

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED COUNCIL MEETING

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December 18, 2012

Start: 2:52 p.m.

Recess: 4:50 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
JOEL RIVERA
President Pro Tempore

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Christine C. Quinn
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
Helen D. Foster
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 III
Vincent M. Ignizio
Robert Jackson
Letitia James
Andy King
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
James Sanders, Jr.
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)

Michael O'Hare

Assembly Member Helene Weinstein

Richie Taylor

Sheena Wright

CEO

United Way of New York City

Milan Taylor

Rockaway Youth Task Force

Dr. Robert A. Smith

Church of the Savior

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: ...Greenfield. It is
3 to thank NYPD Transit Sergeant Michael O'Hare and
4 the Flatbush Shomrim in helping to find a missing
5 17-year-old teenager in the Midwood section of
6 Brooklyn. So, if Sergeant O'Hare and the folks
7 from the Shomrim are here, could make their way up
8 that would be great.

9 [Pause]

10 SPEAKER QUINN: I want to thank and
11 recognize Assembly Member Helen Weinstein, who is
12 with us for today's ceremonial as well. You are
13 probably the Sergeant. There you go. We'll turn
14 the mike over.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank
16 you very much. It's a terrific day here today,
17 and we're really, really excited. Ms.
18 Stolzenberg, did you want to join us or do you
19 want to stay there? It's your choice. Thank you
20 very much.

21 We're here today to honor several
22 individuals who stepped up in a time of need, and
23 didn't hesitate to help out a family during a very
24 distressing time. When 17-year-old Tzvi
25 Stolzenberg went missing from his Kensington home

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2 on the evening after Yom Kippur, on Wednesday,
3 September 26th, the community really came together
4 in a huge way. There were lot of incredible
5 folks, especially led by the Flatbush Shomrim
6 Safety Patrol, who organized and who quickly got
7 together and distributed flyers and went knocking
8 on doors and distributed it through train stations
9 across the city.

10 As a result of those efforts and
11 the efforts that myself and Assembly Member Helene
12 Weinstein did, by organizing a press conference to
13 get the message out, and offering a reward, we
14 were able to get significant press coverage. As a
15 result, a hero, a true hero, NYPD Sergeant Michael
16 O'Hare, who is a 19-year vet of the NYPD, who is
17 Brooklyn born and raised and has lived there his
18 entire life--

19 SPEAKER QUINN: [interposing] Yay.

20 [Applause]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Come
22 on; let's get a shout out for Brooklyn.

23 SPEAKER QUINN: Yay.

24 [Applause]

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD:

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2 Sergeant O'Hare, several days after the child went
3 missing, he actually saw a news report and he
4 actually saw one of the flyers that the Flatbush
5 Shomrim had distributed, with a picture of the
6 teenager.

7 You just have to think about this,
8 right. I mean, if you work in the Transit Bureau
9 and you see literally tens of thousands of people
10 passing you every single day, to actually pay
11 attention and to notice that there is a young man
12 who is missing and to walk over to the young man.
13 The young man, of course, resisted and said no,
14 it's not me. He persisted, and he brought him
15 back to the station and he reunited this young man
16 with his family. It's really an incredible,
17 incredible achievement.

18 So I would like to thank the
19 Flatbush Shomrim. I want to thank their executive
20 director, Bob Moskowitz; the founder, Chaim
21 Deutsch; all of the incredible folks who are here
22 today and who have joined us, including Irving
23 Klein, who just had to leave, unfortunately,
24 Steve, Nathan Rosenberg.

25 I will also say that we're very,

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2 very fortunate that the NYPD, right off the bat,
3 sent off another liaison, Sergeant Richie Taylor.
4 Sergeant, where are you? Hiding somewhere in the
5 back, Sergeant, come on up please. Thank you.
6 Sergeant actually, literally, did not sleep. I
7 know this because we were out there in the command
8 center that the Flatbush Shomrim had set up. They
9 had set it up, literally, all night long, and we
10 were out there together until 3:00 in the morning.
11 I went home and slept, but I saw him the next day
12 wearing the same suit, and so I know that he did
13 actually not sleep. Of course, I want to thank
14 all of my colleagues who are here today who are
15 coming out to support us and support us with this.
16 Of course, the two senior members of the
17 delegation: Council Member Sara Gonzalez and
18 Council Member Vincent Gentile, Council Member
19 Mathieu Eugene, Council Member Tish James, my good
20 friend Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez, hiding in
21 the background, Council Member Steve Levin of
22 Williamsburg, and of course our very dear friend
23 and very strong supporter of the Flatbush Shomrim,
24 Council Member Jumaane Williams.

25 I do want to just give an extra

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2 shout out to Assembly Member Helene Weinstein. It
3 was right after the Jewish holidays. A lot of
4 folks were not available. She stepped up, she
5 came through, she offered the reward. She really
6 stood there with us, and she was really fantastic.
7 I'd like to ask her if she'd like to say a few
8 words.

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER HELENE WEINSTEIN:

10 Thank you so much, David. You know, you hear
11 these stories so often and too many times there's
12 not a good ending. This was one time when there
13 was a really very good ending, and I was just very
14 happy and proud to stand with you, with Shomrim,
15 with Ms. Stolzenberg and the family. The safe
16 reward to me it what's really important. I really
17 want to congratulate Sergeant--I don't know, did I
18 promote you--it's sergeant? Okay, Sergeant
19 O'Hare. Sergeant O'Hare for his attention to this
20 matter and for bringing a happy end to a number of
21 very fretful days.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank
23 you. We now would ask the clerk to read the
24 proclamation. Thank you, Madame Speaker.

25 CLERK: Council, City of New York

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2 Proclamation. The Council of the City of New York
3 is proud to honor NYPD Transit Sergeant Michael
4 O'Hare and the Flatbush Shomrim volunteers for
5 their help in finding a missing teen in Brooklyn.

6 And whereas, each year thousands of
7 children go missing in New York City. According
8 to the New York State Division of Criminal Justice
9 Services, 6,544 children were reported missing in
10 the five boroughs in 2010 alone. However, 98
11 percent of those children were runaways, and about
12 120 cases involved children abducted by family
13 members. Only 11 kids were reported missing for
14 unknown reasons. These statistics make mysterious
15 disappearances not only rare but truly
16 frightening.

17 And whereas, late in the evening on
18 September 26, 2012, after Yom Kippur, the holiest
19 day of the year on the Jewish calendar, a 17-year-
20 old teenage boy suddenly vanished from Kensington
21 Brooklyn. The teen, who suffers from a serious
22 medical condition, was only wearing a t-shirt and
23 shoes and was not prepared for the cold weather
24 that night. He left behind not only his
25 medication and yarmulke but also his very worried

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2 family and friends. As soon as it was noticed he
3 was missing, everyone knew there was not a moment
4 to lose in finding him.

5 And whereas, in response, the
6 community immediately launched a massive search
7 effort that included dozens of local residents,
8 community leaders and organizations. The search
9 was led by Chaim Deutsch, founder of the Flatbush
10 Shomrim Safety Patrol; Shomrim coordinator Akiva
11 Klein; and the New York Police Department Sergeant
12 Richie Taylor.

13 And whereas, shortly after the teen
14 went missing, the community came together to issue
15 a public appeal for help finding the lost child.
16 The situation received news coverage across New
17 York City that touched many hearts, with the story
18 of a teenager in distress. As Councilman David
19 Greenfield, Assemblywoman Helene Weinstein,
20 community organizations including Flatbush Shomrim
21 and the NYPD searched tirelessly for the missing
22 teen, Sergeant Michael O'Hare was among those who
23 saw the news report and was actively looking for
24 him.

25 More than four days after the

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2 teen's disappearance, the exhaustive search
3 involving hundreds of community members came to a
4 happy conclusion when Sergeant O'Hare, as a result
5 of diligent and outstanding police work,
6 recognized the missing teen while checking subway
7 cars and quickly worked to reunite him with his
8 concerned family.

9 Now, therefore, be it known that
10 the Council of the City of New York gratefully
11 honors NYPD Transit Sergeant Michael O'Hare and
12 the Flatbush Shomrim volunteers for their
13 outstanding service and contributions to our
14 community. Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the
15 entire Council. David G. Greenfield, Council
16 Member 44th District Brooklyn.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank
18 you very much. I just want to add two final
19 points. That is that the mother of the teenage
20 son, Ms. Stolzenberg, who is an incredible
21 community leader, someone who works really hard
22 day in and day out to provide services to people
23 in the community, she's with us here today. She's
24 someone who really showed an incredible amount of
25 resilience and leadership, and we want to thank

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2 her for really working to bring us all together to
3 resolve this situation. She's just a great
4 community leader, and we thank her for that as
5 well. I will say that I think it's been brought
6 to my attention that Sergeant O'Hare, the Transit
7 Bureau, was Officer of the Year, I believe.

8 What's that? Supervisor of the
9 Year in 2011. So he has a history of leadership.
10 It really does make a difference when you go above
11 and beyond. This could have ended in so many
12 other ways. It's rare that we can come together
13 and celebrate, and we thank the sergeant for that.
14 So, thank you, Sergeant. If you'd like, we'd ask
15 you to say a few words.

16 [Applause]

17 SGT. MICHAEL O'HARE: Good
18 afternoon everybody. I just want to say thank you
19 to everybody that's here. It's a nice gesture,
20 it's a nice reward and everything worked out good,
21 so that's what the main thing is. Everybody else
22 put in a lot more ours than I did. The Shomrim,
23 they had multiple people out. You know, I was
24 just doing my regular and things turned out well,
25 so everything worked out.

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[Applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you. Thank you very much, Sergeant. Thank you and happy holidays and thank you all. It's just a really beautiful story for the holiday season. Enjoy the holiday with your 5-year-old son. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much. Happy holidays. Thank you very much. Thank you, Sergeant. Thank you guys very much. Thank you.

The next ceremonial is going to be one led--that was hard to say--one led by Council Member Inez Dickens, recognizing Sheena Wright, the CEO of United Way of New York and the former CEO of Abyssinian Development Corporation. So let me hand the mike on over.

[Pause]

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you so much. You know, Sheena, we're recognizing you Sheena because of the work that you've done for affordable housing, not just in the village of Harlem but throughout the City of New York, although you have deserted us.

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2 SHEENA WRIGHT: Oh, no, absolutely
3 not.

4 [Laughter]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: And have
6 now become the CEO of United Way of New York. It
7 is historic on that recent appointment, because
8 you will be the first woman of color to serve as
9 president of that organization.

10 [Applause]

11 SPEAKER QUINN: If we could get a
12 little quiet. I know folks are exiting and
13 entering.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: I have
15 worked very closely, as many of my colleagues
16 have, with you during your tenure at Abyssinian
17 Development Corp. You have worked tirelessly to
18 see to it that the units of affordable housing
19 were preserved and built. You've provided
20 educational programs that were accessible to
21 students and families, not only in my community,
22 but in communities anywhere in the City of New
23 York because you turned no one away. You have
24 stood at the helm of one of the most important
25 affordable housing development corporations not-

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for-profits in our entire city.

We stand here, my colleagues and I, to say thank you, with the Speaker, to say thank you for what leadership you have taken to show all developers that they can build affordable housing, quality housing that is welcomed in the City of New York and allows all of us to remain in our communities. Your vision and your skill set provided benefit to an entire audience, ultimately making New York City a better place to live and to raise a family. I'm asking for everyone to please celebrate this phenomenal woman of color.

[Applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Would the clerk please read the proc?

CLERK: Council City of New York Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of New York is proud to honor Sheena Wright for her lengthy legacy of contributions to the community and to congratulate her upon becoming the first woman president and CEO of the United Way of New York City in its 75-year history.

SPEAKER QUINN: Yay.

[Applause]

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2 CLERK: And whereas, Ms. Wright's
3 newest role is just the latest in a long list of
4 impressive achievements, for she has had a steady
5 trajectory since she was a child of the South
6 Bronx. At the age of 16, she was a student at
7 Columbia University and before long earned her law
8 degree from Columbia Law School.

9 And whereas, for the last ten
10 years, Ms. Wright has served as president and CEO
11 of the Abyssinian Development Corporation,
12 overseeing its successful efforts to provide vital
13 human services for people in the village of
14 Harlem. During her tenure there, ADC built 785
15 units of residential housing in 78 buildings, and
16 nearly a half millions square feet of community,
17 commercial and retail space, including the first
18 new high school building in Harlem in 50 years,
19 creating more than 1,000 jobs in the process.

20 And whereas, under Ms. Wright's
21 dynamic leadership, ADC created the Abyssinian
22 Schools Division, which comprehensively manages
23 five educational institutions that annually 2,100
24 school children and their families. She also
25 developed an award-winning workforce development

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2 program which has helped 200 young high school
3 dropouts obtain their GED or high school diploma
4 and secure gainful employment. She also developed
5 a neighborhood-based naturally occurring
6 retirement community that continues to service
7 more than 1,000 seniors annually and increase the
8 service delivery of ADC's homeless shelter.

9 And whereas, Ms. Wright currently
10 serves on the board of trustees of the Vera
11 Institute for Justice and the New York City
12 Regional Economic Develop Council. On December 1,
13 2012, Governor Andrew Cuomo appointed her to the
14 New York State Respond Commission. A select group
15 of experienced women and men, chosen to help
16 examine ways of and make recommendations for
17 improving our state's planning, training and
18 resources for the next major weather event, and
19 the appropriate deployment of people and resources
20 during and after such an emergency occurs.

21 Now therefore, be it known that the
22 Council of the City of New York honors and
23 congratulates Sheena Wright, upon becoming the
24 first woman president and CEO of the United Way of
25 New York City. Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for

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2 the entire Council. Inez E. Dickens, Council
3 Member 9th District Manhattan. Robert Jackson,
4 Council Member 7th District Manhattan.

5 [Applause]

6 SPEAKER QUINN: I just want to,
7 Sheena before we hand the mike to you, say first
8 of all, what a pleasure it has been to work with
9 you in your capacity at Abyssinian, and very
10 excited to work with you in your new role at the
11 United Way. Inez got it right; you are a
12 phenomenal leader. You are somebody who has
13 already accomplished so much for the City of New
14 York on education, on housing, on workforce
15 development. Three areas where if anybody can do
16 anything in half of one of those areas, they've
17 done a lot, but you've done so much in so many
18 areas in such an inclusive and culturally
19 competent way. It really has raised the bar for
20 not-for-profit and advocacy groups in our city.
21 So United Way, being one of the big organizations
22 out there in our city, it gives me such great hope
23 that we're going to be able to engage them in a
24 new and different way with you at the helm, with
25 somebody who really understands neighborhoods and

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2 New Yorkers. So the sky is limit now of what we
3 can get done citywide. Congratulations, and let
4 me give you the mike.

5 SHEENA WRIGHT: Wow. I am
6 incredibly, incredibly humbled by this. I feel
7 that I certainly haven't earned it yet, but I'm
8 going to work hard to do it. What an amazing
9 opportunity and experience it was for me to work
10 in Harlem in a wonderful historic community in
11 service to that community. None of it could have
12 been possible without the support of the Council,
13 and certainly Inez Dickens and her leadership and
14 the resources that she brought to the community to
15 make our dreams real.

16 I so appreciate you all, each and
17 every one of you who work so hard to bring the
18 necessary resources and the big thinking and to do
19 the courageous things so that this city can
20 thrive.

21 I started my new job on the day the
22 storm hit. October 29th, that's a day that I will
23 never forget. As I stepped into the position,
24 appreciating that the poverty rate in New York
25 City is growing every year by leaps and bounds,

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2 and the ability to address the really urgent
3 issues in low-income communities, in Harlem and
4 communities like Harlem will be the work ahead of
5 us. The hurricane has pushed a lot more people
6 over that line into poverty. As we think about
7 rebuilding New York City in the wake of this
8 devastating storm, we have to think about building
9 it stronger and better than it was before, and
10 addressing some of those urgent issues that were
11 there before the storm hit.

12 So I'm just grateful to continue to
13 be in service with all the amazing people that are
14 here. You are like a family and your dedication
15 is what drives me. Thank you so much.

16 [Applause]

17 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. I would
18 like to say we planned it that the same day Inez
19 is honoring you, we are passing the MWBE bill and
20 another one of Harlem's great leaders, Reverend
21 Jacques DeGraff is here, but we just got lucky, we
22 didn't plan it. It's a great day for all of us
23 here. Congratulations and happy holidays.

24 We have one more ceremonial, which
25 is going to be led by State Senator-elect Council

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2 Member James Sanders, Jr. He'll be honoring a
3 group of Sandy relief organizations from the
4 Rockaways. This will be Council Member Sanders'
5 final ceremonial as a Council Member. I don't
6 know what they do in the State Senate, but...

7 If the folks who are here from the
8 Rockaway relief organizations can make their way
9 up.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: They are
11 here.

12 [Pause]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: The
14 government said that we had to evacuate and sadly,
15 many people in the Rockaways, especially, did not
16 evacuate. After Hurricane Sandy, we found
17 ourselves in a terrible place. Seemingly,
18 government had disappeared. Seemingly, the food
19 stock was running out. No power, no electricity,
20 we were in a bind. My office sent out an SOS to
21 any and all. Several folk responded. I am
22 honoring some of the first responders. Where
23 everybody was running out of the Rockaways, these
24 good people ran into the Rockaways. We are
25 grateful for them. They not only brought

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2 necessary food that people had, they also brought
3 you name it: Similac for babies, clothes that
4 people had. Remember, the flooding had taken
5 people's clothes. They had nothing except what
6 they had on their backs. In ten days, we went
7 from having nothing to giving out close to a
8 million dollars worth of supplies to this
9 community.

10 [Applause]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Not a dime
12 of government money, not a dime from the city, not
13 a dime from the state, not a dime from the
14 federal. There was no OEM. There was no FEMA.
15 The list of no's go on. Right now, we're speaking
16 about the list of those who were. So I am very
17 grateful, and my colleagues, a thank you to all of
18 you for responding--the Speaker, of course, was
19 chief among them--for responding in a fantastic
20 way. Some people went up there and knocked on
21 doors and gave to individuals, but we will let the
22 proc speak for that.

23 To all of my colleagues, let me
24 take this moment to say thank you very much for
25 serving with you. I thank you for the education

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2 that you have given me. I thank you, Madame
3 Speaker, for the direction that you gave and show
4 that direction is not a bad thing. It can get
5 things done if we all aim in one way. I hope that
6 I can take some of that up north.

7 SPEAKER QUINN: It'll keep coming
8 over the phone; don't worry.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Please. I
10 will take any and all directions. But today is a
11 day for heroes, and this is a day where we honor
12 two or three of these. So anyone who wants to
13 honor these heroes, I invite you to come forward.
14 At this moment, I hand this back to the Speaker.

15 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
16 much, Council Member Sanders. If I could ask the
17 clerk to please read the proclamation.

18 CLERK: The Council City of New
19 York Proclamation. Whereas, Hurricane Sandy, the
20 worst natural disaster to hit the New York City
21 area in a century, left a trail of devastation,
22 uprooted thousands of lives across our region.
23 Yet even in our darkest hour, New York City is no
24 stranger to heroes. Everyday people bestowed with
25 incredible selflessness chose to use their time,

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talents and passion with service to others.

When Council Member Sanders' 31st Council District was devastated by this storm, many people stepped up to help. Today, we are proud to publicly recognize and thank several individuals who went above and beyond the call of duty to help those suffering in the wake of the crisis.

And whereas, Pastor Dimas Salaberrios, whose Infinity New York Church were among the very first responders in Far Rockaway after Superstorm Sandy, just hours after it made landfall, and in the subsequent weeks sent many volunteers to assist homeowners and residents with pumping water out of their homes and with the distribution of relief goods.

Reverend Gabriel Salguero responded to the devastation caused by Superstorm Sandy, by being among the first on the ground and working to organize many volunteers he recruited to work tirelessly on behalf of the Rockaway community.

Mr. Milan Taylor's Rockaway Youth Task Force worked with and through Council Member Sanders' office to help collect and distribute

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2 food, clothing, water and toiletries to those in
3 need. Mr. Roy Niederhoffer helped create a bridge
4 between people in the private sector, nonprofit
5 world and government, and on the ground
6 organizations and relief efforts in Rockaway to
7 make the collection and distribution of supplies
8 more effective and efficient.

9 Ms. Arlette Losier's [phonetic]
10 passion for service compelled her to help in the
11 distribution of a secured \$1 million donation of
12 warm gear for the families in need.

13 Mr. Tyson Chandler of our very own
14 New York Knicks, and his wife Kimberly Chandler
15 made serving the people of the Rockaways a
16 priority after the storm. Through their
17 organization, Rebound for Rockaway, they have
18 helped raise money, goods and awareness for those
19 affected by the storm.

20 Now, therefore be it known, that
21 the Council of the City of New York gratefully
22 honors Pastor Dimas Salaberrios, Reverend Gabriel
23 Salguero, Milan Taylor, Roy Niederhoffer, Arlette
24 Losier, Tyson Chandler, Kimberly Chandler for
25 their outstanding service to our community in the

1
2 wake of Hurricane Sandy. Christine C. Quinn,
3 Speaker for the entire Council. James Sanders,
4 Jr., Council Member 31st District Queens.

5 SPEAKER QUINN: Well, I just want
6 to echo the comments of Council Member Sanders
7 thanking all of you for your work. It's kind of
8 nice to start thanking a member of the city
9 government, a sergeant in the police department
10 for what he did and then kind of ending thanking
11 three New Yorkers who are not city employees, for
12 what you guys did. You really rose to the
13 occasion at a time when it was needed and did what
14 needed to be done in a terrific way. So on behalf
15 of all of us, I just want to thank you all. I
16 hope you have a great Christmas. I hope you have
17 a storm-free 2013. you know what I mean? The
18 most boring 2013 you ever had would probably be a
19 good thing, and to see if any of you would like to
20 say a few words.

21 MALE VOICE: I'd like to thank the
22 Council Member and Speaker Quinn for this honor.
23 I really stand here representing literally
24 thousands of people who came together that I knew
25 that knew that people and from all over the world

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2 sent boxes that deluged Councilman Sanders' office
3 and many other sites, and hopefully provided a
4 significant amount of aid. It's a nice
5 representation of how individuals can supplement
6 the work of local government, city governments and
7 big organizations and really come together to help
8 people during a very tough situation. So I'm very
9 honored.

10 FEMALE VOICE: I'm very honored to
11 accept this proclamation. Mostly in the honor of
12 those, anyone who lifted a finger or anyone who
13 gave a dollar or who packed a package of food or
14 who gave a onesie for a child or a carriage or
15 anything, from the smallest item to just being
16 concerned and getting their community together.
17 It really takes, the greatest gift for us is the
18 inspiration that we were able to provide to others
19 in order to get action and to get people to
20 realize that help was on the way. I thank you for
21 this and I thank you on behalf of all who have
22 done something.

23 MILAN TAYLOR: I'm really excited
24 to be here. Being a young person from the
25 Rockaways, living in the Rockaways, it was really,

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2 really difficult day in and day night to be able
3 to help your fellow neighbor when you are yourself
4 without heat, electricity and running hot water.
5 But it was the kindness from the entire city, the
6 entire state that kept myself and the Rockaway
7 Youth Task Force motivated to keep going out there
8 and serving our community. On behalf of myself
9 and the Rockaway Youth Task Force, thank you.

10 [Applause]

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you guys very
12 much. Happy holidays. James, we'll miss you.
13 Thank you. This concludes ceremonials for the
14 day.

15 [Pause]

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

22 [Pause]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: My
24 colleagues, please rise for the Pledge of
25 Allegiance.

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[Pledge of Allegiance]

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Roll call.

4

[Pause]

5

CLERK: Arroyo?

6

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

7

CLERK: Barron?

8

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.

9

CLERK: Brewer?

10

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

11

CLERK: Cabrera?

12

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

13

CLERK: Chin?

14

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

15

CLERK: Comrie?

16

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Here.

17

CLERK: Crowley?

18

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

19

CLERK: Dickens?

20

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.

21

CLERK: Thank you. Thank you.

22

Dilan?

23

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Here.

24

CLERK: Dromm?

25

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

1

CLERK: Eugene?

2

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

3

CLERK: Ferreras?

4

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.

5

CLERK: Fidler?

6

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.

7

8 Here.

CLERK: Foster?

9

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: [No

10

11 response].

CLERK: Garodnick?

12

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

13

CLERK: Gennaro?

14

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.

15

CLERK: Gentile?

16

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

17

CLERK: Gonzalez?

18

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Here.

19

CLERK: Greenfield?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Here.

21

CLERK: Halloran?

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COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: [No

23

24 response].

CLERK: Ignizio?

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2

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: [No

3

response].

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CLERK: Jackson?

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Here.

6

CLERK: James?

7

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here.

8

CLERK: Koo?

9

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: [No response].

10

CLERK: Koppell?

11

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.

12

CLERK: Koslowitz?

13

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

14

CLERK: Lander?

15

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

16

CLERK: Lappin?

17

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Here.

18

CLERK: Levin?

19

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

20

CLERK: Mark-Viverito?

21

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

22

Here.

23

CLERK: Mealy?

24

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.

25

CLERK: Mendez?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

2

3

CLERK: Nelson?

4

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: [No

5

response].

6

CLERK: Palma?

7

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

8

CLERK: Recchia?

9

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Here.

10

CLERK: Reyna?

11

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.

12

CLERK: Rodriguez?

13

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

14

CLERK: Rose?

15

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: [No

16

response].

17

CLERK: Sanders?

18

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Present.

19

CLERK: Ulrich?

20

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.

21

CLERK: Vacca?

22

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

23

CLERK: Vallone?

24

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

25

CLERK: Van Bramer?

1

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

2

3

CLERK: Vann?

4

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Here.

5

CLERK: Weprin?

6

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

7

CLERK: Williams?

8

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

9

CLERK: Nelson?

10

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Here.

11

CLERK: Wills?

12

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Here.

13

CLERK: Oddo?

14

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: [No

15

response].

16

CLERK: Rivera?

17

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Here.

18

CLERK: Speaker Quinn?

19

SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

20

CLERK: We have a quorum.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Quorum is

22

present. My colleagues, please rise for the

23

Invocation being delivered today by Dr. Robert A.

24

Smith, Pastor of Church of the Savior.

25

DR. ROBERT A. SMITH: Brothers and

1
2 sisters, if we can just have a moment of silence
3 to remember the babies that we lost on Friday,
4 December the 14th at 9:30 a.m. Keep their
5 families and the community of Newtown in your
6 heart. Let each of us be more diligent in loving
7 the children.

8 The God of Abraham and the God of
9 Isaac, and the God of Mohamed, the God of our
10 mothers and the God of our fathers, we call upon
11 the awesomeness of your presence, oh God. That
12 who you are reverberates within every beating
13 heart, that you occupy every space within these
14 halls of deliberation. We ask a special blessing
15 on every member of the Council as he or she
16 deliberates the issues, the people's business.
17 Let the newest member to enter this chamber be
18 imbued with wisdom, sense of justice, views all
19 things through the lens of human possibility.

20 We thank you for this extraordinary
21 day. We thank you for all the talent that is
22 assembled within this space. Let the power of
23 your spirit, oh God, send us on a trajectory of
24 justice. And we thank you for helping hands and
25 caring hearts. Amen.

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Council

3

Member Palma?

4

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: [Off mic]

5

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

6

SPEAKER QUINN: If I could ask my

7

colleagues to please rise again. Let me start

8

with a couple of happier notes. It's Council

9

Member Robert Jackson's birthday. He seems to

10

have stepped out of the chambers, but when he gets

11

back--there we go. Happy birthday, Robert.

12

[Applause]

13

SPEAKER QUINN: And in a few

14

minutes--not quite yet--we will welcome a number

15

member of the City Council. Today, we also need

16

to pay tribute to someone who's going to be

17

leaving the City Council to go to the State

18

Senate, Council Member James Sanders, Jr.

19

[Applause]

20

SPEAKER QUINN: This is his last

21

Stated Meeting. As we just saw with his

22

ceremonial, James is a proud son of the Rockaways.

23

He graduated from Far Rockaway High School before

24

serving three years in the Marines. After he

25

service, he attended and graduated from Brooklyn

1
2 College. Council Member Sanders, who is a prodigy
3 of former congress member Reverend Floyd Flake,
4 and served seven years as president of his local
5 school board. He was elected to the Council in
6 November of 2001. He served as chair of the
7 Economic Development Committee and currently
8 serves as chair of the Civil Service and Labor
9 Committee.

10 James' devotion and commitment to
11 his district, but particularly to the Rockaways
12 has truly been shown over the past several weeks,
13 in a way I'm sure he would rather not have. He
14 and his staff have tirelessly devoted their time
15 and energy to those in southeast Queens that were
16 affected by Hurricane Sandy.

17 James, we wish you the very best
18 success in the State Senate. If there is anything
19 you need from any of us to be helpful or
20 supportive in any way, we are here for you. We
21 will miss your very gracious nature, the dignified
22 you have conducted yourself, the real gentleman
23 that you are in this chambers.

24 [Applause]

25 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Madame

1
2 Speaker, you've laid it out so well that I refuse
3 to go. I'm going to stay here.

4 [Laughter]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: I notice
6 that Robert Jackson chose the day that I'm leaving
7 to have a birthday. No correlation, I'm sure.

8 I do want to thank my colleagues
9 for the many lessons learned. I thank you for all
10 of the lessons and I want to thank you for your
11 kindness, small and large. I really thank you for
12 these things. If I can be useful to you in the
13 North Pole--I mean in Albany, you have a friend
14 there. I thank you all. Thank you, Madame
15 Speaker.

16 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you.

17 [Applause]

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, James.

19 On December 14, 2012, Louis Alexander Carrington,
20 84, the father of Council Member Debi Rose, passed
21 away due to complications of a heart attack. A
22 native Staten Islander, Mr. Carrington graduated
23 from McKee High School and then served in the Army
24 for six years, including serving in the Korean
25 War. Louis was an officer within the New York

1
2 City Department of Corrections for 23 years and
3 worked in the Brooklyn House of Detention. He was
4 active in his community, and along with his fellow
5 firefighters, police officers and Corrections
6 officers founded FIPOCO, which was a community
7 organization which raised money to help people in
8 need on Staten Island.

9 One of the things Debi likes to say
10 is that her father was most proud of was that at
11 the age of 50, he taught himself to ski, and then
12 with his brother, traveled the world to ski in
13 many countries.

14 Mr. Carrington is survived by his
15 daughter Debi, their son Wayne, three brothers and
16 a sister, two grandchildren and one great
17 grandson, his companion of 28 years, Barbara, and
18 his former wife, Debi's mother Muriel. His
19 viewing will take place this Thursday and his
20 funeral service on Friday at First Central Baptist
21 Church on Staten Island.

22 I want to very sadly report that
23 this morning we learned of the death of Frank J.
24 Macchiarola, 71, currently chancellor of St.
25 Francis College, former head of our Board of

1
2 Education. Born in Flatbush, Dr. Macchiarola's
3 service to our city and state is legendary. He
4 was a former school chancellor. He was a charter
5 commission chair, the districting commission
6 chair, first chairman of the Campaign Finance
7 Board, a labor mediator, deputy director of the
8 New York State Emergency Financial Control Board
9 for New York City, president of the New York City
10 Partnership, professor at Columbia and CUNY and
11 the list of service goes literally on and on and
12 on.

13 There was hardly a board or
14 commission that at one time or another Mr.
15 Macchiarola did not agree to serve on. His
16 passing will be truly missed by so many people and
17 institutions that he so admirably served with
18 dedication and devotion. I know he'll be missed
19 by many people in this room, including Council
20 Member Eric Ulrich, who I'll call on in a minute,
21 and also by our first deputy director of Finance
22 Jeff Rodus.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: thank you,
24 Speaker Quinn for giving me just a moment to pay
25 tribute to such a remarkable man, as you mentioned

1
2 all of his wonderful accomplishments and all of
3 this life's work. Frank Macchiarola was one of my
4 earliest mentors and a mentor to so many people
5 here, but he was also a personal friend of mine
6 and my family's. He was a towering figure in New
7 York City, someone who, as you stated, was deeply
8 respected and admired by almost everyone. You
9 never met anyone who had anything bad to say about
10 Frank.

11 At St. Francis College, he was
12 affectionately known as Dr. Mac. Everybody called
13 him Dr. Mac. It was there that I think he left
14 his greatest legacy, being instrumental in helping
15 hundreds if not thousands of young men and women,
16 many of whom the first in their families to attend
17 college, to actually earn a college degree. That
18 was a mission that he truly believed in.

19 He was a proud Italian American,
20 very active with many Italian American causes, and
21 a proud Roman Catholic in the Franciscan
22 tradition. He really believed that everyone, and
23 I mean everyone, was made in the image and the
24 likeness of God and he treated everyone that way,
25 with compassion, with the dignity that they

1
2 deserved, with kindness. He had kindness in his
3 heart. He left behind him a legacy of good deeds
4 and of many accomplishments that I believe will be
5 remembered as a hallmark of public service. He
6 was my very good friend and he will be missed.
7 Thank you, Speaker Quinn.

8 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Eric.
9 I'll say I went to visit Dr. Macchiarola once, not
10 long after Eric got elected, and he talked/barked
11 at me that "I better take care of that kid Eric."
12 So he was enormously, enormously fond of you,
13 Eric, and was extremely proud, I know, from those
14 couple of times we met after you were elected,
15 about the job you were doing and the potential you
16 had. So thank you for sharing your thoughts about
17 him with all of us.

18 As the Reverend appropriately
19 reminded us at the beginning of today's meeting,
20 our thoughts and prayers go out to all the victims
21 and families of the really just unfathomable
22 heartbreaking unbelievable tragedy at Sandy Hook
23 Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. What
24 happened at that school, it's just incredibly hard
25 to wrap your brain around. As we stand here

1
2 today, we're just shocked and bewildered as human
3 beings about how such a horrific event could occur
4 anywhere, nonetheless in a grade school,
5 nonetheless in the classroom of the youngest and
6 littlest ones in the building. This school was
7 once a place where parents probably felt
8 incredibly proud and certainly very confident and
9 safe to send their children every day.

10 As we stand here today, thinking
11 about all of those children that were lost,
12 thinking about the principal, the school
13 psychologist, three teachers, two of whom in their
14 20s, one only 30, who were just starting their
15 career, they're beginning to bury the dead in
16 Newtown. A town so small it just has one funeral
17 parlor.

18 What we can do today is send our
19 thoughts and prayers and love and solidarity to
20 Newtown, Connecticut, but what we also can do
21 today is recommit every fiber of our being and
22 every fiber of our being as a legislative body to
23 a national effort to end the scourge of gun
24 violence in our city and in our country.

25 [Applause]

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: You can have
3 appropriate debate about gun control. But for a
4 woman to have a weapon in her house that is in
5 fact the same weapon that we give the soldiers in
6 Afghanistan makes no sense. It's simply not even
7 debatable in my mind. For there to be a situation
8 where you could have weapons out there legally
9 that could kill so many people in, as they tell
10 us, probably less than ten minutes, defies any
11 logic at all.

12 So what we can do today is offer
13 our love and our prayers, make sure we never
14 forget these children, never forget these heroes
15 that day, those that were killed and those that
16 survived. We can commit as much as we can to do
17 everything we can to honor these dead by
18 continuing the fight until we get the right level
19 of gun laws in this state and country, and then do
20 more from a social and community perspective to
21 get crime and guns off of our streets.

22 [Pause]

23 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Mr.
24 Majority Leader.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you,

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Madame Speaker. Adoption of the minutes?

CLERK: None.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Messages
and papers from the Mayor?

CLERK: None.

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

CLERK: M1002, submitting the
certification of election of Andrew L. King,
Council Member 12th Councilmanic District Bronx.

SPEAKER QUINN: Received, ordered,
printed and filed. If I could now ask the Honor
Guard to escort in Council Member Andy King. If
we could have our Majority Leader, our Deputy
Majority Leader, our Minority Leader and the Bronx
Delegation Chair, please escort Council Member
King in.

[Applause]

SPEAKER QUINN: Great, here we go.

[Applause]

CLERK: Please place your hand on
the Bible and raise your right hand.

CLERK: I.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KING: I.

CLERK: Andy King.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Andy King.

CLERK: Do solemnly swear.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Do solemnly swear.

CLERK: That I will support the Constitution of the United States of America.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: That I will support the Constitution of the United States of America.

CLERK: And the Constitution of the State of New York.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: And the Constitution of the State of New York.

CLERK: And the Charter of the City of New York.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: And the Charter of the City of New York.

CLERK: And that I will faithfully discharge.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: And I will faithfully discharge.

CLERK: The duties of the office

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of.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: The duties of
the office of.

CLERK: Council Member.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Council
Member.

CLERK: For the 12th District.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: For the 12th
District.

CLERK: County of the Bronx.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: County of the
Bronx.

CLERK: In the City of New York.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: In the City
of New York.

CLERK: According to the best of my
ability.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: According to
the best of my abilities.

CLERK: Council Member,
congratulations.

[Applause]

SPEAKER QUINN: Let me give the
mike to Council Member King.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Good evening.
Good afternoon, family, colleagues, City Council,
Madame Speaker, I am truly humbled and greatly
excited about joining the team here at the City
Council. I want to say thank you, first and
foremost, to Christ who wakes me up every day and
puts the spirit of service on my heart to go out
to do whatever I can to make someone else's life a
little better.

Also, I want to thank my loving
wife Neva [phonetic].

SPEAKER QUINN: Yay.

[Applause]

SPEAKER QUINN: Say it again.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: My loving
wife Neva, my parents who flew in from Colorado
for this special occasion.

[Applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: And that's
Andy King also. I'm a junior. I want to thank
everyone from the 12th District who came down. I
got to say--I told them I would say it--I want to
thank the 34,000 members of the 12th District who
voted for me. I'm so excited.

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[Applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: The 12th District, the team in the 12th District, are you all ready to go?

[Cheering]

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: All right, we got a lot of work to do, and I'm ready to get started. Thank you and God bless.

[Applause]

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much.

[Applause]

SPEAKER QUINN: Take your seat, back row, one on the end.

[Pause]

CLERK: Preconsidered M1003.

SPEAKER QUINN: Rules, Privileges and Elections.

CLERK: M1004, withdrawing the name Julie R. Dent, Commissioner of Elections.

SPEAKER QUINN: Received, ordered, printed and filed.

CLERK: M1005 on page three, through M1025 on page four, new, renewal and

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relocation base station license.

SPEAKER QUINN: Transportation.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Petitions
and communications?

CLERK: None.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Land Use
Call-ups?

CLERK: None.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:
Communication from the Speaker?

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. Before
I say a few words, I want to take a moment to
recognize former Council Member Walter McCaffrey,
who is with us today.

[Applause]

SPEAKER QUINN: Walter, along with
Sandra Wilkin and Reverend Jacques DeGraff and
many other folks who were here were part of the
team that led to the drafting, introduction and
passage of our MWBE legislation today. So thank
you very much, Walter. He knows a thing or two
about passing legislation in the New York City
Council, so he was a good one to be working with
everyone.

1
2 Speaking of, we are going to be
3 passing today, Intro 911-A. I want to thank and I
4 really want to ask for a big round of applause for
5 both Rob and Shannon. I don't know if Rob or
6 Shannon is in the back. Stand up, Shannon. Who
7 did a terrific, terrific job on this very
8 complicated piece of legislation. So thank you,
9 Shannon.

10 [Applause]

11 SPEAKER QUINN: I want to thank
12 Chair Darlene Mealy, whose committee this bill
13 went through, for all of her work.

14 [Applause]

15 SPEAKER QUINN: Basically, 911-A
16 takes the MWBE bill that we passed earlier in the
17 2000s and takes it a very significant step
18 forward. That was a good effort, but we realized,
19 looking back, it wasn't as good as it could have
20 been. It capped out the city contracts that
21 counted towards the MWBE participation goal at a
22 million dollars. That doesn't make any sense. If
23 we have faith in MWBEs, then we should say, "bid
24 on every contract." The sky is the limit. Most
25 of the city contracts are over a million dollars.

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This bill raises that cap.

This bill also says let's respect MWBEs by letting them put their packages together. Let them decide if they should be the subcontractor or the sub-sub. Let them figure out how to put it together.

The new Council Member is talking a little too much in the back there and Gary Altman is talking to him.

The other thing this piece of legislation does, another important thing, is recognize that all of us need to be held accountable for the commitments we make. Being held accountable needs to be done in a structured way. So we don't want to just pass a bill today saying we've raised the goals for MWBE participation. We've opened it up to all of contracts, making it the billions of dollars that are now available. We want it; we need it to happen. That's why 911-A includes MWBE Stat, something like Com Stat.

Now, on a quarterly basis, agency staff are going to have to meet with a designated representative of the Mayor, to go through what

1
2 their agency has accomplished in meeting or
3 failing to meet their MWBE goals. That means
4 people who are succeeding will be, of course,
5 congratulated, but have their strategy shared with
6 other agencies. People who are falling behind
7 will be helped and held accountable. This way, we
8 hopefully won't have to be back here year after
9 year, we'll be able to get it done. What does
10 that mean? More contracts to MWBEs. What does
11 that mean? More people working, more New Yorkers
12 working in neighborhoods throughout our city.

13 So it's just great to end the year
14 with this bill that's going to put people to work.
15 I think some of those folks who are MWBEs and real
16 entrepreneurs are up in the balcony today. We
17 salute you for your fortitude in sticking with the
18 city's contracting process and believing we could
19 do it better. So, thank you.

20 Let me call on the chair, Chair
21 Mealy.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Thank you,
23 Madame Speaker. I want to thank all the advocates
24 who worked so tirelessly to make sure this
25 legislation be fair and just. Even though we

1
2 didn't--everyone is not happy, but we are stepping
3 in the right direction. I thank you for your
4 tireless work to make this day a reality.
5 Although there has been some progress over the
6 last seven years, since the Council enacted the
7 city's MWBE law, far too often minority women-
8 owned businesses have been left frustrated and
9 disappointed by city contracting. Too many
10 obstacles have prevented them from winning city
11 work.

12 I truly believe that this bill will
13 go a long way towards leveling the playing field
14 for MWBEs. This bill will give these hard working
15 businesses the same opportunity that all New York
16 business owners deserve. I am really proud to
17 have worked on this legislation. I ask my
18 colleagues to vote yay on this legislation. Thank
19 you so much for your work, Madame Speaker.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. In the
21 name of a dentist appointment, if we could call on
22 good dental health and Council Member Jessica
23 Lappin to vote please.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Thank you.
25 I vote aye on all. Thank you.

1
2 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. God
3 willing, there's no root canal or cavity involved.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: [off mic]

5 SPEAKER QUINN: Worse. Oh geez,
6 all right. Well, keep the liquor away from
7 Jessica at the party later is all I'm saying.

8 [Laughter]

9 SPEAKER QUINN: All right, refocus
10 all of us here. Coming back. We're also voting
11 on a piece of legislation that was passed out of
12 the Consumer Affairs Committee. It was sponsored
13 by David Greenfield and out of Consumer Affairs,
14 so I want to thank Chair Dan Garodnick. I want to
15 thank Rachel Cordero, who was the lead staffer on
16 this bill. 939-A is a piece of legislation in
17 relation to stoop line stands. Let me call on
18 Council Member Greenfield.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank
20 you, Madame Speaker. This is a common piece of
21 legislation that basically does two minor changes
22 to the city's current laws governing stoop line
23 stands. The first of which is it eliminates the
24 sales of cigar, cigarettes and tobacco products.
25 This is actually because you need to supervise

1

2 those sales to be certain that someone under the
3 age of 18 is not purchasing them.

4 The second is that it changes the
5 allowable dimensions. Currently, in some cases, a
6 stoop line can go up to five feet, provided,
7 however, that there is an additional 11 feet, for
8 a total of 16 feet in the sidewalk. What this
9 legislation does is it basically says that you can
10 go to 10 feet as long as you have 21 feet on the
11 sidewalk, which is common sense, because you would
12 still have the same 11 feet. This would be
13 allowed for M1, M2 and M3 manufacturing zones that
14 were licensed before September 1, 2012.

15 This is a change that's very
16 beneficial to small businesses and will reduce
17 fines and provide additional space to markets to
18 sell their goods. I encourage all of my
19 colleagues to vote aye. Thank you very much.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
21 much, Council Member Greenfield. We also have a
22 piece of legislation today coming out of Fire and
23 Criminal Justice. I want to thank Rob Calandra
24 for his work on the bill. I want to thank Council
25 Member Inez Dickens, who's the sponsor, and Liz

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2 Crowley, who is the chair. I also want to thank
3 Minority Leader Oddo and Deputy Majority Leader
4 Leroy Comrie because 943-A, a piece of legislation
5 that deals with assembly certification, place of
6 assembly permits, basically is a piece of
7 legislation that came out of the Regulatory Review
8 Commission, which Jimmy and Leroy were active
9 members of, our lead members on.

10 Basically, what we're doing here is
11 taking the assembly permit process, which had
12 included Department of Buildings and the Fire
13 Department and the two agencies going back and
14 forth. Unfortunately, many businesses and other
15 entities having their place of assembly permits
16 expiring at the end of the year because the two
17 agencies and their coordination back and forth, or
18 their challenges in coordination wouldn't get all
19 the renewals done. So entities would not have
20 their place of assembly permits and not able to
21 have functions or events which meant lost revenue
22 for them while they were waiting for the backlog
23 in renewal. It also meant them having to pay two
24 fees to two city agencies.

25 Jimmy and Leroy and other members

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2 of the Reg Review panel heard this from small
3 businesses and we're making a common sense change.
4 One agency, Fire Department. It makes sense.
5 They're dealing with how many people can be in a
6 room. They're dealing with what the entrance and
7 the egress are. They're the only ones that are
8 going to be involved. We believe streamlining the
9 permit, one city agency, will deal with the
10 delays, erase the problem of people's permits
11 expiring and not being able to have events. And
12 it's going to save small businesses between
13 \$350,000 and \$400,000 a year in fees they will not
14 have to pay. Let me call on Council Member
15 Dickens and Chair Crowley and thank both of them
16 for their work on the bill.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you
18 so much, Madame Speaker. I want to thank you and
19 your staff and Chair Liz Crowley for the work, the
20 phenomenal work that you did in order to
21 streamline the process and the procedures that
22 will aid our small businesses.

23 Instead of directly having to
24 obtain two permits and registering with both the
25 Fire Department and the DOB, this new revision

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2 let's a business owner deal primarily with one
3 department, the Fire Department, and removes the
4 tasks of dealing with the onerous task of two
5 agencies. Also, the place of assembly
6 certificates will no longer have expiration dates
7 but would need to be accompanied by a New York
8 Fire Department permit after one year, which can
9 be renewed every year. It is important to remove
10 any extraneous barriers afflicting our small
11 businesses and this legislation takes us in the
12 right direction.

13 I also want to thank Madame Speaker
14 for the work that you and your staff did on the
15 MWBE bill that we're passing. I want to thank all
16 of the advocates, the small businesses that came
17 out for the last couple of years to work on this
18 and that are here today. Reverend DeGraff,
19 Sandra, Timothy Marshal, Jim--all of you that are
20 here to support this legislation. As our Chair
21 Darlene Mealy said, we can't please everyone, but
22 we certainly must work to try to help as many of
23 our small businesses as we possibly can. They're
24 the ones that hire within our communities and you
25 are the basis and foundation for the survival of

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the City of New York.

I also want to just welcome Council Member Andy King.

[Applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: I'm sorry to see Senator James Sanders leave, particularly to go up in the North Pole. But that's all right, you know, to do some work for us up there, so that something that can get done. Thank you for your time and happy blessed New Year.

SPEAKER QUINN: Chair Crowley?

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Thank you, Madame Speaker. I'd like to thank the Speaker and Council Member Inez Dickens, also Council Member Oddo and Comrie for their leadership on this bill. The involvement of two agencies in the renewal process for the assembly certificates has been criticized by many as being duplicative and often causes delays in businesses receiving these permits in a timely manner. The bill will address these concerns by streamlining the process.

Small businesses are the backbone of our local economy. This bill will reduce regulatory fees and eliminate unnecessary steps.

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2 It will also save businesses money and time in the
3 renewal process. With the passing of this bill,
4 the city will have a better way to monitor whether
5 small businesses are in compliance with fire and
6 building codes, and it will also improve public
7 safety and ensure that all businesses are playing
8 by the same set of rules.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. Also, I
10 want to thank Tanisha Edwards, Ralph Hernandez,
11 Jimmy Reyes and Domenic Giordano in Finance for
12 their work on 972-A, a piece of legislation that
13 authorizes and increase in the amount to be
14 expended annually in seven business improvement
15 districts. I want to thank Chair Recchia for his
16 support and sponsorship of the Mayor's bill.

17 We are also, out of Housing and
18 Buildings today, passing Intro 977-A. I want to
19 thank Baaba Halm, Laura Rogers and Ed Atkin for
20 their work on this bill. 977-A, which was
21 sponsored by Vinny Ignizio and taken to the
22 Housing and Buildings Committee by Chair Dilan,
23 both of whom I want to thank, is a piece of
24 legislation that does two things. It codifies
25 Executive Orders that the Mayor has passed two

1
2 weeks after Hurricane Sandy, executive orders that
3 waived certain permit and inspection fees for the
4 demolition, alteration and rebuilding or repair of
5 some buildings that had been affected by Hurricane
6 Sandy.

7 More importantly, this piece of
8 legislation today extends the period of time by in
9 some cases two years that those fees will be
10 waived, which I think is important because we need
11 to recognize that people may not be able to
12 rebuild right away. They may not even know what
13 the rules are going to be--God knows--of how
14 they're supposed to rebuild. They just may need
15 time. This law makes sure that they know they
16 have that and that they can build into their
17 budget where they won't have to pay fees. I think
18 it also sends an important message that we know in
19 the City Council that it's going to take a long
20 time to rebuild fully.

21 So I want to thank everyone who has
22 been a part of this. Let me call on Council
23 Member Ignizio to speak and then Chair Dilan.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Thank you,
25 Madame Speaker. I appreciate all you've done for

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2 the victims of Hurricane Sandy. Just so those who
3 don't know, the Speaker was on the phone and in
4 emails throughout the whole issue of what we were
5 dealing with in my district and Eric, Jimmy Oddo
6 and we really do appreciate that. We said at that
7 moment that we the city would do whatever we could
8 to try to help those get to rebuild and get back
9 to normal as fast, expeditiously as possible.

10 One of the ways we're removing a
11 burden is by removing the burdens of the filing
12 fees. People can spend under a hundred or up to
13 thousands of dollars in filing fees to our
14 Buildings Department to get back on their feet.
15 Well that's thousands of dollars potentially that
16 they just don't have. For us to reach out and say
17 we're going to be able to pass legislation and
18 waive these fees up to two years is our
19 commitment, the Speaker's commitment, Chairman
20 Dilan's and my colleagues here saying that we're
21 not going to forget. I really do appreciate it.

22 If I could pivot just a little bit,
23 Madame Speaker, I wanted to call out and thank
24 Assembly Member-elect Joe Borelli, my chief of
25 staff, who is leaving me to go to the North Pole

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2 as well, along with James Sanders. I hope--

3 SPEAKER QUINN: [interposing] Thank
4 you very much, Vinny. I apologize for not having
5 done that.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Sure.

7 SPEAKER QUINN: What does this
8 place do? We're sending a Republican to the
9 Assembly and a Democrat to the Senate. We got to
10 rethink our strategy here. Thank you very much,
11 Vinny.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: With both
13 of them going to the North Pole, I'm going to give
14 them my list from my daughter, who is 5-years-old,
15 maybe they can bring back. I wanted to just say
16 Joe has been with me since he was an intern in St.
17 Joseph by the Sea High School many, many years
18 ago. He's a great staffer. He comes out of the
19 great model of this great body of people who have
20 really gone on to great ranks. I know he's going
21 to do a great job. I'm very proud of you. God
22 bless you, Joe, and do great up there.

23 [Applause]

24 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. I want
25 to thank you, Vinny, for reminding us of that.

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2 Joe, I want to wish you the best of luck up there
3 in Albany. Now that you're no longer working for
4 Vinny, I'll call you later to get all those
5 stories you were unable to tell me when he was
6 paying your salary, which we'll now use against
7 Vinny when Joe is up in Albany. Congratulations
8 and best of luck. Let me call on Chair Dilan.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Thank you.

10 Thank you, Madame Speaker. You eloquently stated
11 how the bill will help New Yorkers, and especially
12 those affected by Hurricane Sandy begin to
13 rebuild. I'd like to thank the Mayor's Office for
14 putting this forward and for, frankly, listening
15 to testimony in the committee specifically around
16 the electrical and plumbing permits and extending
17 that period of time from January 30, 2013 to April
18 30th, 2013. I believe that will help a lot of
19 individuals.

20 To the city at large, there are a
21 lot of people still hurting out there as it
22 relates to Sandy. My part of the city hasn't seen
23 the amount of damage that others have seen. But
24 we certainly stand together as one city. That
25 message is that this is the very beginning of the

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rebuilding process.

The Speaker, as she's inclined to do and as she has every right to do, the very next day, spoke to very important stakeholders of New York City and talked about the future and how the Building Code will be changed. She has recommendations that she hasn't really spoke about, but that I certainly agree with in principle. So this is the beginning of that process and I look forward to working with her on that process and my colleagues from Staten Island who have seen their constituents hurt as well as my colleagues from Queens and Brooklyn. So I encourage all of my colleagues to vote yes.

Madame Speaker, if I may be allowed to deflect, this is also Ben Goodman's last hearing at the Council that he passed out of today. Ben has been with me my entire time as chair. He'll be leaving to go to the Board of Education. He served seven years under the committee and we've done a lot of good work together. So while I'm happy to see him move on and grow up in his career, I'm certainly sad to see him move on. I wish Ben a lot of success.

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Thank you, Madame Speaker.

[Applause]

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much. Is Ben here? Where is Ben? There he is. Don't forget where you came from. By that, I mean Chelsea, Ben. All right, okay. Good luck, Ben.

I want to thank Chair Comrie and Peter Janosik and Amy Levitan and Danielle Decerbo and Gail Benjamin for their work on the Land Use items we're voting on today. I want to thank Chuck Javis [phonetic] and Chair Rivera for their work on the appointment today out of Rules, Privileges and Elections. That concludes communications from the Speaker.

Oh, I want to remind everybody that there is a party later on today Beekman. It is celebrating all of the holidays, Robert Jackson's birthday and the various folks that we're sending to the North Pole. All right, that concludes communication.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you, Madame Speaker. We now move on to discussion of general orders. But before, let's call on several Council Members to vote. Council Member Koppell?

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: I'd like unanimous consent to vote on all matters on the General Orders Calendar and with that consent--do I have the consent?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered, yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Yes, thank you. I vote aye.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Then Council Member Dilan?

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Mr. Majority Leader, I'd also like to request unanimous consent to vote on all items on today's General Order Calendar.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: I vote aye.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Council Member Sanders?

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: I also want to request unanimous consent and permission to vote aye on all General Orders and resolutions.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

SPEAKER QUINN: Wouldn't it be funny if on James' last meeting, somebody

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objected?

[Background noise]

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: That's all right. I have found many objectionable, so I have to say it.

SPEAKER QUINN: No, no, let him go. Let him go. All objections unanimously withdrawn. Go ahead, James.

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: I thank you all for that. Thank you very much.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All right, Council Member Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Permission to vote on all.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye on all General Orders and resolutions, and welcome and goodbye, my friend.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: There you go. Council Member Dromm?

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: I'd like to request permission to vote on all General Orders.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: I vote aye.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Let's do

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Council Member Mendez, since she's right next to

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you, next.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I'd like

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permission to vote aye on the General Order

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Calendar and all land use items.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

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Next, we have Council Member Van Bramer.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank

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you very much. Request permission to vote on all

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on general orders.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank

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you very much. I vote aye, Councilwoman Dickens.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Okay,

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Council Member James?

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COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Request

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consent to vote on all general orders and

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resolutions. Congratulations and welcome, Andy,

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and good luck, Council Member Sanders. I vote

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aye.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Okay,

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Council Member Vacca?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Whatever she said is what I would like to do also.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Okay.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Thank you.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: There you go.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I vote aye on everything, aye on all. Who's next?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Okay. So now we go on to discussion of general orders.

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Council Member Barron?

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COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: My colleagues, I'd like to commend all that worked on the MWBE bill, but in all good consciousness, I am not going to vote for it. Any bill that reduces the goal for black companies from 12 percent to 8 percent, reduces the goal for Latino companies from 9 percent to 4 percent, is not a bill that I would want to support. When we did the disparities study in 2005, 16 percent of the companies that were able to receive--available to receive construction contracts, 16 percent were black. We only got 1 percent of those contracts. It did not get a whole lot better. We got 1

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2 percent, 3 percent, 4 percent in all of the four
3 categories of goods, professional services and
4 construction contracts.

5 We can't put a bill forward that's
6 based upon an analysis of Mayor Bloomberg's
7 consultant firm, the Miller Consultant firm to
8 tell us how well and bad we're doing. Nothing in
9 this bill makes it stronger and a greater
10 commitment. This time is too critical to let them
11 to reduce the goal. If they said they had to
12 reduce it because of the availability of our
13 companies, it's lower than the utilization, well
14 if the availability was low, it's because we
15 didn't get the contracts. We're not going to have
16 more companies in the universe if you don't give
17 us the contract.

18 So you can't reduce the goal
19 because it now longer has the same number of our
20 businesses in the universe. If we keep going at
21 this pace, we will not be getting anything. \$12.7
22 billion were given out for contracting. Our
23 companies got \$796 million. \$12 billion went to
24 whites. When you look at the 18 percent for
25 women, I'm glad they're trying to include black

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2 and Latino women, but I'd like to see those
3 numbers because they mostly go to white women.
4 Thank you very much. I urge you to vote no and
5 make it stronger.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Council
7 Member Jackson?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Hello?
9 Thank you, my colleagues. I rise in support of
10 bill 911-A. The MWBE or Local Law 129 was
11 initiated in response to address the
12 underutilization of minority and women-owned
13 business enterprises in city contracting. In
14 2005, jointly with Council Member James Sanders
15 Jr., I as the chair of the Contracts Committee
16 shepherded the bill through the City Council, with
17 the help of all of you, my colleagues, until it
18 became law, Local Law 129.

19 At the very beginning of this
20 process, there were many business owners and
21 leaders who led the way in bringing to our
22 attention the disparities that existed in
23 contracts. Many of those same leaders are here
24 with us today and have been vigilant in keeping us
25 focused on what 911-A will do to give MWBE more

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2 teeth. Increase the accountability against fraud.
3 Elimination of the \$1 million cap, which will make
4 MWBE goals more attainable for our businesses.

5 I want to recognize Reverend
6 Jacques DeGraff, Jim Halicor [phonetic], Tim
7 Marshall, Liz Verez [phonetic], Sandra Wilkin,
8 Curt Ortega [phonetic], Walter Edwards, Walter
9 McCaffrey [phonetic], Lyondell Davis [phonetic],
10 Laurie Douglas [phonetic], the staff: Rob Newman,
11 Tyom Matusov, Alix Pustilnik, Shannon Manigault
12 and many others for putting in hundreds of hours
13 to make it work. Knowing that, understanding that
14 the pie will be bigger, therefore the
15 opportunities will be greater.

16 While I believe that additional
17 initiatives for capacity building to helper
18 smaller minority women business owners be eligible
19 for contracts is still a must, I find it
20 imperative that a bill of this kind be in place in
21 a time when many of the legislators that were here
22 from day one will move on to hopefully bigger and
23 better things.

24 I ask you to support 911-A,
25 considering the fact is it perfect? No. But it's

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2 a step in the right direction, and all of these
3 MWBE support it. I ask you to vote yes. Thank
4 you.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.

6 [Applause]

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Seeing no
8 others for discussion of general orders, we'll now
9 move on to reports of special committees.

10 CLERK: None.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Reports of
12 standing committees.

13 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
14 Contracts, Intro 911-A, opportunities for minority
15 and women-owned business enterprises.

16 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled
17 on general orders.

18 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
19 Consumer Affairs, Intro 702-A, advertising price
20 of gasoline and diesel motor fuels.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and laid
22 over.

23 CLERK: Intro 939-A, stoop line
24 stands.

25 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled

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on general orders.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Finance, Intro 972, authorizing the increase in the amount of expended annually.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

CLERK: Preconsidered Reso 1623, organizations to receive funding in the expense budget.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

CLERK: Preconsidered LU747 and Reso 1624, Council Towers, Bronx.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

CLERK: Before the Committee on Fire and Criminal Justice Services, Intro 943-A, assembly certificate.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on general orders.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Housing and Buildings, Intro 977-A, waiving certain permit and inspection fees.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled

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on general orders, with a message of necessity.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land Use, Preconsidered LU748 and Reso 1625, 502 West 151st Street, Manhattan.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

CLERK: LU742 and Reso 1626, unenclosed sidewalk café, Manhattan.

SPEAKER QUINN: Motion to file, pursuant to a letter of withdrawal.

CLERK: LU743 and Reso 1627, and Reso 744 and Reso 1628 on page six, unenclosed sidewalk cafes, Manhattan.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

CLERK: LU745 and Reso 1629, Landmarks Preservation designation.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

CLERK: LU746 and Reso 1630, 235 Central Park North, Manhattan.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: General

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order calendar.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections, Preconsidered M103 and Reso 1631, reappointment of Maria Guastella, Richmond County Democratic Commissioner of Elections.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: General order calendar.

CLERK: Resolution appointing various persons commissioner of deeds.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders. At this point, I'd like to ask for a roll call on all items that have been coupled on the General Order Calendar, please.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

CLERK: Jackson?

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on all and Preconsidered resolution.

CLERK: Arroyo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye on all.

CLERK: Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [off mic] I

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vote aye on...

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Hold on.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote no on 911 and aye on all the rest. And just want to also emphasize that even though the cap was removed and that's a good thing, for over a million, but if you're not getting the contracts at a million and below, how many contracts you think you're going to get at 5 and 10 and 15 and 20 million dollars? Let's be real. So I vote aye on all and no on 911. Thank you.

CLERK: Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye. Congratulations to James Sanders, Jr., and welcome to the wonderful new Council Member King from the Bronx. I vote aye on all and congratulations to all the MWBE supporters. Now let's make sure it's monitored. Thank you.

CLERK: Cabrera?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: I vote aye on all and I welcome our newest Council Member Andy King, sitting right next to me. So I know Andy for a while now and I know he's going to be a great team member. Welcome.

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CLERK: Chin?

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye on all.

CLERK: Comrie?

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye on all.

I just want to welcome Andy King to the City Council and I look forward to working with him. I want to congratulate all of those who worked diligently on trying to make this next level of MWBE more significant for our communities. I look forward to continuing to work with them as we monitor the success of this bill. Aye on all.

CLERK: Crowley?

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye on all.

CLERK: Dickens?

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye on all.

CLERK: Eugene?

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye on all, and welcome to the new City Council Member Andy King and all the best to the Senator-elect Sanders.

CLERK: Ferreras?

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye on

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all.

CLERK: Fidler?

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

CLERK: Foster?

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: I'd like to vote aye on all, and thank everyone that extended their thoughts and prayers. I brought my sister home from Zurich last week, Tuesday, and she's home recovering. A special thanks to Gale Brewer because, you know, she knows everyone, including people in Switzerland. She reached out to them. Then Inez, who knows everyone who knows everyone somewhere else, I really appreciate it. Chuck and the Speaker for reaching out to me, if not every day, every other day. God is really good, and she is home recovering, and it could have been a different outcome. So I thank you all very much for your thoughts and prayers.

CLERK: Garodnick?

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

CLERK: Gennaro?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

CLERK: Gentile?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Yes.

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CLERK: Gonzalez?

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Yes.

CLERK: Greenfield?

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [off
mic].

CLERK: Halloran?

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: First
of all, let me congratulate our newest member of
the body. We are glad to have you aboard. Many
people have questioned my involvement in the
legislation for the women and minority businesses.
I will explain my rational constitutional
application of the law. In looking at the law,
there were no checks and balances to ensure that
there was transparency in the agencies monitoring.
There was no requirement that there would be an
implementation to reduce fraud in the application.
Also, it said an arbitrary sealing, one that
didn't actually accomplish any goals. In the City
of New York, a contract below a million dollars is
not exactly a large contract. In fact, I'd
venture to say that 70-80 percent of those
contracts the city engages in are above a million

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2 dollars. So effectively, the law as it had been
3 written previously, did nothing other than take up
4 space in an index of laws. While it's not a
5 perfect law, I would point out to my good friend
6 Charles Barron, who is not here to be pointed out,
7 that while he is in fact that 8 percent is the
8 threshold for African Americans on constructing
9 services, goods, professional services and
10 standardized services all have significantly
11 higher percentages. In fact, looking at the
12 overall keel of the law, we'll find an uptick for
13 all of the minority and women-owned businesses in
14 the City of New York across the boards in almost
15 every category: service, professional services as
16 well as goods in the City of New York. If we're
17 going to give a leg up to people, it should be a
18 real leg up. It shouldn't be a feigned or token
19 opportunity for them. It should be a substantive
20 one; it should be real. If we're going to do
21 projects like this, we should have a uniform set
22 of standards.

23 The other thing bill does is allow
24 us to look to other city, state and federal
25 agencies for their definition in certification of

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2 these vendors and give them the opportunity to
3 integrate that into the way the city does
4 business. It's about time we had a more uniform
5 standard so that we can root out the people who
6 don't belong in the program and reach out to those
7 who do. So I'm hopeful that this law will
8 actually accomplish what the goal was at the
9 outset, to provide an opportunity to people who up
10 until now have not had one.

11 [Applause]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: You didn't
13 vote.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I vote
15 aye.

16 CLERK: Ignizio?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: I just
18 wanted to say merry Christmas and happy New Year
19 to everybody. I vote aye.

20 CLERK: King?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: I want to
22 thank everybody, again, who welcomed me into the
23 chambers today. I think it'd be a wise decision
24 for me to abstain from any voting today.

25 CLERK: Koslowitz?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Explain
3 my vote.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I am
6 delighted to be a sponsor of Intro 911-A, which we
7 are passing today. This legislation will greatly
8 help women and minority business enterprises in
9 our city, and that in turn will benefit our
10 economy. I wish to recognize one of the leaders
11 of the MWBE community in particular, and that is
12 Sandra Wilkin.

13 SPEAKER QUINN: Yay.

14 [Applause]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: In 2001,
16 Sandra Wilkin lobbied the City Council for the
17 funding for the city's very first disparity study.
18 She was persistent and dedicated in securing those
19 dollars, which serve even now as the basis for the
20 current local law. Working with then Council
21 Members Walter McCaffrey, Una Clarke, Mike Nelson
22 and myself, she succeeded in 2001 and has not
23 stopped since. Her pioneering efforts and her
24 advocacy have been nothing short of excellent.
25 This is a good day for the MWBE community and

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especially a great day for Sandra Wilkin.

I also want to thank my chief of staff Greg Levine, who will soon be my ex-chief of staff, who will be working for Congresswoman Grace Meng as her district director.

[Applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Even though I am going to miss him, we will be working together in another capacity, he in congress and myself in the City Council. I am going to miss you greatly, Greg, and the best of luck to you. My new chief of staff will be Vicky Morales.

SPEAKER QUINN: Yay.

[Applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I vote aye.

CLERK: Lander?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye on all. Congrats to our new colleague and happy holidays.

CLERK: Levin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye on all and congratulations to Council Member Andy King.

CLERK: Mark-Viverito?

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye

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on all and congratulations to Andy.

CLERK: Nelson?

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye on all
and congratulations to Council Member King.

CLERK: Palma?

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: [off mic]
Aye on all and congratulations to Council Member
King.

CLERK: Recchia?

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye on
all, and congratulations and welcome to the
family, Mr. King, love to have you.

CLERK: Reyna?

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Thank you.
I wanted to just take a moment to congratulate and
welcome Council Member Andy King. I also wanted
to take this opportunity to thank our Madame
Speaker for her leadership and making sure that
the MWBE legislation, Introduction of Law 911-A,
has finally come to fruition. As has been
mentioned already, this is a living document. We
want to continue to protect, evolve and hold
accountable every agency associated to this law.

It is important that my colleagues

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2 do such beyond their capacity as chairs to every
3 committee, overseeing every particular identified
4 agency but also making sure that in their own
5 local communities that they are making every
6 effort to educate and outreach every business out
7 there in the City of New York. We all have to
8 hold ourselves responsible for making sure that
9 this particular law is held to its highest degree
10 possible. It is a tool. It does not happen from
11 thin air. It cannot be successful on its own. I
12 do hope that we can all make that commitment
13 together to fulfill what is the goal of this
14 particular law.

15 Thank you, merry Christmas to all
16 of my colleagues, and a happy and blessed new
17 year. I vote aye on all.

18 CLERK: Rodriguez?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye and
20 welcome to our new colleague, Council Member Andy
21 King, and especially thank you to his family for
22 allowing us to share his time. Thank you.

23 CLERK: Ulrich?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: It's good
25 to be the king, right?

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[Laughter]

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Welcome. I
vote aye.

CLERK: Vallone?

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you,
and welcome to Council Member King. Abstain on
911-A and vote aye on the rest. Merry Christmas,
everyone.

CLERK: Vann?

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Thank you. A
moment to explain my vote. Heavy is the head that
wears the crown, Brother King. Congratulations.

Charles Barron voted no on MWBE.
Council Member Halloran voted yes. My new
colleague abstained. This has the makings of a
very effective legislation. I think I'm going to
vote aye.

[Laughter]

CLERK: Weprin?

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

CLERK: Williams?

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

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS:

Congratulations, Council Member King. In six months, just remember you begged thousands of people to be here.

[Laughter]

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS:

Congratulations to Council Member Sanders and my condolences to Debi Rose on the loss of her father. Merry Christmas and happy New Year to everyone. I wish every could come on Saturday to my Chris-Chanukah [phonetic] celebration in the district. You all are welcome. Chris-Chanukah, brother, Chris-Chanukah. Yes, we're going to have food.

[Laughter]

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I wanted

to explain my vote on Intro 911. I tossed and turned about this one a while and I spoke ad nauseum with several people to fully understand this bill. I do believe there are some issues with it. It fundamentally came down to whether you believe the feasibility study or you did not believe the feasibility study. I don't know that I have enough to not believe it. I do believe

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2 that we do have to have some independent studies
3 to make sure that this feasibility study is
4 correct. I'm very worried about that.

5 With that said, leaving it the way
6 it is means less money for folks and it keeps a
7 cap in place, so I am concerned about that. I
8 think it's great to have the monitoring, but I'm
9 not sure the monitoring will cause what we want.
10 I do also believe that if there is less black and
11 Latino businesses, part of that is because they
12 didn't get the money in the first place, so we
13 have to fix that.

14 I'm going to vote aye on this
15 because it does open a universe for more money and
16 I think that's what we want to do. I am still
17 concerned about the feasibility study. I would
18 like to see some independent study, so if this one
19 was wrong, we need to then go back and correct it.
20 I'm going to vote aye on all.

21 It's good to have any kind of
22 goals, but if we don't go to those goals and we
23 don't surpass the goals, it doesn't make any
24 sense. We had goals in the first one and we were
25 an abysmal failure at achieving those goals.

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2 Thank you.

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CLERK: Wills?

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5 actually read my speech. So I'm going to vote
6 aye, based on that. I want to congratulate Andy
7 King. You can now change your voicemail to
8 Council Member Andy King. I vote aye on all.

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CLERK: Oddo?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Thank you.

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12 Council Member King, right over here. Despite
13 some valiant efforts just now, rest assured I am
14 the funniest Council Member. All right?

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[Laughter]

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16 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: There once
17 was a guy by the name of Simcha Felder who tried
18 to challenge me for that title, and I ran him out
19 of this joint. I ran him so far he had to go to
20 Albany. He changed parties, changed affiliations.

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[Background noise]

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22 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Well maybe
23 not technically. Can you do me a favor and start
24 up my car?

24

25 In the spirit of unity, I'm going
to vote along the lines of Council Member Barron,

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2 but for none of the reasons he articulated. I
3 will vote no on 911-A and yes on all others. Oh,
4 everybody went silent after that. You were
5 laughing.

6 [Background noise]

7 CLERK: Rivera?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye
9 on all. Council Member King, welcome to the club.

10 CLERK: Speaker Quinn?

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Jimmy, you know
12 what's funny, really, really, really, really funny
13 every time? Aye on all. Hilariously funny, aye
14 on all. Aye on all.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: When it comes
16 to budget time, it's usually aye on all.

17 [Laughter]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All items
19 on today's General Order Calendar were adopted by
20 a vote of 48 in the affirmative with zero in the
21 negative and one abstention, with the exception of
22 Intro 911-A, which was adopted by a vote of 45 in
23 the affirmative, two in the negative and two
24 abstentions. Introduction and reading of the
25 bills.

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: All bills are
3 referred to committees as indicated on the agenda,
4 please.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Discussion
6 of resolutions. We have one resolution on today's
7 calendar, it's Reso 1352, resolution calling upon
8 employers in New York City to hire more workers
9 over the age of 55 years of age, adopted and laid
10 over by the Committee on Civil Service and Labor.
11 Then Preconsidered Reso 1619: resolution
12 expressing grief and sorrow for the victims and
13 their families and for all of those affected by
14 the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

15 SPEAKER QUINN: Shhh. Obviously,
16 they're all important, but a particularly
17 important resolution, so if I could ask for quiet.
18 Thank you very much. Mr. Majority Leader, if you
19 could start over again, just on all of the
20 resolutions. Start at the top, so to speak.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
22 very much. We're going to be voting on
23 Preconsidered Resolution 1619, resolution
24 expressing grief and sorrow for the victims and
25 their families and for all of those affected by

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2 the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in
3 Newtown, Connecticut, and calling upon the
4 President of the United States, the United States
5 Congress, state and local legislators and all
6 Americans to work together to reduce needless gun
7 violence by making meaningful changes to gun
8 control laws that will ensure that we are all kept
9 safe from gun violence, adopted by the Committee
10 on Finance. Anyone wanting to speak on the Reso?
11 Council Member Halloran?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Mr.
13 Majority, I, of course, am sympathetic to the
14 plight of the individuals in Connecticut and I am
15 very, very concerned that we still have a
16 situation in this country where people with mental
17 issues are not dealt with properly. However, I
18 will return to being a Republican after my votes
19 on the women and minority business act and remind
20 this entire body that there would be absolutely no
21 purpose served by tightening New York's gun laws,
22 which are the fourth toughest in the United
23 States. In fact, they're more onerous than
24 anywhere else except the city of Washington, D.C.
25 and the city of Chicago, both of whose laws were

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2 struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court as being too
3 onerous.

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5 There is nothing in the
6 Constitution of the United States, as I read it,
7 and the Second Amendment, that leaves ambiguity as
8 to the fact that the citizens of this country have
9 the right to have self-defense in their own home.
10 Not to belittle this tragedy, but in fact, even if
11 the Brady Bill were in effect at the time, it
12 would not have changed the outcome of what
13 happened that day when an individual stole weapons
14 from his mother and engaged in this behavior. We
15 need to fix the real problem which is at the core
16 of this, which is mental health issues.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Council

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Member?

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COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Thank you

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very much, Mr. Majority Leader.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you

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very much. Speaker Quinn?

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SPEAKER QUINN: What happened in

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Connecticut is a tragedy beyond anyone's ability

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to fully comprehend. Council Member Halloran is

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right in one sense, there is no one thing we can

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2 do that we can know with absolute certainty it
3 would have prevented what happened on Friday. But
4 what I do is because we don't know the one thing
5 that would make a difference; we have to do
6 everything that we think might make a difference.
7 To be able to put our heads on our pillows at
8 night and really know we are fighting to make sure
9 those people, particularly those children, those
10 teachers and administrators who ran into bullets,
11 did not die in vain.

12 There is no easy answer to the
13 issues of guns, particularly since the gun here
14 was legal. There are no easy answers to mental
15 health. Those who would criticize every level of
16 government for not having done enough on mental
17 health and for having cut important programs would
18 be correct.

19 Today needs to be the day we change
20 that and we do everything, recognizing there is no
21 one thing. This resolution and what it calls on
22 Congress to do, to reinstate the assault weapons
23 ban; we don't know, if that had been in place and
24 never lapsed, maybe--maybe--Mrs. Lanza wouldn't
25 have had that gun in her house. Now maybe Adam

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2 Lanza would have gotten a different gun, but maybe
3 he wouldn't have, and maybe there'll be another
4 house somewhere that won't have a military weapon
5 it simply does not need.

6 So the call today is to do
7 everything every day until we know every child is
8 safe in America. Thank you, Mr. Majority Leader.

9 [Applause]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Council
11 Member Rodriguez and then Council Member Vallone
12 afterward.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Our
14 prayers to the families of all those children and
15 the mother, and even the young person who
16 committed the whole suicide to his self and the
17 children. No one will do what he did in control
18 of his mental capacity. So I think that the
19 message that what happened on Friday sent to
20 everyone is that America, we have a lot to do. I
21 mean, violence is everywhere. Violence is
22 promoted in those games that we expose our
23 children to. Violence is promoted in Hollywood.
24 Violence is promoted on TV. Also, on Friday, the
25 Youth Committee was holding a hearing, led by my

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2 colleague Fidler, about the need to provide
3 healthcare service to especially our young people.
4 There are 3,500 that sleep in the streets of New
5 York every day.

6 So I congratulate all my colleagues
7 here, everyone that has been sending their prayers
8 to the families.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Council
10 Member?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I am
12 recognizing the role of the former teacher Ms.
13 Soto, who sacrificed her life for those students.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Council
15 Member?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank
17 you.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
19 very much. Council Member Vallone?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you.
21 I own a rifle, and I support this reso. No right
22 is absolute, not even speech. It is
23 unconscionable that the federal government has not
24 passed what we have called for here in the City
25 Council with my resolution, has not passed a bill

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2 eliminating the gun show loophole and the
3 Craigslist loophole. That is unconscionable.
4 Here in the City Council, we led the way. We
5 passed that reso. We also passed a law that I
6 wrote years ago, which established a 90-day
7 waiting period between guns. There's no reason
8 you can't wait 90 days to buy more than one gun,
9 unless you're selling those guns.

10 We did that here, and the state is
11 looking to do a 30-day, which is fine. We led the
12 way here, and we need to continue to lead the way.
13 No right is absolute, and we need to work together
14 to end this gun violence. I support the reso.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
16 very much. Any others to speak on this
17 resolution? Before we conclude this part, I just
18 wanted to say that it's amazing how an average
19 citizen can have better artillery than our police
20 officers protecting and serving us on a daily
21 basis, you know, in the city, state or in our
22 nation. That is a problem, and I concur with the
23 Speaker and I concur with my colleagues that
24 action needs to take place.

25 While there the Second Amendment,

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2 there is no reason why an average person needs to
3 have an assault rifle that is of the same caliber
4 as the military assault rifles. Action needs to
5 happen. When that news broke out, the first thing
6 I did as a parent is went to my daughter's school
7 to pick her up and I gave her the biggest hug I
8 could ever imagine, because those kids who
9 perished that day could have been any one of our
10 children. Government needs to take action to make
11 sure that a tragedy like that does not happen
12 again. So I vote aye on this resolution as well.

13 At this point in time, I want to
14 call for a voice vote on Reso 1619. All in favor,
15 say aye.

16 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All
18 opposed, say nay. Any abstentions? The ayes have
19 it.

20 Now we move on to general
21 discussion. We have Council Member Williams.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank
23 you. I was proud to be one of the co-sponsors of
24 that reso. Thank you, Speaker Quinn for your
25 leadership on that reso.

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2 I, as anyone, was horrified when I
3 saw the acts at Newtown. I've still been unable
4 to look at the pictures of the children when they
5 put them up on the screen or on the papers. I
6 can't even imagine what a parent through, who
7 dropped their kid off to elementary school and
8 came back just to hope that their child was on the
9 line, exiting the school, as someone walked up to
10 them to tell them that they were not. So it's
11 still horrifying and it's still something that I
12 can't even imagine what they're going through.

13 Something else that disturbed me,
14 and I've mentioned this before, in looking at all
15 of the coverage, I remember a gunman shooting a
16 congresswoman and a gunman shooting up a movie
17 theater and now the unspeakable and unthinkable,
18 shooting up an elementary school. There were no
19 disparaging remarks of the shooter. No one called
20 him an animal. No one called him a savage. No
21 one called him a beast. The only discussion was
22 of the mental capacity. It struck me as odd
23 because I've heard all of those names used when
24 acts of violence and gun violence in other parts
25 of the country, particularly parts in New York

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2 City.

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It struck me as odd because many of the people who are working on gun violence have mentioned things like this, that there was mental services needed and other kind of wrap around services that are needed. Everyone says, oh, we're trying to duck personal accountability. Well, I'm here to say that mental therapy and those services should not be a function of someone's skin color, it should be a function of what's needed.

As the co-chair of the Gun Violence Task Force, we met with some young people. I remember the young people who were in the life, who have used guns and been around guns, I remember one of them saying they say, as a young person, a body thrown off the roof, and talked about the trauma that may have caused. Now, you have young people who are dealing with cycles of destruction in their community, cycles of poverty generation to generation, without any therapy of how to deal with those things.

If we are going to talk about mental health services, I'd like to talk about

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2 them for everyone who may need them so that we can
3 lower gun violence across the nation. These need
4 to be done in tandem with gun control and other
5 measures. Thank you very much.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
7 very much. We now move on to Council Member
8 Fidler, followed by Council Member Ferreras.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Thank you,
10 Majority Leader Rivera. First, I just want to say
11 that based upon the outpouring of love for State
12 Senator-elect Sanders, Councilman Ulrich and I
13 have decided to stay.

14 [Laughter]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Really, on
16 a very, very much more serious note, Council
17 Member Rodriguez mentioned it. On Friday, as the
18 world was becoming aware of the tragedy at Sandy
19 Hook Elementary School, we were holding a hearing
20 on the provision of mental health services to our
21 most at-risk youth in the city, those that are
22 homeless without their families and the absence of
23 services that they get. So I want to say that
24 while I support with every fiber of my being, the
25 efforts that our Mayor is making to change laws on

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2 the federal and state level--and I really, really
3 mean that--don't for one second think there isn't
4 work that we can do, tangible work that we can do
5 right here to make sure that our city is never
6 home or is less likely to be home to any kind of
7 incident like that that happened at Sandy Hook.

8 Now, continuing in that spirit, you
9 know this is holiday season, and it is always more
10 important now than ever to think about those who
11 are less fortunate. I usually take this time at
12 this meeting every year to remind you of the 3,800
13 children who are homeless on the streets of our
14 city every night, without their families, and ask
15 you to keep them, each and every one of them, in
16 your hearts and minds and your prayers.

17 Finally, each of you should have on
18 your desk this invitation to my Toys for Tots
19 drive on Thursday night. I'd love to see all of
20 you there, even though I don't have a vote on the
21 next speaker. All of you, it would be really nice
22 if you came.

23 [Laughter]

24 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Bring an
25 unwrapped toy. Every toy is going to go to some

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2 child in need at the holiday time. You know,
3 quite frankly, there are probably more of them
4 this year than there have been in a very long
5 time. We'd love to have you. Please come.
6 Please bring a toy. On behalf of myself and my
7 family, I want to wish each and every one of you a
8 happy holiday and more important even, a happy and
9 a very healthy New York. Thank you.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
11 very much. We now move on to Council Member
12 Ferreras.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Thank
14 you. Today, I ask for your support of Intro 987,
15 a proposed law that would require every public
16 hospital to conspicuously post signage at the
17 entrance of the hospital and next to each elevator
18 stating that it is a crime to assault a nurse.

19 In 2010, the New York State Penal
20 Law was amended to include registered nurses and
21 licensed practical nurses in the list of workers
22 to be covered by the enhanced penalties of assault
23 that occur while they are on duty. In amending
24 the Penal Law, the State of New York indicated its
25 recognition of the important role of nurses in

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2 protecting the public health and welfare, and
3 further acknowledged the undeniable fact that
4 nurses need enhanced protections in what is often
5 a dangerous yet vital work environment.

6 Nationally, thousands of nurses are
7 assaulted annually. Just last night, one of the
8 Sandy displaced nurses from Bellevue Hospital was
9 assaulted on the job. Despite the passage of this
10 now almost two-year-old law, little has been done
11 in New York City hospitals to enforce its stated
12 terms and to implement it as a deterrent to
13 violence against registered nurses.

14 Individual nurses have very little
15 ability to protect themselves when they are at
16 work and their work environment exacerbates their
17 vulnerability to violent assaults. This local
18 law, requiring public hospitals to post signage,
19 giving patients and visitors notice of the law and
20 the penalties for assaulting registered nurses
21 will act as a deterrent against future assault.

22 I'd like to thank the
23 representatives of the New York State Nurses
24 Association for coming today to show their support
25 for this bill. Thank you. Please support Intro

1
2 987 and support the safety of hard working nurses
3 in our public hospitals. Thank you.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
5 very much, Council Member. Seeing no others--
6 Council Member Vann?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Thank you,
8 Mr. Majority Leader. I did not intend to speak,
9 but the tragedy that has occurred to our children
10 and fellow citizens is more than most of us can
11 really fully understand. Whereas I appreciate all
12 of the efforts that are being called for, changes
13 in legislation to affect availability of guns,
14 automatic weapons, the request to make sure that
15 mental health facilities are available, all of
16 which makes a lot of sense.

17 There is this culture of violence.
18 There is a culture of violence which we have not
19 really spoken to, probably because it's very
20 difficult to define and even much more difficult
21 to try and attack. That is the problem, the under
22 girding problem that we have to address. I'm not
23 wise enough to know how we should do it, but I'm
24 smart enough to know that we have to put that on
25 the table. We have to deal with what is this

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2 culture of violence, how does it manifest itself
3 in our city, in our schools, in our homes, with
4 our children.

5 So among the other things that we
6 must do, we must put our heads together, our task
7 force together and say there's a culture of
8 violence. In New York City, let's lead in the
9 efforts in our attempt to deal with that, because
10 that's where the fundamental change will occur, in
11 addition to all the other policy, and legislative
12 things that we must address. Thank you.

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

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you,
16 Mr. Majority Leader. I just want to say that in
17 thinking about the unspeakable tragedy last
18 Friday, what strikes me is that we must do all of
19 the above. We must address the underlying culture
20 of violence that we have in our country and in our
21 cities. We must address the complex issues
22 surrounding mental health and the care for those
23 with mental illness. We must address the
24 availability of guns and our gun laws in the
25 entire country. We need to pool all of our

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2 resources and we cannot let a tragedy like this
3 ever happen again. Thank you very much, Mr.
4 Majority Leader.

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

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Donna Hintze 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 _____ *Donna Hintze* _____

Date January 4, 2013 _____