

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL

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July 24, 2013  
Start: 2:11 p.m.  
Recess: 4:08 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E: CHRISTINE C. QUINN  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Maria del Carmen Arroyo
- Charles Barron
- Gale A. Brewer
- Fernando Cabrera
- Margaret S. Chin
- Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
- Elizabeth S. Crowley
- Inez E. Dickens
- Erik Martin Dilan
- Daniel Dromm
- Mathieu Eugene
- Julissa Ferreras
- Lewis A. Fidler
- Helen D. Foster
- Daniel R. Garodnick
- James F. Gennaro

## COUNCIL MEMBERS (CONTINUED):

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

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

Arned Farroud [phonetic]  
Ambassador

Fatma Abboud  
Egypt Cancer Network

Sensei Jorge Falcon  
FIKA USA

Teddy Atlas  
Dr. Theodore A. Atlas Foundation

Imam Soleiman Konate  
Masjid Aqsa  
2136 Frederick Douglass Blvd  
New York, NY



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MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Okay, Ladies and Gentlemen, we're going to start the ceremonial portion of today's Stated Meeting. First we have Council Member Dromm with his honorees being presented here with a proclamation. Council Member Dromm, do you have a few words today?

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you very much, Majority Leader Joel Rivera for allowing me to have this opportunity to honor Fatma Abboud and the Egyptian Cancer Network on this very special occasion. You know, I've been working very closely with Mustafa el Shiekh [phonetic] who is a very good friend and colleague, and in the past we held the first Arab American cultural event sponsored by the City Council in 2010, and unfortunately because of the renovations of City Hall we were not able to have those celebrations here, although we did have subsequent celebrations in other parts of the city as well to acknowledge contributions of Arab Americans to our community.

But, today we have been joined by the Ambassador as well, and I want to thank you for being here and for participating in this ceremony with us, and I also have some formal remarks that

1  
2 I wanted to read so if you could hold the  
3 proclamation for one minute?

4           It's my privilege to welcome Ambassador  
5 Arned Farroud [phonetic] and to present this  
6 proclamation to the Egyptian Cancer Network. The  
7 Egypt Cancer Network has proven itself a  
8 formidable force in the fight against childhood  
9 cancer, providing Egyptian medical institutions  
10 and nonprofits with invaluable resources for  
11 patient care and treatment. Perhaps, one of their  
12 greatest achievements is having played an  
13 important role in establishing the Children's  
14 Cancer Hospital of Egypt 57357 which provides  
15 children diagnosed with cancer with free state-of-  
16 the-art treatment. The Egypt Cancer Network is  
17 especially adept at garnering much needed funding  
18 and support from New Yorkers and developing  
19 collaborative partnerships with New York City  
20 institutions. As Egypt continues to face  
21 turbulent times, we here in New York proudly show  
22 our support for the people of that country and  
23 especially children in dire need of life-saving  
24 cancer treatment. We expressed our sincerest  
25 gratitude to Fatma Abboud and the Egypt Cancer

1  
2 Network for ensuring that no Egyptian child lacks  
3 the needs to fight this devastating disease.

4 And I would like to add [Pause]...

5 CITY CLERK: Council, City of New York  
6 Proclamation: Whereas the Egypt Cancer Network  
7 established in 2008 is an American Egyptian  
8 nonprofit organization dedicated to providing  
9 resources to Egyptian children's hospitals and  
10 not-for-profit organizations that focus on cancer  
11 in the areas of patient care, scientific  
12 advancement and education. Under the leadership  
13 of Fatma Abboud, the organization's chairwoman in  
14 the Tri-State Area, its members have raised  
15 hundreds of thousands of dollars to help treat  
16 children with cancer whose lives would have  
17 otherwise been cut short, and whereas many New  
18 Yorkers of Egyptian heritage have come together to  
19 support, expand and raise funds for the work of  
20 Egypt Cancer Network. Furthermore, this  
21 organization has also greatly benefited from vital  
22 collaborations with several New York institutions  
23 and colleges, including EI HAB Human Services and  
24 the College of Mount St. Vincent for mutual and  
25 cross-nursing and lab training, and whereas with

1  
2 the generous support of many New Yorkers, the  
3 Egypt Cancer Network was able to help establish  
4 its main partner and beneficiary to the Children's  
5 Cancer Hospital of Egypt 57357 CCHE, the largest  
6 state-of-the-art facility in the world that  
7 provides comprehensive care and quality healthcare  
8 services free of charge for all children with  
9 cancer without discrimination. Today, the CCHE is  
10 a role model for charitable healthcare  
11 institutions, not only in Egypt but also in the  
12 Middle East and the north Africa region, and  
13 whereas since June 2011, the Egypt Cancer Network  
14 has expanded its reach by sponsoring not only CCHE  
15 but the Association of Friends of the National  
16 Cancer Institute, the Fakkous Center for Cancer  
17 and Allied Diseases, and U.S. teaching hospitals.  
18 Now, therefore be it known, that the Council of  
19 the City of New York gratefully honors the Egypt  
20 Cancer Network for its outstanding contributions  
21 to the fight against cancer. Christine C. Quinn,  
22 Speaker for the entire council; Daniel Dromm,  
23 Council Member 25th District, Queens.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you very  
25 much, Mr. City Clerk, Mike McSweeney. And now I'd

1  
2 like to give the Ambassador an opportunity to say  
3 a few words. Mr. Ambassador.

4           AMBASSADOR: Thank you very much. It's  
5 my honor to be here today in this wonderful hall,  
6 and I'd like to express my admiration to Madam  
7 Fatma Abboud and the Egypt Cancer Network. As a  
8 nonprofit organization aimed to collecting all the  
9 efforts and donations for 57357, the Children  
10 Hospital for Curing Cancer, which I consider one  
11 of the largest hospitals in the world that is  
12 offering this wonderful treatment for free without  
13 discrimination. So, I'd like to repeat my thanks  
14 and all the best.

15           COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you, Mr.  
16 Ambassador. God bless you. God bless Egypt. And  
17 now I'd like to give Fatma Abboud the opportunity  
18 to say a few words as well.

19           FATMA ABOUD: Thank you. Madam Speaker  
20 Quinn, Councilman Daniel Dromm, City Council  
21 Members and dear guests: It's the greatest honor  
22 and pride that I accept this award and recognition  
23 on behalf of the many volunteers and supporters  
24 who helped make this possible. Thank you.

1  
2 I was raised in Egypt to care and help  
3 others who is in need many years ago. Upon  
4 arriving to the United States, I found that caring  
5 and giving is natural, so I shared these values  
6 with my fellow New Yorkers.

7 Over a year ago, I was approached by one  
8 of the founders of the largest children's cancer  
9 center hospitals in the Middle East, Dr. Sharif  
10 Abouelnaga, to help raise funds for the hospital  
11 since it only survives on donations and good will.  
12 During my last visit to Egypt, I was happy to know  
13 that the cure rate in the Children Cancer Hospital  
14 was up to 70 percent. 70 percent, that's huge in  
15 a hospital where treatment is free. I know then  
16 that our hearts to be in the right place.

17 With the help of New Yorkers from  
18 diverse ethnic backgrounds, we were able to help  
19 sustain and expand the hospital. We hope you can  
20 help us in the near future to continue our  
21 mission. Thank you.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you very  
23 much and congratulations. Council Member Vallone,  
24 did you want to say something?

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Very quickly.  
3 It's been my honor to represent what's known as  
4 Little Egypt for the last 12 years. So, it's an  
5 honor to bring you here to City Hall. Thank you,  
6 Council Member Dromm. We've been joined by  
7 Council Member Koo, and there's Leroy Comrie, Mark  
8 Weprin was just here, and there's so many others  
9 who were watching, but it's an honor to have you  
10 here. It's been an honor to work with you,  
11 especially Mustafa, for so long to continue and  
12 improve Queens. The Egyptian community is a part  
13 of the fabric of Queens that's going to continue  
14 to keep it great, and the work you do with the  
15 Egypt Cancer Network is evidence of that. So,  
16 thank you for coming here and it's our honor to be  
17 with you and you, too, Mr. Ambassador.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you very  
19 much everybody. Thank you.

20 CITY CLERK: Thank you, Council Member  
21 Dromm. We're now going to call up Council Member  
22 Ulrich and his organization, the FIKA USA Karate  
23 School to come up and receive their... bring up the  
24 kids. [Pause]

25

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: These are my  
3 kiddies here. These are Shotokan Karate champions  
4 from Woodhaven Queens. Let's hear it for Queens.  
5 They are joined by parents, instructors, and the  
6 owner of FIKA... FIKA, my Spanish diction is as good as  
7 Mike Bloomberg's, so anyway. The Sensei Jorge  
8 Falcon, not falcon, right, is a very dynamic leader  
9 in the Woodhaven community, and he founded this  
10 karate school, an after-school program and non-for-  
11 profit on Jamaica Avenue in Woodhaven, Queens, a  
12 growing and vibrant immigrant community of which I am  
13 very proud to represent. It's also represented in  
14 portions by Council Member Crowley and also Council  
15 Woman Karen Koslowitz, but these young people  
16 represent the best and the brightest, the hardest  
17 working young people in the city, and they are hot on  
18 the heels of a trip. They just came from Greensboro,  
19 South Carolina. They went to the national  
20 competition. I'm translating for them. Go ahead.  
21 Yep. Wow, this is incredible. 24 medals. They've  
22 won 24 medals in Las Vegas. I've left a lot of medal  
23 in Las Vegas, so you brought some back. I left some  
24 there. Anyway, the point is we are just so proud of  
25 these young men and women and, you know, when we say

1  
2 that the children are our future, when you look at  
3 the faces of these young people we should all be  
4 rest-assured and sleep better tonight knowing that  
5 our future is that much brighter because of these  
6 young people. They are excelling inside the  
7 classroom and outside the classroom. And the clerk  
8 is going to read the proclamation now, so let's hear  
9 the proc, okay.

10 CITY CLERK: Council, City of New York  
11 proclamation.

12 Whereas, the Council of the City of New  
13 York is proud to honor the Falcon International  
14 Karate Do Association, FIKA USA, for empowering New  
15 Yorkers to become champions in the martial arts as  
16 well as life. And whereas FIKA USA based in  
17 Woodhaven, Queens has been providing excellent  
18 instruction in karate do and the martial arts since  
19 2004. Headed by Jorge L. Falcon Lopez, 5 Dan black  
20 belt president and founder, and the staff of expert  
21 instructors and managers including Shihan Pedro  
22 Falcon, Miguel Silva, Michelle Guzman, Johana  
23 Arietta, LuzDary Falcon, and Sempai Sara Falcon, FIKA  
24 USA has become one of the finest martial arts schools  
25 in the five boroughs, and whereas the training that

1 students at FIKA USA receive involves the dynamic use  
2 of the total body leading to physical benefits of the  
3 highest quality. Whether training for personal  
4 development or for competition, this training  
5 develops the whole person by fostering greater self-  
6 control, etiquette and respect for others as well as  
7 one's self leading to the emotional and mental  
8 stability and overall equilibrium that exemplify a  
9 healthy mindset. Being true artists, these martial  
10 art students demonstrate strength of body and  
11 strength of character. And whereas, in March 2013,  
12 FIKA USA students traveled to Las Vegas as  
13 participants in the prestigious Junior International  
14 Cup and the USA Open in Las Vegas, a wildly popular  
15 event held at Caesar's Palace where the top karate  
16 talent in the world test their skills and pursues  
17 their quest for victory. In the end they returned to  
18 New York with an impressive 24 medals, including 13  
19 bronze, 8 silver, and 3 gold. Now therefore be it  
20 known that the Council of the City of New York honors  
21 and congratulates the students and staff of FIKA USA  
22 Karate School for all their recent victories and for  
23 fostering greater empowerment in Woodhaven, Queens  
24 and throughout New York City. Christine C. Quinn,  
25

1  
2 Speaker for the entire Council; Eric Ulrich, Council  
3 Member 32nd District Queens.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Okay, so we're  
5 going to present the proclamation now. So one of you  
6 hold it on the side here, and we're gonna allow the  
7 Sensai to say a few words and then we're going to  
8 pose for pictures, okay?

9 SENSEI JORGE FALCON: Thank you. Thank  
10 you Council. It's an honor for us to be here and to  
11 celebrating with all the children. They have been  
12 working so hard. They've been doing very well in the  
13 school as well as in the Dojo [phonetic], went to  
14 Vegas to represent USA against 65 countries and have  
15 a very good job. They just came now from South  
16 Carolina in the national competition and Gabriel  
17 Fermein [phonetic] become of one of the best national  
18 champion (inaudible) as well as the other ones that  
19 win in there. Most of them get a silver medal, a  
20 bronze medal, gold medal. They become very good in  
21 karate. They stay away from bad thing (SIC) and they  
22 represent our children, our community Woodhaven, and  
23 thank you Council Eric for believe in us and thank  
24 you to New York City too. Thank you.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Sir, we are  
3 delighted and I want to recognize my colleagues who  
4 are also very proud of the children. They're  
5 standing up here with them, Council Woman Karen  
6 Koslowitz, Councilman Danny Dromm, Council Member  
7 Peter Koo, Annabel Palma, Joel Rivera. Everybody  
8 says you look so young, right? I wasn't the... oh, I'm  
9 sorry, I was getting to... I said young. I'm getting  
10 to the young, okay. Alright, so Sara Gonzalez from  
11 Brooklyn, the second best borough in New York City.  
12 Queens is the first. And Marie del Carmen Arroyo  
13 from the Bronx. I can never forget you, okay. And  
14 Peter Vallone, and it's good to be the king, okay.  
15 Andy King is here too, so I think I've recognized  
16 everybody in the room at this point, so. We're all  
17 so proud of the children... and our Majority Leader  
18 Joel Rivera. I was 24 when I was elected; he was 22.  
19 He beat me by two years, but he still looks younger  
20 than me, so he's a good friend and a good man. And  
21 we're just so proud of these children. How many of  
22 you have ever been to City Hall? This is your first  
23 time, right? The first time. Well, we want you to  
24 come back many, many times. This is your house.  
25 This is like an extension of your home, and we are

1  
2 here to help you and we want to see you grow and  
3 mature, and we will be behind you 100 percent, 1,000  
4 percent, because we know that each of you are going  
5 to accomplish very good things and you're going to  
6 make us even prouder. God bless you all, thank you.

7           Before we pose for the pictures I want to  
8 thank David Adorno [phonetic]. He's with the camera  
9 over there. He works for Councilman Jackson, but  
10 David was instrumental in setting this up. He works  
11 very closely with this afterschool program and with  
12 the Sensei. He's very active and involved in the  
13 Woodhaven community, and I want to make sure that he  
14 receives that recognition today, thank you.

15           MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Thank you very  
16 much. Congratulations kids. Congratulations.

17           So, now they're wrapping up with the  
18 karate segment of the ceremonials, we're going to go  
19 onto the boxing segment of the ceremonials. We have  
20 Council Member Jumaane Williams bringing up the Atlas  
21 NYPD Cops and Kids Boxing Program. Let's call up  
22 Council Member Jumaane Williams and the NYPD Cops and  
23 Kids Atlas Boxing Program.

24           COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you,  
25 thank you. Alright, alright, very proud of this

1  
2 proclamation that we're doing here for the Teddy  
3 Atlas Foundation. Very proud to work with Pat Russo  
4 who is a former police officer. Took his love of the  
5 community and founded a boxing gym and very proud to  
6 be here with Teddy Atlas, a former professional  
7 boxer, who made sure it kept going after the gym had  
8 closed. They have a boxing club at Flatbush Gardens  
9 in my district to help coach young people 13 to 21.  
10 They have had many successes thanks to Teddy Atlas  
11 and Pat Russo, and they spared the creation of two  
12 additional boxing gyms in Staten Island, one at Park  
13 Hill Apartments and Berry Houses [phonetic]. I think  
14 one of those are in Jimmy Oddo's district, right?  
15 And in just a few years they have a lot of top owners  
16 in the Daily News Golden Gloves Tournament. Marcus  
17 Brown, where's Marcus? Raise your hand. Oh, he's  
18 training, okay. Marcus Brown, who trained at the  
19 Park Hill gym went on to become a three-time Golden  
20 Gloves champ and a 5-0 rising professional star and a  
21 member of the 2012 U.S. Olympic Boxing Team. This  
22 boxing gym opened up in Flatbush Gardens that was  
23 once called Vanderveer. It used to be one of the  
24 places with the highest amount of crime, particularly  
25 gun violence in the District. I'm happy to say that

1  
2 today it's one of the safest parts of the District,  
3 and I think it's in thanks to the partnership of the  
4 entire community, but it's also in thanks to programs  
5 like what Teddy Atlas has done with the Teddy Atlas  
6 Foundation. I want to thank Teddy and Pat so much  
7 for the great work that they're doing helping keep  
8 our kids away from gangs, help keep my kids in  
9 school. The high school graduation rate from that  
10 boxing gym is phenomenal, so we're doing all the  
11 right things I'm happy to support and happy to  
12 continue support and we have a lot of police officers  
13 there working with the kids the way it should be.  
14 Police officers and young people working together for  
15 a safer community, and I think Teddy's going to  
16 speak, is that right? Oh wait, I did it all wrong.  
17 Alright, I'm going to ask the clerk to read the  
18 proclamation please.

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

21 Whereas, in 2010, the Dr. Theodore A.  
22 Atlas Foundation founded by visionary boxing  
23 commenter Teddy Atlas in memory of his father,  
24 partnered with NYC Cops and Kids to open a boxing  
25 club at Flatbush Gardens in East Flatbush, Brooklyn.

1  
2 Each day, certified boxing USA coaches have provided  
3 youth ages 13 to 21 with training and boxing  
4 techniques, sparring, heavy bag, speed bag, and  
5 calisthenics as well as proper nutrition. As a  
6 result, these young athletes have not only embraced  
7 opportunities for greater fitness and competed in  
8 local and national boxing tournaments but have  
9 developed the self-discipline and self-esteem needed  
10 to support themselves in all of their other  
11 endeavors, even those far removed from the boxing  
12 gym, and whereas, the Atlas Cops and Kids Boxing  
13 Program in Brooklyn was such a success that Teddy  
14 Atlas has spearheaded the creation of two additional  
15 boxing gyms and learning centers under the Cops and  
16 Kids banner in Staten Island, one at the Park Hill  
17 Apartments and more recently one at the Berry Houses  
18 in Dongan Hills. Today, roughly 600 young people are  
19 involved in the program. Each kid must bring a  
20 report card before being allowed to join the gym, and  
21 all participants are offered educational outreach  
22 with computer labs, mentoring and more. And whereas,  
23 in just a few short years the Atlas Cops and Kids  
24 Boxing Program participants have gathered top honors  
25 at the New York Daily News Golden Gloves Tournament

1  
2 in all categories. Marcus Brown, a young man who  
3 trained at the Park Hill gym went on to become a  
4 three-time Golden Gloves champ, a 5-0 rising  
5 professional star and member of the 2012 U.S. Olympic  
6 Boxing Team. And whereas, the Atlas NYPD Cops and  
7 Kids Boxing Program has proved to be more than a hub  
8 for athletic achievements but a much-needed safe  
9 haven for youth looking to avoid gang and street  
10 violence. Most importantly, each year more kids in  
11 the program are graduating from high school than ever  
12 before. Now therefore be it known that the Council  
13 of the City of New York gratefully honors the Atlas  
14 NYPD Cops and Kids Boxing Program for their life-  
15 changing contributions to the youth throughout New  
16 York City. Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the  
17 entire Council; Jumaane D. Williams, Council Member,  
18 32nd District, Brooklyn; Deborah Rose, Council  
19 Member, 49th District, Staten Island; James S. Oddo,  
20 Minority Leader, 50th District, Staten Island.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Yeah, and I just  
22 want to make sure. This is exactly what programs  
23 should be like. We have a professional athlete. We  
24 have a business man, a former police officer, I  
25 forgot to shout out, he's a very responsible business

1  
2 man in the District with Chef's Choice, and we have  
3 the NYPD all working together for this program making  
4 it a success. I want to say thank you to all of  
5 them, and I think Teddy wants to say a couple words,  
6 yes?

7           TEDDY ATLAS: Well, first of all thank you  
8 for supporting gym programs. The Dr. Atlas  
9 Foundation, 17 years ago, was started in memory of a  
10 doctor named Dr. Atlas who happened to take care of  
11 all the poor people. He actually built two hospitals  
12 in Staten Island so people could get free  
13 hospitalization. He did house calls until he was 80  
14 years old, charging five dollars for a house call,  
15 and he made sure that everybody got treated the way  
16 they needed to be treated when they were sick,  
17 whether they had money or not, and I thought a good  
18 way to remember him was to start a foundation.

19           We take care of families that don't have  
20 the ability to take care of their children when  
21 they're sick with cancer and different diseases. We  
22 step in and we pay for the treatment programs. We  
23 fly them out of state when necessary. We put up  
24 handicap ramps. About five years ago, I was asked by  
25 Pat Russo, former New York City detective, the PAL

1  
2 decided to pull the monies and the backing, the  
3 funding for PAL boxing gyms that was keeping a lot of  
4 kids off the streets. He asked me if the Foundation  
5 would step in and subsidize those gyms. Each gym  
6 cost the Foundation about \$50,000 dollars a year to  
7 run, so with the help of people here with the proper  
8 kind of people here like Jimmy Oddo, like Jumaane  
9 Williams, like Debbie Rose and like Mike Cusack  
10 [phonetic], it gives us the help we need to keep  
11 doing the job. The most important thing that you  
12 have to understand is I will shut these gyms down  
13 tomorrow if all we're doing is producing fighters.  
14 We have a bunch of championship fighters here, but  
15 more importantly we have championship people. We  
16 have kids that are becoming better kids.

17           We have a young girl here who's going  
18 into the Navy, and she was able to pass her test to  
19 go into the Navy through our computer programs,  
20 through our mentoring program, through our education  
21 program. We have certified teachers that go into the  
22 gyms and they work with them. We also have a kid  
23 here who just graduated pharmacy school. We have a  
24 couple kids here going into the police academy, and  
25 we have a couple kids that are going to college.

1  
2 What's happening with the gyms is very simple.  
3 There's three rules. One, you have to bring your  
4 report card to get entry. There's no money. We take  
5 care of that. Number Two, you got to pull your pants  
6 up at the door. Respect yourself, respect other  
7 people. And the third thing, you have to go into the  
8 computer rooms two or three days a week with our  
9 mentors, with our teachers, who are doing a  
10 tremendous job with these kids, and finally I want to  
11 say that we live in a practical world in boxing. If  
12 you don't move your damn head you get knocked out,  
13 alright? So it's very simple, and we give these kids  
14 the tools that they need to get from Point A to Point  
15 B, to get through school, to have the discipline, to  
16 have control over themselves. There's nobody in  
17 control in our neighborhoods, and these kids are  
18 learning to be in control of their own lives and make  
19 the right choices. I'm glad that you have a couple  
20 practical politicians because all you politicians  
21 aren't all practical. Some of you's are, and Mr.  
22 Williams, Jimmy Oddo, Debbie Rose, Mike Cusack, I  
23 know they are. So keep up the good work. Thank you.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Let's give a round  
25 of applause to the young people too, please.

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CITY COUNCIL

CITY CLERK: And that concludes today's ceremonials. [Pause] Can we please clear the floor of the chambers, please. Can we please clear the floor of the chambers, thank you. Ladies and Gentlemen, can I have your attention please? Can I please have your attention. At this time, please place all cell phones and pagers to vibrate. Will all non council employees, all non council employees please leave the main floor of the chambers. Thank you.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: My colleagues, please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance. [Pledge of Allegiance] Roll call.

CITY CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

CITY CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.

CITY CLERK: Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

CITY CLERK: Cabrera. Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

CITY CLERK: Comrie. Thank you. Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

CITY CLERK: Dickens.

CITY COUNCIL

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1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.  
3 CITY CLERK: Dilan.  
4 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Here.  
5 CITY CLERK: Dromm.  
6 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.  
7 CITY CLERK: Eugene.  
8 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.  
9 CITY CLERK: Ferreras.  
10 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.  
11 CITY CLERK: Fidler. Foster. Garodnick.  
12 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.  
13 CITY CLERK: Gennaro. Gentile. Gonzalez  
14 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Here.  
15 CITY CLERK: Greenfield. Halloran.  
16 Ignizio. Jackson. James.  
17 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here.  
18 CITY CLERK: King.  
19 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Present.  
20 CITY CLERK: Koo.  
21 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.  
22 CITY CLERK: Koppell.  
23 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.  
24 CITY CLERK: Koslowitz.  
25 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

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CITY COUNCIL

CITY CLERK: Lander. Lappin. Levin.  
Mark-Viverito. Mealy. Gennaro.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.

CITY CLERK: Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

CITY CLERK: Nelson.

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Here.

CITY CLERK: Jackson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Here.

CITY CLERK: Palma.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

CITY CLERK: Recchia. Reyna.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.

CITY CLERK: Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

CITY CLERK: Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

CITY CLERK: Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

CITY CLERK: Ulrich. Vacca. Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

CITY CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

CITY CLERK: Vann. Weprin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

CITY CLERK: Williams. Lappin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Here.

CITY CLERK: Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

CITY CLERK: Recchia.

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Here.

CITY CLERK: Fidler.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.

CITY CLERK: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

CITY CLERK: Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Present.

CITY CLERK: Oddo. Rivera.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Here.

CITY CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Quorum is present. My colleagues, please rise for the invocation being delivered today by Imam Soleiman Konate.

IMAM SOLEIMAN KONATE: In the name of the Lord of Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Mohammed, peace be upon them. By your grace and your mercy, we gather

1  
2 here this afternoon as legislature and community. Oh  
3 Lord, make this City of New York one place of peace  
4 and security. Bless our City Council and provide  
5 these members with wisdom, vision and patience to  
6 lead and serve with the people. Oh Lord, bless us  
7 mercy and grace from yourself, and (inaudible)  
8 gathering in the right way. Lord, you alone we ask  
9 for help, for each and everything. Oh Lord, bless  
10 our City Council with its speaker and the members.  
11 Touch their hearts with your power and your light for  
12 them to serve all New Yorkers with love, respect and  
13 sincerity. Amen.

14 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Council Member  
15 Dickens.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you Imam  
17 Konate for the work that you and the Masjid Aqsa has  
18 done over the years to deal with our youth, the  
19 problems that they have and our small businesses. I  
20 am pleased, therefore, to make the motion to spread  
21 the invocation in full upon the record.

22 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: So ordered.  
23 We're going to call in Council Member Jackson now.

24

25

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Majority Leader,  
3 I'd like to vote on all items on the agenda today and  
4 all resolutions. Thank you.

5 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: So ordered. We  
6 now move on to adoption of the minutes.

7 SPEAKER QUINN: If we... actually before we  
8 adopt it, if we can call in Council Member Garodnick  
9 who, I believe, needs to vote and take care of a  
10 personal situation. Council Member Garodnick?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank you. I'd  
12 like to vote Aye on the Land Use call ups and on the  
13 General Order calendar as well. Aye on all. Thank  
14 you.

15 SPEAKER QUINN: If I could please ask my  
16 colleagues to please rise? On July 10th, 2013,  
17 former City Council Member Walter McCaffrey, 64,  
18 passed away at Mt. Sinai Medical Center. Walter was  
19 the son of Irish immigrants. He was the Chief of  
20 Staff to former City Council President Andrew Stein  
21 and former Chief of Staff to Congress Tom Manton  
22 before being elected to the City Council in 1985  
23 where he served until the end of 2001.

24 He represented Long Island City Sunnyside  
25 and his beloved Woodside neighborhoods in Queens.

1  
2 Walter was a graduate of Monsignor McClancy Memorial  
3 High School and Iona College. Walter was known for  
4 his kind heart, his honesty, his sharp wit, and his  
5 tremendous political skills. He served on the Land  
6 Use, Finance, Public Safety, Transportation  
7 Committees in addition to being the Chair of the  
8 Zoning and Franchises Subcommittee. He was  
9 instrumental in getting laws passed required security  
10 cameras at ATMs and banning adult establishments near  
11 schools and in residential neighborhoods.

12 Many folks don't remember but Walter  
13 helped establish the city's first homeless shelter  
14 for war veterans, and Walter is survived by many,  
15 many friends and family members.

16 In a moment, I'm going to call on Council  
17 Members Van Bramer, Koslowitz, and Brewer to speak  
18 about former Council Member Walter McCaffrey, but I  
19 just want to say I first met Walter when I was a  
20 Tenant and Housing Organizer advocating around  
21 housing issues for the city council, and then met him  
22 again, so to speak, when I became Tom Duane's Chief  
23 of Staff. He couldn't have been nicer, he couldn't  
24 have been more helpful. When I was at the anti-  
25 violence project, he helped get the first speaker's

1  
2 office grant ever that the anti-violence project has  
3 had.

4 He went out of his way to help people, to  
5 help communities. He almost seemed to seek to find  
6 neighborhoods and organizations and entities who had  
7 not necessarily had a seat at a table or an  
8 opportunity to be heard. He had kind of a big teddy  
9 bear way about him, but no one should have confused  
10 that without also a killer political skill. He was  
11 somebody that always was encouraging and supportive  
12 and always pushing any of us who were getting started  
13 in politics to move as far ahead as we possibly  
14 could. I know with me, he went out of his way as  
15 much as he could to be encouraging and supportive,  
16 and although we mentioned some of his past successes,

17 I know council members will agree with me  
18 in noting that the most recent MWBE legislation, and  
19 I know Sandra Wilkins and Jacques De Graff would  
20 agree with this, would not have passed into law if  
21 Walter had not been advising Sandra and Jacques on  
22 that every step of the way. There is a list too far,  
23 too long to list of bills, laws, initiatives,  
24 people's careers who only exist because of Walter's  
25

1  
2 behind-the-scene help and strategy, and we will all  
3 miss him very, very much.

4 Let me call on Council Members Van  
5 Bramer, Koslowitz and Brewer in that order please.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you very  
7 much, Madam Speaker. I am very proud and humbled to  
8 represent the District that Walter McCaffrey  
9 represented for 16 years in the City Council. He is  
10 the longest serving Council Member in our district,  
11 and he always will be.

12 He was incredibly smart. He knew the  
13 local issues in our district like no one else. He  
14 was a political wizard and an amazing campaign  
15 strategist with a wit and a humor that few people  
16 could match. Many people know that he was preceded  
17 by, of course, Congressman Tom Manton with whom he  
18 worked very closely. We've had a long tradition of  
19 really incredible Irish American leaders in our  
20 Western Queens neighborhoods.

21 I wanted to mention that Walter McCaffrey  
22 was also someone who offered advice and could be very  
23 generous. One of the last things that he did as a  
24 Council Member in this body is he passed a co-naming  
25 of a street, Rescue 4, in Woodside on Queens

1  
2 Boulevard. Lost many brave firefighters on September  
3 11th, and in December of 2011 he renamed outside the  
4 firehouse on Queens Boulevard 'The Boulevard of  
5 Bravery.' Sadly, that sign was never put up and  
6 Walter called me in 2010, and he said I have an idea  
7 for you. He said let me know if you think this is a  
8 good idea. He said with September 11th coming up, I  
9 want to make you aware that we renamed the street  
10 outside of Rescue Four, the Boulevard of Bravery, and  
11 maybe it would be a good idea if we put up the sign  
12 and had a ceremony, and I said, Walter, that's not  
13 only a good idea, but that's incredibly generous of  
14 you and we'll do it. And we had a beautiful ceremony  
15 with Rescue Four, and Walter spoke that day and he  
16 was incredibly eloquent and passionate, and I  
17 remember Assemblywoman Cathy Nolan and I listening to  
18 Walter and thinking how happy he was, how proud he  
19 was of something that he had accomplished, and though  
20 it took ten years to put the sign up, it is there now  
21 because of Walter McCaffrey, just like so many other  
22 things are in Woodside and Sunnyside and Long Island  
23 City, including as the Speaker mentioned, the Borden  
24 Avenue Veterans Shelter, which is the only one of its  
25 kind and which is a part of his legacy. There are

1  
2 many great names in Western Queens that Walter would  
3 have known and would have worked with, Ladati,  
4 Sabbagh, Kraft, Crowley, Nolan and McCaffrey, and I  
5 am honored to have known him, to have worked with  
6 him, and to represent the District that he so ably  
7 represented. All of the 26th Council District is  
8 grateful to Walter for his service and dedication,  
9 and he will be sorely missed.

10 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much,  
11 Council Member. Council Member Koslowitz?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Thank you. I  
13 knew Walter McCaffrey since 1980 when he was the  
14 Chief of Staff to Tom Manton, and that's when I met  
15 Walter. Walter was a dear friend of mine. We did  
16 many things together. I used to sit in the seat,  
17 Julissa Ferreras, where she's sitting Walter  
18 McCaffrey sat, and where Jimmy is sitting... see, it's  
19 a friendship seat, you see, is where I sat. And  
20 through Council meetings we used to have a lot of  
21 fun, sometimes laughing at people and doing things  
22 that maybe we shouldn't have, but we did it. Walter  
23 was someone who when I needed something I could call  
24 on him. If it was a Land Use issue, I called Walter.  
25 When I worked for Andrew Stein, someone was trying to

1  
2 sabotage me. I won't mention the name. They're  
3 still around sabotaging other people. I had to... No,  
4 they're not in the room.

5 I had to go and find out about the Land  
6 Use issue that Andrew Stein was coming to speak in  
7 the neighborhood of this person, and the person  
8 wouldn't tell me anything. So who do I go to? I  
9 went to Walter McCaffrey, and Walter explained the  
10 whole issue to me, and when it came time to brief  
11 Andrew, this person sat in the room and smiling very  
12 smug thinking I'm going to really screw this one up  
13 and I did not. I let it all out and he looked and he  
14 said wow, and that's what Walter told me. He was not  
15 only a work friend, he was a personal friend. We  
16 used to go places together. When we had a nude club  
17 in Forest Hills, the first nude club in the city, who  
18 did I call on? We protested. Walter would come all  
19 the time, and we did very funny things. We went to  
20 the Supreme Court to fight this and won, and it was  
21 something Walter was such a dear friend. I miss him  
22 and I will always remember Walter McCaffrey for who  
23 he was, a decent nice person.

24 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Karen. I think  
25 Walter would appreciate this joke. I hope you had us

1  
2 all a little confused there because you said you and  
3 Walter used to go places and then you talked about  
4 the first nude club in Forest Hills and I didn't know  
5 where you were going, whether you guys went there or  
6 protested it, so I'm glad you clarified that for the  
7 record. Walter would not want the record to be  
8 misrepresented. Council Member Brewer.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very  
10 much. Walter's memorial service was phenomenal.  
11 People really understood his brilliance and the fact  
12 that he contributed so much to this city, but I must  
13 admit I remember... I think actually when I was Chair  
14 of the National Women's Political Caucus even before  
15 meeting Dorothy Pam and Walter McCaffrey, and all I  
16 knew was that they seemed to be the entire of  
17 Sunnyside. You know, it was so scary because  
18 whenever they spoke, you had to do whatever they  
19 said. You didn't really from Manhattan where they  
20 came from, but they were just always there. They  
21 were omnipresent, the two of them.

22 And then when he worked for Andrew Stein,  
23 he came in at Andrew Stein in 1978. I started  
24 working for Council Member Messinger in 1978, and  
25 Andrew Stein was never the most brilliant in the

1  
2 world. He had the most brilliant staff. He had the  
3 most brilliant staff. Everybody who worked for him  
4 from Jessie Mase [phonetic], Maggie Payton  
5 [phonetic], Barbara Baer [phonetic], Walter  
6 McCaffrey, we could never understand it. But we know  
7 that he did some great things because of people like  
8 Walter. But Walter kept the friendships, I mean the  
9 people who were part of his staff for years always  
10 loved him, and I know most recently when he was here  
11 on behalf of issues at City Hall, wherever he stood,  
12 wherever he sat, I was like, uh-oh, I better do  
13 whatever Walter says because he was brilliant,  
14 whatever he had done was thought out. He really... he  
15 transcended all boroughs, he transcended all issues.  
16 He was a master of the strategy, but at the same time  
17 never used it for anything except to benefit New  
18 Yorkers.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much,  
20 Council Member Brewer. Also ten years ago yesterday,  
21 July 23rd, 2003, was a day that many of us here today  
22 and those in the Council Chambers that day will never  
23 forget. Our colleague, Council Member James Davis,  
24 an ardent anti-gun violence advocate, was murdered in  
25 a senseless act of violence in the balcony just above

1  
2 us. As we reflect and remember this event, we must  
3 recommit ourselves to the efforts to reduce the  
4 number of guns in our city and the tragic effect that  
5 gun violence had on James and continues to have on  
6 our entire city. Such commitment is really the only  
7 thing that would be an appropriate and lifelong  
8 tribute to the memory and legacy of Council Member  
9 James Davis, and I just open up the floor, so to  
10 speak, if anybody would like to say a few words.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Well, I would just  
12 like to say that James Davis was a good friend of  
13 mine and a strong struggler who had an energy that  
14 was just unbelievable and had a love and commitment  
15 for peace. His entire family, he committed his  
16 entire family to that cause, and we named the lounge  
17 after him, so I'm just hoping that in the name of  
18 James Davis that we can continue the issues that he  
19 took on. It wasn't just gun violence, but also he  
20 wanted to see to it that the wealth in this city was  
21 more equitably distributed amongst the poor, and he  
22 was a real champion for our people, so James, rest in  
23 peace for a job well done.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ?: In the words of James  
25 Davis, "Love yourself and stop the violence." In

1  
2 memory of Trayvon Martin, in memory of James Davis,  
3 the memory of all of those who have lost their lives  
4 to senseless gun violence, let us continue to keep  
5 the peace in our community.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: Anyone else?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I just want to  
8 reflect that ten years ago yesterday when the tragedy  
9 unfolded in this City Council, it was a surreal  
10 experience for all of us, but to remember the life  
11 and the energy of James, the activism and his desire  
12 to make sure that he had an impact is something that  
13 we should never forget, and James would've been one  
14 of the 34 that would be on the Community Safety Act  
15 today because as a former police officer he  
16 understood the need between community relations and  
17 making sure that people respect it. James respected  
18 everyone. James was trying to be a mentor to  
19 everyone around him. James was trying to make  
20 everyone understand that government could work for  
21 people. We need to remember him. Yesterday when I  
22 realized it was his tenth anniversary, you still have  
23 an experience when you come in the chambers and  
24 remember that we lost a member right here in the  
25 chambers, and it's something that I will never forget

1  
2 and I hope that the city never forgets as we fight to  
3 make sure that gun violence is something that is  
4 lessened in our city, and we all need to work to make  
5 sure that that happens every day.

6           SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Leroy. I just  
7 want to say in closing, he's obviously not on today,  
8 but obviously on that day then police officer, now  
9 Detective Richard Burt... rose to the occasion doesn't  
10 quite sound like the right words to use, but I guess  
11 literally saved the day and saved so many other lives  
12 by what he did, so when folks see him in the next  
13 week or so or the next time he's on obviously thank  
14 him. Thank you, Mr. Majority Leader.

15           MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Thank you very  
16 much, Madam Speaker. We now move on to Adoption of  
17 the Minutes. Council Member Lappin?

18           COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Yes, I move that  
19 the minutes of the Stated Meeting of June 12th, 17th,  
20 and 24th, 2013 be adopted as printed.

21           MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: So ordered.  
22 Messages and papers from the Mayor.

23           CITY CLERK: M 1179 Submitted Philip  
24 Aarons for reappointment to the New York City Art  
25 Commission.

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CITY COUNCIL

SPEAKER QUINN: Rules, Privileges and  
Elections.

CITY CLERK: M 1180 submitting Dr. Lynne  
D. Richards for reappointment to the Board of Health.

SPEAKER QUINN: Rules, Privileges and  
Elections.

CITY CLERK: M 1181 submitting Roberta  
Washington for appointment to the City Landmarks  
Preservation Commission.

SPEAKER QUINN: Rules, Privileges and  
Elections.

CITY CLERK: M 1182 Maritime Lease.

SPEAKER QUINN: Land Use.

CITY CLERK: M 1183 Mayor's veto of Intro  
Number 1079.

SPEAKER QUINN: Committee of the Whole.

CITY CLERK: M 1184 Mayor's veto of Intro  
Number 1080.

SPEAKER QUINN: Committee of the Whole.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Communication  
from city, county, and borough offices.

CITY CLERK: M 1185 to M 1237 on Page 9,  
Base station licenses.

SPEAKER QUINN: Transportation.

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2 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Petitions and  
3 communications.

4 CITY CLERK: None.

5 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Land Use call  
6 ups?

7 CITY CLERK: None.

8 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Communication  
9 from the Speaker.

10 SPEAKER QUINN: Let me just, before I make  
11 a few communications from the Speaker, I want to call  
12 on two members, first Inez Dickens to introduce three  
13 interns, and then Council Member Erik Dilan who has  
14 some, if he's back in his seat, guests with us today,  
15 but Council Member Dickens?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you, Madam  
17 Speaker. I first want to let everyone know that...  
18 [interpose]

19 SPEAKER QUINN: I'm sorry, Inez. Can I  
20 just interrupt one second? Can we get some quiet?  
21 And I was just informed that Council Member King  
22 needs to go to a funeral, so if we could just call on  
23 him to vote please before we have the recognitions of  
24 who's here, if that's okay?

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Yes, thank you. I'd  
3 like to vote Aye on all couple and general orders for  
4 today.

5 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: So ordered.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Thank you. Aye on  
7 all.

8 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. And so if we  
9 could hear from Inez, Council Member Dilan, and  
10 Council Member Nelson who have visitors with us, but  
11 if we could get a little quiet?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you, Madam  
13 Speaker. East Harlem and Harlem has lost a community  
14 activist, a retired District leader, a fighter for  
15 the community of East Harlem in retired District  
16 leader Wilma Sena, and she will be sorely missed.  
17 She fought very hard, but she leaves a legacy with a  
18 son and a daughter that will continue her fight.

19 I want to acknowledge three interns that  
20 are here from my Harlem District office, Divine,  
21 Nakia [phonetic] and Breoli [phonetic] in the back.  
22 They are three young adults who I'm encouraging.  
23 They want to go to college. They're positive in  
24 their thinking, and I'm very proud to have them a  
25 part of my office.

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And, I have a new staff member, Ophelia Rivers [phonetic] who has now joined us. Thank you so much. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Council Member Dickens. If we could hear from Council Member Dilan, Nelson and Barron? You have kids over here. Announce your children. Go to the mic and tell us who is here with you today. You've got the best visitors of anybody. No offense on the interns.

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: I didn't want to make it public, but I am joined by... they're in the balcony, joined by my children. It's going to be hard to see them, but my kids Daniel and Leah who are up in the balcony. They're up in the crowd and I just wanted (inaudible)...

SPEAKER QUINN: Yay, alright. Council Member Nelson?

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a young intern in the back named Justin Winkler, who has been doing a tremendous job, and my better nine-tenths is here too, my wife.

SPEAKER QUINN: Good number.

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Maureen, my wife Maureen.

1  
2 SPEAKER QUINN: Council Member Barron and  
3 Council Member Koo.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I just would like  
5 to acknowledge two of my interns.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: If we could get a little  
7 quiet please?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: These two young  
9 ladies have been dynamic in our office, Oleami  
10 Odisanya [phonetic] and Tiffany Babb. Please give  
11 them a big handclap. They've been doing great work.

12 SPEAKER QUINN: Council Member Koo.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Madam Speaker and  
14 Majority Leader, I want to acknowledge I have six  
15 interns coming here today and this is their first  
16 time in City Hall. Their names are Eric, Fiona,  
17 Jenny, Raina [phonetic], Cathy and Lynn, and they're  
18 all sitting up in the balcony. Welcome them, thank  
19 you.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Council Member  
21 Koo. And we have a couple more acknowledgements,  
22 Council Member Comrie and Council Member Koslowitz.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I just want to  
24 acknowledge we've been joined by now Civil Court  
25 Judge Cheree Buggs who came today in commemoration of

1  
2 the tenth anniversary for our Council Member Davis.  
3 She is now a Civil Court Judge in Queens. She was a  
4 former staff analyst here at the City Council, and I  
5 just wanted to thank her for coming out this  
6 afternoon. Thank you, Your Honor.

7 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. Council Member  
8 Koslowitz?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Thank you. I  
10 would like to recognize David Arnuff [phonetic]. I  
11 got him from the Bukharian Teen Lounge two years ago  
12 and I'm not letting him go. So I just want to  
13 recognize his brave work.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Yay, thank you. And  
15 Council Member Richards?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I just would  
17 like to introduce, I have six interns here today with  
18 me, and I want to acknowledge them and I want you to  
19 stand up, Anthony, Alice, Alana, Liberty, Brianna,  
20 and these are just half of my interns, and Ruben, you  
21 should get more.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Thank you, guys.  
24 And they've been working very hard in the District,  
25 so I just want to acknowledge them.

1  
2 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, guys, very  
3 much. And everybody welcome.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Gabrielle  
5 [phonetic] as well, sorry.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: I'm sorry, Donovan. Go  
7 ahead, Council Member Richards, go ahead.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Gabrielle.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: Alright. Well, it is  
10 great to have all of these guests and visitors with  
11 us today because we are voting on a number of  
12 different important pieces of legislation. The first  
13 in the Finance Committee, and we want to thank Chair  
14 Dominic M. Recchia, Jr. for his work on both of the  
15 bills. We want to thank Council Member Ignizio for  
16 his work on 1064 and Minority Leader Jimmy Oddo for  
17 Preconsidered Intro 1120. I want to thank on both of  
18 the bills Tanesha [phonetic] Edwards, Emera Deeve  
19 [phonetic], Ray Majesfsky [phonetic], Preston Niblack  
20 [phonetic], Jeff Roadis [phonetic], and everyone in  
21 the Finance staff, Finance Commissioner David Frankel  
22 as well.

23 The first piece of legislation deals with  
24 the Veterans Tax Exemption, and we had a rather odd  
25 thing going on that a constituent brought to the

1  
2 attention of Council Member Ignizio who then brought  
3 it to the attention of me and my staff. If you're a  
4 veteran you get a property tax exemption, but if you  
5 moved from block in Staten Island to another,  
6 although you're the veteran and you moved, the  
7 property tax exemption did not necessarily go with  
8 you. Most veterans weren't aware of this, and even  
9 if you were aware of this and you took the  
10 appropriate steps, it could be 16 months until the  
11 property tax exemption caught up with you, although  
12 clearly in those 16 months you didn't cease to be a  
13 veteran and your service did not not happen.

14           So, I want to applaud Council Member  
15 Ignizio and Chair Recchia for fixing this situation  
16 because, one, it was unfair; two, it's the kind of  
17 thing that makes people hate government because it  
18 makes no sense and it's ridiculous. So, I'm very  
19 happy that we are fixing this. So let me call on  
20 Council Member Vinny Ignizio to speak to this and  
21 then Chair Recchia, and then we'll hear about 1120  
22 after that. Thank you.

23           COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Thank you, Madam  
24 Speaker and my colleagues. Basically what the City  
25 of New York was engaging in was imposing somewhat of

1  
2 a moving tax on our veterans. By moving from place  
3 in the city to another place in the city, you were  
4 penalized. You were penalized in the form of not  
5 getting your rightfully deserved property tax  
6 exemption on your property tax bill. It made no  
7 sense. It was ridiculous when we learned of it. We  
8 went to the Speaker and to my good friend Chairman  
9 Dominic Recchia, and he said we have to find a way of  
10 fixing this. We drafted this legislation with the  
11 help of Tanesha Edwards and Preston of the Finance,  
12 and this is how good government works. A problem  
13 comes to the district office in the form of a  
14 constituent that says, wait a minute, this doesn't  
15 make sense. They go to their representative. The  
16 representatives work together and they pass good,  
17 smart legislation that's going to make sure that  
18 people get their rightfully deserved veteran tax  
19 exemptions.

20 So, I appreciate it and I want to say  
21 something that this is a body that should be proud of  
22 itself because the value of your ideas is what based  
23 on legislation that gets passed, not anybody's  
24 particular party or who they're friends with or not  
25 friends with, and I want to thank the speaker because

1  
2 that was not always the case in this house. It is  
3 now and it should be in the future, and thank you,  
4 Madam Speaker, for supporting this legislation and my  
5 colleagues Minority Leader Oddo and Chairman Recchia,  
6 thank you very much.

7 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much,  
8 Council Member Ignizio. Just before Chair Recchia  
9 speaks, if we could get a little quiet?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Thank you, Madam  
11 Speaker. Today, New York City veterans who move are  
12 forced to pay property taxes when they shouldn't have  
13 to. This legislation fixes this issue allowing  
14 veterans to receive a prorated exemption so they  
15 don't have to wait over a year to get their money  
16 back. This bill which acts on the authority  
17 providing the state law will be effective immediately  
18 and applied to next year's assessment rolls. I'd  
19 like to thank my good friend from Staten Island who's  
20 doing a great job, Vincent Ignizio, for bringing this  
21 to the attention of my staff and to Speaker Quinn for  
22 making this really happen and letting us move forward  
23 with it, and I'd also like to thank Jimmy Oddo, our  
24 Minority Leader, in working with us. But, most of  
25 all, we have to thank our Finance staff under the

1 leadership of Preston Niblack and First Deputy Jeff  
2 Roadis and my attorney Tanesha Edwards. Let's give  
3 them a round of applause for the whole Finance staff.  
4 I'm proud of this staff. They do a great job. Thank  
5 you, Madam Speaker.

7 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Chair Recchia.  
8 We are also voting today on Preconsidered Intro 1120,  
9 sponsored by our Minority Leader Jimmy Oddo. This  
10 piece of legislation is, I mean all bills are  
11 important, but particularly important because it  
12 deals with giving property tax rebates to homeowners  
13 whose homes were damaged or lost during Hurricane  
14 Sandy. You would think it might be automatic that  
15 that would happen, that if you lost your home or your  
16 home was really damaged that your property tax bill  
17 would have been rebated. That's not the case. This  
18 piece of legislation is making that happen for both  
19 residential and commercial pieces of property. The  
20 median rebate will be give or take \$700 dollars for  
21 residentials and I think about \$3300 dollars or so  
22 for commercials, which is a very significant savings  
23 if you're struggling with issues related to Sandy,  
24 which, make no mistake, people still are. And these  
25 tax checks will go out next month, so I want to thank

1  
2 everyone on the staff again, Preston, Jeff, Tanesha,  
3 Emera, Ray Majesfsky, everyone on the Finance team,  
4 everyone in the Minority Leader's office, and  
5 everyone else who represent New Yorkers who are in  
6 this position who helped create the injury and push  
7 that got this legislation passed, so let me thank,  
8 again, the Chair of the Finance Committee, Council  
9 Member Domenic M. Recchia, Jr. Call on Minority  
10 Leader Oddo, and then I don't know if the Chair has a  
11 few words he would like to say.

12           MINORITY LEADER ODDO: Thank you, Madam  
13 Speaker. A few weeks after the storm hit, it was  
14 early in the morning I was with former Council Member  
15 and now State Senator Andrew Lanza, and we had a  
16 meeting but we were a little bit early so we decided  
17 just to drive the community, and we went past Toto's  
18 Restaurant on Father Capodanno Boulevard in my  
19 district. John Toto is the owner. John lost his  
20 restaurant and his home was washed away, and we were  
21 talking to him, and at the end of a litany of  
22 challenges he listed, he said and on top of that I  
23 have to pay \$13,000 dollars in property taxes, and  
24 Senator Lanza looked at me and I looked at him, and  
25 we sort of said we have to try to do something here

1  
2 and now, and I reached out to the Speaker. I reached  
3 out to Preston and the Finance staff, Chairman  
4 Recchia, and together we did a couple of things to  
5 try to give some folks relief. I want to thank the  
6 Speaker. I want to thank the Chairman, and I want to  
7 thank Preston and the entire Finance staff. I want  
8 to thank Commissioner Frankel who very early on  
9 acknowledged that we were on uncharted territory in  
10 trying to figure out assessments and property taxes  
11 for folks impacted by the storm, and I want to say  
12 this, I am grateful for the help that we are  
13 providing these folks, but more needs to be done and  
14 I think the next council will realize that there will  
15 be ongoing issues with property taxes and folks  
16 impacted by this storm.

17           We may be nine months into this but we're  
18 a long way away from making people whole, and this  
19 discussion about long term property tax relief will  
20 go on. So thank you to those who made this possible,  
21 and just a cautionary note to my colleagues who live  
22 on in this body after January 1st, 2014. You're  
23 going to be asked for more help, and I hope that  
24 you're willing with the next mayoral administration  
25 to get that done.

1  
2                   SPEAKER QUINN: And let me also caution  
3 you, if you give Jimmy Oddo your e-mail you'll get  
4 all kinds of suggestions, and the good news is every  
5 148th one, Jimmy, it's a good one. Substantive,  
6 substantive, substantive, substantive. Chair  
7 Recchia?

8                   COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Thank you, Madam  
9 Chair. I also want to thank my good friend Jimmy  
10 Oddo, the Minority Leader. Council Member Vincent  
11 Ignizio, Speaker Quinn, because today property values  
12 that were determined before super storm Sandy, many  
13 property homeowners are currently paying property tax  
14 on properties that were pre-Sandy values. This  
15 legislation on the real property tax relief to owners  
16 will give them a relief immediately in offering  
17 rebates to those affected. And I just want to say  
18 something, that in this Stated today, I think this  
19 will set a record for the most number of bills being  
20 passed by Republicans in this body. This is very  
21 good that we could work together. Republicans and  
22 Democrats come together for the best interests of all  
23 New Yorkers. Thank you.

24                   SPEAKER QUINN: If the Majority Leader  
25 could strike that Republican reference from the

1  
2 record. No, I'm only kidding. Could call on Council  
3 Member Koppell and Mealy please?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Thank you. I'd  
5 like an unanimous consent to vote Aye on all matters  
6 on the General Orders calendar and all resolutions.

7 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: So ordered.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Thank you.

9 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Council Member  
10 Mealy.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Permission to vote  
12 on all General Orders and calendar orders.

13 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: So ordered.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote Aye on all.  
15 Thank you.

16 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. We next have a  
17 package of numerous pieces of legislation which are  
18 part of our Sandy relief package of bills. I want to  
19 thank Molly Murphy, Rob Calandra [phonetic], Kelly  
20 Taylor, Andrea Vasquez, Carmen Cohigalot [phonetic],  
21 Carmen, whose last name I never get right so I  
22 apologize Carmen, Lyle Frank, Jeff Campana  
23 [phonetic], Terzah Nasser, Sal Arono [phonetic],  
24 Laura Popa [phonetic], Laura Popa, Laura Popa, and  
25 Rob Newman for their work on this legislation and

1  
2 Margaret Nelson. I want to thank all of the sponsors  
3 of the bill and the chairs, Council Member Arroyo,  
4 Vallone, Comrie, Koppell, Oddo, Palma, Reyna,  
5 Rodriguez, Rose, Vacca. Since there's so many bills,  
6 I'm not going to speak on them each individually.  
7 Let me start though with 1053-A, a piece of  
8 legislation which will create plans around special  
9 needs shelters operated during and after certain  
10 emergency events that was sponsored by Council Member  
11 Arroyo, and let me call on Chair Vallone to speak on  
12 the bills that came out of his committee relevant to  
13 this package, and if you could just make note of  
14 which ones those are, Chair Vallone?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Well, I don't  
16 think I can actually, with ones exactly.

17 SPEAKER QUINN: Okay.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: We passed nine  
19 bills out of my committee yesterday. As the Council  
20 probably realizes, we had hearings in '05. We had  
21 hearings in '09 asking are we prepared for a  
22 hurricane, and when we held those hearings people  
23 called us Pollyanna's and said that we were just  
24 looking for headlines maybe. But we were right to  
25 hold those hearings. We ensured that at least there

1  
2 was a partial plan in place, but now we're taking the  
3 final steps. With these nine pieces of legislation,  
4 we're ensuring that there's a complete plan in place  
5 and we know about it. When they changed it, we know  
6 about it. For an example, one of the bills we're  
7 passing today will require a fuel plan for New York  
8 City. It was an outrage that there was no fuel  
9 getting to New York City, and it was an outrage that  
10 the fuel that was at certain gas stations sat there  
11 and could not be pumped. We will not allow that to  
12 happen again. We're insisting there be a plan for  
13 the next natural disaster that occurs here in New  
14 York City, and we know it will happen. So, because  
15 of the bills of the pass today, we will be safer and  
16 we'll be more prepared to face the next disaster that  
17 occurs. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

18                   SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Chair Vallone.  
19 Let me next call on Council Member Leroy Comrie, the  
20 sponsor of... I want to thank Council Member Comrie for  
21 passing on 1054-A, which he sponsored, which is the  
22 Community Recovery Plan to respond to emergency  
23 events. I want to thank Council Member Koppell for  
24 the creation of an outreach and recovery plan to  
25 assist vulnerable and homebound individuals. I want

1  
2 to thank Council Member Oddo for the Food and Water  
3 Access Plan legislation. Council Member Palma for  
4 the Shelter Plan legislation.

5 I want to call on Chair Reyna to speak  
6 about 1072-A which deals with small business and not-  
7 for-profit organization recovery plans in response to  
8 emergency events, and let me just also thank Council  
9 Member Vacca for 1077-A, the fuel management plan and  
10 response to certain emergency events. Chair Reyna?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Thank you so much,  
12 Madam Speaker. Rebuilding after a large scale  
13 disaster requires the full participation of all  
14 stakeholders in the community. But in too many  
15 instances, small business owners felt they were left  
16 out of the planning process for their own recovery  
17 from Hurricane Sandy. When the Committee on Small  
18 Business held its hearing on Hurricane Sandy early  
19 this year, we heard from the administration, business  
20 holders, heads of Chambers of Commerce, and heads of  
21 nonprofits that support economic development, all of  
22 whom made it clear that the Office of Emergency  
23 Management's plan for small business recovery to be  
24 extended existed was inadequate.

1  
2           In particular, their testimony revealed  
3 that there wasn't a systematic method for assessing  
4 the extent of the physical and economic damage  
5 suffered by small businesses and nonprofit  
6 organizations for allocating resources to assist  
7 businesses within perfect credit histories or for  
8 providing small businesses and nonprofit  
9 organizations with the information they needed to  
10 coordinate their applications for recovery assistance  
11 available from local, state and federal governments.  
12 We also learned that nonprofits like Action USA (SIC)  
13 which handled 10 percent of all SBS Emergency Loan  
14 applications have been playing a critical role in  
15 small business recovery helping to compensate for  
16 foreseeable staffing shortages at SBS.  
17 Unfortunately, while the city relies on nonprofits  
18 like the Red Cross to help people survive disasters,  
19 there has been no strategic plan for working with  
20 nonprofits that provide such businesses business  
21 counseling and technical assistance with small  
22 businesses and nonprofits resulting in unnecessary  
23 delays and further financial losses.

24           Introduction Number 1072-A addresses  
25 these concerns requiring SBS and OEM to work with the

1  
2 businesses and nonprofit communities to develop a  
3 plan that takes into account the real needs of small  
4 businesses as well as nonprofits. Among the key  
5 features of the bill are requirements that SBS plan a  
6 comprehensive survey of physical and economic storm  
7 damage, that it encouraged small businesses and  
8 nonprofits to register for electronic alerts related  
9 to disaster preparedness and recovery resources and  
10 that it formalized relationships with nonprofits that  
11 provide business counseling and technical assistance,  
12 so the next time there's a disaster those  
13 organizations are part of a strategic recovery plan  
14 from the beginning. I want to thank Speaker Quinn,  
15 the office staff, and the Small Business Committee  
16 staff, Jeffrey Campana [phonetic] and Faith Corbett  
17 [phonetic] for the work they've done on this bill to  
18 ensure the next time a storm hits, the City of New  
19 York small businesses and nonprofits can make the  
20 speediest recovery possible. Thank you.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much, Chair  
22 Reyna. Let me next call on Council Member Rodriguez  
23 to discuss 1075-A requiring the Commissioner of the  
24 Office of Emergency Management to review or update  
25

1  
2 plans responding to certain emergency events and to  
3 report to the Council.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you,  
5 Speaker, for your support on this bill. The OEM  
6 reporting bill is an important piece of legislation  
7 for New York City because it makes public the City's  
8 plans about emergency management during natural  
9 disasters. OEM's reporting to the Council will  
10 enable and also better prepare the residents or  
11 community in direct end to needed services like  
12 shelters, food and water. It will help our city's  
13 respond efficiently to (inaudible) hurricanes,  
14 earthquakes and other (inaudible) weather. As such,  
15 this bill is a forward-thinking policy that will  
16 serve to decrease the human and financial tolls from  
17 climate change and natural disaster in congested  
18 urban areas like New York City. This policy also  
19 asserts more transparency in our government and will  
20 require administrations to update these plans as new  
21 challenges arise or every two years if, God willing,  
22 we do not experience a natural disaster.

23 As we have all seen, we are now facing  
24 new challenges in this city when it comes to climate  
25 change. It is something we have to take seriously,

1  
2 and I am proud that this Council body and the  
3 Administration has to step up to the plate with  
4 common sense bills. I urge my colleagues and the  
5 people of this city to think more about our  
6 environment and the high level of carbon emissions  
7 that our city continues to emit, and I hope we will  
8 work just as hard in the future to limit our input in  
9 our fragile environment. I encourage all my  
10 colleagues who vote Aye on Intro 1075 as sponsored by  
11 Council Member Gentile and I. Thank you.

12                   SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much,  
13 Council Member Rodriguez. Let me next call on  
14 Council Member Rose about 1076-A, Traffic Management  
15 Plan, in response to certain emergency events.

16                   COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you. I'd  
17 like to thank Speaker Quinn for her leadership on  
18 this comprehensive package of disaster preparedness  
19 legislation which was developed in the aftermath of  
20 the devastation wrought by super storm Sandy, and I  
21 would also like to thank all of the committee chairs  
22 who conducted very thorough hearing on these issues.

23                   With hindsight being 20/20, there have  
24 been many lessons learned. We have learned that  
25 there is a demonstrated need for a comprehensive

1  
2 emergency plan, coordinated efforts amongst  
3 principals and agencies as well as advanced planning  
4 through strategic and improved communication. The  
5 bill which I am a proud sponsor of, Intro 1076-A,  
6 mandates that a comprehensive coordinated traffic  
7 management plan be created should another disaster  
8 occur in our city, and as a resident of Staten Island  
9 who witnessed the fact that we had no way off of  
10 Staten Island after Sandy in the immediate hours  
11 thereafter, no ferry service, bus service, it is  
12 clearly important that this legislation pass. Some  
13 of the biggest problems Staten Islanders and other  
14 residents of this city faced immediately following  
15 super storm Sandy and other recent disasters were a  
16 loss of power, the unavailability of fuel, inadequate  
17 and ill-prepared shelters, traffic and transportation  
18 disarray, and a distressing inability to provide  
19 basic necessities to affected areas. While we all  
20 hope that a disaster such as this will never occur  
21 again, we can't be like ostriches and bury our heads  
22 in the sand. Therefore, this legislation is  
23 important to ensure that the city will be prepared  
24 with an appropriate response that addresses all of  
25 the needs and issues should a disaster occur. And I

1  
2 ask you to vote Aye on all of the disaster  
3 preparedness bills. Thank you.

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much. Let  
5 me. Let me call on Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer  
6 to vote please.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: With  
8 permission, I'd like to vote Aye on all General  
9 Orders.

10 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: So ordered.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you.

12 SPEAKER QUINN: Let me also make note,  
13 before I move on, to some other pieces of legislation  
14 that Council Member Jackson left early because he  
15 going to a Ramadan celebration at the White House,  
16 and speaking of the White House, Council Member Brad  
17 Lander was honored by the President of the United  
18 States himself for his work on participatory  
19 budgeting, so not for nothing, two Council Members  
20 being vetted by the White House, so congratulations  
21 and we'll have to tell RJ [phonetic] congratulations  
22 when we see him later.

23 Out of the Sanitation and Solid Waste  
24 Management Committee and I want to thank Council  
25 Member Tish James, Staff Jerrod Hover [phonetic], Dan

1  
2 Avery, and Jeff Baker and Laura Popa [phonetic]. We  
3 have a couple of pieces of legislation, 888, 889-A,  
4 893-A, and 894-A. 888 deals with the theft of... I  
5 guess we should call them, Tish, person hole covers,  
6 right? Not manhole covers. 889-A deals with  
7 unlawful removal of certain recyclable materials, so  
8 let me call on the Chair and the Sponsor of both of  
9 those bills to speak on them. Tish James.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Thank you, Madam  
11 Speaker. As Chair of the Council Sanitation  
12 Committee, I've learned the vital importance of the  
13 stability of our recycling program. For years our  
14 recycling program relied on temporary contracts that  
15 left the city vulnerable when markets or recyclables  
16 dropped. To illustrate this point, we need only look  
17 at the actions of our Mayor's recycling passed in  
18 1989, every single mayor in office since 1989  
19 attempted to cut our recycling program. To date,  
20 things are different. We have a long term contract  
21 that insulates us from market fluctuations. As a  
22 result, recycling truly is a net positive for our  
23 city, not just environmental but also economically.  
24 But, excessive poaching of recycling threatens that  
25 stability. We are now losing 30 percent of the

1  
2 recyclables placed curbside which results in the loss  
3 of millions of dollars. The problem of theft also  
4 impacts private carters. Last year the industry  
5 reported losses of over \$10 million dollars in New  
6 York City. These losses don't just affect our  
7 carters, they also affect our businesses driving up  
8 the cost to private waste collection.

9           To address these problems, Intro 889  
10 provides a series of common sense solutions to the  
11 problem of recycling theft. For example, we would  
12 scrap metal processers responsible for accepting  
13 stolen material and allow civilians to report  
14 instances of theft. We also include logical  
15 protections for reasonable removal of recyclables.  
16 For example, anyone removing recyclables without a  
17 vehicle is exempt from fines, particularly for those  
18 who shop on the Upper East Side. We also protect  
19 individuals who remove three recyclable items or  
20 fewer. Ultimately, I believe this bill strikes a  
21 delicate balance to protect the city's recycling  
22 program and private recycling is measured in a  
23 reasonable fashion.

24           Intro 888 raises civil penalties and  
25 criminal fines for the theft of manhole covers under

1 injury to water supply property and injury to sewer  
2 sections. It expands both criminal and civil  
3 protections to privately owned manhole covers in the  
4 city of New York, and both of these bills will go a  
5 long way in addressing the problem of poaching and  
6 the removal of the manhole covers of the city of New  
7 York. And I thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing  
8 me to say a few words.

10 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Tish. Let me  
11 call on Chair Recchia... oh, I'm sorry, Chair Recchia  
12 is not going to speak, but I want to thank Chair  
13 Recchia for 893-A and 894-A on the collection of  
14 beverage containers using a motor vehicle and  
15 recovery of refrigeration from appliances.

16 In Land Use, we have a number of  
17 different items that we're voting on today. I want  
18 to thank Amy Levidan [phonetic], Anne McCally  
19 [phonetic], Gail Benjamin and Ramon Martinez for all  
20 of their work on this. We did a lot of work for this  
21 Council Meeting on Madison Square Garden, on  
22 Governors Island, on the United States Tennis  
23 Association. I want to thank, excuse me, Chair  
24 Lander's committee; Leroy Comrie, Chair of the  
25 Subcommittee; Mark Weprin; Council Member Margaret

1  
2 Chin for all of her work on Governors Island where  
3 she did terrific work, and Council Member Julissa  
4 Ferreras who also did great, great work on the USTA.  
5 Let me call on Council Member Comrie, Council Member  
6 Ferreras and then Council Member Chin. The Chair is  
7 going to pass. Bless you. Council Member Ferreras  
8 and Council Member Chin.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Thank you, Madam  
10 Speaker. As many of you know, I represent the  
11 district that includes the National Tennis Center,  
12 Flushing Meadows, Corona Park. I'd like to thank the  
13 subcommittee chair, Council Member Steve Levin, and  
14 the Land Use Chair Leroy Comrie, Land Use staff for  
15 all their hard work.

16 I'm happy to announce that we have  
17 reached a deal on \$500-million-dollar project to  
18 expand the National Tenant Center in Flushing  
19 Meadows, Corona Park. As part of our negotiations,  
20 the USTA has agreed to commit to an ongoing and long  
21 term community outreach program which would not only  
22 improve public communication through our community  
23 boards but also will bring a number of new programs,  
24 16 in total. These programs include for Karen  
25 Koslowitz herself a Queens Day Celebration, which

1  
2 will be hosted through effective diversity of our  
3 borough and culture.

4           As of this summer, the USTA has also  
5 agreed to create an annual job fair exclusively for  
6 Queens residents that will provide the community an  
7 extra opportunity to secure thousands of jobs  
8 available before, during and after the open. Local  
9 businesses will also reap the benefits for the  
10 expansion as the USTA has agreed to work with local  
11 business leaders to develop strategies that will  
12 connect them with the U.S. Open patrons. With the  
13 USTA's prominent role in tennis world, I am pleased  
14 to say that they have agreed to offer opportunities  
15 to our local community schools to learn more about  
16 tennis through a new program that will allow Queens  
17 families to receive coaching from USTA professionals  
18 for a nominal fee.

19           During the annual Arthur Ashe Kids Day  
20 Celebration, the USTA has committed to giving 5,000  
21 complimentary tickets to Queens children as an  
22 opportunity to inspire a love for the outdoor sports.  
23 There are still details that we are working on, which  
24 including an agreement to hire more local Queens  
25 residents and a plan to stop cars from parking on the

1  
2 grass, and that is why we have the creation of the  
3 Flushing Meadows Park Interagency Coordinating  
4 Committee, which will include parks and YPD, DOT  
5 amongst other agencies and representatives from the  
6 community. In terms of our fiscal agreement, the  
7 USTA has committed to allocate just over \$10 million  
8 dollars for improvements to enhance public safety and  
9 a contribution of 20 years towards an alliance that  
10 we are currently creating. This is to establish long  
11 term commitment and a support for our park's  
12 development, maintenance and programming.

13           One other part of the community benefits  
14 of the community package that we're looking at is it  
15 also is going to be a site for our school graduations  
16 if our school's decide. One of the biggest problems  
17 that we have is we have a lot of overcrowding in our  
18 schools. So much so, that the graduations have to be  
19 split into two different sessions. So they're  
20 opening their doors at cost to be able to host  
21 graduations at their site.

22           This deal would generate 750 million in  
23 revenue annually and create thousands of seasonal  
24 jobs for New Yorkers. 800 prevailing wage  
25 construction jobs will also be created by this

1  
2 project. I am proud that my community got engaged  
3 and demanded a voice in the process. I look forward  
4 to working with the USTA and prove the park for  
5 everyone. This deal was a long time coming, and I  
6 can say with confidence that we will benefit from  
7 this expansion.

8           Lastly, I'd like to thank the community  
9 groups who worked alongside me, the Fairness  
10 Coalition of Queens, Make the Road, Jackson Heights  
11 Queens Alliance, Jackson Heights Beautification,  
12 Queens Community House, Queens Congregation United,  
13 New Yorkers for Parks, Asian Americans for Equality.  
14 Thank you to Mayor Bloomberg, Speaker Quinn, the  
15 Department of Parks and Recreation, my staff,  
16 especially my Chief of Staff Joselina Hunow  
17 [phonetic] who worked tirelessly on this deal. And  
18 I'd also like to thank all of my colleagues for  
19 giving me the space and support to negotiate the best  
20 deal for my community. Gracias.

21           SPEAKER QUINN: De nada. I forgot to  
22 thank, and thank you, Julissa, for mentioning him.  
23 Subcommittee Chair Steve Levin, and I want to thank  
24 him for his work as well, and let me now call on  
25 Council Member Margaret Chin.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you, Madam  
3 Speaker. First of all, I just wanted to thank Chair  
4 Weprin and Chair Comrie for their support, and  
5 hopefully with this rezoning of the Special District  
6 and Governors Island, this is only focusing on the  
7 part where the historic buildings are, and we look  
8 forward to really making Governors Island a world  
9 class destination. And we welcome everyone to come  
10 out there. It's open for the summer on the weekend.  
11 If you haven't been out there, you're missing a lot.  
12 So come on out and hopefully we will be able to  
13 expand the Harbor School that's out there. Now they  
14 have their first graduating class that started on the  
15 island, and hopefully we will also create some good  
16 jobs on the island, good paying union jobs. Thank  
17 you.

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much,  
19 Council Member Chin. That concludes communications  
20 from the Speaker. I just want to remind folks we are  
21 voting on Resolution 1806-A at the end of the  
22 meeting.

23 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Thank you very  
24 much, Madam Speaker. We now move on to discussion of  
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general orders. See None. We'll now move on to report to special committees.

CITY CLERK: None.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Report to standing committees.

CITY CLERK: Report of the Committee on Finance, Intro 1064 Veterans Exemption.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CITY CLERK: Preconsidered Intro 1120, Property Tax Rebates.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CITY CLERK: Preconsidered Reso 1870, Organization Funding.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CITY CLERK: Preconsidered LUH 71 and Reso 1872 and 872 and 1873.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CITY CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land Use, LU842 and Reso 1874, UDAAP Manhattan.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CITY CLERK: LU852 and Reso 1875, USTA.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CITY CLERK: LU857 and Reso 1876 and 858 and Reso 1877, Sidewalk Cafes.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled to be filed.

CITY CLERK: LU859 and Reso 1878 and 860  
and Reso 1879, Sidewalk Cafes.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CITY CLERK: LU871 and Reso 1880 and 862  
and Reso 1881, Governors Island.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CITY CLERK: LU863 and Reso 1882, Hudson  
Yards.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CITY CLERK: LU864 and Reso 1883 and 865  
and Reso 1884, Zoning Amendments.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CITY CLERK: LU869 and Reso 1885, Property  
Disposition.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CITY CLERK: LU870 and Reso 1886, Sidewalk  
Cafe.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CITY CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
Public Safety, Intro 1053-A, Special Medical Needs  
Shelters.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on  
General Orders.

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CITY COUNCIL

CITY CLERK: Intro 1054-A, Community  
Recovery Plan.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on  
General Orders.

CITY CLERK: Intro 1065-A, Homebound  
Individuals Recovery Plan.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on  
General Orders.

CITY CLERK: Intro 1069-A, Food and Water  
Access Plan.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on  
General Orders.

CITY CLERK: Intro 1070-A, Sheltering  
Plan.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on  
General Orders.

CITY CLERK: Intro 1072-A, Small Business  
Recovery Plan.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on  
General Orders.

CITY CLERK: Intro 1075-A, Emergency  
Management Plan.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on  
General Orders.

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CITY COUNCIL

CITY CLERK: Intro 1076-A, Traffic  
Management Plan.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on  
General Orders.

CITY CLERK: Intro 1077-A, Fuel Management  
Plan.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on  
General Orders.

CITY CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
Sanitation and Solid Waste Management, Intro 888-A,  
Manhole Covers.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on  
General Orders.

CITY CLERK: Intro 889, Recyclable  
Material.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on  
General Orders.

CITY CLERK: Intro 893-A, Collection of  
Beverage Containers.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on  
General Orders.

CITY CLERK: Intro 894-A, Recovering of  
Refrigerants.

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CITY COUNCIL

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on  
General Orders.

CITY CLERK: Preconsidered Reso 1867,  
Environmental Review for Various Bills.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: General Order  
Calendar.

CITY CLERK: LU847 and Reso 1887 through  
849 and Reso 1889, Madison Square Garden.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CITY CLERK: Resolution appointing various  
persons, Commissioner of Deeds.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders,  
and at this time I'd like to ask for roll call on all  
items that are coupled on the General Order calendar  
please, and just remind folks we have a resolution at  
the end of the meeting.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: So ordered.

CITY CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye

CITY CLERK: Barron.

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

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Yes.

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: Yes, could we get just a  
3 little quiet please?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: My colleagues,  
5 often you see me vote no on some of our projects that  
6 come through City Council. You'll see it once in a  
7 while. That's happened from time to time.

8 [Interposing]

9 SPEAKER QUINN: Really Charles, really? I  
10 mean just...

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: But I want it, Mr.  
12 Chair, could you have the Speaker in order please?  
13 She's out of order. But I wanted to let you know the  
14 reason why I do some of it, because in some of our  
15 communities like in Brooklyn we lost 50,000 black  
16 people in the population because they can't afford to  
17 live in our neighborhoods anymore. Harlem has lost  
18 12 percent of its population. Bed-Stuy has lost 14.9  
19 percent of its black population. Crown Heights and  
20 several other communities, this has happened across  
21 the city. The white population in Bedford-Stuyvesant  
22 has increased by 600 percent and in Harlem by  
23 hundreds of percent, and the reason why I vote no on  
24 some of these projects is because of the AMI. When  
25 you have a project that comes in and it passes

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2 through us with 80 percent of the AMI, that's \$68,000  
3 dollars for a family of four, and when you have those  
4 projects that are passing with 100 percent of the  
5 AMI, that's 83,000. Some of our neighborhood AMIs  
6 are 30,000 and 35,000. This is how you gentrify  
7 neighborhoods, so I don't just vote no because I  
8 enjoy voting no. I vote no because they hurt our  
9 communities, and blacks have been leaving New York  
10 City because they haven't been able to afford to live  
11 in New York City. We had an increase in our  
12 population in East New York, 13.2 percent, and in  
13 Canarsie 18 percent because we fought to keep those  
14 AMIs community based and not citywide based.

15 With that, I vote No on LU842 and the  
16 accompanying Reso; No on LU869 and the accompanying  
17 Reso; and No on Madison Square Garden until they  
18 start paying more rent. That's 847, 848 and 849.

19 CITY CLERK: Brewer.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote Aye.

21 CITY CLERK: Cabrera. Chin.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Permission to  
23 explain my vote.

24 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Yes.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I forgot to thank  
3 Ramon Martinez on help on Governors Island and also  
4 my Land Use director Madge Viviano [phonetic] and all  
5 the Land Use staff for your support, and also I have  
6 seven interns this summer, Katrina, Everett, Imam  
7 [phonetic], George... I mean John, A.J., Tiffany, and  
8 Tabitha for all their work in our office helping us  
9 do research and all the fun projects. I vote Aye on  
10 all. Thank you.

11 CITY CLERK: Comrie.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Again,  
13 congratulations to Council Members Chin and Ferreras  
14 for everything they did to get their projects a  
15 positive vote today. Aye on all.

16 CITY CLERK: Crowley.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye on all.

18 CITY CLERK: Dickens.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: I vote Aye on all  
20 and congratulations to Council Member Ferreras on the  
21 phenomenal job that she did and to Council Member  
22 Chin.

23 CITY CLERK: Dilan.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: I vote Aye on all.

25 CITY CLERK: Dromm.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Permission to  
3 explain my vote.

4 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Yes.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Originally I voted  
6 against the home rule [phonetic] message that we sent  
7 to the State about a month or so ago in regard to the  
8 flipping of the land for the United States Tennis  
9 Association and National Tennis Center because I  
10 fundamentally have issues with the use of public park  
11 land for private development. But, seeing how  
12 successful Council Member Julissa Ferreras was in  
13 working through a deal with the United States Tennis  
14 Association and extracting things that, I think, in  
15 the long term will tremendously benefit the park and  
16 the communities that surround that neighborhood, I am  
17 prepared today to vote Aye on all motions before us.  
18 Thank you.

19 CITY CLERK: Eugene.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

21 CITY CLERK: Ferreras.

22 UNKNOWN: Aye.

23 CITY CLERK: Fidler.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.  
25

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I think you better  
3 call Ferreras again.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Yeah, I don't  
5 know where that Aye came from, but...

6 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Someone voted for  
7 Ferreras there. It wasn't Ferreras.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: And it wasn't my  
9 baby. He's a boy. I vote Aye.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Okay.

11 CITY CLERK: Fidler.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I vote Aye on all  
13 except for Intro 893-A, in which I am really confused  
14 and conflicted, so I'm going to abstain.

15 CITY CLERK: Foster.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: May I be excused  
17 to explain my vote?

18 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Yes.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: I would like to  
20 acknowledge that Charles is not, in fact, crazy, and  
21 that when we look at this AMI, in my District, the  
22 average income from a family of four is \$18,000  
23 dollars, and so affordable housing means nothing in  
24 that section, and we have three and four families  
25 living in one- and two-bedroom apartments just to

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2 make the rent, and so we really need to start  
3 addressing the AMI and understand what might be the  
4 average in areas that are more prosperous or not the  
5 same. And I'd also like to just give Council Member  
6 Ferreras a word of advice, to stay on top of it. You  
7 know, my one pony dog show, whatever it is, is Yankee  
8 Stadium, and everything I said was going to happen  
9 happened. Vendors aren't making money, the parking  
10 that they had to have is going bankrupt because you  
11 can still park on the street and on the park land and  
12 not get tickets, and someone needs to be a watchdog  
13 and it's very difficult if you're the lone dog  
14 because people don't like to be told I told you so.  
15 So, just make sure you monitor and what you say  
16 you're getting in your community is getting, they in  
17 fact get. With those caveats and with reservations,  
18 I do vote Aye on all.

19 CITY CLERK: Gennaro.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

21 CITY CLERK: Gentile.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Yes.

23 CITY CLERK: Gonzalez.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Yes.

25 CITY CLERK: Greenfield. Halloran.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Permission to  
3 explain my vote.

4 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Yes.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: I'm going to  
6 vote Aye on all with the exception of Land Use Item  
7 852 and Reso accompanying 1875. There's very little  
8 parkland left in the city of New York despite the  
9 best efforts of this body, and while I appreciate the  
10 Council Member's hard work, and she has done  
11 tremendous work to bring people to the table,  
12 residents of my community which are adjacent and my  
13 community board have expressed distress at some of  
14 the development that has gone on in the Flushing  
15 Meadows, Corona Park corridor, and so for that reason  
16 I am going to vote No to Land Use 852,  
17 notwithstanding the great work of the Council Member  
18 who has brought everyone to the table to make  
19 concessions.

20 CITY CLERK: Ignizio.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes, I just want  
22 to vote Aye, and I want to congratulate my colleague  
23 Julissa Ferreras who, you know, she's thinking for  
24 two as well. I mean she's got a little bit of a  
25 benefit, but who's did a great job of really

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2 extracting some benefits for her community that was  
3 sorely needed, and I know she'll stay on top of it  
4 and, I don't know, am I the only one when she was  
5 speaking was like, man, imagine if she goes into  
6 labor right now and we have a great story. It's  
7 probably just me, Julissa, but she's my good friend  
8 and I love her. I know she worked really hard on  
9 this and your community thanks you, Julissa, and will  
10 thank you in the future.

11 CITY CLERK: James.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: To Julian's mother  
13 who did not extract anything. She negotiated and she  
14 negotiated on behalf of her community.  
15 Congratulations. I vote Aye on all.

16 CITY CLERK: Koo.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Mr. Majority Leader.

18 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Yes.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: (inaudible)...

20 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Can we check his  
21 microphone?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I would like to have  
23 permission to vote Aye on all items today.

24 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: So ordered.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote Aye on all.

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CITY CLERK: Koslowitz.

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

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: The USTA brings more money into the city in the two weeks that it is there than any sports venue that we have. The USTA brings tourism, people coming and staying in hotels. You cannot get a hotel room in Queens around the stadium in those two weeks. It is a great thing that happened to New York City, not only Queens but to New York City. I just want to say, Julissa, I am so proud of you for what you did and how you worked this out. You did a great job, really a great job, and I vote Aye.

CITY CLERK: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: May I request permission to explain my vote?

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I want to echo the congratulations to Council Member Ferreras. Like Council Member Dromm, this was a deal that when I first heard about it, I had some reservations about, and I want to say congratulations to you for striking

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2 a great deal, and I want to say thank you to the  
3 Speaker and to other colleagues who have  
4 congratulated me on this award, and I just want to  
5 say it really is for all the members who have engaged  
6 in participatory budgeting, so Council Member Mark-  
7 Viverito, Council Member Williams, Council Member  
8 Ulrich, Council Member Weprin, Greenfield and Levin,  
9 we are helping spread something the people are  
10 excited about around the country. Thank you. I vote  
11 Aye on all.

12 CITY CLERK: Lappin.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

14 CITY CLERK: Levin.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

16 CITY CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: With  
18 congratulations to Council Member Ferreras, Aye on  
19 all.

20 CITY CLERK: Mendez.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

22 CITY CLERK: Nelson.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye on all.

24 CITY CLERK: Palma.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye on all.

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CITY CLERK: Recchia.

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Reyna.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Congratulations to Council Member Ferreras, a job well done for the Flushing community and its residents. I vote Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye, and I want to congratulate Council Member Ferreras and Council Member Chin, and since I'm going through that process I'm going to ask them to help me. Thanks.

CITY CLERK: Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Vallone.

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

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: I opposed the original USTA plan also which didn't even include any

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replacement park land, but I believe the people of Queens want this new proposal which includes most of the changes that we fought for. It provides the jobs we need, the revenues we deserved, and improved additional park land for our families to enjoy, so I'm going to vote Aye, and I want to congratulate Julissa Ferreras for her leadership. Thank you.

CITY CLERK: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: I'd like to congratulate Julissa and Margaret, I vote Aye and also wish happy birthday tomorrow to Dominic M. Recchia, Jr. and Christine C. Quinn.

CITY CLERK: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Congratulations to my friend, Council Member Chin. A big congratulations to my friend Council Member Ferreras who's working this for so long. Happy birthday to Dominic and the Speaker as well. I vote Aye on all with the exception of Intro 893, I vote no.

CITY CLERK: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Wills.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIS: Congratulations to  
3 Council Member Chin and to Julissa Ferreras, QDP  
4 [phonetic]. Aye on all.

5 CITY CLERK: Oddo.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: May I be  
7 temporarily excused to explain my vote?

8 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Yes.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: I vote Yes on all.

10 I also want to join the chorus in congratulating  
11 Julissa. I went to the All Star Game with her and we  
12 sat next to each other, and all she kept doing was  
13 talk about this project and work. It was quite  
14 annoying actually, but... just kidding. And I just  
15 would like to say two things real quickly. With  
16 respect to Walter McCaffrey, when I learned of his  
17 passing I Tweeted something I guess only a baseball  
18 fan could really appreciate, but said when Walter  
19 McCaffrey spoke on the floor of the Council Chambers,  
20 it was like a Darryl Strawberry at bat. You stop  
21 what you were doing and you watch and you listened,  
22 and that is so true. He was so smart and so  
23 intuitive, and I remember being a young staffer  
24 stopping and listening to what Walter had to say, and  
25 the last thing I want to say is for those young

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2 staffers and those press folks, anyone else listening  
3 who did not know James Davis, go onto my Facebook  
4 page and look at the two-minute clip I put up  
5 yesterday of James Davis voting in November of 2002  
6 on the property tax. Just watch that two-minute  
7 clip. You will see the charisma. You will see the  
8 courage. You will see the showman. It says it all,  
9 and ten years later that's how I choose to remember  
10 James forever. That two-minute clip that day in  
11 November.

12 CITY CLERK: Rivera.

13 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: I vote Aye on  
14 all.

15 CITY CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

16 SPEAKER QUINN: Aye on all.

17 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: All items on  
18 today's General Order calendar are adopted by a vote  
19 of 48 in the affirmative with zero in the negative  
20 and zero abstentions, with the exception of LU842 and  
21 Reso 1874 which was adopted by a vote of 47 in the  
22 affirmative and one in the negative and zero  
23 abstentions; and LU869 with Reso 1885 which was  
24 adopted by a vote of 47 in the affirmative, one in  
25 the negative, and zero abstentions; and LU847, 848,

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2 849 and the accompanying resos which were adopted by  
3 a vote of 47 in the affirmative, one in the negative  
4 and zero abstentions; and Intro 893-A, which was  
5 adopted by a vote of 46 in the affirmative, one in  
6 the negative, and one abstention; and LU852 and Reso  
7 1875, which was adopted by a vote of 47 in the  
8 affirmative and one in the negative and zero  
9 abstentions, and that's that.

10 We now move onto introduction and reading  
11 of the bills.

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

14 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Thank you so  
15 much. We now move onto discussion of resolutions.  
16 We have one resolution on for today, Reso 1806-A, an  
17 amended resolution calling on the United States  
18 Congress to pass and the President to sign  
19 legislation that would extend the Terrorism Risk  
20 Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007,  
21 amended and adopted by the Committee on State and  
22 Federal Legislation. Can we have quiet in the  
23 chambers?  
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2                   SPEAKER QUINN: All those tennis players,  
3 pretend you're at a tennis match. Okay, there we go.  
4 Alright, keep going.

5                   MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Okay. Would  
6 anybody like to... [interpose]

7                   SPEAKER QUINN: So easy to make fun of the  
8 USTA, you know what I'm saying? Thank you guys.  
9 Thank you while you exit. Thank you.

10                  MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Would anybody  
11 like to speak on this resolution? See none. I'll  
12 call for a voice vote. All in favor say Aye.

13                  GROUP: Aye.

14                  MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Any abstentions?  
15 Any Nays? The Ayes have it. We now move on to  
16 general discussion. We have Council Member Dickens.

17                  COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: In view of the  
18 late hour, just rather quickly, there's an  
19 Introduction of making three intros, the first one is  
20 in relation to requiring the Department of Health and  
21 Mental Hygiene to post on its website a link to the  
22 National Bone Marrow Donor Program in order to aid  
23 those who wish to donate bone marrow, peripheral  
24 blood stem cells and umbilical cord blood. The  
25 second one is a resolution that I and Council Member

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2 Dromm are doing in relation to establishing Dawali as  
3 an official holiday for the New York City Public  
4 School students. And the third one is an Intro in  
5 relation that I'm doing with Council Member Ruben  
6 Wills in relation to requiring food service  
7 establishments to provide hand sanitizers in close  
8 proximity to buffet stands. I urge my colleagues to  
9 support all three. Thank you.

10 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Council Member  
11 Brewer.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very  
13 much. We have 40 interns. I just want you to know  
14 I'm not going to list all their names. Intro 1108 is  
15 what I'm discussing. We're introducing it today. It  
16 would change the process of citywide primary  
17 elections for military and absentee voters in order  
18 to include their votes in case of a runoff. This  
19 runoff has come quite a bit into the press in terms  
20 of those who are actually voting, but we also have  
21 those who are serving their country and not able to  
22 vote in person. And certainly absentee voters are  
23 being disenfranchised by not being included in runoff  
24 elections before the Board of Elections does not have  
25 enough time to resend military or absentee ballots to

1  
2 eligible voters in the short time window that we're  
3 all so familiar with. So this bill would be a step  
4 toward guaranteeing all eligible citizens the right  
5 to vote in primaries and runoffs. Military and  
6 absentee voters would receive primary ballots with  
7 the option to rank their preferred candidates in  
8 order of preferences for all the offices. If a  
9 runoff occurs, the rank choices would be used to  
10 determine the voter's intended preference for the  
11 runoff election. If a voter's first choice on the  
12 primary was not in the runoff, their second choice  
13 would be used and it goes on from there. Of course,  
14 I wish that this was a common practice, but this  
15 would be a good example to use for military and  
16 absentee, and just finally in terms of the election,  
17 I'm one of the few who's very worried about the  
18 machines, lever machines, and I hope they work and I  
19 hope there are parts, but I would have been one that  
20 would've kept the scanners. Thank you very much.

21 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Thank you.  
22 Council Member Levin.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you my  
24 colleagues. I want to inform you that I'm  
25 introducing two resolutions today, Resolution 1868

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2 which calls upon the New York City Housing Authority  
3 to conduct a survey of its entire portfolio to  
4 determine how much leasable property they own  
5 throughout the city. There has been recent moves by  
6 the Housing Authority to look towards leasing out its  
7 property. There's been a lot of confusion and a lot  
8 of suspicion among public housing residents as to  
9 whether their development may be next. That is a  
10 real fear throughout New York City for New York City  
11 Housing Authority residents, so we are calling upon  
12 the New York City Housing Authority to conduct a full  
13 survey and determine what they're really looking at  
14 in terms of their portfolio.

15           The second resolution is 1869, resolution  
16 calling on the State Assembly to pass Assembly Bill  
17 7823, and the Senate to pass its companion bill,  
18 Senate Bill 5810 and the governor to sign such  
19 legislation which would provide a property tax  
20 exemption for privately owned vacant land while such  
21 property is being used for public benefit. There are  
22 a lot of privately owned vacant lots throughout the  
23 city that could be well suited for public benefit  
24 like community gardens and uses of that sort, but  
25 owners often do not see the incentive to do that.

1  
2 This would provide a tax incentive to do so, and I  
3 think it would bring a lot of public benefit to a lot  
4 of neighborhoods that see the blight of privately  
5 owned land that is not being currently developed.  
6 Thank you very much, my colleagues.

7 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Thank you very  
8 much. We now move on to Council Member Williams.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you. I  
10 just wanted to let my colleagues know we accepted two  
11 vetoes today, 1079, 1080. There will be a briefing  
12 right after this and the BLAC meeting. All members  
13 are welcome to ask questions and get an update. I  
14 just wanted to make sure everyone knew that and we  
15 invite everyone. Thank you.

16 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Thank you very  
17 much. Seeing no others, this meeting is now  
18 adjourned. [gavel]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date 07/28/2013