

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

STATED MEETING

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November 26, 2013

Start: 2:20 p.m.

Recess: 3:40 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:

CHRISTINE C. QUINN
Speaker of the Council
LEROY G. COMRIE, JR.
President Pro Tempore

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Maria del Carmen Arroyo
Charles Barron
Gale A. Brewer
Fernando Cabrera
Margaret S. Chin
Elizabeth S. Crowley
Erik Martin Dilan
Daniel Dromm
Mathieu Eugene
Lewis A. Fidler
Daniel R. Garodnick
James F. Gennaro
Vincent J. Gentile
David Greenfield
Daniel J. Halloran III

COUNCIL MEMBERS: (CONTINUED)

Vincent M. Ignizio
Robert Jackson
Letitia James
Andy King
G. Oliver Koppell
Brad S. Lander
Jessica S. Lappin
Stephen T. Levin
Melissa Mark-Viverito
Rosie Mendez
Michael C. Nelson
James S. Oddo
Annabel Palma
Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.
Diana Reyna
Donovan Richards
Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Deborah L. Rose
Eric A. Ulrich
James Vacca
Peter F. Vallone, Jr.
James G. Van Bramer
Mark S. Weprin
Ruben Wills

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

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2 PRESIDENT COMRIE: We can ask... get the
3 attention of the room. First we have Council Member
4 Fernando Cabrera from the Bronx who is honoring the
5 Battered Women's Center and we'll turn over the mic
6 to Council Cabrera to introduce the group.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you so
8 much, Council Member; it's truly a privilege to be
9 here; they have a special program that I wanna
10 center; the Voices of Women Organizing Project and I
11 praise them for their holistic work, empowering
12 domestic violence survivors to stand up for
13 themselves and speak out against injustice.
14 Advocates are born from the project to reform a
15 system in need of policies that put victims of
16 domestic violence and their children at the core of
17 the issue, so I applaud Voices of Women Organizing
18 Project for its goal to develop structures and
19 practices with their perspective of the domestic
20 violence survivor in mind and I could tell you
21 firsthand of the work that they have done; they're
22 doin' fabulous work, the organization started in
23 2000, but they're acting like they've been here like
24 50 years and the systemic change they're bringin'
25 about in terms of working with policy, shaping

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2 policies, working in the front line with women that
3 have found themselves in a very vulnerable position,
4 so I commend the work that you're doing and I'm gonna
5 turn it over to our wonderful City Clerk.

6 CLERK: Counsel, City of New York

7 Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of
8 New York is proud to honor the Battered Women's
9 Resource Center for its fight against domestic
10 violence in New York City. And whereas, the Battered
11 Women's Resource Center, also known as The Voices of
12 Women Organizing Project, was founded in 2000 by
13 domestic violence survivors and their advocates to
14 empower survivors, end domestic violence, shape
15 policies and improve services for battered women.
16 This membership-driven organization is committed to
17 ensuring that voices of survivors are heard,
18 recognized for their expertise and included in the
19 decision-making process. And whereas, the Voices of
20 Women Organizing Project brings together survivors of
21 domestic violence to improve the system that abused
22 women and their children turn for safety and justice.
23 It provides training, support and technical
24 assistance so that survivors can reclaim their power,
25 identify needs and collectively craft public

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2 recommendations. Its members also organize to
3 promote long-term systemic changes by documenting
4 institutional failures, testifying at hearings and
5 creating position papers and meeting with local and
6 state officials. And whereas, the Voices of Women
7 Organizing Project also provides domestic violence
8 survivors with training on organizing, public
9 speaking and advocacy skills. Its agenda includes
10 more shelter space, permanent housing, increased
11 safety in court, custody, visitation and child
12 support agreements that take domestic violence into
13 account by stopping the abusers from using the system
14 against the victims. Now therefore be it known, that
15 the Council of the City of New York gratefully honors
16 the Battered Women's Resource Center for its
17 outstanding service to victims of domestic violence.
18 Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the Entire Council;
19 Fernando Cabrera, Council Member 14th District, the
20 Bronx; Julissa Ferreras, Chair Women's Issues
21 Committee.

22 PRESIDENT COMRIE: 'Kay, we have Tanya
23 McLeod that's representing the center and we'd like
24 her to say a few words at this time.

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2 TANYA MCLEOD: On behalf of the Voices of
3 Women Organizing Project, I'd like to thank
4 Councilman Cabrera and the City Council for this
5 honor. As survivor of domestic violence, being a
6 part of VOW is answered prayer; there are so many
7 women whose abuse goes unreported every day and to be
8 able to bring... to this crime, to be able to give a
9 voice to what's needed to break the cycle of domestic
10 violence is an honor and I just wanna say thank you.

11 PRESIDENT COMRIE: Thank you... thank you,
12 Miss McLeod. Let's give her a round of applause.

13 [applause]

14 [pause]

15 PRESIDENT COMRIE: Next we have our
16 Council Member Mathieu Eugene that has a very
17 prominent group to bring before us, the Orchestre
18 Tropicana of Haiti, a musical group celebrating their
19 50th year in music. [applause] Counc... [background
20 comments] Now Orchestre... the gentlemen can come
21 forward.

22 [background comments]

23 MATHIEU EUGENE: We don't have enough
24 time for that. Alright guys, would you please come?

25 **INAUDIBLE 00:06:00.** Thank you. [background

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2 comments] Be sharp, so sorry, please. [background
3 comments] Alright. Thank you. Okay. Thank you
4 very much. Today we are going to pay tribute
5 **INAUDIBLE 00:06:55** one of the greatest Haitian
6 Orchestre in history of Haiti. To those of you who
7 don't know the group I'm talking about, let me
8 introduce you to one of the Haiti's premier musical
9 groups that have had the greatest impact in the
10 musical history in Haiti. I'm talking about the
11 Orchestre Tropicana of Haiti and... [applause]
12 Tropicana of Haiti was formed in 1963 in Cap-Haitien,
13 the second largest city in Haiti, where a group of
14 young talented artists made it their mission to bring
15 music to people, music that spoke of Haiti in the
16 height of its growing and the music expressed the
17 life of Haitian people living in Haiti, in United
18 States, Paris, Germany and all over the world. And
19 through the music they have been bringing people
20 together, uniting people together because they now
21 that music is a universal language that creates
22 friendship; civility and to day I'm so proud, as the
23 first Haitian-American elected to the City Council to
24 welcome to the City Council one of the greatest
25 orchestra from Haiti.

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[applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: And I want to take the opportunity to commend each one of you, all of you, especially Maestro Ti Blanc, we call him Octavius, Maestro Ti Blanc, he's the maestro of the Orchestre Tropicana and I want to commend you for your leadership and all of you members of the board, members of the committee, thank you for everything you have been doing for keeping high the prestige of pride in the honor of the Haitian people all over the world, because you have been through everywhere to play music and I want to wish you many, many more success, another 50 years, another 50 years.

INAUDIBLE 00:09:14. [applause]

Now it is my honor and my privilege to present this **INAUDIBLE 00:09:47** commission from the good city, the good body, the honorable body, the City Council to Maestro Ti Blanc.

[applause]

MAESTRO TI BLANC: Mademoiselle, Madame and Monsieur, this is a great...

MATHIEU EUGENE: Ladies and gentlemen...

MAESTRO TI BLANC: day for the Haitian people, an emotional one for me, for myself.

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2 MATHIEU EUGENE: A good day for the
3 Haitian people; an emotional one.

4 MAESTRO TI BLANC: This award is
5 dedicated to the Haitian people and to other
6 communities who are struggling like us but have a
7 vision that allows them to believe in a better
8 tomorrow.

9 MATHIEU EUGENE: This award is dedicated
10 to the Haitian community and all other communities
11 that are struggling like the Haitian people.

12 MAESTRO TI BLANC: To the Speaker of the
13 City Council, we say thanks for your hospitality and
14 no end your concern and interest to the well-being of
15 every ethnic group in the greater City of New York;
16 we firmly believe that no celebration of this
17 magnitude will be complete without your involvement.

18 MATHIEU EUGENE: To Speaker, thank you
19 very much; we know that you are very concerned about
20 the well-being communities in New York and this
21 wouldn't be possible without you.

22 MAESTRO TI BLANC: To the City Council,
23 member Mathieu Eugene, we also say thanks for your
24 dedication to serve the people in your district over
25 the years with respect, pride and dignity, for your

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2 tireless, tireless effort to make a difference in
3 their life and for making this momentous occasion
4 occurring. Thank you for knowing the Orchestre
5 Tropicana of Haiti.

6 To the Haitian community, friends and
7 guests, thanks for attending this event today.

8 MATHIEU EUGENE: To the Haitian
9 community, to our friends and our guests, thank you
10 very much for attending this presentation.

11 MAESTRO TI BLANC: I want to recognize a
12 special person, Mr. Augustine [phonetic]. Mr.
13 Augustine is the teacher of State University in
14 Haiti, **INAUDIBLE 00:11:59** and president of marketing
15 for the 50th anniversary of the Orchestre Tropicana
16 d'Haiti. Thank you Mr. Augustine for coming.

17 MATHIEU EUGENE: I want to thank Mr.
18 Augustine, who's the president of education in Haiti
19 **INAUDIBLE 00:12:10** and he's also the president of the
20 market of Tropicana of Haiti; thank you for coming.

21 MAESTRO TI BLANC: To the Orchestre
22 Tropicana of Haiti, congratulations.

23 MATHIEU EUGENE: To the Orchestre of uh...
24 oh uh you say that **INAUDIBLE 00:12:24**.

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STATED MEETING

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MAESTRO TI BLANC: If Orchestre Tropicana can do it, I can do it. You can do it; let us do it. Yes we can. [laugh] The Orchestre Tropicana of Haiti has succeed where we as people are fail. Today we must seize that opportunity to get together to build a spirit of unity, set new rules, new goals so that there's no social **INAUDIBLE 00:12:51**, in order to open new eyes on, new doors to open opportunities and promote the idea of a better community, a better society, a prosperous future. United we are strong **INAUDIBLE 00:13:04**.

[background comment]

MAESTRO TI BLANC: The success of the Orchestre Tropicana of Haiti is a result of self-confidence, fair play, patience, perseverance, discipline, **INAUDIBLE 00:13:16**, sacrifices, vision and faith. Tropicana prove the entire world that if you have faith in god almighty, you work hard and you play by the rules, nothing is impossible to achieve on earth; the sky is the limit. The Orchestre Tropicana of Haiti use music not only to entertain the public, but as a tool to touch the untouchable, to reach the unreachable, to transform **INAUDIBLE**

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2 **00:13:45** in order to build a stronger community, a
3 better society, a better country.

4 I would like to take the opportunity to
5 finish my **INAUDIBLE 00:13:58** by taking advantage of
6 this grateful opportunity to ask the City Council of
7 New York to help the Orchestre Tropicana of Haiti
8 Foundation **INAUDIBLE 00:14:09** to implement a project
9 deal to the art of the all musician and the leaders
10 of the Orchestre to open a musical hall, school in
11 2004 for the young men and women in Haiti, in
12 particular for those with disadvantaged background
13 and we wish one day they will learn music **INAUDIBLE**
14 **00:14:32** and practice music as a profession; we think
15 it's possible if the City Council of New York will
16 help Tropicana to achieve that goal.

17 On behalf the Orchestre Tropicana of
18 Haiti, I accept this award; may god bless the nation
19 of Haiti, may god bless the greater City of New York;
20 may god bless the United States of America. Thank
21 you.

22 MATHIEU EUGENE: Thank you very much.
23 [applause] Thank you so much. Could you read the
24 proclamation? Thank you, the Clerk.
25

CLERK: Counsel, City of New York

Proclamation. Whereas the Council of the City of New York is proud to honor the Orchestre Tropicana of Haiti for 50 years of musical history. And whereas, the Orchestre Tropicana of Haiti was formed on March 23rd, 1963 at Cap-Haitien, the second largest city of Haiti by a group of ambitious and very talented musicians who have gone on to write many of the most beloved songs about Haiti's glory days, as well as eloquent songs about Haiti's day-to-day life. In the annals of the Haitian music industry's history, the Orchestre Tropicana of Haiti has achieved an incredible level of success, adoration, cultural significance, recording 25 albums with countless hit songs. They have also defied odds, overcome obstacles and survived earthquake, car accident, disappointments; humiliation, only to emerge on top as a premier musical group in Haiti. And whereas, the Orchestre Tropical of Haiti has performed in Martinique, Guadalupe, Dominican Republic, France, Colombia and many other countries, garnered loyal fans of all ages and backgrounds by sharing not only great music, but their message of hope, peace and reconciliation. In addition to its 150 performances

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2 in Haiti each year, the Orchestre Tropicana of Haiti
3 also participates annually in two American tours for
4 audiences in Boston, Canada, Chicago, Miami,
5 Philadelphia, as well as New York City. And whereas,
6 on September 6, 2013 the Haitian Parliament bestowed
7 its highest level of honor given to an institution in
8 more than 200 years upon the Orchestre Tropicana of
9 Haiti. Now therefore be it known, that the Council
10 of the City of New York proudly honors the Orchestre
11 Tropicana of Haiti in celebration of its 50th
12 anniversary for fostering greater harmony in Haiti
13 and around the world. Christine C. Quinn, Speaker
14 for the Entire Council; Mathieu Eugene, Council
15 Member 40th District, Brooklyn.

16 [applause, background comment]

17 PRESIDENT COMRIE: Yes, give them a round
18 of applause; let's congratulate them. [background
19 comments]

20 [pause]

21 PRESIDENT COMRIE: 'Kay. We have one..
22 one final ceremonial.

23 [pause]

24 PRESIDENT COMRIE: Hello. Hello. We
25 have one last proclamation, just a personal

1
2 privilege, I wanna thank the Speaker and Gary Altman
3 [phonetic] and Steven Dudley and all of the Council's
4 administrative staff for allowing me to do this
5 presentation; you know, in this season of
6 Thanksgiving that we're moving into, you know as I
7 begin to thanks for my years of service in the City
8 Council, there is one person that I need to thank
9 most of all and you know, Archie Spigner, my
10 predecessor is here; I'm gonna thank him a unique way
11 later on; his former Chief of Staff, Joshua Rivera
12 and Rance [phonetic] Huff [phonetic], come on up
13 guys; all of the staff from my office that have
14 helped me over the past 12 years in office; there's
15 one person that has been very significant not to me,
16 not just to me, because without him I would not have
17 achieved any of the success that I've achieved, but
18 he was also the Chief of Staff for my predecessor,
19 Archie Spigner; he's mentored so many people in and
20 around City Hall, in and around the city; he's
21 mentored so many staff people and has just done so
22 much for people; the people over at 250 Broadway have
23 to take him out to office at 2:00 in the morning
24 almost three times a week, you know. I nicknamed
25 him... [applause] you know... [cheers, laughter,

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2 background comments] you know and... and I wanted Joe's
3 ceremony to stand apart from everything else that
4 we're gonna do next month, so I really wanna thank
5 Gary in the Speaker's office for doing it today as we
6 move into Thanksgiving; I really thank Joe; I
7 nicknamed him The Patron Saint of Lost Causes,
8 [laughter, background comments] you know, because
9 anytime there's a case that is just truly beyond
10 ridiculous, that's the case that he will spend hours
11 and hours and hours tryin'... [background comment]
12 tryin' to get it done and we still have some
13 constituents that have been calling from before
14 Archie was elected, [laughter] that Joe is just it,
15 but people love Joe, people have... you know, he's
16 given so much of his time; a lot of you don't know,
17 but he's not on my payroll, you know; he's just
18 putting time in -- a lot of people are looking at me
19 like, what, you know. [laughter, background
20 comments] But Joe is just dedicated to bein' a civil
21 servant in the truest sense of the word and the
22 truest meaning of giving back to the city; he comes
23 from a history of people that have given to the city;
24 Joe has done so much for us; I love him more than a
25 father, more than a friend; he's been the rock

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2 between my uhm... he's been my rock; he's been the
3 person that... you know, he always remembers the
4 meetings that we don't wanna go **INAUDIBLE 00:22:44**,
5 [laughter] you know and he makes sure that I go to
6 the meetings that are only five people there or the
7 borough board negotiations or all of those things
8 that are, you know small and but really large as far
9 as knowing the facts and details of what happens
10 around this city, so Joe, I love you and I know that...
11 [applause, cheers] [background comment] I know that
12 there are many people in this room and there are many
13 people that wanted to be here today, but because it's
14 a travel day and people are scared of what was going
15 on outside, we would have this room three times as
16 filled, but if we could have the Clerk read the
17 proclamation; then we'll hear from my predecessor,
18 Archie Spigner.

19 CLERK: Counsel, City of New York
20 Proclamation. The Council of the City of New York is
21 very proud to honor Joseph Goldbloom for his many
22 years of excellent public service in both his
23 professional and personal endeavors. And whereas,
24 Mr. Goldbloom's expertise comes from a profound
25 breadth and depth of life experience. In addition to

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2 earning degrees from both Wesleyan University and
3 Columbia, he served our nation with the United States
4 Army during peace time as a chief radio operator in
5 the Second Armored Division in Germany. When he
6 returned to civilian life he worked in the theatre
7 for many years as a press writer, associate producer
8 and producer. His years in theatre proved to be
9 excellent training for his more recent career in
10 government. [laughter] He also taught at Long
11 Island University, where he met Leroy Carmichael, who
12 introduced him to a young district leader, Archie
13 Spigner. And whereas, Mr. Goldbloom began his tenure
14 at the New York City Council in 1974 [background
15 comments] working for Archie Spigner.. [interpose]

16 PRESIDENT COMRIE: Back then in '74,
17 because staff was unpaid in '74.

18 [laughter, background comments]

19 CLERK: work...

20 [background comments, laughter]

21 CLERK: working for Archie Spigner,
22 Deputy Majority Leader and Council Member of the 27th
23 District, encompassing Southeast Queens. As Archie
24 Spigner's Chief of Staff, Mr. Goldbloom immersed
25 himself in everything from constituent relations to

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2 economic development and budget reviews and he
3 continued to do so for more than 25 years. As Mr.
4 Spigner recently noted, Joe Goldbloom is a people's
5 person who will go far and above what is expected to
6 help somebody. When term limits ended Mr. Spigner's
7 role as Council Member in 2001, Mr. Goldbloom
8 officially retired, but on paper only. For the last
9 12 years he has continued working tirelessly every
10 day and many nights to serve constituents in
11 Southeast Queens as a volunteer Senior Advisor for
12 Council Member and Deputy Majority Leader, Leroy
13 Comrie. Mr. Goldbloom has not been on the Council's
14 payroll since January 1, 2002. And whereas, "Joseph
15 Goldbloom has been an invaluable partner throughout
16 my career," said Council Member Comrie, "I would not
17 have achieved most of my accolades without his
18 tutoring; he embodies the living history of our city
19 and his empathy for others is limitless." Whenever a
20 constituent seemed beyond help Joseph would make them
21 his reclamation project, doing anything he could to
22 change their status from impossible to positive. By
23 remembering the smallest details about issues and
24 events he made a big difference and impressed the
25 audience we faced, he always spoke directly to

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2 workers to understand what needed to be done to
3 improve their situation. Most of all, Joseph shared
4 his insights with staff members or anyone wanting to
5 learn how to make government work to help people. He
6 has influenced so many and we all still look to him
7 for advice and a good quote. And whereas, on this
8 occasion we honor Mr. Goldbloom for not only the
9 record breaking length of his tenure at the Council,
10 but also for the enormous impact he has had upon his
11 colleagues and upon residents across our city. While
12 New York has undergone countless changes, both
13 politically and socially, he has remained a constant
14 source of support and encouragement. Today many
15 civil servants say he taught them nearly everything
16 they knew about city government, from the budget
17 process to building community, to how to get others
18 to see beyond small conflicts to reach larger shared
19 goals and the importance of transparent legislation,
20 as well as patience, integrity and humor. Although
21 Mr. Goldbloom was never involved in medicine like his
22 father or grandfather, his friends always note his
23 powerful healing presence. By imparting his
24 institutional knowledge upon so many he has shaped
25 the trajectory of many careers and quietly

1 strengthened many areas of government. And whereas,
2 Mr. Goldbloom's generous public service has extended
3 far beyond his work for the Council. For the last 10
4 years he has been a champion for residents of East
5 Harlem as a member of Manhattan Community Board 11.
6 Furthermore, since February 1983 he has been a very
7 active and widely respected member of the Grand Lodge
8 of the Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New
9 York and St. John's Lodge No. 1, Ancient York Masons.
10 In addition to his current role as treasurer, he is
11 greatly admired for being a gifted orator and
12 ritualist, exemplifying the tenance of Free Masonry
13 in all areas of his life. Mr. Goldbloom has inspired
14 others with his unquestioned integrity, acts of
15 charity, search for truth and love of mankind. Now
16 therefore be it known, that the Council of the City
17 of New York gratefully honors Joseph Goldbloom for
18 his decades of meaningful contributions to city
19 government and his extraordinarily generous service
20 to fellow New Yorkers. Christine C. Quinn, Speaker
21 for the Entire Council; Leroy Comrie, Deputy Majority
22 Leader, Council Member 27th District Queens; Gale A.
23 Brewer, Council Member 6th District Manhattan; and
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2 Karen Koslowitz, Council Member 29th District Queens
3 and many other members of the City Council.

4 [applause, cheers, background comments]

5 ARCHIE SPIGNER: Thank... thank you.

6 [applause, cheers, background comments] Jus let me
7 add how accurate all of those nice words that were
8 put together by someone in your office... [laughter]
9 very... [background comments] Steven, Steven...

10 [background comments] very, very well. Joe is
11 everything that was said; Joe is unique; as a matter
12 of fact, Joe, you should be landmarked, you know,
13 [laugh] we need to... we need to... [background comment,
14 laughter] we need to keep you as you are and pass you
15 on to Leroy's successor; you're a good guy, our city
16 and communities are much better off because of you
17 and your massive and major contribution; I join
18 Council Member Comrie and all the good things that he
19 said; you're a friend and I look forward to having
20 many more years of friendship and good times
21 together, alright? [background comment]
22 Congratulations, Joe.

23 [cheers, applause]

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2 ARCHIE SPIGNER: And thank you Leroy for
3 arranging this well-deserved tribute to our mutual
4 friend Joe.

5 PRESIDENT COMRIE: Thank you. **INAUDIBLE**
6 **00:30:28** a letter from the Mayor's office, Reggie
7 Thomas, who worked for me and went over to the mayor
8 -- I'm still mad about that, but anyhow -- [laughter,
9 background comments]

10 REGGIE THOMAS: Hi, I'm Reggie Thomas
11 from the Mayor's office; as you heard. Before
12 negotiating land use deals, the council members are
13 lobbying all in Styrofoam, I had the privilege of
14 working for Council Member Comrie a number of years
15 ago, [background comments, laughter] but before the
16 Council Member stole me from the Borough President's
17 office my first day at work... [background comment]
18 yes... and on my first day of work as the Council
19 Member's Legislative Director I had absolutely no
20 idea what I was doing and Joe Goldbloom comes up to
21 me, hands me a copy of the Committee Report and made
22 me feel incredibly comfortable my first day at work.
23 The three years I worked for the Council Member, Joe
24 was with me till 2:00 in the morning doing budget
25 spreadsheets; he was a constant source of advisement

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2 and he's been a teacher and a mentor to me personally
3 and above all, a friend, so Joe, just personally, for
4 me when I started out my career, I couldn't thank you
5 enough for your friendship and on behalf of the Mayor
6 I will read just a quick paragraph that I think
7 summarizes what all New Yorkers and all of us here
8 feel about you.

9 "Throughout your career in public service
10 your tireless dedication has earned you the respect
11 and admiration of your council colleagues, even
12 during your so-called retirement you have kept a
13 schedule that every leader would do well to emulate.
14 You also combined the energy with a command of issues
15 that matter most to New Yorkers, on matters from
16 budgeting to housing to economic development.
17 Council Members and staffers alike have benefited
18 from your vast knowledge of the workings of city
19 government. On behalf of all New Yorkers, thank you
20 for your hard work and for being such a tremendous
21 asset, both to City Hall and to communities across
22 the five boroughs. My best wishes for good health,
23 great happiness and continued success in everything
24 that you do. Sincerely, Michael R. Bloomberg,
25 Mayor."

[applause, background comments]

PRESIDENT COMRIE: And we have one member who's actually known Joe Goldbloom maybe longer than I have and that's Borough President Elect, Gale Brewer.

[background comments, applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very much Leroy, I've known Joe Goldbloom since 1978; he has not changed a bit. He is somebody who at that time was working the same hours and what Leroy didn't state is that not only does Joe work here, he then sometimes goes to Queens on the subway, goes to a meeting in Queens and then takes a subway back to Manhattan and he does this... he's been doing this for years; he doesn't complain; he's also... he writes the best proclamations; this is the only proclamation he didn't get to write. [background comments, applause] And in addition, he not only knows the East Side; he also knows East Harlem; he knows every land use decision, he knows the streets, the groups, the way people feel about things; he also has just a personality to help his friends; he has some friends who were in the hospital; he's in the hospital all weekend with them, he makes sure they get to a good

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2 nursing home, he then goes visits them at the nursing
3 home, making sure that that nursing home is the
4 appropriate placement. The guy is... you know, you
5 have bi-coastal, he is bi-borough and he manages to
6 do all of this with an amazing sense of understanding
7 and commitment and absolutely no complaints; there is
8 only one Joe Goldbloom.

9 [background comments, applause]

10 PRESIDENT COMRIE: Now... now we need to
11 hear a couple words... but I wanna thank everybody for
12 their patience and their understanding, but Joe is
13 truly a special person to this body and to the city.
14 Mr. Joseph Goldbloom.

15 [background comments, cheers, applause]

16 JOSEPH GOLDBLOOM: Thank you Councilman
17 Comrie and Archie Spigner and Gale Brewer and all you
18 people here, Council Members and colleagues and
19 friends; I'm just flabbergasted. I'm just thinkin'
20 100 years ago my great uncle sat in this chamber as a
21 socialist alderman, after the Triangle fire and here
22 I am leaving it and history sort of repeats itself.

23 I just don't know who you were talking
24 about or reading about, but I'll take part of the
25 credit because I had the opportunity to work with

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2 some of the greatest people in the world. Archie one
3 day called me and said, "Come down to City Hall,
4 you'll like the view;" I never got to see the view..
5 [laughter] I never got to leave; not because of
6 apathy or I didn't have a token, but because I was
7 just astounded in wonder of how many great things
8 were done by extraordinary people in the City Council
9 and how many crises they solved and working with you,
10 Archie was a revelation in good government and after
11 all, you came from the people and served the people
12 in every way and you'll continue to serve the people
13 and we know that.

14 Thank you all, it's... working with the
15 staff of Mr. Comrie... I see the former chief of staffs
16 like Josh and Rance and others here and Richard and
17 Margaret and so many others I can hardly remember,
18 and seeing the central staff; they didn't work by the
19 hour, they worked eight days a week because stuff had
20 to be done and the people had to be served.

21 So just to sum it up; I'm blessed,
22 because if I had to do it all over again, I would and
23 that's a blessing in life and I thank you all for
24 letting me be here. Thank you.

25 [cheers, applause]

1
2 PRESIDENT COMRIE: Thank you all. Thank
3 you all. Thank you all.

4 [pause]

5 CLERK: Ladies and gentleman, can I have
6 your attention, please; can I please have your
7 attention, please? At this time, please place all
8 cell phones and electronic devices to vibrate.

9 [background comments] Will all non-council employees
10 please leave the main floor of the chambers; we have
11 additional seating upstairs in the balcony. Thank
12 you.

13 PRESIDENT COMRIE: All rise for the
14 Pledge of Allegiance.

15 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: All rise.

16 [background comments]

17 PRESIDENT COMRIE: I pledge allegiance to
18 the flag of the United States of America and to the
19 Republic for which it stands, one nation under God,
20 indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

21 Stated Meeting November 26, 2013. Roll
22 call.

23 CLERK: Arroyo.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

25 [background comments]

STATED MEETING

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2 CLERK: Barron.
3 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.
4 CLERK: Brewer.
5 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.
6 CLERK: Cabrera.
7 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.
8 CLERK: Chin.
9 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.
10 CLERK: Comrie.
11 PRESIDENT COMRIE: Present.
12 CLERK: Crowley.
13 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.
14 CLERK: Dickens. Dilan.
15 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Here.
16 CLERK: Dromm.
17 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.
18 CLERK: Eugene.
19 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.
20 CLERK: Ferreras. Fidler.
21 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Yeah, here.
22 CLERK: Garodnick.
23 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.
24 CLERK: Gennaro.
25 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.

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STATED MEETING

CLERK: Gentile.
COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.
CLERK: Gonzalez. Greenfield.
COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Here.
CLERK: Halloran.
COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Here.
CLERK: Ignizio.
COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.
CLERK: Jackson.
COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Here.
CLERK: James.
COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here.
CLERK: King.
COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Present.
CLERK: Koo. Koppell.
COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.
CLERK: Koslowitz. Lander.
COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.
CLERK: Lappin.
COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Here.
CLERK: Levin.
COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.
CLERK: Mark-Viverito.
COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Here.

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2 CLERK: Mealy. Mendez.
3 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.
4 CLERK: Nelson. Palma. Recchia.
5 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Yes.
6 CLERK: Thank you. Reyna.
7 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.
8 CLERK: Richards.
9 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.
10 CLERK: Rodriguez.
11 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.
12 CLERK: Rose.
13 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.
14 CLERK: Ulrich.
15 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.
16 CLERK: Vacca.
17 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.
18 CLERK: Vallone.
19 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.
20 CLERK: Van Bramer. Vann. Weprin.
21 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.
22 CLERK: Williams. Wills.
23 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Present.
24 CLERK: Oddo. Rivera. Speaker Quinn.
25 SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

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2 PRESIDENT COMRIE: We have a quorum. All
3 rise for the Invocation; we have honored by Rev.
4 Aaron Kelly from the Greater Faith Temple, White
5 Plains Road in the Bronx.

6 REV. KELLY: If all hearts and minds are
7 clear, let us bow our heads and left our hearts to
8 the almighty, to the source of love and life; it is
9 with your infinite wisdom and grace that we're
10 gathered here in City Hall and we invoke your
11 presence. We thank you for life, health and strength
12 and we thank you for safe arrival. On this day we
13 ask that all things be done in decency and in order
14 and we say a special prayer for all city officials
15 that you will allow them to officiate, that you allow
16 them to operate in prudence and justice for all and
17 when we leave this place we will declare that our
18 communities and our cities will be a better place.
19 We thank you for all things and may it leave the soul
20 in peace. Amen.

21 PRESIDENT COMRIE: Amen. Council Member
22 King.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: I motion to spread
24 the Invocation in full upon the Record and I thank
25 Executive Pastor, Aaron Allen Kelly from Greater

1
2 Faith Temple Church in the 12th District of the Bronx
3 for his leadership and worshiping and he's allowed
4 the District to improve spiritually and motivates us
5 all each and every Sunday, but all the other six days
6 of the week with his community activities and we
7 thank you again for today's Invocation.

8 PRESIDENT COMRIE: Adoption of Minutes.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Yes. Okay. I
10 move that the Minutes of the meeting of October 30th,
11 2013 be adopted and printed.

12 PRESIDENT COMRIE: So ordered [background
13 comment]. Messages and Papers from the Mayor.

14 CLERK: None.

15 PRESIDENT COMRIE: Communications from
16 City, County and Borough Offices.

17 CLERK: M 1335 - withdrawing Iris
18 Weinshall for reappointment to the Taxi and Limousine
19 Commission.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: Received, Ordered,
21 Printed, Filed.

22 PRESIDENT COMRIE: Petitions and
23 Communications.

24 CLERK: None.

25 PRESIDENT COMRIE: Land Use Call-Ups.

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STATED MEETING

CLERK: M 1336 and 1337.

SPEAKER QUINN: If we could have a roll call on the Coupled Land Use Call-Ups and if I first could ask the Acting Majority Leader to recognize some of our special guests that we have with us today. Thank you. [crosstalk]

PRESIDENT COMRIE: Oh, sorry, yeah. We have Council Members-elect joining us -- Vanessa Gibson from the Bronx, Antonio Reynoso from Brooklyn, [applause], Ben Kallos from Manhattan and Costa Constantinides from the Queens.

[background comments, applause]

PRESIDENT COMRIE: And... yeah, Steve Matteo is still here from Staten Island; where is Steve?

[cheers, applause]

PRESIDENT COMRIE: Ah, alright, standin' in the back. Alright.

[background comments]

PRESIDENT COMRIE: [laugh] I got you. Inez is... oh, got you, alright. Now we have Land Use Call-Ups roll call.

CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

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CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

CLERK: Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

[background comments]

CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

CLERK: Comrie.

PRESIDENT COMRIE: Aye.

CLERK: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

CLERK: Dickens. Dilan.

[background comment]

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.

CLERK: Dromm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

CLERK: Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I want to request
unanimous consent to vote on all the Land Use Call-
Ups and all the items to the agenda and I vote aye on
all.

CLERK: Fidler.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

[background comments]

CLERK: Gennaro.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Mr. Leader, I
ask permission to vote on the General Order Calendar
and everything on the calendar today. [background
comments]

PRESIDENT COMRIE: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I vote aye.

PRESIDENT COMRIE: Happy Thanksgiving.

[background comment]

CLERK: Gentile.

[background comments]

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

CLERK: Greenfield.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I request
unanimous consent to vote on all the Land Use items
as well as all the Call-Ups and all items on the
agenda today.

PRESIDENT COMRIE: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you; I
vote aye.

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STATED MEETING

CLERK: Halloran.

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Ask unanimous consent to vote on all items on the General Order Calendar as well as the Coupled Land Use items. I vote aye on all.

PRESIDENT COMRIE: So ordered. Enjoy your holiday.

CLERK: Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.

CLERK: Jackson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on all.

CLERK: James.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: May I be excused to vote on the Stated Meeting for November 22nd, all Call-Ups, the agenda and... [laughter, background comments]

PRESIDENT COMRIE: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Yeah, yeah, yeah; all the other stuff. Bye. I mean, yes.

PRESIDENT COMRIE: Happy Thanksgiving.

[background comments]

CLERK: King.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye.

[background comment]

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CLERK: Koppell.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

CLERK: Koslowitz. Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

CLERK: Lappin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye and I request
unanimous consent to vote on the General Order
Calendar as well.

PRESIDENT COMRIE: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: I vote aye.

PRESIDENT COMRIE: Enjoy your holiday.

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Gobble gobble.

PRESIDENT COMRIE: Gobble.

[laughter]

CLERK: Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

CLERK: Mealy. Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I'd like to vote
aye on all Call-Ups and with permission on the
General Order Calendar.

PRESIDENT COMRIE: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you.

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STATED MEETING

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PRESIDENT COMRIE: Happy Holiday.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye. [crosstalk]

CLERK: Nelson.

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: I vote aye on all
Land Use Call-Ups and with permission I'd like to
vote aye on all items on the Coupled General Order
Calendar and Resolutions.

PRESIDENT COMRIE: So ordered. Happy
Holiday.

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Thank you; you
too. [crosstalk]

PRESIDENT COMRIE: Did you vote?

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye on all.
[laugh]

CLERK: Palma.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

CLERK: Recchia.

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.

CLERK: Reyna.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye on all.

CLERK: Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.

CLERK: Rodriguez.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye and I
3 would like to ask permission to vote aye on all
4 General Order.

5 PRESIDENT COMRIE: So ordered.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

7 PRESIDENT COMRIE: Happy Holiday.

8 [crosstalk]

9 CLERK: Rose. Ulrich.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Mr. Majority
11 Leader, I ask for unanimous consent to vote on all
12 items on the General Order Calendar.

13 PRESIDENT COMRIE: So ordered.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: [coughing] I vote
15 aye.

16 PRESIDENT COMRIE: [laughter] Happy
17 Thanksgiving.

18 CLERK: Dilan.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: I'd like to vote
20 aye on all General Order Calendars, as well as
21 everything on the Resolution Calendar.

22 PRESIDENT COMRIE: So ordered.

23 CLERK: Vacca. Vallone.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

25 CLERK: Van Bramer.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

CLERK: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Yes, I'd like unanimous consent to please vote on all Land Use Call-Ups and the General Orders Calendar.

PRESIDENT COMRIE: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye on all, please. Thank you. [crosstalk]

PRESIDENT COMRIE: Palma... Palma's here.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: I'm here... I... [crosstalk]

CLERK: Palma. Williams. Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye.

CLERK: Oddo. Speaker Quinn.

PRESIDENT COMRIE: Today's Land Use Call-Up votes were adopted by a vote of 40 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative.

Yeah, Communications from Speaker Quinn.

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. We are voting on two pieces of legislation today out of the Gov Ops Committee, both of which sponsored by Council Member Brewer; I wanna thank her staff as well as David Seitzer and Alix Pustilnik. The first piece of legislation, Int. 488 will require that the Board of

1
2 Elections at least a week in advance post sample
3 ballots on their website so people can see what the
4 ballot looks like, read what the questions are, if
5 there are ballot questions; things of that nature;
6 this should help, since the font could not possibly
7 be smaller, often on those ballots, and it'll also
8 help people get informed.

9 The second Int. 674-A is a piece of
10 legislation that will hopefully move our campaign
11 finance system a little more into the 21st century to
12 where the Federal Rules are, which is, allow people..
13 candidates, that is, to get contributions via text up
14 to \$99 and I wanna thank Gale for both of these bills
15 and ask her to speak on both as the Chair and the
16 sponsor.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very
18 much Madame Speaker and I certainly wanna thank your
19 staff, David Seitzer, Tym Matusov and Will Colegrove
20 my office, who's done a huge amount of work on this
21 issue.

22 As you indicated, 488 is sample ballots.
23 To make a long story short, I wanna thank the Board
24 of Elections and I wanna thank agency DoITT,
25 technology agency, because in the past they have

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2 worked together, at my suggestion, to develop and put
3 up a sample ballot and it has been in existence for a
4 couple of elections; however, I wanna make sure that
5 it is continuing into the future; we did have a bit
6 of a scare recently when the Board of Elections, when
7 the lever machines [background comments] were used,
8 said maybe we can't do a sample ballot. It's not
9 only, as the Speaker indicated, a question of small
10 font, which we hope will soon disappear, but also the
11 issue of people wanting to know before they go to the
12 voting booth, particularly when judges and down-
13 ballot names or resolutions are on, they really don't
14 know what they're gonna be voting on, so this will
15 codify what the Board of Elections is doing already
16 quite well, sample ballots.

17 Int. 764-A is the text message
18 contribution; as I said earlier, I don't usually get
19 excited about anything -- that's just me -- but I am
20 very excited about this particular legislation; it
21 does indicated that small donations, \$99 or less, can
22 be texted to a candidate. Now the exciting part
23 about this is yes, a few other states -- California,
24 Maryland and Texas -- have passed text messaging
25 [background comments] contribution bills, but nobody

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2 else has our campaign finance system, and I wanna
3 thank the Campaign Finance Board, because they have
4 indicated in a letter today that they are supportive
5 and they look forward to working out rule-making-wise
6 some of the issues that might come up on text
7 messaging because we have a campaign finance system;
8 text messages that are texted that are financial in
9 nature to a candidate will have to be matched if
10 appropriate and there will be discussions about what
11 the rule-making will be in terms of if the user has a
12 family plan or not and there are other ways in which
13 the Campaign Finance Board will have to be involved.
14 But in general, in general, the fact of the matter
15 is; this is an exciting way to get smaller donations,
16 younger participants in the political system, we
17 hope, and bringing us into the 21st or 22nd century.
18 Thank you very much Madame Speaker.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Chair Brewer.
20 We're also voting on a piece of legislation on
21 transportation, 732-A; I wanna thank Lyle Frank,
22 Molly Murphy, Gavin Zoluff [phonetic], Jonathan
23 Masermo [phonetic], and I want to thank Council
24 Member Rose, the sponsor of the committee, Chair
25 Vacca for his work -- 732-A is a piece of legislation

1
2 designed to increase pedestrian safety with a
3 particular focus at increasing student safety and
4 staff safety around schools; it'll require on a
5 yearly basis the Department of Transportation install
6 at least 50 speed humps in the vicinity of public and
7 private schools. Let me call on Council Member Rose
8 to make some comments on her piece of legislation.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you, Speaker
10 Quinn.

11 The safety of our school children has
12 always been of importance to me, but with the death
13 in my district of a 13-year-old, Aniya Williams in
14 2011, it became a top priority for me. Little Aniya
15 was hit by a tractor-trailer truck when running for
16 the bus at the end of the school day on the last day
17 of school in 2011 and it made me question what could
18 have been done to prevent such a tragedy from
19 happening. This bill is for Aniya and all the school
20 children we have lost to traffic fatalities. And so
21 I want to thank Speaker Quinn and the Transportation
22 Chair Vacca for their support of Introduction 732,
23 and I wish to also thank all of the co-sponsors of
24 this important public safety bill for their support.

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2 Simply put, Int. 732 will save lives.
3 Sadly, we have all experienced in our districts that
4 most horrific of tragedies of a child bein' hit and
5 killed or seriously injured by a speeding driver
6 while crossing the street to or from school. What is
7 most horrific about these tragedies is that they are
8 easily avoidable; they are avoidable with speed humps
9 on roads adjacent to schools, which data shows
10 results in an average of 19 percent reduction in
11 speed and an almost 40 percent reduction in crashes
12 resulting in injury. In the vicinity of one school
13 in my district, PS 31, there were no accidents or
14 children hit by speeding vehicles during the 2012-
15 2013 school year. Why? Because speed bumps were
16 installed as a part of the Slow Zone project. The
17 year before, in 2011-2012, two... two school children
18 were hit by speeding motorists within a block from
19 the school; thankfully neither were struck fatally.
20 I am convinced that because of the speed hump at
21 least one school in my district these preventive
22 measures have saved lives. No longer are speeding
23 cars whizzing through the streets when school is
24 dismissed or when children are running to beat the
25 morning school bell. Imagine how many children,

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2 teachers and crossing guards can be kept safe with
3 the simple edition of speed humps in school vicinity.
4 Let me be clear; no cost is too high to protect our
5 children; that is why Int. 732, which will require
6 the installation of speed humps on streets adjacent
7 to schools, is so critically important to public
8 safety legislation; it will prevent the tragedy of
9 our children losing life and limb to reckless,
10 speeding drivers. I am very proud to have sponsored
11 this legislation which I believe will enhance the
12 safety of our children. With passage of this
13 legislation the Council will once again show its
14 leadership in ensuring public safety and protecting
15 one of our most vulnerable citizens, our children. I
16 am so proud that Aniya's legacy will impact the lives
17 and safety of other children and I hope that all of
18 my colleagues will join me in voting for this
19 legislation. Thank you.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: That concludes
21 communication from the Speaker and I just wanna
22 remind folks; we have a resolution today.

23 PRESIDENT COMRIE: Discussion of General
24 Orders. Seeing none, then we will... Reports of
25 Standing Committee.

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CLERK: None.

PRESIDENT COMRIE: Reports of Special
Committee; sorry.

CLERK: None.

PRESIDENT COMRIE: Reports of Standing
Committee.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on
Finance, Int. 1071, Hudson Square BID.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

CLERK: Int. 1185, Business Improvement
Districts.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

CLERK: Preconsidered LU 978 and Reso
2044 through Preconsidered LU 986 and Reso 2052 on
Page 3.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on
Governmental Operations, Int. 488, Board of
Elections, sample ballots.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

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STATED MEETING

CLERK: Int. 764-A, political
contributions via text message.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and Coupled on
General Orders.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land
Use, LU 958 and Reso 2053, tax exemption.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

CLERK: LU 968 and Reso 2054, Long Island
Business College.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

CLERK: LU 969 and Reso 2055, Steinway &
Sons.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

CLERK: LU 970 and Reso 2056, Holland
Plaza.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on
Transportation, Int. 732-A, installation of speed
humps.

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

4 PRESIDENT COMRIE: General Order
5 Calendar.

6 CLERK: Resolution appointing various
7 persons, Commissioner of Deeds.

8 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Order
9 and at this time I would like a roll call on all
10 Coupled General Order Calendar items.

11 CLERK: Arroyo.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

13 CLERK: Barron.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: My colleagues, I
15 vote today under a tremendous amount of stress and
16 anxiety; I thought I had bagged Thomas Jefferson and
17 George Washington [laughter] to two slave-holding
18 presidents, but they're back, so the struggle
19 continues, but I'll do my best to stay focused and
20 vote appropriately; with that I abstain from 1071 and
21 1185 and I'll vote aye on all the rest.

22 CLERK: Brewer.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

24 CLERK: Cabrera.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

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2 CLERK: Chin.
3 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.
4 CLERK: Comrie.
5 PRESIDENT COMRIE: Aye.
6 CLERK: Crowley.
7 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.
8 CLERK: Dromm.
9 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.
10 CLERK: Fidler.
11 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.
12 CLERK: Garodnick. Gentile.
13 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.
14 CLERK: Ignizio.
15 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.
16 CLERK: Jackson.
17 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on all.
18 CLERK: King.
19 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye on all.
20 CLERK: Koppell.
21 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.
22 CLERK: Lander.
23 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.
24 CLERK: Levin. [background comments]
25 Mark-Viverito.

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STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye on
all.

CLERK: Palma.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

CLERK: Recchia.

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye on all.

CLERK: Reyna.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye on all.

CLERK: Rodriguez. Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

CLERK: Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

CLERK: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

CLERK: Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye on all.

CLERK: Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye on all.

[pause]

CLERK: Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye on all.

[pause]

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STATED MEETING

CLERK: Garodnick.

[pause]

CLERK: Oddo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: May I be uh... may I have unanimous consent to vote on all Land Use Call-Up items, sir?

PRESIDENT COMRIE: Yes, sir.

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Thank you; I vote aye on all.

PRESIDENT COMRIE: Okay.

CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

[pause]

PRESIDENT COMRIE: 'Kay. All items on today's General Order Calendar were adopted by a vote of 41 affirmative, 0 negative and 0 abstentions with the exception of Int. 1071, which was adopted by a vote of 40 affirmative, 0 negative, 1 abstention and Int. 1185, which was adopted by 40 affirmative, 0 negative, 1 abstention. Two revised Land Use Call-Up votes were adopted by a vote of 41 affirmative, 0 negative.

Now we have Introduction and Reading of Bills.

[background comment]

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

4 PRESIDENT COMRIE: Discussion of
5 Resolutions; we do have one resolution. Seeing no
6 discussion on the resolution, we have Res 1260-A,
7 which is an amended resolution calling on the
8 Congress to pass and the President to sign the
9 States' Medical Marijuana Patient Protection Act.
10 Speaker to the resolution. Council Member Ignizio.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes, thank you
12 very much, Mr. Presiding Officer. I just wanted to
13 convey my position on this for the record is that; I
14 am opposed to the use of medical marijuana; however,
15 I am a believer in States' rights and therefore I'll
16 be supporting this resolution. Thank you.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: The Majority..
18 [crosstalk]

19 PRESIDENT COMRIE: Any other... any...

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Acting Majority
21 Leader...

22 PRESIDENT COMRIE: Council Member
23 Koppell.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Yeah; let me... I
25 appreciate Council Member Ignizio's statement, which

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2 I think is actually quite accurate and I appreciate
3 his doing this, because we have an anomalous
4 situation; we have 20 states that have approved the
5 use of marijuana for medical purposes and we have the
6 Federal Government still saying that marijuana's a
7 Schedule I substance, which makes its sale illegal,
8 creating an anomaly where we have 20 states that say
9 it can be used for medical purposes and doctors are
10 afraid to prescribe it because the Federal Law says
11 that it would be actually a crime to prescribe it and
12 those doctors are afraid they'd lose their licenses.
13 Furthermore, it's technically at least a federal
14 crime to even use it for medical purposes; it makes
15 no sense, it creates an anomaly and in New York, this
16 Council has urged the legislature to approve medical
17 marijuana use; we passed that overwhelmingly last
18 year; the New York State Assembly has passed it; the
19 Senate hasn't. If the Senate passes it, this would
20 then apply in New York; it also has implications for
21 research into marijuana, because a Schedule I
22 substance... research on Schedule I substances is
23 extremely limited; that makes even more no sense, so
24 this is a wise resolution; I'm gonna send it to all
25 members of our delegation; I hope that Congress

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2 realizes that the current situation makes no sense,
3 and I appreciate, Councilman, your recognition that
4 it is a matter of states' rights and the Federal
5 Government shouldn't interfere here. Thank you and I
6 hope everyone will vote in favor.

7 Another thing; I wanna thank the Chair of
8 the Health Committee, [bell] where three meetings,
9 'cause we didn't get a quorum, and we finally did it
10 yesterday and I appreciate her persistence in helping
11 this. Thank you.

12 PRESIDENT COMRIE: Any other discussion
13 on resolutions? Seeing none, all in favor of Res
14 1260-A, signal by sayin' aye.

15 [collective aye]

16 PRESIDENT COMRIE: Any opposition? Any
17 abstentions? Resolution passes. Any members for
18 General Discussion? Council Member Fidler.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Yeah, I know that
20 everyone's anxious to get out before the weather
21 moves in, but sometimes saying thank you is more
22 important. I have spoken on the floor of this body
23 more times than most of you would like to remember
24 about the children who sleep on the streets of the
25 City of New York at night without shelter. Last week

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2 in the November plan the administration finally
3 acknowledged by putting all of the money that we have
4 all worked so hard to provide for those young people
5 so that they don't have to sell their body and their
6 soul and their dignity at night for a place to sleep,
7 they put all of that money into the November plan; I
8 think that is [applause, cheers] fabulously
9 important, I absolutely need to thank Speaker Quinn,
10 I need to thank our finance staff led by Preston
11 Niblack; I need to thank our finance chairman,
12 Domenic Recchia, and you don't often hear this from
13 me; I need to thank Mayor Bloomberg, I need to thank
14 Deputy Mayor Wolfson, I need to thank Commissioner
15 Mulgrave and I need to thank Mark Page, alright,
16 because all of them played a critical role in making
17 this happen; the kids whose lives have just been
18 saved will never know, but you'll all know and you
19 should take a great deal of satisfaction in the fact
20 that the work that we have all done together has been
21 institutionalized and will live on, so thank you.

22 PRESIDENT COMRIE: Thank you. Speaker
23 Quinn.

24 SPEAKER QUINN: And I want to thank Lew
25 for not being above [applause] manipulating all of us

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2 from his hospital bed [background comment] to make
3 sure that this happened, [background comment] in all
4 seriousness, I think on behalf of everyone who's
5 still in the chambers and everyone I've met, should
6 be the hero for runaway and homeless youth in this
7 city is, was and in my opinion will always be Council
8 Member Lew Fidler, so thank you, Lew. [applause]
9 And for anybody who isn't on the Budget negotiating
10 team, I think we will all, whether we're retiring
11 from BNT or staying on, remember your words, "runaway
12 and homeless youth will be cut over my fat, dead
13 body" and now... [laughter, background comments] big,
14 fat, dead, bloody body was the example, and
15 thankfully now none of us have to worry about that,
16 which is also a good thing for all of us [background
17 comment] and our friend Lew. [background comment]

18 PRESIDENT COMRIE: Council Member
19 Jackson; did you have your hand up?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you,
21 Deputy Majority Leader. I... I rise to congratulate
22 Lew Fidler and exactly what he said; that as a member
23 of the Budget Negotiating Team representing the
24 caucus, Lew, you have been an advocate for the youth
25 and more specifically, you have pleaded with us on a

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2 continuous basis about making sure that the funding
3 was not cut for those homeless youth, and I say to
4 you that I tell people when I speak to them out in
5 the street that no one advocates more for youth and
6 homeless youth than you, and I congratulate you for
7 everything you have done in your tenure, same time as
8 mine, on behalf of the youth of New York City, so
9 congratulations and I'm glad that the Mayor's office,
10 along with our Speaker and everyone else have brought
11 this together to where it's included in a November
12 plan. Congratulations, Lew.

13 PRESIDENT COMRIE: Any other members for
14 General Discussion? Seeing none, then the Stating
15 Meeting for November 26, 2013 is hereby adjourned.
16 Happy Thanksgiving; please give thanks to all of your
17 loved ones. Thank you.

18 [gavel]

19 [background comments]

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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 December 13, 2013