

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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January 23, 2013
Start: 2:31 p.m.
Recess: 4:04 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Christine C. Quinn
Joel Rivera
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
Peter Koo
G. Oliver Koppell
Karen Koslowitz
Brad S. Lander
Jessica S. Lappin
Stephen T. Levin
Melissa Mark-Viverito
Darlene Mealy
Michael C. Nelson
James S. Oddo
Annabel Palma
Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.
Diana Reyna
Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Deborah L. Rose
Eric A. Ulrich
James Vacca
Peter F. Vallone, Jr.
James G. Van Bramer
Mark S. Weprin
Jumaane D. Williams
Ruben Wills

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

Sonya Allen

Jon Candelaria

Rev. Richard Ahlemeyer
St. Camillus Church

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: Today, the first
3 one, if I could ask the representatives from DC37
4 and the family of Leonard Allen who are here and
5 anyone else who's part of this ceremonial to come
6 up, that would be great. If everybody could make
7 their way up. Thank you. I don't know if any of
8 the folks from the union want to--Bridget or Susan
9 or anybody want to come on up for the picture,
10 that would be great. Come on up, Susan and
11 Bridget.

12 As most folks know, Lenny Allen
13 lost a lengthy battle with cancer last May, at the
14 age of 75. Throughout his life, I think a lot of
15 folks knew him through his contribution to the
16 union movement and to the City of New York and to
17 his community. He served his country in the Army
18 during the Korean War, and later worked as a New
19 York City housing officer in Brooklyn and
20 Manhattan. He joined the labor movement at
21 District Council 37 as a shop steward and
22 eventually became the outstanding president of
23 OTB, Local 2021, and a vice president of DC37. He
24 fought tirelessly for the jobs of his members, who
25 he saw as an extension of his own family, for

1
2 which he cared deeply. He had--make sure if these
3 numbers are right--four children, five
4 grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

5 At the time of his death, Lenny and
6 his wife Delores were helping to raise their great
7 grandchildren. Unfortunately, his wife couldn't
8 be with us today. She is, in kind of the caring
9 way of this family, at home caring for their two
10 great grandchildren. His daughter Sonya Allen
11 [phonetic] is here to accept the proclamation. If
12 I could ask the clerk to read the proclamation and
13 then we'll hear from some of the friends and
14 family who are here.

15 CLERK: Council City of New York
16 Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of
17 New York is proud to posthumously honor Leonard
18 Allen for his outstanding leadership as president
19 of Local 2012 DC37, and for his many enduring
20 contributions to building a better future for its
21 members and for the community.

22 And whereas, on May 28, 2012, Mr.
23 Allen lost a lengthy battle with cancer at the age
24 of 75. Yet even illness can never erase many
25 years of hard won victories. He was a passionate

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2 champion for one of our nation's most fundamental
3 values, the right to organize and collectively
4 bargain.

5 And whereas, Mr. Allen first served
6 his fellow Americans in Korea, as a member of the
7 United States Army. When he returned home from
8 the war and completed his service, he began his
9 first job working as a New York City housing
10 officer.

11 And whereas, Mr. Allen joined the
12 labor movement over 20 years as a DC37 shop
13 steward. He served on the executive board as vice
14 president for DC37 for seven consecutive terms and
15 was also a union delegate and a member of DC37
16 screening as well as its political action
17 committee. He also helped launch the careers the
18 late City Council Member James Davis and State
19 Senators Diane Savino, Kevin Parker, Eric Adams
20 and other allies of DC37 and working families.

21 And whereas, Mr. Allen had a
22 distinguished tenure of more than 20 years as the
23 union leader at the New York City Municipal
24 Employees Union, DC37, representing more than
25 121,000 city workers. In 1999, he also became

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2 president of Off-Track Betting Employees Local
3 2021, and led a long battle to save the jobs and
4 health insurance of some 800 OTB employees and 700
5 retirees.

6 And whereas, Mr. Allen truly
7 considered DC37 members to be family, perhaps
8 second only to his own. Mr. Allen and his wife
9 Delores have been blessed with four children, five
10 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

11 And whereas, on this occasion, we
12 reflect on Mr. Allen's great impact on the lives
13 of all who knew him, remembering his many triumphs
14 and even his painful losses. But let us all
15 remain forever inspired by his unwavering
16 commitment to helping his fellow New Yorkers.

17 Now, therefore, be it known that
18 the Council of the City of New York is proud to
19 honor the life and indelible memory of Leonard
20 Allen for his outstanding service to DC37 and the
21 community at large. Christine C. Quinn, Speaker
22 for the entire Council; Robert Jackson, Council
23 Member 7th District Manhattan; Michael C. Nelson,
24 Council Member 48th District Brooklyn; Joel
25 Rivera, Council Member 15th District Bronx; Leroy

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2 Comrie, Deputy Majority Leader, Council Member
3 27th District Queens; Inez E. Dickens, Council
4 Member 9th District Manhattan.

5 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
6 much. Just before I turn the mike over to his
7 daughter, Council Member Brewer very rightly
8 reminds that at the first Stated Meeting after
9 your father passed away, many of the Council
10 Members, Gale and others spoke of him on the floor
11 and expressed their sympathy but more importantly,
12 perhaps, their gratitude for all your father had
13 done for this city. So thank you.

14 SONYA ALLEN: On behalf of my
15 father Lenny Allen, I just want to say thank you
16 for recognizing his work and dedication to the
17 City of New York. Thank you.

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
19 much. Thank you.

20 [Applause]

21 SPEAKER QUINN: The next ceremonial
22 is going to be led by Council Member Dan
23 Garodnick.

24 [Pause]

25 SPEAKER QUINN: All right, so as

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2 Jon Candelaria and his family and guests make
3 their way up, if we could ask any Council Members
4 who want to join Dan to celebrate a hero, we would
5 ask everybody to come up and do that.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank
7 you very much, Madam Speaker. Jon, come on over
8 here. I want to introduce you all to--

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SPEAKER QUINN: [interposing] Hang
10 on, Dan. If we could get some quiet. Quiet.
11 Thank you.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: I want
13 to introduce you all to Jon Candelaria. Jon
14 Candelaria is one of my constituents, and I'm so
15 pleased to honor him today. You should know, this
16 is the first ceremonial that I have done in the
17 Council Chambers in seven years, and I think
18 appropriately so, for this gentleman. Because Jon
19 Candelaria was, in the middle of Hurricane Sandy,
20 looking out his window at the Isaacs Houses and he
21 saw a taxi driver who suddenly was in his taxi and
22 engulfed by water. Rather than just sit idly and
23 watch as the events transpired, he ran down all of
24 the floors of his building, out into the water--I
25 think just wearing basketball shorts and a t-

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2 shirt--waded into what became the East River and
3 helped this cab driver, who was up to his neck in
4 water. Together, they pulled the door open and
5 brought him out into safety. So he saved this
6 man's life.

7 [Applause]

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: You
9 don't hear stories like that every day and
10 certainly, I wanted to express to him a great
11 appreciation of all of your neighbors and the
12 whole city, because what you did was extraordinary
13 and I don't think any of us should ever forget it.
14 So, again, thank you.

15 [Applause]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: We will
17 ask the clerk to read the proclamation.

18 CLERK: Council City of New York
19 Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of
20 New York is proud to honor Jon Candelaria for his
21 lifesaving heroism during Hurricane Sandy.

22 And whereas, when Hurricane Sandy
23 struck our coast on Monday, October 29, 2012, its
24 battering winds and powerful storm surges led to
25 unprecedented flooding all along its path,

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2 devastating coastal communities and leaving
3 millions of people in the dark, including a large
4 portion of Manhattan. There, almost as quickly as
5 the power went out, the water poured in, filling
6 tunnels and streets and sending cars floating not
7 so gently down the stream.

8 And whereas, Jon Candelaria, a 25-
9 year-old father of a 2-year-old daughter, watched
10 the storm from the window of his family's Upper
11 East Side apartment, a NYCHA building at East 93rd
12 Street and First Avenue. Suddenly, he saw a taxi
13 SUV trying to make its way into the entrance of
14 the flooded FDR Drive. The water rising quickly
15 enveloped the taxi then abruptly lifted it with
16 the tide and turned it 180 degrees, as though it
17 weighed as much as a cork.

18 Mr. Candelaria raced from the
19 seventh floor apartment downstairs to save the
20 driver. His mother tried to reach 911, and
21 neighbors witnessed the daring rescue unfold.
22 Without concern for his own safety and wearing
23 only a jacket, basketball shorts and sneakers, Mr.
24 Candelaria waded into the chest-deep frigid
25 floodwaters to save a drowning stranger.

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And whereas, by the time Mr. Candelaria reached the vehicle, the churning water had reached the driver's chin and sealed the car door shut. With laser focus determination, Herculean strength and help from the driver himself, Mr. Candelaria was finally able to yank the victim out of the taxi just in time, throw him over his back and slog his way back to the new shoreline.

[Applause]

CLERK: When they had safely emerged from the floodwaters, the driver was whisked off to the hospital, where he soon recovered. In the end, Superstorm Sandy was no match for a bold and incredibly lucky real life superhero.

And whereas, Mr. Candelaria has truly distinguished himself in the most perilous of circumstances with an uncommon courage and strength of character that inspires others to find and foster such qualities within themselves. He has earned our gratitude for his successful rescue and earned the deepest respect of all New Yorkers.

Now, therefore, be it known that

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2 the Council of the City of New York proudly honors
3 Jon Candelaria for braving Hurricane Sandy to save
4 the life of a fellow New Yorker. Christine C.
5 Quinn, Speaker for the entire Council; Daniel
6 Garodnick, Council Member 4th District Manhattan.

7 SPEAKER QUINN: Wow.

8 [Applause]

9 SPEAKER QUINN: It is not often
10 that you hear a proclamation read here and have it
11 sound like a made for TV movie that you just think
12 they've gone too far in the description of the
13 Herculean events and it's not a movie and thank
14 God you did go too far in some ways, because you
15 saved that man's life. Wow, that's remarkable.
16 Thank you so very much for your bravery.

17 [Applause]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Before I
19 turn the microphone over to Mr. Candelaria, I want
20 to recognize the presence of Ms. Rose Bergen, who
21 is the president of the Isaacs Tenants Association
22 and his cousin Annie who is also here joining him.

23 JON CANDELARIA: On behalf of me
24 and my family that couldn't make it today, we're
25 honored. Just thank you so much. I mean that's

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2 all I could say. I'm just shocked I made it all
3 the way to City Hall. Thank you.

4 [Laughter]

5 SPEAKER QUINN: Thanks.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thanks a
7 lot, Jon. Congrats.

8 [Applause]

9 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you guys,
10 thank you. Our next and final ceremonial for the
11 day is going to be led by another eastsider,
12 Council Member Jessica Lappin, and it's in honor
13 of Big Brothers Big Sisters, a terrific New York
14 City organization. So if I could ask the folks
15 from Big Brothers Big Sisters, who've been smiling
16 lovely in the back, to make their way up and then
17 we'll turn the microphone over to Jessica. There
18 you go, Jessica.

19 [Pause]

20 SPEAKER QUINN: If we could ask
21 folks to just kind of make their way up. Let's
22 get everybody a little bit organized here. Then I
23 think Jessica is just wrapping up a call and then
24 she'll be over in a second. We'll do a couple of
25 pictures first.

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2 While I through the mike over in a
3 second to Council Member Lappin, I just want to
4 thank her for having us take this moment to
5 recognize and thank Big Brothers Big Sisters, an
6 organization that we in the Council have been very
7 proud to support financially for quite some time
8 through our discretionary funding. Also, we've
9 had members of our staff like Scott Crowley,
10 ironically enough, since it's funny, who have been
11 longtime big brothers and big sisters themselves.
12 So we've seen firsthand here through our staff,
13 through our districts the tremendous difference
14 you guys make. So thank you very much. Let me
15 turn the mike over to Jessica.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Well, thank
17 you. So many of us have been blessed in our lives
18 to have a big brother or a big sister to help us
19 and mentor us along the way. I myself am a big
20 sister. My little brother got married last
21 weekend, yes, to a wonderful woman, and I hope
22 that I have provided some mentorship to him along
23 the way. But not everybody has that opportunity
24 and that chance. You have done such a wonderful
25 job of filling that void and providing leadership

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and guidance and really opportunity to so many young people in this city.

This is Mentoring Month. We wanted to recognize you and to thank you for all the lives that you have touched and changed.

SPEAKER QUINN: If we could get a little quiet. Thank you. If we could ask the clerk to read the proclamation. Thank you.

CLERK: Council City of New York Proclamation. Whereas, in celebration of National Mentoring Month, the Council of the City of New York is proud to honor Big Brothers Big Sisters for its extraordinary role in shaping the lives of countless young people throughout New York City and across the nation.

And whereas, National Mentoring Month, January, provides a special time to recognize the tremendous influence that adults have in the lives of children, whether they are members of our family or members of the community at large. Those selfless individuals who answer the call to service by mentoring a child in need have a profound impact, volunteering their time and offering love, guidance and support, they

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2 serve as positive role models, help instill
3 valuable life skills and empower young people to
4 pursue their highest aspirations and realize their
5 full potential. They are big brother big sisters.

6 And whereas, for 100 years, Big
7 Brothers Big Sisters, the nation's largest donor
8 and volunteer supported mentoring network, has
9 partnered with parents and guardians, schools,
10 corporations and others in the community to
11 carefully pair children, also known as littles,
12 with screened volunteer mentors, or bigs, and
13 monitors and supports these one-to-one mentoring
14 matches throughout their course.

15 And whereas, the unique paradigm
16 that Big Brothers Big Sisters offers regularly
17 leads to a wide range of positive results, from
18 educational success and the avoidance of risky
19 behaviors, to higher aspirations, greater
20 confidence and better relationships. In 2012, the
21 first Big Brothers Big Sisters Youth Outcome
22 Summary substantiated that its mentoring programs
23 have proven positive academic, social, emotional
24 and behavioral outcomes for youth.

25 And whereas, with about--

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: [interposing] Could
3 we get a little quiet.

4 CLERK: Whereas, with about 350
5 agencies across the United States, Big Brothers
6 Big Sisters now annually serves 630,000 children,
7 volunteers and families. Big Brothers Big Sisters
8 marks National Mentoring Month with the launch of
9 a nationwide campaign to locate and reunite with
10 former bigs, littles, donors and staff, board and
11 family members.

12 And whereas, Big Brothers Big
13 Sisters has changed lives of struggle to lives of
14 success, by establishing a strong connection
15 between children and responsible adult, they have
16 changed the course of communities across our
17 nation and our future for generations ahead. They
18 have earned our sincere gratitude, not only this
19 month but throughout the year.

20 Now, therefore, be it known that
21 the Council of the City of New York gratefully
22 honors Big Brothers Big Sisters for their
23 outstanding service and contributions to the
24 community. Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the
25 entire Council; Jessica S. Lappin, Council Member

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2 5th District Manhattan.

3 SPEAKER QUINN: Yay.

4 [Applause]

5 MALE VOICE: On behalf of our board
6 of directors, our staff, the 3,500 children that
7 we serve in New York City, we want to thank the
8 City Council for their support. We want to thank
9 Council Member Lappin and Speaker Quinn on behalf
10 of all our staff and all the children we serve.
11 We really are honored today to receive this
12 citation. We'll hang it up appropriately in our
13 offices. Thank you.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. Thank
15 you very much. That concludes today's
16 ceremonials. Thank you everybody.

17 [Pause]

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

24 [Pause]

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: My

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2 colleagues, please rise for the Pledge of
3 Allegiance.

4 [Pledge of Allegiance]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Roll call.

6 CLERK: Arroyo?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

8 CLERK: Barron?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.

10 CLERK: Brewer?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

12 CLERK: Cabrera?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: [No

14 response].

15 CLERK: Chin?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

17 CLERK: Comrie?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: [No

19 response].

20 CLERK: Crowley?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

22 CLERK: Dickens?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.

24 CLERK: Dilan?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Here.

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2 CLERK: Dromm?
3 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.
4 CLERK: Eugene?
5 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: [No
6 response].
7 CLERK: Ferreras?
8 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.
9 CLERK: Fidler?
10 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.
11 CLERK: Foster?
12 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: [No
13 response].
14 CLERK: Garodnick?
15 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.
16 CLERK: Gennaro?
17 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.
18 CLERK: Gentile?
19 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: [No
20 response].
21 CLERK: Gonzalez?
22 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Here.
23 CLERK: Greenfield?
24 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Here.
25 CLERK: Halloran?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: [No
3 response].
4 CLERK: Ignizio?
5 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: [No
6 response].
7 CLERK: Jackson?
8 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: [No
9 response].
10 CLERK: James?
11 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here.
12 CLERK: King?
13 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Here.
14 CLERK: Koo?
15 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.
16 CLERK: Koppell?
17 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.
18 CLERK: Koslowitz?
19 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.
20 CLERK: Eugene?
21 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.
22 CLERK: Lander?
23 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.
24 CLERK: Lappin?
25 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Here.

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CLERK: Levin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

CLERK: Mark-Viverito?

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

Here.

CLERK: Mealy?

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: [No

response].

CLERK: Mendez?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: [No

response].

CLERK: Nelson?

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: [No

response].

CLERK: Palma?

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

CLERK: Recchia?

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Here.

CLERK: Reyna?

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.

CLERK: Rodriguez?

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

CLERK: Rose?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

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CLERK: Ulrich?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.

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CLERK: Vacca?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: [No

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response].

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CLERK: Jackson?

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Here.

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CLERK: Vallone?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

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CLERK: Van Bramer?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

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CLERK: Comrie?

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Here.

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CLERK: Vann?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [No

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response].

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CLERK: Weprin?

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

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CLERK: Williams?

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

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CLERK: Gentile?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

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CLERK: Halloran?

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COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Here.

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CLERK: Wills?

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Here.

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CLERK: Oddo?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes. Thank

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you. Here.

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CLERK: Rivera?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Here.

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CLERK: Speaker Quinn?

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SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

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CLERK: We have a quorum.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: A quorum is

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present. My colleagues, please rise for the
Invocation, being delivered today by Reverend
Richard Ahlemeyer, Pastor of St. Camillus Church.

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REV. RICHARD AHLEMEYER: Good

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afternoon. Before we begin, we should say I was
just asked to make a special prayer. Councilman
Rodriguez's wife is due to deliver today. I give
him a lot of credit. He's here.

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[Applause]

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REV. RICHARD AHLEMEYER: I don't

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know if we should say a special prayer because
you're here and not with your wife.

23

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[Laughter]

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2 REV. RICHARD AHLEMEYER: You may
3 have to answer to that later. So let us bow our
4 heads as we begin to pray today. Let us join with
5 the Councilman on this blessed day and ask that
6 the Lord watch over his wife and child to come.
7 Watch over him and his family and give her a safe
8 delivery. Watch over all parents, especially in
9 our City of New York.

10 Almighty and eternal God, you have
11 revealed your glory to all peoples. God of power
12 and might, wisdom and justice. Through you,
13 authority is rightly administered. Laws are
14 enacted and judgment is decreed. Let the light of
15 your divine wisdom direct the deliberations of the
16 City Council this day and shine forth in all their
17 proceedings and the laws framed for the welfare of
18 our city and its residents.

19 May the members of this Council
20 seek to preserve peace, promote justice and
21 continue to bring all in our city the blessings of
22 liberty and equality. May they be enabled by your
23 powerful protection to discharge their duties with
24 honesty and ability.

25 We likewise today commend to your

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2 care all the people of our city, especially those
3 most in need of your love, the poor, the elderly,
4 the frail, the homeless, the vulnerable, victims
5 of crime and those affected by disasters such as
6 the recent Hurricane Sandy.

7

We pray to you our Lord and God
8 forever and ever. Amen.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Council
10 Member Ulrich?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Thank you,
12 Mr. Majority Leader. I make a motion to spread
13 the Invocation in full upon the record, and I
14 welcome and thank Father Richie Ahlemeyer from St.
15 Camillus Church in Rockaway, who suffered
16 enormously due to Hurricane Sandy. I want to once
17 again thank my colleagues for all that you have
18 done to help my constituents in the Rockaways. I
19 know that Father Richie also appreciates it.
20 Thank you very much for being here.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.

22

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. While
23 Council Member Rodriguez is going up to see Father
24 Richie, I just want to ask my colleagues to stand
25 again, and also thank Father Richie for being with

1
2 us today. His church was one of my childhood
3 churches. When we used to go to Rockaway that was
4 the church that we went to. So sorry to hear that
5 the church is struggling now as a result of the
6 storm but we can see it has great leadership.
7 Unfortunately, my father left work early, Father,
8 or he would have been here. We're going to have
9 dock him. He's slacking off. We will find a time
10 for the two of you to meet. Best of luck and if
11 there's anything the church needs, please let us
12 know.

13 On January 11, 2013, Christine
14 Molnar, 47, the President and CEO of Safe Space, a
15 major nonprofit childcare agency, passed away
16 quite suddenly while attending a year-end party
17 for her organization. A graduate of the Harvard
18 School of Public Health, Christine joined Safe
19 Space in 2009, after 14 years of service at the
20 Community Service Society of New York.

21 Just before her passing, Christine
22 noted to the assembled crowd that 2012 was a
23 difficult year, as Hurricane Sandy had really
24 tested her and her staff. As soon as Sandy hit,
25 Christine sent her caseworkers to search the

1
2 emergency shelters in the Rockaways for vulnerable
3 children they work with in order to keep up with
4 their cases. She tirelessly met with elected
5 officials and others to emphasize the region's
6 needs and provided hot meals and counselors to so
7 many affected by the storm. Her very untimely
8 passing will leave a void in many not-for-profit
9 organizations where she held advisory position.

10 Christine Molnar is survived by her
11 husband George, her ex-husband Bill and their two
12 children, Sasha and Soren. I'd like to now call
13 on Council Member Brad Lander and then Deputy
14 Majority Leader Leroy Comrie to say a few words.
15 I want to thank Council Member Lander who reached
16 out to me this morning to make sure that we took a
17 moment of silence for Christine, because certainly
18 her organization and Christine were people and a
19 group we work with on a regular basis in the
20 Council. Council Member Lander?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you
22 very much, Speaker. Chris Molnar was a visionary
23 social services leader with Safe Space NYC and
24 CSS, an activist for justice, a lover of the
25 outdoors, a great athlete, a joyful person with a

1
2 huge smile, a loving mother and a good friend. I
3 would see her most around the neighborhood, and
4 you could see in the deep love and care that she
5 had for her two kids, Sasha and Soren, so young
6 and so bright. What came through at her memorial
7 service--she died last week much, much too young,
8 at 46--was how the love that she had for her two
9 kids was reflected in the way that she built that
10 organization Safe Space, and led it so well.

11 The deep love and care and warmth
12 that she was able to give them was what she wanted
13 for all the families of Safe Space and the kids of
14 Southeast Queens. Her loss is a loss for all of
15 New York City and one that we'll all feel very,
16 very personally. Thank you.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I just want
18 to echo the comments of the Speaker and Council
19 Member Lander. I met Ms. Molnar when she was
20 still working at the Community Service Society of
21 New York, when she was lobbying on particular
22 issues. When she came to Safe Space and wanted to
23 relocate to Jamaica, she was just so excited to
24 refocus that agency's headquarters in Jamaica.
25 She brought the agency there and was so happy to

1
2 show me the space. I had an opportunity to tour
3 the space with her. Her desires to work in the
4 community, her efforts that she organized right
5 after Hurricane Sandy to try to take care of
6 children in the Rockaways, to provide meals and
7 opportunities and actually recreate Safe Space
8 into almost a shelter for people 24/7.

9 She is truly going to be a loss for
10 our community because her dream was just starting
11 to be realized to make sure that the one of the
12 largest service agencies in the city would be
13 located in Jamaica. I know she'll be a major
14 loss. To the staff at both Community Service
15 Society and Safe Space, we feel your loss greatly.
16 We hope that we can only honor her memory by
17 continuing the mission of Safe Space and Community
18 Service Society. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Deputy
20 Majority Leader. Also on January 16, 2013, Maria
21 Christopher, who was 65, passed away after a short
22 bout with pancreatic cancer. Born in Harlem,
23 Marie moved to the Lower East Side in 1984, where
24 she began almost 30 years of dedicated and
25 tireless service on behalf of tenants,

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2 environmental justice and mental health issues,
3 just to name a few of her causes. Marie like to
4 say that, quote, "the solutions people seek
5 usually begin and end with people in the
6 community."

7

8 Marie is survived by her two sons,
9 Melvin and Don, the 170 families who continue to
10 live in affordable and safe housing at her beloved
11 210 Stanton Street, which Marie single-handedly
12 helped save from a notorious drug dealer and
13 countless tenants and people all throughout the
14 Lower East Side.

15

16 Marie had a long and very strong
17 relationship and friendship with Council Members
18 Rosie Mendez and Margaret Chin as they together
19 fought for many tenant rights issues. Council
20 Member Mendez is not with us today, in as much as
21 she is attending Marie's funeral. So I'd like to
22 call on Council Member Chin to say a few words
23 please.

24

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: We all
remember Marie as a strong community activist and
organizer. She always involved everyone in the
struggle for affordable housing. What she does is

1
2 that she makes sure everyone has the information
3 and know what's going on. So that in every
4 meeting that she conducted, she always has
5 interpreters there that speak Spanish and Chinese
6 and made sure all the materials were translated.
7 I met her because I was one of her translators.

8 I was there at the meeting and she-
9 -just with Marie, you can't say no to her. So at
10 night, after long hours of working, I was there
11 with her side-by-side, working together along with
12 Council Member Rosie Mendez. Back then, we were
13 not Council Members we were just community
14 organizers. We worked with her to fight to
15 preserve affordable housing at 210 Stanton, but
16 she was always there to help other buildings
17 organize.

18 Recently, even when she was sick,
19 she helped the tenants at 10 Stanton fought a
20 winning battle to extend their affordable housing
21 contract. We will always remember Marie because
22 she always thought the best of us. We will
23 continue to remember her, continue to fight and
24 preserve the affordable housing that we have in
25 our city. Thank you.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much, Council Member Chin. Sadly, yesterday we learned of the passing of former council member Juanita Watkins, who was 78. Juanita represented the 31st District in Queens from 1992 through 2001, and her district, which covered the largest land mass of any district, included all our parts of Far Rockaway, Laurelton, Cambria Height, Bays Water, Springfield Garden and South Ozone Park. Council Member Watkins served on the Committees of Finance, Rules, Public Safety, General Welfare, Contracts, Consumer Affairs and Governmental Operations. Juanita was a strong advocate on behalf of her community, on many fronts, including the battles over mega stores, commuter vans and services for seniors.

As we receive more details about the arrangements for her funeral, we will put out a notice to everyone. I know everyone also remember just a very dedicated daughter Juanita was to her mother and how she cared for her mother for many, many, many, many years when her mother was sick and how they were almost inseparable when she was sick and when she wasn't sick as well.

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2 Let me now call again on our Deputy
3 Majority Leader Leroy Comrie, who was a good
4 friend of Council Member Watkins, to say a few
5 words.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Thank you,
7 Speaker Quinn. Juanita Watkins was a community
8 advocate. Juanita Watkins was a fighter for
9 women's rights. Juanita Watkins was one of the
10 first people I knew that was active in the
11 Democratic Party at a local party level. Juanita
12 Watkins was a teacher. She was a party leader.
13 She was one of the most gracious women that you
14 would ever meet. The person that would always--
15 you have to mark people by how they treat you when
16 you were nobody, you know.

17 Juanita Watkins was someone that
18 always gave me encouragement, direction, advice.
19 Someone that always made sure that she would greet
20 people warmly and treat everyone like they were a
21 full member of society, not just some...

22 She was one of the first elected--
23 well she wasn't even elected then. She was still
24 involved in the party. She was one of the first
25 chairs for the state, the Queens chair for the

1
2 state committee. But Juanita would always engage
3 everyone, no matter who it was that she
4 encountered, no matter if it was the highest
5 person or the lowest person, she would engage
6 people.

7 We'd often have to drag her out of
8 meetings because she was just trying to make sure
9 she touched everybody in the room and let
10 everybody know about her passion for issues.

11 She did so many things and helped
12 so many people get elected, from Joe Addabbo to
13 Floyd Flake to so many people that when it was
14 time for her to step up and come into the City
15 Council, when it evolved from 35 seats to 51 seats
16 in the 90s, she was happy to be a representative.
17 She knew that one of the main things she had to do
18 as a representative was mentor people. She used
19 her position as a City Council member to mentor
20 and influence so many people.

21 She came in the Council with Tom
22 White and with my predecessor Archie Spigner.
23 They formed a three-prong team of people that
24 really pushed on a lot of issues and got a lot of
25 respect from people all around the city. People

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2 still ask me for Juanita all the time, how she was
3 doing, you know, was she doing well.

4 Unfortunately, in her last few years, she
5 suffered. So I'm sad that she's gone but I'm
6 happy that she's out of her pain, because she
7 truly suffered in her last few years.

8 Even during that time, when you
9 engaged her, had the opportunity to see her, she
10 didn't want to talk about herself. She wanted to
11 know issues. She wanted to know what you were
12 doing, how she could help. Even from where she
13 was in a nursing home, she wanted to try to be
14 active. She wanted to try to make sure that she
15 kept, as long as she could, engaged and informed,
16 and well read. You could go and see nothing but
17 papers and articles about things because she was
18 trying to keep up. She cared about her community.
19 She cared about people. She cared about this
20 city. She cared deeply about empowering women and
21 empowering all of us. She will be missed. Thank
22 you.

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

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you,

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2 Madam Speaker. We know move on to adoption of the
3 minutes. Council Member Cabrera?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Motion
5 that the minutes of the Stated Meeting on November
6 27 and December 10, 2012 be adopted as printed.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.
8 Messages and papers from the Mayor?

9 CLERK: Preconsidered M1029,
10 submitting the name of LaShann M. DeArcy, Taxi and
11 Limousine Commission.

12 SPEAKER QUINN: Rules, Privileges
13 and Elections.

14 CLERK: Preconsidered M1030,
15 submitting the name of Edward Gonzales, Taxi and
16 Limousine Commission.

17 SPEAKER QUINN: Rules, Privileges
18 and Elections.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Can we get
20 silence in the chambers? Communication from City,
21 County and Borough Offices?

22 CLERK: None.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Petitions
24 and communications?

25 CLERK: None.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Land Use

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Call-ups?

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CLERK: M1031--

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[Background noise]

6

SPEAKER QUINN: Go ahead.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Land Use

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Call-ups?

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CLERK: M1031.

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SPEAKER QUINN: If we could get a

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roll call please on that Land Use Call-up. I

12

suspect that we are all going to grant Ydanis

13

Rodriguez permission to vote early and get the

14

heck out of here right away. So if we could make

15

an exception and start out of alphabetical order,

16

it would reduce my anxiety level tremendously, if

17

we would start with Ydanis and he would get the

18

heck out of here.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank

20

you, Speaker and the rest of my colleagues.

21

CLERK: Rodriguez?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I would

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like to vote aye and also ask permission to vote

24

aye on all General Orders.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I don't see

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any objection, so get out of here.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

Thank you.

CLERK: Arroyo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

CLERK: Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

CLERK: Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: [No

response].

CLERK: Cabrera?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

CLERK: Chin?

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

CLERK: Comrie?

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Yes.

CLERK: Crowley?

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [No

response].

CLERK: Dickens?

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Yes.

CLERK: Dilan?

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Yes.

CLERK: Dromm?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

CLERK: Eugene?

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Yes.

CLERK: Ferreras?

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Yes.

CLERK: Fidler?

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

CLERK: Foster?

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Thank you.

I vote yes. Aye, I am here, and I'd like to be excused to vote on everything on the calendar this afternoon please.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: I vote aye.

CLERK: Garodnick?

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

CLERK: Gennaro?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

CLERK: Gentile?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Yes.

CLERK: Gonzalez?

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.

CLERK: Greenfield?

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

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CLERK: Halloran?

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COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Aye.

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CLERK: Ignizio?

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: I vote aye

5

and I'd like to ask unanimous consent to vote on

6

all coupled General Orders.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: I vote aye

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on all, but no on 814-A. So I guess it's not aye

10

on all, actually. I vote no on 814-A and aye on

11

all others.

12

CLERK: Jackson?

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on

14

all.

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CLERK: James?

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COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: [off mic]

17

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: I vote aye

19

on all.

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CLERK: King?

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COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye on all.

22

CLERK: Koo?

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

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CLERK: Koppell?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: I vote
3 aye, Mr. Majority Leader and I would ask unanimous
4 consent to vote aye on all General Orders and all
5 Resolutions.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes. It
7 seems like a lot of Council Members want to join
8 Council Member Rodriguez for the birth of his
9 child.

10 [Laughter]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: He's going
12 to have a big party there.

13 CLERK: Koslowitz?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

15 CLERK: Lander?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

17 CLERK: Lappin?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: [No
19 response].

20 CLERK: Levin?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I vote aye.

22 CLERK: Mark-Viverito?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: I
24 vote aye.

25 CLERK: Mealy?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.

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Aye.

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CLERK: Nelson?

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COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.

6

CLERK: Palma?

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

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CLERK: Recchia?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: [off mic]

10

I'd like permission to vote on all coupled orders.

11

I vote aye on all.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

13

We didn't here anything, Domenic.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: I want

15

permission to vote on all Land Use Call-ups and

16

all calendar orders on today's calendar. I vote

17

aye on all.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Domenic,

19

normally you're not that soft spoken.

20

SPEAKER QUINN: I know. What's

21

wrong over there, Domenic?

22

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Well,

23

Madame Speaker, we raise our voice to you, you--

24

[Laughter]

25

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: We have to
3 apologize. We usually have three hand mikes and
4 one is broken and we're down to two in this ever-
5 seamless renovation of the chambers. So I'm going
6 to go out and get another mike. Chuck said-- big
7 announcement--Chuck says we're having desk
8 microphones next meeting. Jimmy Oddo, will be
9 taking the over/under on that. See him after the
10 meeting please.

11 CLERK: Lappin?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

13 CLERK: Reyna?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.

15 CLERK: Rose?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

17 CLERK: Ulrich?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Yes.

19 CLERK: Vacca?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I vote aye
21 and I ask permission to vote on all General Order
22 calendar items.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

25 CLERK: Vallone?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

CLERK: Van Bramer?

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I vote
aye and request unanimous consent to vote aye on
all Land Use Call-ups and General Orders.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I vote
aye.

CLERK: Weprin?

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

CLERK: Williams?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.
Aye.

CLERK: Wills?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye.

CLERK: Oddo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: I vote yes
and request unanimous consent to vote on all
General Coupled Orders.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: I vote yes
with the exception of Intro 118-A, on which I vote
no.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Did you

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mean 814-A?

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: What did I say? Can you tell I had three hours sleep? 814-A.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: And if 118 is bad, I'll vote no on that too.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Okay. We'll put you down for both.

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Thank you.

CLERK: Rivera?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye on all.

CLERK: Speaker Quinn?

SPEAKER QUINN: Aye on all.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you. Today's Land Use Call-ups were adopted by a vote of 47 in the affirmative with zero in the negative. We now move on to communication from the Speaker.

SPEAKER QUINN: We're voting today on a number of different important pieces of legislation. I want to thank our Majority Leader and the folks in Rules, Privileges and Elections,

1
2 particular Chuck Davis, for the reappointment of
3 two individuals to the TLC. Let me first, though,
4 speak about 814-A, a piece of legislation that
5 comes out of our Civil Rights Committee. I want
6 to thank Rob Newman, Alix Pustilnik and Julene
7 Beckford for their work in this important piece of
8 legislation. I want to thank Chair Rose, who
9 moved this out of her communicate and the prime
10 sponsors of the bill, Council Member Leroy Comrie
11 and Council Member Vincent Gentile for his work as
12 well.

13 814-A responds to a problem, which
14 was identified through the work of the National
15 Employment Law Project and the Manhattan Borough
16 President Scott Stringer. We have seen ads across
17 this city that at the bottom of the employment ads
18 say "if you are unemployed, do not apply for this
19 job."

20 We're allowing companies to tell
21 unemployed people that even though over half of
22 them have been looking for work for over six
23 months, even though a third of them have been
24 looking for work for over a year, even though most
25 of them are unemployed by nothing they did

1
2 themselves, or unemployed as a result of
3 irresponsible actions others took, which led to a
4 massive international economic crisis, the fact
5 that they are unemployed renders them unable to
6 ever be employed. It's kind of the ultimate kick
7 in the tuckus. That you're unemployed, so you
8 need a job, but don't apply for a job because
9 you're unemployed, we're not going to give you a
10 job, creating a situation where a whole bunch of
11 people at 9.4 percent unemployment at going to be
12 unemployed forever.

13 Today, we say discrimination is
14 wrong and discriminating against people because
15 they are unemployed is wrong and we're not going
16 to let it happen anymore in New York. In fact,
17 this piece of legislation is the strongest type of
18 law as it relates to this matter, because it is
19 the only one which in addition to allowing a
20 harmed person to go to the Human Rights
21 Commission, it also gives them standing of a
22 private right of action in court if this type of
23 discrimination has occurred. We hope this sends a
24 message to employers: interview everybody,
25 consider everyone. There are qualified terrific

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2 people right now who are unemployed in our five
3 boroughs who want to work, who we need to work,
4 have a lot to contribute.

5

6 So let me first call on Chair Rose-
7 -thank you, RJ--and then one of the prime sponsors
8 of the bill, Council Member Comrie.

8

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you,
10 Speaker Quinn. I'd like to thank the Speaker for
11 her leadership and for Council Members Comrie and
12 Gentile for tackling this thorny issue. Truly, it
13 is a civil rights issue.

13

14 This is a chicken and egg, which
15 comes first issue. How can we get New Yorkers
16 back to work if they can't even get an interview
17 because they are out of work? The answer is that
18 they must at least have a fair shot, if qualified,
19 of being able to put forth their case for a job.
20 Otherwise, we will have permanently under classed-
21 -we will have a permanently unemployed class in
22 New York City, a class made up predominately of
23 people of color, as African Americans, Latinos and
24 Native Americans have higher rates of
25 unemployment. This is something that no one
wants.

1
2 So we need to get this law on the
3 books now so that we can get all New Yorkers back
4 to work, because how can you get a job if you
5 can't get a job? I urge all of my colleagues to
6 vote aye on Intro 814-A. Thank you.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I also want
8 to encourage my colleagues to vote aye on 814-A.
9 I want to thank Rob Newman and Alix Pustilnik for
10 everything they did to make sure that the bill
11 could come before us today so that it could be
12 passed by the Council.

13 It is hard enough to find a job in
14 today's economy and the last thing New Yorkers
15 need is another obstacle to obtaining one.
16 Discriminatory practices have no place in our
17 city. This legislation will stop employers from
18 turning down applicants and advertising current
19 employment status as a requirement or for
20 qualification for the job they are looking to
21 fill.

22 Additionally, once this legislation
23 is passed, New York will be the only place in the
24 country that will allow its residents to plead
25 their case at the Human Rights Commission or in

1
2 court. I'm proud to have sponsored this
3 legislation. I urge my colleagues all to vote for
4 this legislation to be passed.

5 I just did get the information on
6 the funeral arrangements for Council Member
7 Watkins. It'll be Monday morning at St. James in
8 my district. So that information will be emailed
9 out to everyone today. Thank you.

10 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
11 much, Leroy, on both. Let me also speak to Intro
12 702-A, which was passed out of the Consumer
13 Affairs Committee. Let me thank Rachel Cordero on
14 the staff for her work on this. We thank Chair
15 Dan Garodnick for his work on it, and Council
16 Member Lew Fidler, the sponsor of the bill.

17 This piece of legislation really
18 deals with a consumer problem we've been having in
19 our city. Right now, gas stations are allowed to
20 offer discounts to people who pay cash. Except
21 any gas station you drive by, the sign will say
22 the cash price because it's less. But the wording
23 on the sign, if there even is one, that says cash
24 only is about this big, when the letters are about
25 this big.

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2 Council Member Fidler's bill will
3 make sure that gas stations have to clearly
4 identify what is the cash-only price so New
5 Yorkers can plan ahead, have cash, get that
6 discount. It's just unfair, given as tight as
7 times are, to have discount opportunities out
8 there but not have consumer protection rules in
9 place that really allow consumers to utilize them.

10 We've had a situation where gas
11 stations have kind of been allowed to play fast
12 and loose, say they offer a discount but not
13 actually ever give you. People end up getting
14 trapped into paying too much. So I want to thank
15 Lew for identifying this and moving forward with
16 legislation that fixes it. Let me call on the
17 sponsor Lew Fidler and again thank the chair, Dan
18 Garodnick.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Thank you.
20 I want to begin by thanking Speaker Quinn and
21 Consumer Affairs Committee Chairperson Garodnick
22 for moving this legislation through so quickly. I
23 also want to thank Rachel Cordero, the Consumer
24 Affairs Counsel and Brad Reed [phonetic] my
25 counsel--wave to everyone Brad--for their work on

1

2 this as well, it was indispensable.

3

4 You know, state law permits,
5 actually state law prohibits the charging of an
6 additional sum for the use of a credit card. But
7 it does not prohibit--listen to this--charging
8 less for cash. Now most people would call that a
9 distinction without a difference. In law school,
10 we were taught that that's a legal fiction. To
11 New York City consumers, it's just absurd and
12 irritating.

12

13 So what happens now, you know most
14 folks use their credit or debit card to pay for
15 their gas. To fill up your tank these days can
16 cost \$60 to \$100. You don't always walk around
17 with that kind of cash. So you pull up to the
18 pump, you see the sign--if they have a sign--that
19 tells you that the price is already exorbitant.
20 You pull up to the pump, you get out of your car,
21 you turn it off and you start pumping gas and low
22 and behold you find out that the price can be 15
23 or 20 or 25 cents a gallon more. That's just not
24 only not transparent it's misleading.

24

25

26 So this bill would require all
27 stations to post every price that they charge for

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2 gasoline. It will allow you to shop as a
3 consumer. It'll give you the knowledge to know
4 where you can go for a discount for cash, if in
5 fact you are paying cash. It will let you know
6 who's charging you extra for the privilege of
7 using your credit card. It's just common sense.
8 Until the State of New York changes this
9 ridiculous situation where you essentially could
10 do whatever you please, this is all we can do. I
11 urge you all to support this bill today and I
12 thank you for your time.

13 SPEAKER QUINN: Thanks a lot, Lew.
14 I want to also note that we are voting on Intro
15 978-A out of Government Operations. I want to
16 thank Rob Newman, Jim Caras, Alix Pustilnik and
17 David Sitzer [phonetic] who worked on 978-A, a
18 piece of legislation which addresses challenges
19 that had developed around independent expenditures
20 for membership organizations. I want to thank
21 Rosie Mendez, the sponsor of the bill, who as I
22 mentioned is at a funeral today, and Gale Brewer,
23 the Chair of the Government Operations Committee,
24 and call on Chair Brewer, who I think is going to
25 both make a statement and read a statement from

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Council Member Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very much, Madame Chair. Council Member Mendez asked me to read the following. Intro 978-A is a simple bill that preserves the intent of the 2010 NYC Charter revision process by making sure that members of the public are aware of who is attempting to influence their votes in a local election.

This legislation preserves the free speech and associational rights of membership organizations such as unions, by exempting communications between members from the CFV's independent expenditure reporting requirements. This narrow and targeted bill protects transparency and disclosure. There is no entity or Super PAC to hide behind while simultaneously encouraging membership organizations to undertake the critical operations that help their members who vote to become familiar with candidates and/or their positions. Ultimately, this increases voter participation in our city, which is a universal good and desired outcome. That's from Council Member Rosie Mendez.

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2 I just want to echo what the
3 Speaker said. This is legislation that seeks to
4 strike a balance between the public's right to
5 know who is spending money on independent
6 political messages and an organization's right to
7 communicate internally with its own members.

8 I believe this bill strikes the
9 appropriate balance by maintaining disclosure of
10 independent expenditures aimed at the general
11 public without infringing on member-to-member
12 speech. This bill is a result of extensive, and I
13 underline, extensive collaboration and discussion
14 between various stakeholders, including all of the
15 good government transparency groups. I thank
16 everyone for their input throughout the process,
17 including Will Corgill [phonetic] from my office
18 and certainly the amazing staff in the Speaker's
19 office, Rob Newman in particular. Thank you very
20 much, Madame Speaker.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
22 much. Thank you very much, Chair Brewer. I also
23 want to thank Damien Butvick who worked on the
24 Consumer Affairs 702-A with Rachel. That
25 concludes communications from the Speaker.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
3 very much, Madame Speaker. We now move on to
4 discussion of general orders. We have Council
5 Member Halloran.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: My
7 colleagues, I want to address two issues with
8 regards to the pieces of legislation in front of
9 us this morning--this afternoon. With regards to
10 814-A, I believe that while the intention of this
11 body is very good and that we do need to get
12 people back to work, especially those who are
13 under and unemployed, I do not believe it is
14 within our power at the city level to act in
15 derogation of state law.

16 The state law and its at-will
17 employment statutes are a function of both the
18 common law and the employment law as it exists by
19 our brethren in Albany. I believe if challenged
20 in the courts, this rule will be found
21 unconstitutional. I will also point out that I am
22 five for five on selecting those items that have
23 gone up from this body that have been found to be
24 unconstitutional at the court level, or pointed
25 out an unlawful use of power by this body or the

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Mayor's Office, in my three years in the Council.

So I do not believe we have the statutory authority to actually engage in this particular piece of legislation. Although I understand and support the idea behind 814-A, I do not believe it's within our role.

Finally, with regards to Intro 978, I think it's very ironic that this body is now voting to increase the freedom of speech of both corporations and unions after we have sent no less than two amicus briefs and three resolutions decrying the decision in Citizens United.

So I find it incredible that we sit here today actually voting to do just what was held in that piece of federal ruling of the Supreme Court enabling those speech items to be available to both corporations and unions when we have gone out of our way to, as a body, chastise the decision made by the Supreme Court.

I am going to vote for it, because I believe, as I indicated back when we had those amicus briefs and those resolutions, I was opposed to them. I'm glad to see the rest of this body has finally come along and accepted that as

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reality. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Council
Member Jackson?

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you,
Majority Leader. My colleagues, I rise in support
of Intro 814-A. Understanding that discrimination
of anyone under the law is a violation of the law.
I say to this body, approximately 35 of us will be
unemployed if this is your only employment as of
January 1, 2014.

I have no other job. When I'm
unemployed for one day or five days, I don't want
anyone discriminating against me because I'm
unemployed. Hello?

[Applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I hope I'm
not unemployed, but let me be loud and clear.
Discrimination against anyone is totally
unacceptable, and even you. My colleagues, even
though two of my colleagues have voted no on this
already, it's totally unacceptable to say that we
are going to allow where it puts on the
application if you are unemployed do not apply.
You know one thing, my colleague

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2 you raise the issue of state law. You may be
3 true. But this body has an obligation to stand up
4 and pass a law that we believe is right. If in
5 fact the Supreme Court, the Appellate Division,
6 the Court of Appeals, the U.S. Supreme Court
7 should overturn us, at least we will say to the
8 8.7 percent of New Yorkers, the highest
9 unemployment rate in the State of New York, we
10 went the distance. We fought the good fight and
11 we lost. If we don't do that we're not doing our
12 jobs.

13 So I say to all of my colleagues,
14 support 817-A because you know one thing, if it's
15 not you now, it may be you tomorrow. Thank you.

16 [Applause]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Would
18 Council Member Lappin or Council Member Brewer
19 like to comment on Robert Jackson's future
20 employment?

21 [Laughter]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Council
23 Member Vallone, followed by Council Member
24 Gentile.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you.

1
2 Council Member Jackson, you could send me your
3 resume in 2013. I'll take a look, okay. But I am
4 going to speak in opposition to that bill, and not
5 on constitutional grounds, which may exist, but on
6 business grounds. I'm a businessman.

7 I understand the reason this bill
8 exists, absolutely, but in the real world, in the
9 business world, the effect of this bill will be
10 opposite than what you intend. Businesses today
11 are struggling. Supermarkets are going out of
12 business in all of our districts all throughout
13 the city. They make one cent on every dollar that
14 they make. The lawsuits that will come from this
15 bill will shut down businesses and create more
16 unemployment.

17 I've been contacted business owners
18 who've said exactly what you just said. They're
19 not even going to interview unemployed people
20 because they don't want to spend the day in front
21 of the Human Rights Commission or they don't want
22 to wind up in court because they can't afford it.
23 They will go out of business.

24 So this bill itself will result in
25 more unemployment, more jobless looking for jobs

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2 and less opportunities for the jobless to get that
3 job. So I understand the reasons this exist but
4 in the real world it's going to have the opposite
5 effect, and I'll be voting against it. You can
6 still send the resume.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
8 very much. Council Member Gentile?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Thank you,
10 Mr. Majority Leader. If you look at it from the
11 perspective of the jobless, even with an improving
12 job market, jobless New Yorkers don't catch a
13 break when some employers only want to hire them
14 if they already have a job. That's why this Intro
15 814-A exists and that's why I believe, as the
16 Speaker said, it's an important piece of
17 legislation and a cutting-edge legislation here in
18 this Council.

19 The bottom line is that this
20 practice is nothing less than another form of
21 employment discrimination. Employers who weed out
22 candidates simply because they are unemployed has
23 become now the new face of employment
24 discrimination.

25 So this important piece of

1
2 legislation, 814-A, will effectively end the
3 perverse catch-22 that has served not only to
4 deepen our unemployment crisis in New York City
5 but keep people from getting jobs.

6 Businesses not hiring the
7 unemployed is counterintuitive and unconscionable.
8 We're stopping that phenomenon of discrimination
9 against the unemployed before it becomes the next
10 crisis. That's why 814-A is important and that's
11 why we need to pass it today.

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

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you
15 very much, Mr. Majority Leader. I rise in support
16 of 814-A. As somebody who was once unemployed in
17 this city and looking for a job, I could speak to
18 how difficult it can be, even for somebody that
19 has a college degree, to try to find a job.
20 Everything that we can do to ensure the rights of
21 working New Yorkers and New Yorkers that are
22 seeking to work, we should do. So with that, I
23 cede the rest of my time. Thank you.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
25 very much. Seeing no others, we now move on. The

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next item on today's agenda is the reports of special committees.

CLERK: None.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Reports of standing committees.

CLERK: Report on the Committee on Civil Rights, Introduction 814-A, prohibiting discrimination based on an individual's unemployment.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on General Orders.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Finance, Preconsidered Resolution 1641, organizational funding.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CLERK: Preconsidered LU 754 and companion Reso 1643 and Preconsidered Land Use 755 and Resolution 1644, tax abatements, Council District 3.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders. Council District 3, people, you know what I'm saying; vote aye. Okay.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on

1
2 Governmental Operations, Introduction 978-A,
3 Campaign Finance Board.

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled
5 on General Orders.

6 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
7 Rules, Privileges and Elections, Preconsidered M
8 1029 and companion Resolution 1645, approving the
9 reappointment of LaShann DeArcy as a member of the
10 New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission.

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
12 Orders.

13 CLERK: Preconsidered M 1030 and
14 companion Reso 1646, approving the reappointment
15 of Edward Gonzales as a member of the New York
16 City Taxi and Limousine Commission.

17 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
18 Orders.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: General
20 Order Calendar.

21 CLERK: Introduction 702-A,
22 requiring all signs advertising the price of
23 gasoline and/or diesel motor fuel disclose the
24 total selling price for cash and credit card
25 purchases.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

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CLERK: Resolution appointing
various persons commissioner of deeds.

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

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

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CLERK: Arroyo?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

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CLERK: Barron?

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COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

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CLERK: Brewer?

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye
and would like to give my best to Anna Subthecia
[phonetic] who is from Wagner College and one of
our interns. Thank you, Anna.

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CLERK: Cabrera?

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COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

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CLERK: Chin?

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COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

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CLERK: Comrie?

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

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CLERK: Crowley?

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

CLERK: Dickens?

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

CLERK: Dilan?

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.

CLERK: Dromm?

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

CLERK: Eugene?

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

CLERK: Ferreras?

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

CLERK: Fidler?

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Majority

Leader Rivera, may I be briefly excused to explain
my vote?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: First,

counsel informs me that I need to disclose that
I'm the lead plaintiff in the outer borough taxi
case, which is currently on appeal, before I vote
on the TLC appointees.

Regarding Intro 978-A, there is
nothing in Intro 978-A that I object to. It's

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2 what's not in Intro 978-A that I object to. While
3 Council Member Brewer spoke eloquently to what was
4 in the bill, saying that it protects member-to-
5 member communications, true, and not so true. It
6 only protects member-to-member communications for
7 some.

8 In fact, it is the smaller entities
9 that have been excluded from Intro 978-A. To most
10 of us, we think of them as political clubs. They
11 have generally very small budgets, smaller
12 memberships, and yet we are inviting the Campaign
13 Finance Board to inspect every mailing that we
14 send to our members. We have subjected them, by
15 omission in this bill, to further scrutiny and
16 greater scrutiny by the Campaign Finance Board
17 when they are contacting their members.

18 I have sat in this room before and
19 said to myself and heard others say the Campaign
20 Finance Board is out of control. How did we let
21 this happen? Today, it's not going to happen with
22 my vote. I'm going to vote no. That is without
23 regard to the fact that what's actually in the
24 bill ought to happen. Shame on us for not having
25 stopped the Campaign Finance Board. Shame on us

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2 for allowing them to spend taxpayer's money on the
3 minutia of a political club sending mail to its
4 own members.

5 I vote no on Intro 978-A and aye on
6 all the rest.

7 CLERK: Garodnick?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

9 CLERK: Gennaro?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

11 CLERK: Gentile?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

13 CLERK: Gonzalez?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.

15 CLERK: Greenfield?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

17 CLERK: Halloran?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN:

19 Permission to explain my vote.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: I thank
22 Council Member Fidler for pointing out other
23 inconsistencies in the law, although I will stick
24 to the axiom that more speech is the answer to bad
25 speech, and therefore I will vote aye on that.

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2 But I also will note that the particular bill in
3 front of us also does not treat or deal with our
4 not-for-profits which could get caught up in the
5 rubric of this. Our churches and other religious
6 organizations may in fact at points in time, put
7 out mailings, which will now be subject to the
8 reach of Campaign Finance, and I am concerned
9 about that as well. So that's something that I
10 think this body should take into consideration.

11 I vote no on 814-A, because I don't
12 believe it's within our power as a body. I vote
13 aye on all the rest.

14 CLERK: Jackson?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on
16 all.

17 CLERK: King?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye on all,
19 and also I would like to disclose for
20 Preconsidered Reso 1641, for the record, that I'm
21 an honorary board member of the Williamsbridge
22 NAACP, funded through the transparency resolution
23 and also that my wife is a board member of Council
24 for Unity which is also being funded through the
25 Transparency Resolution. I was not involved in

1
2 the allocation of any of these groups. But I
3 wanted to, for the record, state that.

4 CLERK: Koo?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

6 CLERK: Koslowitz?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

8 CLERK: Lander?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

10 CLERK: Lappin?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

12 CLERK: Levin?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

14 CLERK: Mark-Viverito?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

16 CLERK: Mealy?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

18 CLERK: Nelson?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.

20 CLERK: Palma?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

22 CLERK: Reyna?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.

24 CLERK: Rose?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

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CLERK: Ulrich?

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Yes.

CLERK: Vallone?

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: May I be
briefly excused?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you.
I also share the concerns of Council Member Fidler
and others regarding 978-A about what's in it but
what's not in it and what we're still allowing to
happen to certain groups. I have yet to hear a
reason why those groups are not included in this
bill. The perfect is the enemy of the good, I
guess I'm still going to vote for aye on 978-A.
I'm going to vote no, for the reasons I stated
before, on 814-A and aye on the rest.

CLERK: Weprin?

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

CLERK: Williams?

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

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote
aye on all. I do share some of the concerns that

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2 Council Member Fidler spoke about. Perhaps we
3 need to discuss some fixes so that some of the
4 people that are unintended to be punitively
5 reached with this bill won't be. Thank you.

6 CLERK: Wills?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye on all.

8 CLERK: Rivera?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye
10 on all.

11 CLERK: Speaker Quinn?

12 SPEAKER QUINN: Aye on all.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.

14 All items on today's General Order Calendar were
15 adopted by a vote of 48 in the affirmative with
16 zero in the negative and zero abstentions. With
17 the exception of Introduction 814-A, which was
18 adopted by a vote of 44 in the affirmative with
19 four in negative and zero abstentions, and
20 Introduction 978-A, which was adopted by a vote of
21 47 in the affirmative, one in the negative and
22 zero abstentions. The revised Land Use Call-ups
23 were adopted by a vote of 48 in the affirmative
24 with zero in the negative. We now move on to
25 introduction and reading of the bills.

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

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: We will now
5 move on to discussion of resolutions. We have two
6 resolutions on today's agenda. The first one is
7 Resolution 1635-A, an amended resolution
8 commemorating the 40th anniversary of Roe versus
9 Wade, and calling on the United States Congress to
10 support funding for comprehensive reproductive
11 health care, amended and adopted by the Committee
12 on Women's Issues. Do we have anyone speaking on
13 this item? Seeing none. Oh, Council Member
14 Ferreras? Sorry.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: As Chair
16 of the Women's Issues Committee, I'd like to thank
17 my colleagues, Council Member Lappin, Mendez,
18 Arroyo, Speaker Quinn, for co-sponsoring
19 Resolution 1635-A along with me.

20 Forty years ago, women had
21 relatively few choices in many aspects of society
22 but particularly in the realm of reproductive
23 rights. We've all heard the horror stories of
24 what happened when abortions were unlawful in most
25 of the country. Illegal procedures were performed

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2 often in unsanitary conditions and many times
3 resulting in severe injury or death to the mother.

4 Roe versus Wade changed all of
5 that. It concluded that abortion lies within the
6 pregnant woman's zone of privacy and therefore was
7 a fundamental right and protected by the
8 Constitution.

9 In addition to providing the
10 ability to access sound health care for
11 terminations of pregnancy, Roe versus Wade helped
12 move forward the notion of a woman being a full
13 person, because without freedom over her own body,
14 a woman is not truly equal.

15 Now, as we take the time to
16 commemorate the 40th anniversary of Roe versus
17 Wade decision, challenges still exist. Since the
18 passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable
19 Care Act, also known as the healthcare reform,
20 some states have already enacted laws restricting
21 the abortion coverage that will be available in
22 plans purchased by state healthcare exchanges.

23 All women will need a range of
24 reproductive health care throughout her life. No
25 woman should have to go back to life 40 years ago.

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Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you very much. Council Member Jackson? No, Council Member Dickens, followed by Council Member Jackson.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you. During my time in the City Council, I have continuously sought to protect our children, not just from the violence that plagues our communities but also from unhealthy food choices that lead to long-term health defects. We have inadvertently created for our children--

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:
[interposing] This is on--yeah.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: I thought he called me.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Okay, Council Member Jackson?

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Well, thank you. My colleagues, I rise today in support of this resolution, understanding this is the 40th anniversary. As the father of three beautiful girls that are now 36, 31 and 26, I do not want anyone to tell them what they can do or not do

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2 with their body. In fact, I've said loud and
3 clear on the other issues relating to education I
4 believe in a woman's right to choose. That is
5 loud and clear. In support of this particular
6 resolution, men besides women, must stand up and
7 say that a woman has a right to decide what
8 they're going to do with their body. With
9 respects to this particular resolution, I stand up
10 as a man, as a father saying I support my
11 colleagues, the Woman's Committee in saying that
12 in celebrating and commemorating 40 years of Roe
13 versus Wade saying that the woman's right to
14 choose is their decision, no one else's. Thank
15 you.

16 [Applause]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
18 very much. Seeing no others on this particular
19 resolution, we'll now call for a voice vote on
20 Resolution 1635-A. All in favor say aye.

21 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All opposed
23 say nay. Any abstentions? The ayes have it. The
24 next resolution on today's agenda is Preconsidered
25 Reso 1640, resolution authorizing the Speaker to

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2 file or join amicus briefs on behalf of the
3 Council in the litigation captioned Shelby County
4 versus Holder, currently pending before the United
5 States Supreme Court, for the purpose of
6 supporting the federal government's position that
7 Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act is
8 constitutional. Adopted by the Committee on
9 Governmental Operations. Anyone wanting to speak
10 on this item? Council Member Jackson, followed by
11 Council Member Brewer, followed by Council Member
12 Halloran.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I yield to
14 my colleague, the chair of the Government
15 Operations Committee to speak first.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: There you
17 go. Council Member Brewer?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you
19 very much. This resolution is important. It has
20 to do with Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act.
21 The reason it is important for the City Council to
22 join the Mayor and Corporation Counsel is that as
23 we know in the five boroughs, three of them are
24 under Section 5 and part of the Voting Rights Act.
25 What is says is that the Department of Justice

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2 pays attention and has oversight and in addition
3 has oversight over the language issues in Queens.
4 We want to continue this. We want to make that
5 there's community of color participation in all of
6 the Board of Elections' issues as well as language
7 in addition. So this is a very important
8 resolution to pass.

9 I want to thank the Speaker for
10 before signing any of these amicus that she
11 checks with us as a body. It cleared the
12 Governmental Operations Committee and I hope it
13 clears the City Council here today. Thank you
14 very much.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Council
16 Member Jackson?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you.
18 My colleagues, I rise to you not only as a member
19 of the City Council but as a co-chair of the New
20 York City Council's Black, Latino and Asian
21 Caucus. There are 27 members of the Caucus
22 representing all boroughs of the City of New York.

23 Let me thank the Speaker for moving
24 forward on this particular resolution for us to
25 file a brief in order to protect the voting rights

1
2 of the people of New York City, more specifically
3 the three boroughs that are covered under Section
4 5 under the Voting Rights Act. That is Brooklyn,
5 Bronx and Manhattan.

6 As a resident of Manhattan, I stand
7 up for all of the people that are covered under
8 this particular law, understanding that if it was
9 up to some people, there would be no laws to
10 protect individuals with respect to their voting
11 rights. If it was up to some people, there would
12 be no laws to say that you cannot discriminate
13 against people, against the race, the color of
14 your skin, your national origin, your religious
15 beliefs and/or your sexual orientation. These
16 laws need to be kept in place. Support this
17 resolution. Thank you.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Council
19 Member Halloran?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: In 2006,
21 Congress passed a law to reauthorize Section 5 of
22 the Voting Rights Act. It contains certain states
23 and localities to obtain pre-clearance from the
24 DOJ before making any changes regarding voting.
25 That includes redistricting changes that will

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require ID and other voting laws.

Shelby County, Alabama sued the federal government saying that its formula for establishing pre-clearance was outdated and unconstitutional.

The court heard a similar case in 2009 but sidestepped the issue, asking Congress to update the formula to the Voting Rights Act. That has never happened. Chief Justice Roberts wrote for an 8 to 1 majority in 2009, stating, "Voter turnout and registration rates are now approaching parity in this district. Blatant discriminatory evasions of federal decrees are rare if not unknown. And minority candidates hold office in this district at unprecedented levels. The statute's coverage formula is based on data that is completely out of date, more than 35 years old," he added. "There is considerable evidence that it fails to account for the current political conditions on the ground. While I support the idea behind the act, it must be updated to reflect today's realities and the numbers."

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you very much. Seeing no others, I now call for a

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2 vote on Preconsidered Resolution 1640. All in
3 favor say aye.

4 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All opposed
6 say nay.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER: Nay.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Any
9 abstentions? The ayes have it. We now move on to
10 general discussion. We have Council Member
11 Dickens is first, followed by Council Member
12 Barron.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you,
14 Majority Leader. It's my time now?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes, it is.
16 It's all your time, Inez. Go ahead.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: During
18 this time, I have continuously fought to protect
19 our children, not only from violence but also from
20 unhealthy food choices. In years past, we at the
21 Council have successfully partnered with the
22 College of Podiatric Medicine and Dr. Olajide
23 Williams of Harlem Hospital's Hip Hop Healthy
24 Initiative in implementing a testing program in a
25 number of our city's elementary schools to test

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2 for early stages of diabetes. The results from
3 the program were staggering and more than half of
4 our children were found to be obese and/or
5 diagnosed with early stages of diabetes.

6 Therefore, I'm happy to announce
7 that the Coca-Cola Company represented by Regional
8 Vice President for Public Affairs Donna Cirolia--

9 SPEAKER QUINN: [interposing] Yay.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: --has
11 partnered with us in our campaign to reeducate our
12 children in making balanced healthy choices.

13 Coke's new televised ads will be dedicated to
14 healthier products with clear calorie labels under
15 their brand name. In their bold move to help make
16 a healthier public by encouraging healthy eating
17 habits, yet recognizing the need to speak to youth
18 through their medium, we have asked the Fisher
19 Brothers, Charles and Randy, founder of the Hip
20 Hop Summit Youth Council, to promote this campaign
21 against childhood obesity.

22 At Wadley School today, in Harlem,
23 Coca-Cola will present a very nice check to the
24 Harlem's Hip Hop Summit in this effort. I thank
25 Speaker Quinn and her staff for the Council's

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2 obesity initiative which is the foundation from
3 which this contribution arises. Because of the
4 hard, dedicated work of my deceased chief of
5 staff, Lynette Velasco, this contribution was made
6 possible. Coca-Cola is here and I'm going to ask
7 Gary McElyea of Coca-Cola to please stand. Right
8 there. Thank you, Coca-Cola for this presentation
9 and this check to our health of our young.

10 [Applause]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
12 very much. Now we go to Council Member Barron,
13 followed by Council Member Jackson.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you,
15 Mr. Chair. I rise to say to my colleagues on
16 February 7th, right here in the Chambers at 10
17 a.m., we'll be having a hearing on a resolution
18 that I introduced on the Central Park 5. I want
19 to encourage all of us to attend that. These are
20 five young men who spent 7 to 15 years in prison
21 for a crime they did not commit. They've been
22 released based upon DNA evidence. They had to
23 suffer interrogation by the police department and
24 a coerced confession. Even the confession itself
25 that the police department got out of them was

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2 inconsistent with the forensic evidence around the
3 case. To finally a person who admitted that they
4 were solely responsible for that crime of rape in
5 the Central Park jogger case, admitted it and the
6 DNA evidence supported that he was the one who did
7 it.

8 Well, they're suing the city now
9 and the city wants to take them through a painful
10 long trial. Our resolution is calling for out of
11 court settlement. This city stole the best years
12 of their lives and now they have been damaged,
13 probably permanently. The best they can do is
14 settle this case out of court and not have them go
15 through a long, lengthy civil court trial. I ask
16 your support on that resolution, and to attend
17 that hearing.

18 I want to particularly thank the
19 Black and Latino and Asian Caucus for your
20 support, your strong support, and particular co-
21 chair Robert Jackson for the strong consistent
22 support on that. I want to thank--

23 SPEAKER QUINN: [interposing] Come
24 on.

25 [Applause]

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: It can some
out, Charles. I think he's having an allergic
reaction.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: --Speaker
Quinn. I want to thank Speaker Quinn.

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[Background noise]

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COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I want to
thank Speaker Quinn and Chuck. This hurts, y'all.
This really hurts.

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[Laughter]

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: We'll give
you more time, Charles.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: You mess
around, I'll endorse you and you'll never get
elected.

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[Laughter]

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COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: So I want
to thank the Speaker's Office. I want to thank
Alix Pustilnik for her research and help in the
language. Thank all of you all for that.
Particularly, my director of legislation, Monique
Indigo Washington [phonetic], and my chief of
staff, Joyce Simmons [phonetic] for all the work
they've done. Thank you all very much.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Charles,
3 you're not going into allergic shock, right? No?

4 [Laughter]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: We now move
6 on to Council Member Jackson, followed by Council
7 Member Mealy.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you.
9 My colleagues, I rise to speak about a couple of
10 items, but let me just say that I'm so pleased
11 that this hearing is taking place on February 7th.
12 Also, I'm just so happy that my colleague Charles
13 Barron has really a good sense of humor, even
14 though he is serious in a lot of stuff that he
15 says. It's important that as Council Members that
16 we have some time that we laugh and joke with each
17 other, but also take care of serious business.

18 With respects to a hearing
19 regarding the resolution of the Central Park
20 jogger case, this is a very, very serious issue,
21 for not only those individuals, but it's a very
22 serious issue for the members of the Black, Latino
23 and Asian Caucus and other members of this
24 particular body, to resolve an outstanding matter
25 in which these individuals spent years in prison.

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2 So I look forward to the hearing on February 7th.

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But also, my colleagues, I rise in order to speak about a bill that I've introduced, a bill that will require the Landmarks Preservation Commission to take final action on any item that has been calendared for possible landmark designation within a period not to exceed three years.

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I put this particular bill forward because there are some items in my district that have been calendared for more than 25 years. Twenty-five years, and some, my understanding, have been calendared longer than that. Enough is enough. You've heard the saying, you have to [grunt] or get off the pot. Twenty-five years is way too long. In fact, once something is calendared, I believe three years is enough. So please sign on to this piece of legislation.

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My colleagues, I wanted to say to all of you that in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Junior's holiday and our President Barack Obama, it was a good time being in Washington D.C. I understand our Speaker and other members were there also. Thank you very

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much.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you very much. Council Member Mealy?

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Yes, I want to rise and say I, too, on this historic week with our Martin Luther King birthday and our President Barack Obama birthday, and we know that Rosa Parks didn't sit down on the bus. And she sat down on a bus that our Martin Luther Junior could march. And he marched that our President Barack Obama could run for office. And I'm glad I was here to see that.

I just want to say I want to wish my chief of staff farewell, goodbye. Could you please stand up? You've been with me going on three years, and he want to do finance and not politics. He don't know what he's missing. But I just want to say thank you for all that you have done and I will miss you. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you very much. Seeing no others, this Stated 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 February 28, 2013