constituents, in this case, Mike Abruzzo [phonetic], who has lost his home totally to nothing. In fact, if you walk where his home is today, it's just his kitchen floor, which managed to survive 'cause it was built on a slab, and there is absolutely nothing there. His children, we went through the remnants of his home to find pieces of his children's history, and it was quite moving when we found some jewelry and whatnot. But throughout the process of working with Mike, he said to me, I'm down on my luck, everybody wants to help, and I know in a couple of months, you know, we're going to get sent a property tax bill and if anybody can help with things like that, that would be appreciative because the City just continues to

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send out the bills and what could we do.

And Jimmy and Senator Lanza were working on the other side of the island in Jimmy's district and talking about some businesses who were dealing with the same frustrations. This is the least we can do. My colleague, Eric Ulrich, is dealing with that increasingly in his communities as well. The least we could do is to tell people we're going to defer your tax rate 'cause it's the only power we have in this body, while we have discussions with our colleagues in the state on offering some sort of abatement to try to help them. When everybody says, how could we help, this is one of the small ways we can.

And I'm grateful to this Council for taking the lead on it as well, and I'm appreciative that the Mayor's office signed on, and I'm hopeful that we'll be able to have a more robust conversation about the commercial property tax owners who are getting bills of 15 and \$20,000 for businesses that no longer exists.

So I wanted to thank my colleagues as well for a lot of their messages and their comments, as Jimmy said, and to let you know that

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2 this is a small thing we're doing to helping Sandy
3 victims, but it goes a long way and there's a lot
4 more to be done, and together, we will get through
5 this.

6 Thank you very much. Thank you,
7 Mr. Chair.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
9 very much, Council Member.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Discussion
11 of General Orders. Before them, we have
12 Councilman Koppell to vote. Is he here?

13 [Off mic]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Councilman
15 Koppell?

16 [Off mic]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Thank you.
18 I'd like unanimous consent to vote aye on all
19 matters on the General Calendar, as well as
20 resolutions.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: So moved.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: I vote
23 aye.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council
25 Member Barron to speak on General Orders.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you
3 very much. I just want to encourage my colleagues
4 to vote no on LU 740. The United Jewish
5 Organization of Williamsburg gets the privilege of
6 being sole sourced. It's very difficult for any
7 African Americans or Latinos to go to HPD and not
8 have a RFP sent out for property and get it sole
9 sourced, which is a privilege that HPD has for
10 groups. I don't see a whole lot of that happening
11 here in the City Council. In the past, I voted
12 this particular parcel up because it didn't have
13 all the information and when we get new
14 information, I think we should act accordingly to
15 that new information that we get. We should not
16 allow 740 the United Jewish Organization of
17 Williamsburg to get property sole sourced without
18 an RFP going out and giving opportunities for
19 other groups to have a chance to get it as well.

20 Not to mention the fact that there
21 are some conflict around that whole prior project
22 which may not be directed at them, but HPD are not
23 allowing or wanting to allow only three and four
24 family homes and seven-story units, that's still
25 in court a part of the whole Broadway Triangle

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2 project. So why would we have a group involved in
3 all of that sole sourced and we pass it before all
4 of the findings in that trial, which may not
5 directly be them, but we should not allow the sole
6 sourcing to go forth for one particular group.
7 When it comes to blacks and Latinos, how many of
8 you have passed something--land that was sole
9 sourced for blacks and Latinos in this body? It
10 just doesn't happen hardly at all and I don't
11 think we should allow it to go down now.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Before
13 Council Member Levin, I need to be excused so I'm
14 going to allow myself permission to vote on all
15 items on today's agenda, so moved. I vote aye.
16 Thank you. Got to go.

17 [Off mic]

18 [Crosstalk]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council
20 Member Levin is next to speak, Council Member
21 Dickens will preside. Thank you.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Inez,
23 you're on deck.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you
25 very much, Mr. Majority Leader. I want to

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2 encourage my colleagues to vote yes on Land Use
3 number 740. While I sympathize with the point
4 that Council Member Barron raised about sole
5 sourcing not being prevalent in communities of
6 color, I would encourage you not to use that--or
7 hold that against this project in particular.

8 This project has come before the
9 Council before in which this Council voted
10 unanimously to approve. The United Jewish
11 Organizations of Williamsburg is proposing to
12 construct a seven-unit building of affordable
13 rental housing for individuals and families
14 earning less than 40, 60, and 80% of area median
15 income. The project will be located on a 2,970
16 square foot vacant lot at 640 Broadway situated
17 between Jerry Street [phonetic] and Bartlett
18 Street [phonetic] in the Williamsburg section of
19 Brooklyn. Again, the Council voted to approve
20 this project in 2009, we are returning to vote on
21 an amendment today that would decrease the number
22 of units from nine units to seven units because it
23 is being changed from a rehab to a new
24 construction.

25 And I want to point out that the

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2 United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg is a
3 50-year organization that has an exemplary track
4 record of providing social services and affordable
5 housing. The entire community of Williamsburg,
6 their affordable housing developments at 907
7 Driggs Avenue, it's a 20-unit affordable housing
8 development which is entirely integrated between
9 Hasidic Jewish, Latino, and African American
10 families; 293 and 301 Hooper Street is a 68-unit
11 affordable housing development which is entirely
12 African American, Latino, and Asian; and Schaefer
13 Landing, which is a 140-unit affordable housing
14 development is integrated between Hasidic Jewish,
15 Latino, and African American, and Asian families.
16 They have provided, again, exemplary service and
17 will do so in this case.

18 I encourage my colleagues to vote
19 yes on Land Use item number 740. Thank you.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Council
21 Member Koo.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Madam Majority
23 Leader, I'd like to have permission to vote on all
24 Land Use and General Order calendars.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: So moved.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote yes on
all.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Report of
Special Committees.

COUNCIL CLERK: None.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: None.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Reports of
Standing Committees.

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the
Committee on Finance, Intro 926-A, extending the
biotechnology credit.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Amended and
coupled on General Order calendar.

COUNCIL CLERK: Intro 958-A,
brochure to explain the New York City property tax
system.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Amended and
Coupled on the General Order calendar.

COUNCIL CLERK: Preconsidered Intro
979, extension of the due date for payment of the
installment of real property tax.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Coupled on
the General Order calendar.

COUNCIL CLERK: Preconsidered M 981

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2 and Reso 1607, Communication from the Office of
3 Management and Budget, MN-1.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Coupled on
5 the General Order calendar.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Resolution 1587-A,
7 increase the annual expenditures.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Amended and
9 Coupled on the General Order calendar.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Preconsidered Reso
11 1603, certain organizations to receive funding in
12 the expense budget.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Coupled on
14 the General Order calendar.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 731 and Reso
16 1608, 539 and 541 East 147th Street, Manhattan--
17 Bronx.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Coupled on
19 the General Order calendar.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the
21 Committee on Housing and Buildings Intro 575-A,
22 space to store and designate recyclable materials.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Amended and
24 Coupled on the General Order calendar.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the

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2 Committee on Land Use, LU 720 and Reso 1609,
3 Brinckerhoff Cemetery, Council District 24.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Coupled on
5 the General Order calendar.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 726 and Reso
7 1610, zoning resolution, Brooklyn.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Coupled on
9 the General Order calendar.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 733 and Reso
11 1611 through LU 735 and Reso 1613, unenclosed
12 sidewalk cafés.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Coupled on
14 the General Order calendar. Can we get silence in
15 the chambers?

16 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet down,
17 quiet down, please. Keep it down.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 736 and Reso
19 1614 and LU 737 and Reso 1615, McGuinness Realty
20 Corp.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Coupled on
22 General Order calendar.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 738 and Reso
24 1616, designation Landmarks Preservation
25 Commission.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Coupled on
3 the General Order calendar.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 739 and Reso
5 1617, 237 Wadsworth Avenue, Manhattan.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Coupled on
7 the General Order calendar.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 740 and Reso
9 1618, approved UDAAP, Brooklyn.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Coupled on
11 the General Order calendar.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: General
13 Order Calendar.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Resolution
15 appointing various persons Commissioner of Deeds.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: At this
17 time, I ask for the roll call on all items on the
18 Coupled General Order calendar.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Arroyo.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Barron.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote no
23 on LU 740 and the accompanying Reso 1618, and aye
24 on all the rest.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Brewer.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I will vote
3 aye. I just want to add something to the kind
4 words from the gentleman from Staten Island, the
5 gentlemen from Staten Island and Councilwoman,
6 which is that, in addition to all the good things
7 they said, I want to say how great your staffs
8 were because we in Manhattan above 39th Street did
9 send a lot of materials to Staten Island, as well
10 as other locations. I cannot tell you how great
11 your staff was because we had to know we want to
12 go to this corner or that corner or this location
13 and people around the borough asked us where to
14 go, and we were able to tell them because of the
15 great information that your staffs provided. So I
16 just want to add that to your work. Thank you
17 very much.

18 I vote aye.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Chin.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Crowley.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote aye
23 and I'd like to recognize that we've been joined
24 by my new chief of staff, Roman Paprocki, it's his
25 first day here at City Hall.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Dickens.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Dilan.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye on all.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Dromm.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene.

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COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Ferreras.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Fidler.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Garodnick.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Gennaro.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Madam

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Leader, I would like the opportunity to speak on

19

my vote? Madam Leader--

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[Crosstalk]

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COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS:

22

[Interposing] So ordered.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you,

24

Madam Leader. I vote yes on all items.

25

I would like to recognize and thank

1
2 Council Member Garodnick for his leadership on the
3 recycling bill and I'd like to thank Chair Dilan
4 for moving that forward. And also would like to
5 urge everyone to vote for the designation--for the
6 landmark designation of the Brinckerhoff Cemetery,
7 which we're--we'll be doing today.

8 It's one of the oldest colonial era
9 cemeteries in Queens that was used from the 1730s
10 until the 1930s. This was a property that was
11 calendared for ten years before it was finally
12 designated and we're grateful that we've come to
13 this good day. I just want to thank the Speaker
14 and her staff for helping us to move this forward;
15 Council Member Lander, who was a voice of reason
16 in this process; Council Member Comrie, as chair
17 of the Land Use Committee; and Council Members
18 Halloran, Weprin, Vallone, and Crowley, who were
19 very strongly for this. I'd like to thank
20 Councilman Halloran in a special way for some
21 legal work that he did that was very helpful in
22 the last hearing. And also in the chambers, we
23 have one of the main advocates for this, the
24 leaders of the local civic association, Mr. and
25 Mrs. James Gallagher from the Fresh Meadows

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Homeowners Association, they worked on this for ten years.

I worked on this from before I was even a councilman and I'm glad that we're getting this done. And I vote everyone to vote aye on the designation of the Brinckerhoff Cemetery. Thank you, Madam Leader.

COUNCIL CLERK: Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Gonzalez.

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Greenfield.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Halloran.

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ignizio.

[Off mic]

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Thank you very much, if I could just briefly explain my vote. I wanted to reference the bill that Jim had the lead sponsor on, which was the information on

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2 property taxes. I just believe and Jim believes
3 if we empower people with information, that gives
4 them the opportunity whether they want to petition
5 or challenge their government in any ways
6 possible, and I think that's a good thing.

7 I'm voting no on Land Use 720 and
8 Reso 1609, and aye on all others. Thank you.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Jackson.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on
11 all.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: James.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: May I be
14 excused to explain my vote?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: So
16 ordered.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: First, to
18 the Staten Island delegation, congratulations, and
19 thank you for providing leadership to the city of
20 New York. The thoughts and prayers of all New
21 Yorkers are with you during this time. It was an
22 honor and a privilege to volunteer with the City
23 Council on several weekends to assist your
24 constituents.

25 And with regards to tax

1
2 liabilities, I believe that tax liabilities of all
3 of those whose homes have been destroyed, the
4 value of their homes should be reduced to land
5 value only as we have done in the past. It's the
6 least that we can do in addition to delaying the
7 taxes that they owe on their property, and I would
8 urge that the State of New York obviously consider
9 this as we have done in the past for other
10 disasters.

11 I vote aye on all.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Koslowitz.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye on
14 all.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Lander.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye on all.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Lappin.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Levin.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye on all.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

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

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all
and I abstain on LU 740. Aye on all and I abstain
on LU 740.

COUNCIL CLERK: Nelson.

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Palma.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Recchia.

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye on
all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Reyna.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Permission
to explain my vote?

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: So
ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Thank you.

I just wanted to share with my colleagues on Land
Use 740, accompanying Resolution 1618, this
particular property, separate and aside from
having been disposed of by HPD in a sole source
manner under which we have in this same community
board been calling for the development of other
publicly owned sites by the City of New York to be

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2 developed for affordable housing since the 2005
3 rezoning, has stalled, and as a matter of fact,
4 have not been moved in any direction to be able to
5 be developed and have only been entertained as an
6 RFP. In addition to that, this is part of a
7 greater bounded area that was considered to be
8 adjacent and within the boundaries of the Broadway
9 Triangle, as had been designated 40 years ago.
10 And over the course of 40 years, there have been
11 multiple discrimination counts that have led to
12 what has been a very segregated community, and I
13 will not stand idly by allowing for another Land
14 Use action to promote what would be the
15 perpetuation of additional discrimination.

16 The seven-unit building that is
17 being considered for this property is going to be
18 considered where the amount of units will be
19 dedicated to what would be over 50% of the units
20 for three and four bedroom apartments, despite the
21 fact that the demand for that is less than 5% in
22 the whole community board. And so this is part of
23 what is an injunction that's permanent to stop the
24 properties from being developed, as has been told
25 by the Supreme Court by the judge who ruled in

1

2 January of this year, and I wanted to make
3 everyone aware that this is part of a larger scope
4 of a bounded area called Broadway Triangle.

5 I vote no on Land Use item 740 and
6 accompanying Resolution 1618, and aye on all the
7 rest.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Can we get
9 some silence in the chambers, please?

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

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Rodriguez.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye, and
14 I would like to ask permission to vote aye on all
15 the--

16 [Off mic]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: So
18 ordered.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Rose.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: [No
22 response].

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Vallone.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on

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all.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Van Bramer.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye on

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all.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Vann.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: May I explain

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my vote?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: So

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ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Yeah, this

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issue on Land Use 740 came before the Subcommittee

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of which I am a member and I voted no on this

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item. I voted no because there was a lack of

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clarity and some ambiguity as to whether or not

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there was discrimination being practiced. And,

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obviously, if there was discrimination, I would

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definitely vote no, as I did. There's a

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overriding principle for me in this chamber that I

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try to be consistent with, and that is to support

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whatever a member wants in his or her district.

23

Again, other than an issue that affect me or the

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constituency citywide, factors of discrimination

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or other forms of injustice, it's unclear whether

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2 that is the case in this particular issue, so even
3 though I voted no in committee for what I knew
4 then, I vote aye on all issues including 740,
5 primarily on the principle of supporting what a
6 member wants in his or her district. Thank you.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Weprin.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Williams.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Excuse to
11 explain my vote?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: So
13 ordered.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank
15 you. Seven forty is very disturbing to me from
16 the things that I heard. I'm going to go ahead
17 and vote aye on all, including 740, for the
18 primary reason this is, from my understanding, an
19 amendment of something that has already gone
20 through the process and I think the sole source is
21 a huge issue that needs to be addressed and I hope
22 of some of us bring it up in a letter, in
23 hearings, that we will get the support that is
24 needed from our colleagues. And I respect what
25 Diana Reyna brought up and I definitely respect

1
2 what Council Member brought up--Council Member
3 Barron, but I also respect Steve Levin, whose
4 district it is in. And I'm very concerned that
5 there may be a problem there, but for the simple
6 fact that this was a project that came through the
7 City Council, this is simply an amendment based on
8 some zoning changes, I'm going to go ahead and
9 vote aye on all.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Wills.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye on all.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Oddo.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: I would like
14 to vote yes on all, and just say one thing real
15 quickly, and that is--well two things. One, I
16 just want to thank Gale Brewer for her kind
17 comments. I want to thank my counsel, Chris
18 DeCicco, for all of his work and my staff. I want
19 to thank Council Member Ignizio's chief of staff
20 and Assemblyman-Elect Joe Borelli, for all his
21 work, and my own chief of staff, Steve Matteo, who
22 has worked for the last six weeks on the front
23 lines. I'm real proud of them.

24 And I just want to let everyone
25 know that the pamphlet will be available on the

1
2 Department of Finance website starting January
3 15th, please get them, get them into the hands of
4 your constituents. Thank you.

5 Vote yes on all.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye
8 on all.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: All items
10 on today's General Order calendar were adopted by
11 a vote of 46 in the affirmative, zero negative,
12 and zero abstentions, with the exception of Land
13 Use item 740 and the accompanying Reso 1618, which
14 was adopted by a vote of 43 in the affirmative, 2
15 in the negative, and 1 abstention; and Land Use
16 item 720 and accompanying Reso 1609, which was
17 adopted by a vote of 45 in the affirmative, 1 in
18 the negative, zero abstentions.

19 Introduction and Reading of Bills.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All bills
21 are referred to committees as indicated on the
22 agenda.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Discussion
24 of Resolutions. Seeing none, Preconsidered
25 Resolution 1601, resolution calling upon the

1
2 United States Congress and the President of the
3 United States to reach an agreement on debt
4 reduction before the end of the year that would
5 avert short-term economic damage. It was adopted
6 by the Committee on Finance. All those in favor,
7 say aye by a voice vote.

8 MULTIPLE VOICES: Aye.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Any
10 against? Any abstentions? The resolution is
11 hereby adopted.

12 General Discussion.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Council
14 Member Melissa Mark-Viverito.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
16 Thank you. Recently, the City celebrated 24 hour-
17 -

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS:
19 [Interposing] Excuse me, excuse me, Council
20 Member.

21 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down,
22 quiet--

23 [Crosstalk]

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: We
25 can start the clock again.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Just a
3 minute. Please. Thank you. Go ahead, Council
4 Member.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
6 Recently, the City celebrated 24 hours without a
7 single murder, stabbing, or shooting. Such an
8 occurrence is rare on the island of Puerto Rico,
9 which is half the size of New York City, but last
10 year suffered over 1,000 murders. Puerto Ricans
11 on the island, in New York City, and beyond are
12 simply fed up. Fueled by the drug trade, police
13 corruption, and high unemployment, this enormous
14 wave of crime has taken far too many lives.

15 One of the latest victims which has
16 inspired a mass movement is Jose Enrique Gomez, who
17 was forced to withdraw \$400 from an ATM machine
18 before he was beaten, doused with gasoline, and
19 set on fire. Since then, tens of thousands of
20 Puerto Ricans organized online under the banner,
21 Todos somos Jose Enrique, or We are all Jose
22 Enrique, and held demonstrations on the island and
23 here in New York.

24 Embroiled within this mass movement
25 is a huge pushback against a show on Puerto Rican

1
2 network, WAPA-TV, which is also shown here in New
3 York. This program, La Comay, has long been
4 criticized for its use of vile homophobic slurs.
5 In April 2010, the Council's LGBT Caucus,
6 Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez, and I wrote to the
7 FCC to call for an investigation into this
8 offensive language which has prompted an apology
9 from the show.

10 This show crossed another line when
11 it attacked Jose Enrique Gomez and suggested that
12 he was killed because he was on a street known for
13 prostitution. This latest controversy which has
14 happened in the past week has ignited a historic
15 boycott that has pressured sponsors, including
16 Wal-Mart, to pull advertising from the show. The
17 network is feeling the pressure. We've heard
18 enough apologies, nothing short of taking this
19 show completely off the air would be acceptable.

20 We are more united than ever in
21 fighting to stop the violence in Puerto Rico and
22 stop the hatred that is regularly spewed on this
23 offensive show. It is my sincere hope that with
24 all of this pressure and with a new change in
25 leadership coming in the new year, we see positive

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changes on the island moving forward. ¡Basta ya con la violencia! ¡Todos Somos José Enrique.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Council Member Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you, Madam Chair. I missed my window apparently to talk on Preconsidered Reso 1601, so can I have the dispensation to say a few words now?

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: So moved.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you very much. We just voted--thank you to my colleagues--on a resolution regarding the so-called fiscal cliff. As President Obama and Congress continue negotiations to avert the cliff, we need an agreement on deficit reduction that promotes economic fairness and long-term broadly-shared prosperity. The staff of the Finance Committee--and I really want to thank them, Tanisha Edwards, Ray Majewski, Paul Sturm, Alexander Gevorkian [phonetic], Jonathan Auerbach, and, of course, Preston Niblack--did research on just what the falling off the fiscal cliff would mean for New York City, and it's really very dire. Besides pushing the broad economy potentially back

1
2 into recession, they project that New York City
3 would lose 170,000 jobs, that gross city product
4 would fall by 2%, the City's budget would directly
5 see a nearly \$300 million in lost federal funds,
6 we might lose as many as 8,000 Section 8
7 certificates, homelessness would go up, cuts to
8 child care and to public hospitals, and on and on.
9 It would also have a real dire impact on working
10 families in the tax area. So a single mother with
11 two children and an income of \$24,000 would see a
12 tax increase of \$1,670, and the list goes on and
13 on and on.

14 There is a better solution, as I
15 think people know. President Obama has proposed,
16 and I believe that any deal passed should repeal
17 the Bush era tax cuts for the wealthiest 2% of
18 households, make sure to attend to job creation,
19 to broadly-shared economic recovery, and to
20 economic fairness, as well as achieving long-term
21 deficit reduction.

22 I want to thank the Speaker,
23 Finance Chair Recchia, and Council Member Foster.
24 This Council has shown real bipartisan leadership
25 in making sure we achieve budgets that achieve

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that kind of long-term balance.

And while I was very moved by what the Minority Leader said and almost feel bad putting a resolution on the floor that references federal policy debates, this is obviously an important issue in the country. I really appreciate the way we've been able to do things in this body. And I'm glad and really appreciate everyone's vote for a resolution urging Congress to do the same. Thank you very much.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you, Council Member. Council Member Brewer.

MALE VOICE: Williams, Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Oh, Williams? That's all right.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very much. I just want to thank those who came to the Governmental Operations to oversight of the Board of Elections, we were there for about seven hours. The good news is we had the good government groups and the state come before the Board of Elections and the Board of Elections said it was the best hearing they'd ever been to.

And so what we're doing now is

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2 we're putting on a spreadsheet which we will share
3 with everyone and the board and the state
4 officials and the good government groups, all the
5 recommendations, whether they're state or city,
6 and how quickly they can be done.

7

8 So I just want to thank everybody
9 for your input and let you know that we will make
10 a difference. Thank you very much.

11

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Council
13 Member Williams.

14

15 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I
16 couldn't leave without saying a couple of words
17 about Jon Kest, who recently passed away. I was
18 trying to remember the first time I met him, I
19 believe it was when I was executive director at
20 Tenants and Neighbors, and then ACORN was working
21 with us, they took the lead in saving Stiver
22 [phonetic] City. From the first time I met him
23 and Bertha Lewis, I realized how great these folks
24 are at community organizing and someone that I can
25 model myself after. And was a fan of ACORN, I'm a
fan of NYCC.

26

27 And the Kest family, as mentioned,
28 has gone through an amazing amount of tragedy, I

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2 can't even understand how they were able to
3 continue to move forward.

4

5 But Kest has done a lot for this
6 city and actually nationally, and so I think a
7 very large person in the community organizing
8 world was lost today and I wanted to make sure I
9 said a few good words for the great work that Jon
10 Kest and the entire Kest family has done and has
11 meant to New York City and community organizing as
12 a whole.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Council
Member Vann.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Yeah, thank
you, Majority Leader. I call ask my colleagues if
they would sign up to three very, very important
resolutions, 1604, 1605, 1606. Sixteen oh-four
and oh-six amend support legislation--state
legislation that amends the Social Security law.
Two specific instances, it would support the
Assembly bill--two Assembly bills and the senate
bill that would amend the social service law in
relation to considering the opinion of a public
assistance applicant's health care practitioner
when determining if an applicant has work

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limitations. That's being abused and this legislation would correct that.

The second one deals with an Assembly bill 9700 and it also amends the social service law that states that no applicant or recipient who is a parent or a caretaker of an eligible child shall be subject to ineligibility provisions due to lack of child care. It seems that workers are now not providing services to those who seek welfare assistance because they don't have child care, and that seems absurd, so this would correct that.

And the third, 1605, is a resolution calls on the Congress to pass and the President to sign the so-called cram-down legislation that would enable bankruptcy courts to reduce underwater mortgages to fair market values, thereby, greatly reducing the number of foreclosures nationally and stimulating the economy as well. According to leading national economists, this type of legislation could add up to \$71 billion to the economy and over a million jobs.

One other point on that, this

1
2 legislation would improve the loan modification
3 outcomes for homeowners by providing an important
4 bargaining chip for homeowners negotiating with
5 banks for a sustainable mortgage modification.

6 One last point, the national
7 mortgage settlement we all have heard about which
8 was led by New York State Attorney General Eric
9 Schneiderman and he helped to negotiate the same.
10 We found out on a hearing in--that I had in
11 October that there are many borrowers from
12 companies that indicated in the settlement who
13 lost their homes to foreclosure between 2008 and
14 2011, they are eligible for cash payments of at
15 least \$840 minimal. I've circulated a letter to
16 your offices, please get that information out.

17 Thank you, Majority Leader.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Council
19 Member Chin.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I would like
21 to ask my colleagues to sign on to Intro 976 and
22 Reso 1597. New York City is a racially diverse
23 city that frequently celebrate its diversity as
24 one of its greatest strength. Two point four
25 percent of individual in the U.S. Census self-

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2 reported as mixed race in 2000. This number has
3 grown by 32% as of the 2010 census. Our
4 President, Barack Obama, is of multiracial
5 heritage, yet a number of government forms in the
6 city, state, and federal level, including forms
7 used by DCAS and NYPD, still only permits
8 individual to identify themselves as only one
9 race. For example, the FBI fingerprinting card
10 used throughout the country gives 7 options for
11 eye colors, 14 options for hair colors, including
12 purple and green, but only 5 for race: Asian,
13 Black, American Indian, White, or Unknown, and you
14 can pick only one of them. And the New York City
15 DOE employment form gives only five option, again,
16 check one, American Indian, Asian, Black,
17 Hispanic, or White. So the Local Law that I've
18 introduced in the resolution would seek to amend
19 government forms to make it possible for
20 multiracial individual to identify themselves
21 accurately and truthfully as what they are--more
22 than one race. Thank you.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you,
24 Council Member. Council Member Levin.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you,

1
2 Madam Assistant Majority Leader. I just wanted to
3 speak for a second about Jon Kest. I had the
4 pleasure earlier this year with Council Member
5 Vincent Ignizio sponsoring two bills regarding
6 PCBs in our schools and Jon was a leading force
7 behind those bills and was brilliant in his
8 ability to organize around the issue and to hone
9 in on the important pieces of it. And it's
10 legislation that is yielding great success, as the
11 Administration has just come out with additional
12 \$100 million towards remediation of the PCBs in
13 our schools. And one thing that just struck me
14 about Jon in that instance was his ability to
15 cross over partisan lines, working with Council
16 Member Ignizio, a Republican, myself, a Democrat,
17 New York Communities for Change, a decidedly
18 liberal organization, but crossing those lines in
19 order to further the benefit of our children. And
20 I think that we will all be missing his presence.

21 Thank you.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Seeing no
23 others for General Discussion, the Stated Meeting
24 of December the 10th, 2012, is hereby adjourned.

25 [Gavel]

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

Signature *Tammy Wittman*

Date December 25, 2012