

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

STATED MEETING

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September 24, 2013  
Start: 2:45 p.m.  
Recess: 3:45 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E: LEROY G. COMRIE, JR.  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Fernando Cabrera  
Daniel Dromm  
Margaret Chin  
Inez E. Dickens  
Mathieu Eugene  
Helen D. Foster  
James F. Gennaro  
Vincent J. Gentile  
David G. Greenfield  
Vincent Ignizio  
Letitia James  
Andy King  
Peter Koo  
G. Oliver Koppell  
Karen Koslowitz

## COUNCIL MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

Brad Lander  
Jessica S. Lappin  
Stephen Levin  
Darlene Mealy  
Michael C. Nelson  
Diana Reyna  
Donavan Richards  
Deborah Rose  
Jimmy Van Bramer  
Mark S. Weprin  
Gale A. Brewer  
Maria Del Carmen Arroyo  
Charles Barron  
Elizabeth Crowley  
Erik Martin Dilan  
Lewis A. Fidler  
Sara M. Gonzalez  
Daniel J. Halloran  
Robert Jackson  
Rosie Mendez  
James S. Oddo  
Christine C. Quinn  
Annabel Palma  
Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.  
Ydanis Rodriguez  
Eric Ulrich  
James Vacca  
Albert Vann  
Peter F. Vallone, Jr.  
Jumaane D. Williams

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

Chairman

The Samaritans of New York

Fiodhna O'Grady

The Samaritans of New York

Fatima Ptacek

Actress

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STATED MEETING

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CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Council hearing for September 24th, 2013 and first off we have Council Member Fernando Cabrera from the Bronx and we're gonna be honoring The Samaritans of New York, so if the group can come forward.

[background comments]

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: We have all the volunteers with Samaritans of New York and I'm gonna turn... turn the mic over to Council Member Cabrera to talk about the group. Council Member.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you so much. Truly it's an honor to honor a group, The Samaritans, they are doing life-saving work, literally they're saving lives; suicide prevention work; they have a tremendous hotline.

What you're lookin' at right now, you're lookin' at, right now you're lookin' at volunteers that receive three months of training; they are committed to do this at least for a year, some of them have gone on to doin' this in a longer time span. Having come from this field of mental health, as a licensed mental health counselor and I hold my Doctorate in Counseling, I can truly tell you that if it wasn't for you, for the work that you do, there

1  
2 will be more casualties and we need to elevate this  
3 level of discussion to a place where it is okay to  
4 talk about a word that is taboo; often we talk about  
5 just about everything and somebody could be sick,  
6 they could have an illness and we'll talk about that  
7 illness, but when it comes to suicide there is a  
8 taboo that in our society we need to get rid of so we  
9 can continue saving lives; Samaritans been doing that  
10 for 30 years, 30 years and they deserve a real good  
11 round of applause.

12           Let me just say one more thing; I was  
13 thinking about the name Samaritan and there's a  
14 biblical motif there of someone who was saving... who  
15 took the time, they didn't have to, to save somebody  
16 who was injured and we have a lot of people who are  
17 emotionally injured and if that person would have  
18 been left there they will probably not make it and  
19 that's what you're doing; you are going forth and  
20 touching those who are emotionally crippled, who need  
21 help and you're there for that help and we wanna  
22 thank you.

23           CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: 'Kay, can the Clerk  
24 please read the proclamation?

25

CLERK: Council, City of New York

Proclamation. In observing September as Suicide Prevent Month, the Council of the City of New York is proud to honor Samaritans of New York for its critical contributions and services. And whereas suicide is now the tenth leading cause of death in the United States, resulting in more fatalities annually than automobile accidents, in New York City suicide is the fourth leading cause of death for those 15 to 34 years of age and the sixth leading cause for those 35 to 44. This serious public health problem can have lasting harmful effects on individuals, families and communities. While the causes of suicide are complex, the goal of suicide prevention is simple; promote education and awareness, provide immediately accessible support, identify warning signs and risk factors and enhance protective factors that increase resilience.

On this occasion we are proud to acknowledge that Samaritans has excelled in this cause for over 30 years and whereas Samaritans of New York and its more than 100 dedicated volunteers from across the five boroughs staff the City's 24-hour suicide prevention hotline, 212-673-3000, answering

1  
2 over 60,000 calls each year and provide immediately  
3 accessible and ongoing emotional support in crisis  
4 responses to callers in distress, depressed and  
5 suicidal and whereas Samaritans suicide prevention  
6 efforts also include public education, suicide  
7 survivor support groups, community collaborations and  
8 outreach programs that provide needed care, support,  
9 training and resources to those touched by suicide.

10           The organization has also had a  
11 significant impact in promoting suicide prevention  
12 awareness, education and readiness, especially for  
13 at-risk youth, in collaboration with the New York  
14 City Council, the New York City Department of  
15 Education, Department of Youth and Community  
16 Development, Department for the Aging, New York City  
17 Housing Authority, NYPD, FDNY, GMHC Aids Task Forces,  
18 Safe Horizon, Asian-American Federation on Mental  
19 Health, Communal Life and others and through the  
20 training and professional development of more than  
21 35,000 New York City caregivers and health providers.

22           Now therefore be it known that the  
23 Council of the City of New York proudly honors The  
24 Samaritans of New York for its extraordinary services  
25 and contributions to New York City. Christine C.

1  
2 Quinn; Speaker for the entire Council, Fernando  
3 Cabrera, Council Member 14th District Bronx and many  
4 other Council Members.

5 [applause]

6 [background comments]

7 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: And can we have...  
8 yes; you wanna say a few words... have the Chairman say  
9 a few words?

10 SAMARITANS CHAIRMAN: Just wanna thank  
11 you very much; Samaritans wouldn't be here if it  
12 weren't for the support of the City Council; your  
13 acknowledgment of the importance of suicide  
14 prevention in our communities; in our schools is so  
15 important; the recognition of September as Suicide  
16 Prevention Month in New York is something that's very  
17 important for this health epidemic in this country  
18 and the volunteers of Samaritans have been doing this  
19 work for over 30 years, over 120 people working 24  
20 hours a day, 7 days a week, have answered over a  
21 million calls from people in distress, who are  
22 overwhelmed, who are in crisis, who are traumatized;  
23 have been through disasters, manmade and otherwise,  
24 and as the Council Member said, people talk about  
25 Samaritans; these volunteers morning, noon and night



1  
2 come and do the work, they're rarely recognized, they  
3 work behind the scenes, but when someone in New York  
4 is in trouble we're always there. Thank you very  
5 much.

6 [applause]

7 SAMARITANS CHAIRMAN: And I just wanna  
8 thank the Council and my associate, Fiodhna O'Grady,  
9 who works closely with the Council, the Samaritan  
10 staff, the volunteers, the board members and  
11 everybody who makes this work possible. Thank you.

12 [applause]

13 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Thank you; thank you  
14 for being here this afternoon. Miss O'Grady, please.

15 FIODHNA O'GRADY: [laugh] This is very  
16 true. Thank you very much. It's a huge honor to be  
17 here; I feel like the 51 Council Members; I  
18 personally harass them with the tales of the  
19 vulnerable of New York and the wonderful thing is the  
20 reception I get not only from the Council Members,  
21 but from the staff; it actually is a privilege;  
22 sometimes people say, oh you work in suicide  
23 prevention and I say well, you know, all the problems  
24 that are around; this is a very important one and it  
25 is very gratifying to work with you guys, 'cause I

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2 literally see the change occur and for the funding to  
3 come to a problem that deserves... not only needs the  
4 attention, but deserves more attention and I believe  
5 as the years coming and the new Council Members come  
6 in and you go on to your new tasks and your new jobs  
7 I will be there chasing you for the money and for the  
8 policy and for the change for the people of New York.

9 [applause]

10 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Thank you. Thank  
11 you. Thank you all. And just another round of  
12 applause for all of the volunteers that really keep  
13 up with the work of The Samaritans. Thank you very  
14 much.

15 [pause]

16 MALE VOICE: Mic check, mic check. Mic  
17 check.

18 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Okay, we have  
19 another ceremonial and ceremonial's gonna be  
20 conducted with the Queens Delegation Members,  
21 hopefully that are here and Council Member Daniel  
22 Dromm is gonna do the details and presentation.  
23 Council Member Dromm.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you, Leroy  
25 Comrie, Council Member Leroy Comrie. I want to

1  
2 invite the honoree, Fatima Ptacek to come up as well  
3 to join us here and to invite my colleagues to join  
4 us as well.

5           Fatima is a constituent of mine and she  
6 is famous. On Sunday, February 24, 2013 the Academy  
7 of Motion Picture and Arts and Sciences awarded an  
8 Oscar to Curfew, a short film conceived and produced  
9 entirely in New York City for Best Live Action Short  
10 Film at the Academy Awards held in Los Angeles,  
11 California; that leading actress in that movie was  
12 Fatima Ptacek.

13           [applause]

14           COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Although she's  
15 only 12 years old, she's already an accomplished  
16 actress. While pursuing her acting career Fatima has  
17 remained as a full-time enrolled New York City Public  
18 School student at P.S. 122 in Astoria and she  
19 currently resides in my District as well.

20           She has served for two years on the Board  
21 of the Student Council and in recognition of her  
22 academic achievements, school leadership and  
23 compartment she'll be inducted into the National  
24 Junior Honor Society, or she was actually, on May  
25 22nd. Congratulations on that.

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[applause]

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COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Now in addition,

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Fatima is a competitive gymnast and training nearly

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20 hours per week at Chelsea Piers and competes at

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USAG Level 7. This past season she competed in the

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New York State Championships and was awarded silver

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and bronze medals. [interpose]

9

[applause]

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COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Now in her spare

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time, if you can believe it; I don't know how much

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spare time she could possibly have; she participates

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in charitable causes, particularly those that focus

14

on children. She works with the SAG Foundation's

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BookPALS program to promote literacy, volunteers to

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read to sick children at the Morgan Stanley

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Children's Hospital and serves as a Youth Ambassador

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for the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation

19

and the Latino Commission on AIDS.

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Now, she even tops me in this one; she's

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fluent in English and Spanish and she's learning

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Mandarin Chinese. So she is an accomplished linguist

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as well.

24

But ladies and gentlemen, the reason why

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I said you may recognize her is because Fatima Ptacek

1  
2 is Dora the Explorer and you may have heard Dora on  
3 television and so now I'd like to present... I'm gonna  
4 ask the City Clerk to read the proclamation and then  
5 I will ask Fa...

6 CITY CLERK: Council, City of New York  
7 Proclamation. Whereas the Council of the City of New  
8 York is proud to honor Fatima Ptacek for her  
9 outstanding achievements and her inspiring support to  
10 many charitable causes and whereas Fatima, the  
11 daughter of a proud retired NYPD detective, is an  
12 exceptionally talented and hard-working 12-year-old.  
13 In addition to being a full-time New York City Public  
14 School student, maintaining honor roll status in the  
15 Gifted Program at the Academy at P.S. 122 Queens in  
16 Astoria, serving for two years on the board of the  
17 student council and being inducted into the National  
18 Junior Honor Society, she has truly made an impact in  
19 households across the country and whereas Fatima is  
20 an accomplished actress, best known for her starring  
21 role as the voice of Dora, the Nickelodeon's wildly  
22 popular educational TV series Dora the Explorer.  
23 Embarking on countless quests, this loveable  
24 character has won the hearts of young viewers from  
25 coast to coast and beyond thanks to Fatima's equally

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2 animated and adventurous spirit and whereas beyond  
3 providing the voice for Dora, Fatima has performed in  
4 a leading role off Broadway, starred in more than 70  
5 commercials and has been a principal actress in  
6 several TV shows and feature films. She also starred  
7 in Curfew, a short film conceived, shot and produced  
8 entirely in New York City. On Sunday, February 24th,  
9 2013 at the Academy Awards, Curfew won the Oscar for  
10 Best Live Action Short Film and whereas through all  
11 of her success Fatima has remained committed to  
12 helping others and supports numerous charitable  
13 causes, particularly those focusing on children. She  
14 works with the Screen Actors Guild Foundation's  
15 BookPALS program to promote literacy, volunteers to  
16 read to sick children at the Morgan Stanley  
17 Children's Hospital and also serves as Youth  
18 Ambassador to the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS  
19 Foundation and the Latino Commission on AIDS.

20 Now therefore be it known that the  
21 Council of the City of New York gratefully honors  
22 Fatima Ptacek for her outstanding achievements and  
23 generous philanthropic support. Christine C. Quinn,  
24 Speaker for the entire Council, Daniel Dromm, Council  
25 Member, 25th District, Queens.

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STATED MEETING

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COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you. And I  
just wanna say... [interpose]

[applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: that we have been  
joined by her father Jack and her mother Lucia, who  
are over here taking pictures as well, so thank you  
both for coming. Fatima... yeah, let's give the mother  
and father... let's give the parents a round of  
applause.

[applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: especially Lucia  
for the job she's done. Fatima.

FATIMA PTACEK: So of course I would like  
to say thank you so much to Council Member Dromm;  
he's an amazing person; I'm proud to be a part of his  
District, as well as Speaker Quinn and the rest of  
the Council Members who are here today.

Wow, I'm really, really honored to be  
here and for this nomination and actually, the  
proclamation; I am very excited and lastly, I know  
it's only supposed to be a minute, sorry... [laugh]

SPEAKER QUINN: Take your time; we're in  
no rush.

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STATED MEETING

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FATIMA PTACEK: [laugh] Sorry. So I... I really, really wanna continue doing all the work that I'm doing; I want to pursue my career, continue with my education; as I was speaking to Mr. Dromm before, I want to graduate from Harvard, I want to go to either American Studies Lehman College or Brooklyn Latin High School, so this is... [interpose]

[background comments]

FATIMA PTACEK: [laugh] this is my year to really shine in my education. And of course, with my philanthropy; I'm very, very proud to be a part of everything that I do and I wouldn't do it unless I loved it, so thank you so much for this opportunity.

[applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Congratulations to you Fatima, very well.

[pause]

MALE VOICE: Ladies and gentlemen, can I have your attention please; can I have some quiet on the floor please? Quiet on the floor. Quiet please.

At this time please place all cell phones and pagers to vibrate. Will all non-Council employees please leave the main floor of the



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STATED MEETING

Chambers; you can have a seat in the balcony. Thank  
you.

[pause]

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: All rise for the  
Pledge of Allegiance. I pledge allegiance to the..

[pause]

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Stated Meeting,  
September 24th, 2013, roll call.

CITY CLERK: Arroyo. Barron. Brewer.  
Thank you. Thank you. Cabrera. Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

CITY CLERK: Comrie.

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Present.

CITY CLERK: Crowley. Dickens. Dilan.  
Dromm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

CITY CLERK: Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

CITY CLERK: Ferreras. Fidler. Foster.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Here.

CITY CLERK: Garodnick. Gennaro.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.

CITY CLERK: Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

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STATED MEETING

CITY CLERK: Gonzalez. Greenfield.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Good to be  
back.

CITY CLERK: Halloran. Ignizio.  
Jackson. James.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here.

CITY CLERK: King.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Present.

CITY CLERK: Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

CITY CLERK: Koppell.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.

CITY CLERK: Koslowitz.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

CITY CLERK: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

CITY CLERK: Lappin

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Here.

CITY CLERK: Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Mark-Viverito.  
Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Here.

CITY CLERK: Mendez. Nelson

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Here.

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CITY CLERK: Palma. Recchia. Reyna.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.

CITY CLERK: Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

CITY CLERK: Rodriguez. Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

CITY CLERK: Ulrich. Vacca. Vallone.

Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER. Here.

CITY CLERK: Vann. Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

CITY CLERK: Williams. Wills. Oddo.

Rivera. Speaker Quinn.

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: We have a quorum; we are honored to have the invocation being presented to us today by Reverend Vernon Williams, Perfect Peace Ministries Youth Outreach. All rise.

REV. VERNON WILLIAMS: Giving honor unto God, the Mayor, the members of the City Council and to invited guests; I count it an honor to be here today; let us pray.

Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren male and female to join together in unity. Lord grant this august body your love and let

1  
2 it abound within them, Lord allow this august body to  
3 be filled with your holy spirit that what they say  
4 and do might be pleasing in your sight oh God. God,  
5 continue to bless America and those things that we  
6 put our hand to to glorify your name. May your grace  
7 and mercy be sufficient for those who are called by  
8 your name. Amen.

9 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Council Member  
10 Dickens, spread the motion.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Motion to spread  
12 the invocation in full upon the record. And I just  
13 wanna say something about... about... [interpose]

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Can we get a little quiet  
15 please for Council Member Dickens? [interpose]

16 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Quiet please.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: I just wanna say  
18 a little something about... about Pastor Williams. In  
19 addition to being the founder of the Perfect Peace  
20 Ministry Youth Outreach he works daily to diffuse  
21 street confrontations that are occurring in our  
22 community between young people who are often armed  
23 with guns and knives. He's known for patrolling the  
24 streets, talking to the youth and for his rapid  
25 response to violent episodes, using texts, Twitter

1  
2 and Facebook alerts to organize community response.  
3 He is not shy about discussing his troubled past and  
4 freely discusses his criminal past as a way to  
5 connect with the youth so that they do not fear him  
6 as an adult. He has earned his Master's Degree and  
7 in the Village of Harlem we're very proud of  
8 Reverend, Pastor Williams.

9 [applause]

10 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you; if I could ask  
11 my colleagues to again rise for a moment please. Our  
12 thoughts and prayers today go out to all of the  
13 victims of the Washington Navy Yard massacre, where a  
14 gunman killed 12 innocent people in another senseless  
15 and crazed act of gun violence. President Obama said  
16 at the memorial service for the victims that the  
17 shooting "ought to be a shock to all of us, as a  
18 nation and as people; it ought to obsess us; it ought  
19 to lead to some sort of transformation, but sometimes  
20 there is a creeping resignation that this is somehow  
21 the new normal; we can't accept this."

22 This Council has itself stood too often  
23 in moments of silence for tragic and meaningless acts  
24 of wanton violence and we all must pledge to continue  
25 to do all we can to work to end the spreading disease

1  
2 of gun violence in our city, state, country and  
3 world.

4 We also stand today because our thoughts  
5 are also with the scores of innocent victims of the  
6 Al Qaeda-linked terrorist attack at a shopping mall  
7 in Nairobi, Kenya. These ongoing terrorist attacks  
8 around the world must remind all of us here in New  
9 York City to remain committed in the war against  
10 terrorism, but also remain committed to making this  
11 city, state, country and world a more united and  
12 peaceful place. So lets keep all of the victims and  
13 all of their families in our thoughts.

14 [pause]

15 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you Mr. Majority  
16 Leader.

17 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Adoption of Minutes.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: I would like  
19 this, my last dated meeting, to... yes... to adopt the  
20 Minutes of the August 22nd, 2013 Stated Minutes.

21 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Thank you Council  
22 Member Foster and I just want to congratulate you and  
23 thank you for your service and congratulate you on  
24 your new position... [interpose]

25 [applause]

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CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: you're going to the...

[interpose]

[background comments]

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Council Member

Foster's gonna be the new Commissioner for the New York State Division of Human Rights, so we will be all in touch with her.

SPEAKER QUINN: We are awaiting the arrival of Council Member Foster's family, who got stuck in a little bit of UN traffic, so we will come back to this part of the Council meeting as well, so...

[interpose]

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Okay, great. And we have the soon-to-be-certified Democratic primary winners for Coun... uh Coun... Corey Johnson from the... that will be re... and Vanessa Gibson, Costa Constantinides, Rory Lancman... [interpose]

[applause]

[background comments]

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Carlos... and Carlos Menchaca.

[applause]

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STATED MEETING

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CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: And Carlos Menchaca.

And I know I saw Inez Barron here earlier; I wanna just make sure I said it right this time.

[laughter]

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: [laugh] Messages and papers from the Mayor.

CITY CLERK: M 1250, Mayor's Management Report.

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Communication from City County and Borough Offices... [interpose]

SPEAKER QUINN: Received, ordered, printed and filed.

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Petitions and Communications.

CITY CLERK: M 1251, resignation of Council Member Helen Diane Foster.

SPEAKER QUINN: Received, ordered, printed and filed.

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Land Use Call-Ups.

CITY CLERK: M 1252 through 1256.

SPEAKER QUINN: If we could have a couple of those items and have a roll call on the couple Land Use Call-Ups please.

CITY CLERK: Arroyo.



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STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye. And with permission I'd like to vote aye on the general order calendar. Mr. Majority Leader, with permission I'd like to vote aye on the general order calendar.

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Yes, permission.  
Yes... [interpose]

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye on all.

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: so granted, yes.  
Sorry.

CITY CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I'd like to ask permission to... to vote aye... aye on all of the general order calendar items that's going to be discussed at this particular meeting on this particular day and I would appreciate it if you would grant me the permission to vote aye.

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Yes, so ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. Thank you very much and I hope everybody has a nice wonderful day and life.

CITY CLERK: Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

STATED MEETING

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1  
2 CITY CLERK: Chin.  
3 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.  
4 CITY CLERK: Comrie.  
5 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Aye.  
6 CITY CLERK: Crowley. Dickens.  
7 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Yes.  
8 CITY CLERK: Dilan. Dromm.  
9 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.  
10 CITY CLERK: Eugene.  
11 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.  
12 CITY CLERK: Fidler. Foster.  
13 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.  
14 CITY CLERK: Gennaro.  
15 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.  
16 CITY CLERK: Gentile.  
17 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Yes.  
18 CITY CLERK: Gonzalez.  
19 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.  
20 CITY CLERK: Greenfield. Halloran.  
21 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Aye.  
22 CITY CLERK: Ignizio. Jackson.  
23 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on all.  
24 CITY CLERK: James.  
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STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: May I be excused to vote on all general orders and all land use items for today?

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: I urge everyone to vote on October 1st and I vote aye on all.

CITY CLERK: King. Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Mr. Majority Leader, I would like to vote aye and I want to, with permission, vote aye on general order and calendars.

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you.

CITY CLERK: Koppell.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Koslowitz.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Lappin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Levin. Mark-Viverito. Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Mendez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Nelson.

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye and I request unanimous consent to vote aye on all items in the general order of the calendar.

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: So ordered.

CITY CLERK: Palma.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Recchia.

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: I'd like permission to vote aye on all call-ups and general orders. I vote aye on all. I'd also like to thank Helen Diane Foster for her years of dedication to this wonderful chamber.

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Order.

CITY CLERK: Reyna.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: I vote aye on all and congratulations to our colleague, Council Member Helen Diane Foster; love you.

CITY CLERK: Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Rodriguez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Rose. Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Vallone. Van Bramer. Vann.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Unanimous consent  
to vote on all land use call-ups, all resolutions...  
[interpose]

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: So ordered. So  
ordered. 'Kay.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: everything; I vote  
aye.

CITY CLERK: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: I vote aye on... Oh,  
I'm sorry; I'd ask for unanimous consent to vote on  
all general order copy... No. Mr. Majority Leader, I  
reque...

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Thank you.

1  
2 CITY CLERK: Oddo. Rivera. Speaker  
3 Quinn.

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Aye on all.

5 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Today's land use  
6 call-ups were adopted by a vote of 44 affirmative,  
7 zero in the negative. Communication from the  
8 Speaker.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. We are voting  
10 on a number of pieces of legislation today dealing  
11 with recommendations from the Building Resiliency  
12 Task Force and a piece of legislation coming out of  
13 the Civil Rights Committee; let me start with that  
14 piece of legislation dealing with adding extra  
15 requirements around not discriminating against  
16 pregnant women in the workplace. Can we just get a  
17 little quiet for a sec?

18 MALE VOICE: Keep it down please...

19 [crosstalk]

20 SPEAKER QUINN: I wanna thank Alix  
21 Pustilnik, Julene Beckford and Damien Butvick for  
22 their work on this; I wanna thank the lead sponsor of  
23 the bill, Council Member Jimmy Vacca and the Chair of  
24 the Civil Rights Committee, Debbie Rose, for their  
25 work on this.

1  
2 This piece of legislation will require  
3 that the City's Human Rights Law is crystal clear  
4 around employers' requirement to not just not  
5 discriminate against pregnant women, but also to  
6 require that they make appropriate accommodations in  
7 the workplace when necessary for a pregnant employee.  
8 This bill was championed in addition to Council  
9 Member Vacca and Debbie Rose by NOW, New York City,  
10 by Legal Momentum and A Better Balance and we wanna  
11 thank all of them and thank the women whose personal  
12 stories of treatment in the workplace, which you  
13 would just find so shocking it still occurs, helped  
14 all craft this bill and make sure we will now have a  
15 very strong Human Rights Law in this area which give  
16 people, if they are the victims of discrimination,  
17 the option of going to civil court or to the Human  
18 Rights Commission. Let me call on the sponsor of the  
19 bill, Chair Vacca and the Chair of the Committee,  
20 Chair Rose.

21 CHAIR VACCA: Thank you Speaker Quinn.

22 This law seeks to have proactive action  
23 taken to protect the rights of pregnant woman. I  
24 sponsored this legislation because there were glaring  
25 holes in existing rules and regulations that govern

1  
2 this matter. Things that you and I may think of as  
3 common sense and things that you and I may say of  
4 course will be accommodated were not always being  
5 accommodated in the workplace and it caused distress  
6 and it caused major problems for women who had to  
7 work because of economic situations or other reasons  
8 wanted to work during their pregnancy. Many of those  
9 affected are in the retail sector of our employment.  
10 We heard stories and I just wanted to read one or  
11 two.

12           A pregnant home attendant was sent home  
13 from work at 17 weeks pregnant because she submitted  
14 a doctor's note with a modest lifting restriction.  
15 The employer acted without any discussion of what she  
16 could or could not do on the job; she was simply sent  
17 home. She could've stayed and worked and avoided  
18 hefty lifting but was never given the opportunity;  
19 she was terminated; she had to go to a homeless  
20 shelter.

21           A pregnant retail worker was rushed to  
22 the emergency room when she fainted on the job  
23 because her boss would not let her drink water while  
24 standing for hours at the cash register. She was 16  
25 weeks pregnant and severely dehydrated; her doctor



1  
2 had told her to be vigilant about drinking water, but  
3 her boss would not allow it; she was rushed to the  
4 hospital by ambulance and treated with intravenous  
5 fluids.

6 So where you and I think that this is  
7 just common sense and common decency, we never  
8 codified into City law that these rights are basic  
9 rights, we... [interpose]

10 SPEAKER QUINN: I'm sorry; can we just  
11 get a little quiet for Council Member Vacca?

12 CHAIR VACCA: Thank you Speaker...  
13 [interpose]

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you; sorry Jimmy.

15 CHAIR VACCA: Thank you Speaker Quinn.  
16 We... what we've done is that we've told people, go to  
17 the Human Rights Commission; go take civil action.  
18 Well we want to avert that from happening; those  
19 actions, be it civil court or a brief with the Human  
20 Rights Commission, those actions take months to  
21 adjudicate while the pregnant woman cannot go to work  
22 or works under terrible conditions affecting her  
23 health and the health of her unborn child. So  
24 today's legislation speaks to what our city should do

1  
2 to protect the rights of both the unborn and the  
3 pregnant female.

4           So I hope that you'll pass it; I wanna  
5 thank the advocacy groups; I wanna thank those who  
6 came forth and testified and really made this  
7 legislation a reality and it will go a long way to  
8 protecting so many of our women in this city. Thank  
9 you.

10           SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. Chair Rose.

11           CHAIR ROSE: Thank you, Speaker. I wish  
12 to thank the Council Members and Council Member Vacca  
13 for his leadership on this legislation and to Speaker  
14 Quinn for her support. I am proud to be a co-sponsor  
15 of Intro 0974 A, the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act.

16           And after hearing the testimony of woman  
17 after woman who came before the Committee to talk  
18 about something that is natural, as natural as  
19 breathing, how it had become a handicap and could  
20 lead to a woman losing her job simply because she was  
21 pregnant.

22           I wish that this bill was not needed;  
23 that in 2013 pregnant women were not in danger of  
24 losing their jobs or positions of authority based on  
25 pregnancy. The Federal Pregnancy Discrimination Act

1  
2 was passed more than 30 years ago, but still the  
3 problem persists. And I wanna thank Angie Welfare  
4 for her bravery in fighting this.

5           The national figures are alarming;  
6 pregnancy-related discrimination charges have  
7 increased by 35 percent in the past decade and  
8 comprise 20 percent of the discrimination claims  
9 brought by women; this is unacceptable, especially as  
10 women comprise almost 50 percent of the workforce and  
11 are the primary or co-primary earners in over two-  
12 thirds of American households.

13           The Pregnancy Workers Fairness Act will  
14 prohibit discrimination in employment based on  
15 pregnancy, childbirth or related conditions and will  
16 require that employers provide a reasonable  
17 accommodation to pregnant women and those who suffer  
18 conditions related to pregnancy and childbirth as  
19 long as it does not cause undue hardship. No long  
20 will women be in danger of losing their jobs simply  
21 because they need to leave their desk or work station  
22 for a drink of water, a quick bathroom break or to  
23 get off their feet for a few moments.

24           My colleagues, I hope you will join me in  
25 voting to pass this bill, because with this passage

1  
2 New York City will be, as it has often been, a leader  
3 and trend-setter on an important civil rights issue.  
4 Thank you.

5           SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much Chair  
6 Rose. We are also voting on a package of  
7 legislation, as I mentioned, which deals with the  
8 recommendations of the Building Resiliency Task Force  
9 which the Council and the Bloomberg Administration  
10 put together after Hurricane Sandy to ask industry  
11 experts to come up with recommendations about how we  
12 can improve existing building structures and new  
13 building structures to make sure they are more  
14 climate change and natural disaster ready.

15           I wanna make a special thank you to  
16 everyone on the Task Force, but particularly to  
17 Russell Unger; a Council alum who is the head of the  
18 Green Buildings Council and chaired the Task Force  
19 for us. I wanna thank Chair Gennaro, whose  
20 committee... one of the bills went through and is a  
21 sponsor of a number of the bills, Chair Dilan, who  
22 four of the bills went through his committee. I  
23 wanna thank Council Member Fidler, Council Member  
24 Ignizio, Council Member Nelson and Council Member  
25 Richards who along with Chair Gennaro are sponsors of

1  
2 the legislation. I wanna thank Laura Popa, Samara  
3 Swanston, Dan Avery and Jeff Baker for their work on  
4 the legislation in the EP Committee; Bob Homm  
5 [phonetic], Colin Howe [phonetic] and Jeff Baker for  
6 their work on the legislation in the Housing and  
7 Building Committee. These legislation... also... sorry,  
8 Ed Atkin, Jeff Baker for their work as well.

9           These pieces of legislation in the  
10 Environmental Protection Committee deal with the  
11 important recommendation of requiring that resilience  
12 to climate change is a responsibility codified into  
13 law into the Mayor's Office of long-term planning and  
14 sustainability. I think folks who remember that we  
15 in the Council took the important step of making that  
16 office a legal requirement in the City of New York;  
17 we wanna make sure we respond to what happened in the  
18 City by making resiliency to climate change a  
19 requirement of the focus of this office. I just also  
20 wanna remind folks, as we look at the environmental  
21 protection and the housing and buildings bills today,  
22 these bills following the 10 other pieces of  
23 legislation we passed requiring better planning and  
24 preparedness as it deals with the impact of natural  
25 disasters on residents across the City.

1  
2 Let me start by calling on the Chair of  
3 Environmental Protection and the sponsor of 1105 A,  
4 Chair Gennaro.

5 CHAIR GENNARO: Thank you Madame Speaker  
6 and I'd like to thank all my colleagues for this  
7 body's great response to Hurricane Sandy; I think  
8 this has been one of the body's finest hours. I'd  
9 like to remind all the members that even before Sandy  
10 hit back in August of 2012 we passed a comprehensive  
11 law that provided for the orderly planning and the  
12 financing of all kinds of resilience measures that we  
13 would have to do, because we knew back in 2012 that a  
14 big storm was gonna come and of course eight weeks  
15 later it did. So we were out in front of the issue  
16 and then once the storm happened we've really risen  
17 to the occasion, so I'm very proud of the Speaker and  
18 the body for really doing what it did.

19 Let me just talk briefly about the bill  
20 that the Speaker was just talking about with regard  
21 to the Office of Long-Term Planning and  
22 Sustainability. We're making the job a little  
23 bigger; we... this is an office that the Mayor created  
24 that we, like the Speaker said, put forward in law  
25 and now we're giving them the added responsibility of

1  
2 having the position that will deal with this; we're  
3 going to actually tweak the Sustainability Advisory  
4 Board to make sure it has members that can deal with  
5 these issues; we're calling upon PlaNYC also to fully  
6 embrace, you know the idea of making the City more,  
7 you know, climate change friendly and more resilient,  
8 so this a great step in that direction.

9           And once again, I thank this body for  
10 really rising to the occasion for making this City  
11 you know much more climate change friendly. Thank  
12 you Madame Speaker.

13           SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much,  
14 Chair Gennaro. And then I want to again thank Chair  
15 Dilan, Council Members Fidler, Ignizio, Nelson and  
16 Richards and the four pieces of legislation sponsored  
17 by those members deal with requiring that toilets and  
18 faucets be capable of operating with an external  
19 supply of electrical power, a study to study the  
20 effects of wind on city buildings, a manual on flood  
21 construction and protection standards and legislation  
22 requiring a study to prevent the backflow of sewage  
23 and I wanna thank everyone who was a part of that.

24           I also wanna make note that out of the  
25 Transportation Committee we're passing 1088 A and

1  
2 thank Chair Vacca and Council Member Gennaro, who was  
3 a sponsor of that. I wanna thank Lyle Frank, Jeff  
4 Baker and Bob Homm who worked on that and that piece  
5 of legislation will require a study of permeable  
6 roadway and sidewalk materials and I don't know if  
7 the sponsor... Jim, did you wanna say a few words on  
8 that?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Just very  
10 briefly. This is something that we've been talking  
11 about for a long time; it was very critical with  
12 regard to how we managed storm water something; it's  
13 really an idea that we've trying to push for the last  
14 couple years, as we try to deal with storm water, as  
15 we try to get less storm water to go in the sewers  
16 and that of course leads to less pollution of our  
17 local waterways and of course this has been made all  
18 the more important in a post-Sandy world and I'm very  
19 happy to have worked with Chairman Vacca and other  
20 members of the Council to get this permeable pavement  
21 built. Thank you.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much. And  
23 as we mentioned before, today is a day where we will  
24 sadly say goodbye in the City Council sense to our  
25 colleague and friend, Helen Diane Foster as she



1  
2 resigns her seat in the City Council today and  
3 effective tonight the City Council's loss will be the  
4 Cuomo Administration's gain as she becomes the State  
5 Commissioner of Human Rights. So let's hear it again  
6 for Helen.

7 [applause]

8 SPEAKER QUINN: And... and I wanna  
9 recognize that we have been joined by Council Member  
10 Foster's husband, Eric McKay who is with us, her  
11 father, Council Member Reverend Wendell Foster who's  
12 with us, her mom... her mom, Helen Foster who's with us  
13 and her sister Rebecca who are also with us.

14 And I think the... how many years has this  
15 seat been held by a Foster? I was gonna say 37, but  
16 36, which is remarkable benefit to the Borough and to  
17 the District, Helen being the second Foster, entered  
18 the Council on January 1st, 2002 and in her 12 years  
19 on the Council she has ably chaired the Parks and  
20 Recreation Committee, the State and Federal  
21 Legislation Committee; she also served on the  
22 Committees on Aging, Education, Finance, Health,  
23 Public Safety, as well as others. She served for  
24 quite some time as the co-chair of black, Latino and  
25 Asian caucus and the Women's Caucus. And I just

1  
2       wanna say, if you were to think of a position that  
3       would be the right one for Helen to go to after her  
4       incredibly strong forceful, focused advocacy on the  
5       City Council it would be a job fighting for human  
6       rights across this City and State, because I think  
7       notwithstanding all the committees I listed; if you  
8       asked everybody what is the issue that Helen, you  
9       have fought most aggressively, most effectively and  
10      in the most compelling and personal way for; it is  
11      equality in this City, in this body, in this  
12      government; in this country and I know we would all  
13      love you to stay till December 31st, but this really..  
14      and not just... 'cause I think your headquarters is in  
15      the Bronx, right? This is a job made for Helen  
16      Foster, so... [interpose]

17                               [applause]

18                       SPEAKER QUINN: Helen, thank you for your  
19      great service to the City and in advance, thank you  
20      for your great service to our State and I know the  
21      ways that you've improved this City Council, the ways  
22      you've improved this City government and this City  
23      will now be possible for all the counties of our  
24      great state, so it's great to have all of the Council  
25      Member... the... shouldn't say Council Members elect,

1  
2 sorry Republicans, the Democratic nominees, but  
3 particularly to have Vanessa with us today. So  
4 Helen, thank you so much and if I could ask you to  
5 say a few words.

6 [applause]

7 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Thank you very  
8 much. This is... I know this came as a shock to many  
9 when you saw the resignation and some people were  
10 like, you know, is she okay? Thank God I'm okay and  
11 the family's okay.

12 When I look back it's almost like we went  
13 through high school together; we've all been here,  
14 some for 12 years, some shorter; I remember when we  
15 got here it was the joke; Melinda, Yvette Clark and  
16 myself, we were the losers 'cause we couldn't find  
17 dates and Diana Reyna set the bar so high by having a  
18 baby at like 12 noon and at 12:02 she had visitors and  
19 we would laugh; as old as we are, if we ever have  
20 kids we don't want people to come see us until the  
21 kid is at least two.

22 [laughter]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: And I just look  
24 around; we've been through so much together, the  
25 trips we've taken; of course, when we were here with

1  
2 the horrible murder of James Davis; people that  
3 outside of this setting I probably would not have  
4 gotten to know, like Jimmy Oddo, who I love dearly  
5 and every time pre-season or whatever it's called  
6 with The Mets, I think of him because I don't know  
7 too many Mets fans...

8 [laughter]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Only because I  
10 live near the other stadium. So I... I'm... I'm... it's  
11 bitter sweet and of course, to my Bronx delegation, I  
12 don't know what you guys are gonna do with... well you  
13 won't have... [interpose]

14 [laughter]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: without me in the  
16 delegation meetings, 'cause you gotta admit, I add  
17 some... [laugh] I add some humor and of course, to the  
18 Finance staff, thank you for making sure my groups  
19 got money. To the support staff, I couldn't do it or  
20 wouldn't try to do it without you, from Phyllis  
21 having a Baby Ruth for me to Barbara telling me where  
22 to go, not literally where to go...

23 [laughter]

24 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: 'cause she could.  
25 But just everyone, to the Sergeant, thank you, you

1  
2 know asking... always asking how my dad is or the  
3 family; I appreciate that, and of course, the police  
4 officers that just have always been polite and looked  
5 out; I appreciate everyone. And I couldn't do this  
6 without my staff; I have an amazing staff.

7 [applause]

8 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: I'm gonna ask  
9 them... I'm gonna ask them to stand. Martin, who I  
10 call the Mayor, because he knows everyone, he knows  
11 everyone's chief of staff and he's... come here Martin,  
12 come out so they know who you are... Martin...

13 [interpose]

14 [applause]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Martin is my go-  
16 to guy and as he said, he was sent from another  
17 planet to protect me and he's done an amazing job.  
18 Margaret Page [phonetic], who many of you know by  
19 phone... stand up Margaret... [interpose]

20 [applause]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: she... she doesn't  
22 let a call, an e-mail... you can't get to me until you  
23 get to Margaret; amazing scheduler and I don't know  
24 what I would do without her. Isabel, who has just  
25 amazing heart... [interpose]

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[applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: she's so  
compassionate; constituents come in and Isabel will  
come to me cryin', telling me we've gotta help them  
because they've made her cry and you always want  
someone with that kind of heart. And then of course  
there's Jim, no one... you don't need a introduction...  
Jim is... [interpose]

[applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: there goes that  
news van; he's everywhere all the time; he's probably  
been at the Council as long as the Fosters have been  
at the Council and he knows where the bodies are  
buried and he may have buried some of them himself...  
[interpose]

[laughter]

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: But I love you  
guys and we really are family; I mean we've been  
together through births, deaths, marriages;  
everything and it's a family and we will always be  
together, 'cause Jim, Margaret and Izzy have known me  
most of my life and Martin grew up down the block as  
a kid who has grown into an amazing staff person and

1  
2 an amazing human being, so I love you guys, thank you  
3 so much.

4 [applause]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: And I... I have to  
6 do a quick shout-out to my Reggie Love, who I met  
7 when I came down here, who is Tiffany Raspberry, who  
8 is almost like the third daughter now; she has gone  
9 on vacation with us; dad has a list of telephone  
10 numbers and her number is on it and Tiffany has  
11 really been not only a good friend, but a good  
12 advisor and I appreciate her and none of this is  
13 going anywhere in terms of we will always be friends.  
14 And then last but not least, my family; I am so glad  
15 that when I came 12 years ago I had my mother, my  
16 father, my sister and I still have them; my dad will  
17 be 90 Valentine's Day... [interpose]

18 [applause]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: my mother... my  
20 mother turned 81 in August and... [interpose]

21 [applause]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: and I'm just so...  
23 God knows when I was looking for a job... and I'm a  
24 worrier, so I started panicking about seven years ago  
25 about what I'm gonna do next... [interpose]

[laughter]

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: and literally,  
when I just let it go, when I said I'm gonna trust  
you God, I got this call; I wasn't looking for it and  
the office is based in Fordham Plaza in the Bronx; I  
mean it can't get any better and everyone heard, when  
Vanessa running, they just knew we were gonna do the  
flip flop and I said I can't, I can't leave my  
mother, my father, my 2-year-old that I wanted to  
bring, but I was vetoed in case she got a little  
wild; didn't wanna embarrass myself, so... but who's  
lovely and then, of course my stepdaughter, Mena  
[phonetic], when we started this she was 8 and now  
she's a senior; beautiful, bright; gettin' ready to  
go to college... uh. And then you know... I'm just... I'm  
so excited and I'm full and people are like, aren't  
you sad? And I'm sad that I'm leaving you guys and  
we haven't all gotten along and we've had words, but  
I can't say I dislike anyone and I can't say... you  
know, definitely I don't hate anyone; I... I appreciate  
this ti... I really don't, it takes more energy for me  
to hate; I appreciate this time together; I have  
probably learned something definitely from everyone,  
even those I had totally disagreed with and of course



1  
2 everybody's thinking of me and Peter Vallone... no...

3 [interpose]

4 [laughter]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Peter and I can  
6 disagree, but I don't dislike him and I think he does  
7 a great job standing up for what he believes in, even  
8 though it's nothing that I believe in... [interpose]

9 [laughter]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: and nothing I  
11 would stand up for.

12 [applause]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: And of course,  
14 you know I look around the room; many of you know I  
15 call Bob Jackson Uncle Henry; my father had an older  
16 brother who looks just like Bob Jackson, so I call  
17 him Uncle Henry, so I just... I'm thankful for this and  
18 I'm thankful that I just have an amazing husband who  
19 supports me and is so politically conscious but not  
20 into politics that I can come home, rant and rave and  
21 then he's like, okay, you're gonna go do it again  
22 tomorrow and that's... that's what it's about. And  
23 then, if you ever need an older sister, you want one  
24 like Rebecca; she is the best, she has my back; the  
25 only person ever in my life to have beaten me up was

1  
2 my sister, but she's also the person that would beat  
3 up anybody for me. And when she was in the bus  
4 accident, the love, prayer and support that was  
5 poured out was amazing; I mean Gale, we know Gale  
6 Brewer knows everyone, but she knew the President of  
7 Switzerland and actually re... now who knows the  
8 President of Switzerland, I'm just saying...

9 [interpose]

10 [laughter]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: So... exactly... so  
12 I'm just... I... I'm thankful for you, Rebecca for  
13 holding down mom and dad when I couldn't, for getting  
14 me out of this and sometimes making me just... I'm not  
15 spontaneous at all; she's in the music business, so  
16 you know, she's artsy-craftsy; I'm anal; to me  
17 spontaneous is letting me know so I can plan it and  
18 then go; to her, she's just like, let's, so I  
19 appreciate that. And of course, mom and dad; I am...  
20 Helen Foster, that's the original Helen Foster; I am  
21 Diane for most of you that know me; my mother being  
22 Bermudian, Helen is... your first name is always for  
23 someone and my parents being great planners just knew  
24 they were gonna have a boy; why, 'cause they already  
25 had a girl, so they had no name for me and thus

1  
2 Helen, even though no one calls me that. But I  
3 always say I look like my mother, but I am my  
4 father's child. And I'm so thankful mom that you  
5 instilled in both of us, but in me, the ability, as I  
6 say, to survive in both worlds; I can be as proper as  
7 the Queen when need be and as on point as any rabble-  
8 rouser when also need be.

9           And then of course to my dad; he is just  
10 an amazing man. If you think about it, 36 years the  
11 Fosters being down here; I always say, you either  
12 like us or don't; there's no... [interpose]

13           [laughter]

14           COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: there's no blue  
15 areas and the worst they have said about the Fosters  
16 in 36 years is... has to do with our stance and the  
17 paper that talks the worst, it's fine, 'cause I  
18 wouldn't even like line my birdcage with it, so it's  
19 all good.

20           But dad, thank you, thank you for just  
21 being an amazing leader. There are so many things  
22 that you've done that people know not of and from  
23 Eleanor Bumpurs to, you know, giving Al Sharpton a  
24 pulpit and health insurance when that wasn't  
25 available; you exemplify Luke 47:12, to whom much has

1  
2 given much is required and you didn't start with  
3 much, but you knew God had endowed you with much and  
4 you made sure to give back.

5           So while this is the end of a Foster  
6 being in the City Council, this is the beginning of a  
7 Foster being a Commissioner and I am so thankful  
8 that, number one, I was given this time to just say  
9 thank you; you all... like we go back, it's kinda like  
10 we need a yearbook to sign for each other saying  
11 remember when, from coming down here to... I was gonna  
12 say hair, but I didn't wanna... in case some people had  
13 lost their hair, you know; my husband has let me know  
14 to be very sensitive when talking about men and hair...  
15 to the birth of Nea [phonetic] to everything, I just  
16 wanna thank you very much and I wanna thank my family  
17 for taking the time to come down and celebrate with  
18 me. And thank you all and good luck in the next two-  
19 and-a-half months and for those of you that are  
20 coming back, they thought the City Council was gonna  
21 fall apart when we came in in 2002; it didn't. So  
22 don't let anybody tell you that you guys aren't smart  
23 enough, don't know enough; have experience enough.  
24 The only thing you need to do is believe in your  
25 heart, don't doubt yourself and remember that you are

1  
2 here to represent the people that elected you. Thank  
3 you.

4 [applause]

5 [background comments]

6 SPEAKER QUINN: And those lovely words  
7 conclude communications from the Speaker.

8 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Discussion of  
9 General Orders. Seeing none. Report of Special  
10 Committees.

11 CITY CLERK: None.

12 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Report of Standing  
13 Committees.

14 CITY CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
15 Civil Rights, Intro 0974 A, Pregnant Workers Fairness  
16 Act.

17 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and Coupled on  
18 General Orders.

19 CITY CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
20 Environmental Protection, Intro 1105 A, Office of  
21 Long-Term Planning.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and Coupled on  
23 General Orders.

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2 CITY CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
3 Finance, Preconsidered Reso 1937, organization  
4 funding.

5 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
6 Orders.

7 CITY CLERK: Preconsidered LU 0920 and  
8 Reso 1938.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
10 Orders.

11 CITY CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
12 Housing and Buildings, Intro 1086 A, plumbing code  
13 amendment.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and Coupled on  
15 General Orders.

16 CITY CLERK: Intro 1090 A, wind study.  
17 [background comments]

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and Coupled on  
19 General Orders.

20 CITY CLERK: Intro 1095 A, flood  
21 construction and standards.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and Coupled on  
23 General Orders.

24 CITY CLERK: Intro 1098 A, sewage  
25 backflow prevention.

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2                   SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and Coupled on  
3 General Orders.

4                   CITY CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
5 Land Use, LU 0882 and Reso 1939 and 0883 and Reso  
6 1940, Zoning Amendments.

7                   SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
8 Orders.

9                   CITY CLERK: LU 0898 and Reso 1941,  
10 Sidewalk Café.

11                   SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled, to be Filed  
12 pursuant to a Letter with Withdrawal.

13                   CITY CLERK: LU 0899, Reso 1942 and LU  
14 0900 and Reso 1943, Sidewalk Cafés.

15                   SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
16 Orders.

17                   CITY CLERK: LU 0901 and Reso 1944,  
18 Sidewalk Café.

19                   SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled to be Filed.

20                   CITY CLERK: LU 0910 and Reso 1945  
21 through LU 0917 and Reso 1952 on Page 6, Landmark  
22 designations.

23                   SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
24 Orders.

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2 CITY CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
3 Transportation, Intro 1088 A, roadway materials.

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and Coupled on  
5 General Orders. Gen... [interpose]

6 CITY CLERK: General... General Order  
7 Calendar, Resolution of Printing [crosstalk]

8 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Oh, sorry.

9 CITY CLERK: various persons,  
10 Commissioner of Deeds.

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
12 Orders. At this time I'd like to ask for a roll call  
13 on all items that have been Coupled on the General  
14 Order Calendar and also just like to let folks know  
15 there'll be a reception in the lounge following the  
16 Stated Meeting to thank Helen for her service and to  
17 wish her well as the new State Commissioner of Human  
18 Rights.

19 CITY CLERK: Brewer.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye and I  
21 also wanna mention we have John Belford, who is a  
22 recent graduate of Fordham University and an intern  
23 in my office and Michelle Harris, who's a student at  
24 John Jay College. Thank you.

25 CITY CLERK: Cabrera.



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COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Comrie.

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye, aye on all  
land use, as well as eye on all calendar items.

CITY CLERK: Dickens.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Dilan.

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Dromm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Fidler.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Foster.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Sorry. May I  
just take a minute to explain my vote? Or actually  
just to... where'd he go? I was talkin' to the seat..  
[interpose]

[background comments]

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STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: So in all my excitement and thanking you guys, I forgot and I don't wanna do this; I wanna thank the Governor for... [interpose]

[laughter]

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: I know.

[applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: I wanna thank the Governor, Governor Cuomo for trusting... Andrew, thank you... Governor Andrew Cuomo and I'll say it again, Governor Andrew Cuomo of the State of New York for trusting me in this position. I got so carried away and nostalgic, reflecting and looking back; I forgot to say thank you for where I'm going, so thank you. Uhm aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Gennaro.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

[background comment]

CITY CLERK: Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Gonzalez.

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Greenfield.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: May I explain  
3 my vote?

4 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: So ordered.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you  
6 very much.

7 [laughter]

8 [background comment]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: First of all,  
10 Council Member Foster, I'm gonna be tweeting that, so  
11 the record will reflect that you thanked the  
12 Governor. I wanna congratulate you as well, it's a  
13 uh... [interpose]

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Can we get a... sorry... just  
15 a little quiet for Council Member Greenfield and add  
16 his time back on the clock please.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you  
18 very much. I want to congratulate Commissioner Helen  
19 Diane Foster, a great representative, and wish her  
20 incredible success in her work and I also would like  
21 to give a shout-out and a thanks to my Deputy Chief  
22 of Staff, Jake Adler; he started off as an intern  
23 with Council Member Simcha Felder; he worked his way  
24 up to Deputy Chief of Staff and he is moving on to  
25 bigger and better paying things and so we

1  
2 congratulate you, Jake and I wanna thank you for your  
3 service and I vote aye on all.

4 CITY CLERK: Halloran.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: May I be  
6 excused to explain my vote?

7 CITY CLERK: So ordered.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Okay. Thank  
9 you, Mr. Chair. I'm going to vote aye to all except  
10 for Intro 0974 A, which I am going to abstain on for  
11 the following reasons.

12 In a climate where our small businesses  
13 are struggling just to survive, this bill require  
14 quire "that the covered entity shall have the burden  
15 of proving undo hardships." Once again we've put the  
16 onerous on our small businesses to make their showing  
17 even in what could be potentially a civil or a  
18 commission level lawsuit.

19 In addition to that, it uses very vague  
20 terms to define what those undo hardships are, but I  
21 am most concerned with Section 22, which indicates  
22 that a related medical condition is known or should  
23 have been known by the employer. When it comes to  
24 issues like this, should have been known is just an  
25 impossible legal standard to prove. When we're

1  
2 dealing with pregnancy... there's an obvious, you know,  
3 component to it and there are the not so obvious  
4 components of what go wrong post and prepartum. And  
5 so putting that kind of an onerous on our small  
6 businesses will just heed the trial lawyers, which is  
7 something I'm acutely aware of and so I for that  
8 reason will abstain on it; I think the intention of  
9 the bill is very good; however, ultimately the  
10 language of the bill invites as much trouble for our  
11 small businesses as it does for its possibility of  
12 being overturned for its imprecise language, so I  
13 will vote to abstain on that one. Thank you.

14 CITY CLERK: Ignizio.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes, I vote aye  
16 and as a second grader myself with a first grader  
17 daughter, I just wanna point out that Lew Fidler has  
18 the toilet bill today and I have the winds bills, so  
19 look into whatever you will about me and Lew and the  
20 bills were pass... [interpose]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Reaching across  
22 the aisle, Vinny.

23 CITY CLERK: Jackson. King.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye on all.

25 CITY CLERK: Koppell.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Koslowitz.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Congratulations  
to Helen Foster, congratulations Council Member  
Vacca; I'm pleased to co-sponsor the pregnancy  
discrimination bill and also to Council Member  
Gennaro on continuing to burnish a great  
environmental record and to Speaker Quinn; I vote aye  
on all.

CITY CLERK: Jackson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Lappin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: With  
congratulations to Commission Helen Diane Foster I  
vote aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Mealy.

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STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Congratulations to Helen Foster; congratulations to everyone; I vote aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Mendez. Palma.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Reyna.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Thank you Speaker Quinn and Council Member Jim Gennaro for their leadership on the Sandy stuff; aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Congratulations to Helen Foster; I vote aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye on all.

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CITY CLERK: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Williams.

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

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I just wanna say congratulations to Commissioner Foster; I also wanna thank my staff members Melissa Savaya [phonetic], Monique Shannon LaWaterman [phonetic] who will be moving on from my District Office; much of the success I've had in the District has been to them and I wish them well. I wanna welcome Rachel Webster and Farrah Lewis taking the position and welcome Nick Smith who is here, my new Legislative and Communication Director and I vote aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Oddo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: May I have unanimous consent to vote aye on all the land use items?

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Thank you, sir. I vote yes on all and I also wanna be on record saying I don't Peter Vallone either.



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[laughter]

CITY CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

SPEAKER QUINN: Aye on all.

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: All items on today's General Order Calendar were adopted by a vote of 48 in affirmative, 0 negative and 0 abstentions with the exception of Intro 0974 A, which was adopted by a vote of 47 in the affirmative and 1 in the negative, 0 abstentions, Land... Revised Land Use Call-Up votes were adopted by a vote of 48... sorry, correction...

FEMALE VOICE: So there is a chance that actually we would have voted...

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Oh, okay, alright, sorry. I'm sorry, correction, Intro 0974 A was adopted by a vote of 47 affirmative and 1 abstention and Revised Land Use Call-Ups were adopted by a vote of 48 in affirmative and 0 negative.

Do we have introduction and reading of bills?

SPEAKER QUINN: All bills are referred to Committees as indicated on the agenda and I wanna remind folks, we have a couple resolutions.

CHAIRPERSON QUINN: Discussion of resolutions. Discussion of resolutions, seeing none.

1 We have reso... two resolu... three resolutions...

2 [interpose]

3 SPEAKER QUINN: I'm sorry; if we could  
4 get quiet for resolutions.

5 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Can we have... can we  
6 have some quiet please?

7 SPEAKER QUINN: We have two resolutions  
8 dealing with the Building Resiliency Task Force  
9 recommendations. Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Alright. I have  
11 resolution... [interpose]

12 SPEAKER QUINN: Three resolutions, sorry.

13 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Alright. Resolution  
14 1708 calling upon United States Congress to enact and  
15 the President to sign the Flood Victim Premium Relief  
16 Act of 2013. All in favor say aye.

17 [multiple ayes]

18 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: All opposed.  
19 Hearing none. Resolution passes. Resolution 1808  
20 calling upon the United States Congress to amend the  
21 Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012.  
22 All in favor indicate by saying aye.

23 [multiple ayes]

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CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: All opposed.

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Hearing none. And we have Resolution 1927 calling

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upon the United States Congress to enact and the

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President to sign H.2887/Senate Bill 1480, a bill to

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amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and

7

Emergency Act. All in favor say aye.

8

[multiple ayes]

9

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Any opposition?

10

Hearing none, three Resolutions are adopted.

11

General discussion... can we have some

12

quiet please; we have Council Member Gennaro.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you, Mr.

14

Leader. To the Foster family, I just wanna... I wanted

15

to thank Helen in a special way; I also had an

16

opportunity to serve you as a staff member when

17

Reverend Foster served here and Helen has shown so

18

much kindness to so many; you may not remember

19

writing me a very special letter when my father died,

20

but I still have that letter and it's in my special

21

drawer and I... I... I... I think I speak for many people,

22

you know, to whom you've, you know shown so much

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kindness; I just compelled to say that today and also

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what it was terrific to, you know, work with Reverend

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Foster when I was here as a little old staff member

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STATED MEETING

and you gave 'em heck, Reverend; it was really great to see you in action during those days and I've always admired you and you have a wonderful family, so... and I'm glad you thanked the Governor; that was also a great thing. So all the best.

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Any others for general discussion? Seeing none, then the meeting for September 24th, 2013 is hereby adjourned. Thank you.

[gavel]

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           October 7, 2013