

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

STATED MEETING

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December 10, 2013  
Start: 3:00 p.m.  
Recess: 5:36 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E:

CHRISTINE C. QUINN  
Speaker of the Council  
JOEL RIVERA  
President Pro Tempore

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS: (CONTINUED)

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

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

Eddy Eng  
Department of Small Business Services

Michael Popowich  
Honoree

Anthony Howley  
Honoree

John Gilday  
Honoree

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STATED MEETING

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PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: ...Eng who is... Eddy Eng, who is retiring and has done so well for the city of New York; if we can have my colleagues please come up. At this point I'll hand the microphone over to my colleague, Diana Reyna.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Thank you so much, Council Member Joel Rivera; it give me great honor to ask my colleagues to come up and pay tribute to a great man we all call the BID man. I want to take this opportunity to excuse our Speaker who is downstairs at a pre-Stated presser; I wanted to make sure that I share with you today the great joy we have in this historic chamber to honor a dedicated civil servant, Mr. Eddy Eng. Mr. Eng has spent the last 26 years serving New York City at the Department of Small Business Services; I want to make sure that the Department of Small Business Services who are here today supporting their colleague and friend to come up and join us, because this is something that was very special to all of them.

Mr. Eng was the director of the Business Improvement Development Program. Mr. Eng's career was dedicated to helping neighborhoods cultivate and sustain vibrant commercial corridors. His passion

1  
2 was in assisting and guiding communities through the  
3 planning and approval process of forming a BID and  
4 ensuring that their BID was successful and we all  
5 have had an opportunity to create a BID of our own or  
6 in the process of and there's specific areas where  
7 some have been more challenging than others, but  
8 nonetheless, we have triumphed and it is with the  
9 support of Eddy making sure that he was able to  
10 express the importance and take those challenging  
11 moments to be able to share with the public what  
12 benefits there are when you create a BID.

13           During his tenure Mr. Eng helped form 49  
14 of the total 68 BIDs in the city of New York,  
15 starting with the Steinway Street BID in 1991 and  
16 ending with the infamous SoHo BID in [laughter] in  
17 2013. A round of applause.

18           Eddy was a leader in the design and  
19 implementation of the Chinatown Clean Street  
20 initiative, which secured \$5.4 million from the  
21 Federal Government. In 2006 Eddy won the Isaac  
22 Liberman Public Service Award, which recognizes city  
23 employees who have improved the quality of life  
24 rendered to the people of the city of New York,  
25 enhanced the prestige of the city service and

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2 demonstrated dedication well beyond their job  
3 descriptions. His influence reached far outside of  
4 this city, as he has presented to over 60 foreign  
5 delegations that have eventually started BIDs in  
6 Africa, Australia, Europe and South America, and I am  
7 a testament to that because my Myrtle Avenue BID in  
8 Ridgewood, Queens was one of those BIDs that was  
9 looked up on for a BID that was being studied to  
10 start in France and in Italy. So thank you to Eddy,  
11 because he has created these models to making sure  
12 that they're viable internationally, world-wide.

13           Today we congratulate Mr. Eddy Eng on his  
14 illustrious career at the Department of Small  
15 Business Services and we thank him for his dedicated  
16 service to the great city of New York; may life  
17 continue to bless him in all of his endeavors; we  
18 wish him the very best professionally, because we  
19 know retirement is never really to retire, it's to a  
20 new beginning, to a new life and many blessings by  
21 the side of his family, children; wife, who could not  
22 be here today, but we know that they are with him in  
23 spirit and we just wanted to pay this tribute to you,  
24 your department and your lifetime career. Thank you.

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2 [background comment, applause] I'd like  
3 to have the City Clerk read the Proc.

4 CITY CLERK: Council, City of New York  
5 Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of  
6 New York is proud to honor Eddy Eng upon his  
7 retirement from the New York City Department of Small  
8 Business Services after 26 years of outstanding  
9 achievements and enduring contributions. And  
10 whereas, over the course of Eddy Eng's stellar career  
11 with the Department of Small Business Services he  
12 devoted the majority of his work to the development  
13 of our business improvement districts, serving as the  
14 director of the program for 23 years. He was crucial  
15 in guiding interested participants through the  
16 planning process and coordinating with all city  
17 agencies, from the creation of the Steinway Street  
18 BID in 1991 to the SoHo BID in 2013 he helped develop  
19 49 of the 68 BIDs. And whereas, Mr. Eng was also a  
20 leader in the design and implementation of the  
21 Chinatown Clean Street initiative which secured \$5.4  
22 million from the Federal Government. In 2006 he was  
23 recognized for his work with the Isaac Liberman  
24 Public Service Award bestowed upon city employees who  
25 have improved our city's quality of life, enhanced

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the prestige of city service and demonstrated dedication well beyond their job descriptions. He has also had an incredibly positive impact in neighborhood revitalization and economic development far beyond our five boroughs, as he presented to over 60 foreign delegations which led to the creation of BIDs in Africa, Australia, Europe and South America. Upon his retirement he can be proud knowing that his contributions will continue to drive economic growth in the years ahead. Now therefore be it known, that the Council of the City of New York gratefully honors Eddy Eng for his outstanding career with the Department of Small Business Service and his distinguished service to fellow New Yorkers. Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the Entire Council; Diana Reyna, Chair Small Business Committee, Council Member 34th District, Brooklyn and Queens and many other Council Members.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Thank you to our City Clerk. [background comment, applause] And now a word from our honoree. [background comments]

EDDY ENG: Well thank you, Madame Chairman; you know Diana's one of my favorite leaders in the City Council; you know, she [laughter] chairs



1  
2 the Small Businesses Committee. Now, you know that's  
3 important because the department that I spent over 26  
4 years, it's called Small Businesses Department, so  
5 Diana, you know her support and many, many support  
6 from the Council Members that I'm standing here with  
7 are very big supporters of small businesses in New  
8 York and that's very important; small businesses,  
9 they provide jobs, they make our neighborhood alive;  
10 there's a lot of vibrancy and life in our  
11 neighborhoods because of small business. So Diana,  
12 thank you for your support, all the Council Members  
13 here for supporting small businesses, I love you guys  
14 [background comments] and we've done... you guys done  
15 it for three decades I've been here. I remember my  
16 first experience coming to this chamber; I was  
17 sitting up there, sent here by my assistance  
18 commissioner, say you need to monitor what goes on  
19 here [laughter] with the Steinway Street BID. So I  
20 remember Peter Vallone up there, putting all the laws  
21 together, Peter Vallone, Sr., and I said, "What's  
22 going on here?" And I had to look for that intro  
23 number to make sure it passed, well you guys passed  
24 it and that's... that was my humble experience with the  
25 City Council and ever since we know... now we have 68

1  
2 business improvement districts [background comments]  
3 thanks to you guys.

4           And I also wanna thank [background  
5 comments], I also wanna thank a big partner of the  
6 City Council and that's in our neighborhood  
7 development headed by Deputy Commissioner Elizabeth  
8 De Leon [cheers, applause]. It is this division in  
9 partnership with you guys that have done so much for  
10 small businesses in our neighborhoods. So they've  
11 been doing it for 26 years, 30 years; I would like to  
12 see that continue for the next 30 years, for you guys  
13 that work with Elizabeth [background comments] to  
14 make it happen.

15           And I wanna give a shout-out for my  
16 Council Member, Karen Koslowitz. [background  
17 comments, cheers, applause] I'm from... I'm from the  
18 great neighborhood of Forest Hills [laughter] and  
19 she's been a great supporter of everything we do for  
20 small business. Karen, thank you for being here with  
21 me today. [background comments, laughter]

22           And my last comment -- it's holiday  
23 season; I wanna wish everybody health and a happy  
24 holiday season. Thank you all again.

25           [applause]

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Thank you.

[pause]

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Ladies and gentlemen, we have our next group to be honored by Council Members Julissa Ferreras and Peter Koo; we have three brave Verizon employees who are being recognized for not only for their contributions, but for their heroic gesture in a recent event, so we wanna pass the mic over to Julissa and to Peter Koo.

JULISSA FERRERAS: Thank you. If we can call up my colleagues to join me in honoring three amazing New Yorkers. Today we are here to honor three Verizon technicians who stopped an attempted rape in Flushing, Queens; these three men are Michael Popowich, Anthony Howley and John Gilday. [applause]

On October 30th they were finishing a job on Northern Boulevard when they noticed a man who was trying to forcefully touch a woman; keep in mind this was in broad daylight, when three men saw what was happening; they shouted at the assailant; when they didn't stop him they proceeded to chase the assailant, force him to the ground and sat on him, waiting for police to arrive. If these men did not do what they did, the woman could have very well

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2 experienced greater harm. I believe Mr. Gilday  
3 summed up this incident best. He told one of the  
4 local Queens papers, "I have daughters, wife,  
5 sisters; I hope if something like that was happening  
6 to them someone would do something about it. I don't  
7 want to see that happen to anybody." Indeed,  
8 Mr. Gilday is right, nothing like this should ever  
9 happen to anyone. As Chair of the Women's Issues  
10 Committee, I applaud these three heroes for seeing  
11 something, doing something and saving a fellow New  
12 Yorker in need. I am so proud to honor them today.  
13 Michael Popowich, Anthony Howley and John Gilday, all  
14 proud residents of Queens, Mr. Howley was born in  
15 London, England, grew up in Sunnyside and Elmhurst;  
16 Mr. Popowich was born and raised in Astoria;  
17 Mr. Gilday was born and raised in Maspeth. In  
18 addition to being dedicated fathers and husbands,  
19 they are highly skilled Verizon technicians with over  
20 75 years of experience between them. Thank you so  
21 much for your efforts [applause, cheers] and I'm  
22 gonna pass the mic over to my colleague, Council  
23 Member Koo.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you Julissa.

25 I wanna say a big thank you to all of you, saving a

1  
2 woman's life in my District, Flushing; you guys  
3 deserve a big applause. Thank you. [applause] I  
4 hope you will serve as role models for others -- when  
5 you see people in trouble be a good Samaritan; help  
6 them, or at least at the minimum, call 9-1-1, you  
7 know and stop the perpetrator from the scene. So  
8 thank you very much and on behalf of City Council  
9 Members we want to say thank you to all of you.  
10 Thank you. [background comment]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: And again, many  
12 of our colleagues, as I said before, we're usually  
13 called upon, unfortunately, to hand out flyers at  
14 train stations to help catch an assailant and as I  
15 was reminded, the police had been looking for this  
16 man for over three days on other attempts, so this is  
17 something really, really an important day and I would  
18 like to ask for the proc to be read. Thank you.

19 CITY CLERK: Council, City of New York  
20 Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of  
21 New York is proud to pay tribute to Michael Popowich,  
22 Anthony Howley and John Gilday for courageously  
23 thwarting an attempted rape in Flushing, Queens. And  
24 whereas, meaningful improvements to our criminal  
25 justice system have helped ensure that more rapists

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2 are brought to justice and that victims of sexual  
3 violence get the justice they deserve. Although  
4 sexual assault has fallen by more than 50 percent in  
5 recent years, more needs to be done. Recognizing the  
6 sexual assaults continue to be one of the most  
7 underreported crimes, many survivors still do not  
8 receive the help available. The current statistics  
9 are still alarming; nationally there is an average of  
10 237,868 victims of rape or sexual assault each year,  
11 meaning there is a rape or a sexual assault every two  
12 minutes. One out of every six American women has  
13 been the victim of an attempted or a completed rape  
14 in her lifetime; one in 10 victims is male. On this  
15 occasion it is a great privilege to publicly thank  
16 three New Yorkers who stepped up to put a stop to  
17 such violence. And whereas, Michael Popowich,  
18 Anthony Howley and John Gilday are all proud  
19 residents of Queens. Anthony Howley was born in  
20 London, England and grew up in Sunnyside and  
21 Elmhurst. Michael Popowich was born and raised in  
22 Astoria, Queens. John Gilday was born and raised in  
23 Maspeth, Queens. In addition to being dedicated  
24 fathers and husbands, they are highly skilled Verizon  
25 technicians with over 75 years of experience between

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2 them. Whether working to fix an unexpected outage or  
3 to help overcome the devastation caused by Hurricane  
4 Sandy, they are often at the scene of a crisis, but  
5 even they were surprised by the scene that recently  
6 unfolded before them in broad daylight. And whereas,  
7 around noon on October 30th, 2013 Mr. Gilday,  
8 Mr. Howley and Mr. Popowich were finishing a job on  
9 Northern Boulevard in Flushing when they noticed a  
10 man lurking across the street; a woman was leaving a  
11 nearby café in broad daylight in a bustling area when  
12 the mysterious assailant, a 53-year-old man,  
13 allegedly assaulted her. When Mr. Popowich,  
14 Mr. Howley and Mr. Gilday started yelling at him, the  
15 man just ignored him until they reached the scene,  
16 then the brazen attacker fled with the trio in close  
17 pursuit. After they tackled him to the sidewalk,  
18 they sat on the suspect until police arrived.

19 [background comments, laughter] And whereas,  
20 according to the NYPD, the assailant did not know the  
21 victim before attacking her, but thanks to these  
22 three great Samaritans he was soon arrested and  
23 charged with rape, sexual abuse and unlawful  
24 imprisonment. Their quick intervention serves an  
25 important reminder that each time we recognize our

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2 shared responsibility for the safety of our  
3 neighborhood and help a stranger in need we reveal  
4 the strength of character that is the hallmark of  
5 great New Yorkers like these men. Now therefore be  
6 it known, that the Council of the City of New York  
7 gratefully honors Anthony Howley, John Gilday and  
8 Michael Popowich for their outstanding heroism.  
9 Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the Entire Council;  
10 Julissa Ferreras, Chair Women's Issues Committee;  
11 Peter Koo, Council Member 20th District, Queens.

12 [background comments, applause]

13 MICHAEL POPOWICH: I know that I speak  
14 for [background comments] Anthony, John, myself and  
15 for all Verizon employees; you know, we work in all  
16 the neighborhoods, we are part of the communities we  
17 service and I know that I speak for all Verizon  
18 employees when I say that any one of us in the same  
19 situation would've done the same thing; it's the  
20 right thing to do. Thank you.

21 [applause, background comments]

22 [pause]

23 MALE VOICE: Ladies and gentlemen, could  
24 I please have your attention? [background comments]  
25 Quite on the floor, please, quiet on the floor. Can



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STATED MEETING

I have your attention, please? [background comment]  
At this time, please place all electronic devices to vibrate and will all non-Council employees please leave the main floor of the chambers; you can have a seat in the balcony. Thank you.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: My colleagues, please rise for the pledge of allegiance.

[background comments]

[collective pledge of allegiance]

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Roll call.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Brewer. Cabrera.

Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Comrie. Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dickens. Dilan.

[background comment]

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dromm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

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STATED MEETING

COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene.  
COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Ferreras. Fidler.  
COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Garodnick.  
COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Gennaro.  
COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Gentile.  
COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Gonzalez. Greenfield.  
Halloran. Ignizio.  
COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: I'm here.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Jackson.  
COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Here.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: James.  
COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: King.  
COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Present.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo.  
COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Koppell. Koslowitz.  
COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander.

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STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lappin. Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy. Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Nelson. Palma.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Recchia.

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera. Reyna.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dickens.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich. Vacca.

Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

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STATED MEETING

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koppell.  
COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Greenfield.  
COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Here.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer.  
COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Vann.  
COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Here.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Weprin.  
COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams. Brewer.  
COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Wills.  
COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Present.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Oddo. Lappin.  
COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Here.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Rivera.  
COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Here.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Quinn.  
SPEAKER QUINN: Here.  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Quorum is present; before we move onto the next part I'd like to call on several council members; we have Council

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STATED MEETING

Member Garodnick, followed by Council Member Weprin and then Council Member Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank you, I'd like to vote on the Land Use Call-Ups and on the General Order Calendar and I'd like to vote aye on all.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: So ordered. Council Member Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Thank you. I also would like to vote aye on all the Land Use Call-Ups and on the General Orders Calendar.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Thank you.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Council Member Mendez.

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

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: So ordered. [crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Council Member Tish James.

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STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Hi, I'd like to vote on all Land Use Call-Ups and General Order Calendar.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: So ordered. [crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Thank you. Goodbye.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Council Member Recchia.

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: I'd like to vote aye on all Land Use Call-Ups and all calls for... [crosstalk]

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: So...

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: votes for today.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: so ordered. Council Member Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Mr. Majority Leader, I would like to vote aye on all Land Use Call-Ups and all items on the General Calendar.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: So ordered. [crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Council Member Nelson. [crosstalk]

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STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I would uh...

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Can we get  
silence in the chambers?

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

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: So  
ordered. Council Member Van Bramer.

[background comments]

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

[background comments]

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Coun... Yes.  
Council Member Viverito.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I vote aye.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: I request  
unanimous consent to vote on all Land Use Call-Ups,  
General Orders and Resolutions on Calendar...

[crosstalk]

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Yeah.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: I vote  
aye.

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STATED MEETING

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PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Yes.

Council Member Ignizio... [crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Ye...

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: followed  
by Council Member Rodriguez, followed by Council  
Member Lappin.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Thank you Mr.  
Majority Leader; Madame Speaker, I request unanimous  
consent to vote... [crosstalk]

SPEAKER QUINN: Can we get quiet?

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: to vote on all  
items in that my beloved team in my district,  
Toddville High School has to go beat Domenic's team  
in Lincoln right now, so he and I are taking leave,  
if we may.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: So  
ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: I vote aye.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Let's see  
who wins the race to get over there. Council Member  
Rodriguez, followed by Council Member Lappin.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I would like  
to vote aye on all General Order.



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2 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: So  
3 ordered.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

5 [background comment]

6 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Council  
7 Member Lappin.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: I'd like to  
9 request unanimous consent to vote aye on the Land Use  
10 Call-Ups and General Order Calendar.

11 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Yes.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: And vote in the  
13 affirmative. Thank you.

14 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Seeing no  
15 one else, we'll now move onto the Invocation.

16 [background comments] Hold on one second. Council  
17 Member King.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Yes, thank you  
19 Majority Leader, I just wanna say Happy Holidays to  
20 everyone, Season's Greetings, but I wanna give a  
21 recognition to special guests who are here today from  
22 the continent of Africa, international model who is  
23 here who's joining us, Miss Nicole Hodges, if she  
24 could stand, from Kenya who's joining us today to  
25 [clapping] give deliverance. And also, Marie Claire,

1  
2 who is an international opera star performer who's  
3 also joining us today. [background comment,  
4 applause] So we just wanna welcome you to the City  
5 Council to thank you.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: Let's move on with the  
7 Invocation please and then we will be swearing in our  
8 new council member following that, so folks could  
9 stay for that and then we will move on to two  
10 important moments of silence.

11 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Thank you  
12 very much Madame Speaker. At this point in time,  
13 let's all rise for the Invocation being delivered  
14 today by Rev. Dr. William L. Watkins, Jr.

15 REV. WATKINS: Oh god, our help in ages  
16 past, our hope for years to come. First let me say  
17 thank you lord on behalf of all who are gathered here  
18 today. Thank you for your many and abundant  
19 blessings. Thank you for life itself, for the  
20 measure of health we need to fulfill our calling, for  
21 sustenance and for friendship. Thank you for the  
22 ability to be involved in youthful work and for the  
23 honor of bearing appropriate responsibilities.  
24 Thanks as well for the freedom to embrace you or the  
25 freedom to reject you. Thank you for loving us even

1  
2 so, on your boundless, glorious and gracious nature.  
3 In the scriptures you have said that citizens ought  
4 to obey the governing authorities, since you have  
5 established those very authorities to promote peace  
6 and order and justice, therefore I pray for our  
7 mayor, for the various levels of the city officials  
8 and in particular, for this assembled New York City  
9 Council. I'm asking that you grant them wisdom to  
10 govern amid the conflicting interests and issues of  
11 our times, a sense of the welfare and true needs of  
12 our people, a keen interest for justice and  
13 righteousness, for confidence in what is good,  
14 fitting and well-pleasing in your sight, the ability  
15 to work together in harmony even when there is honest  
16 disagreement, personal peace in our lives and joy in  
17 the past. I'll pray for the agenda set before the  
18 City Council today; please give an assurance of what  
19 would please you and would benefit those who live and  
20 work in and around our great city, this lord we pray  
21 in your precious name. Amen.

22 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Thank you  
23 very much. Council Member Dickens.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you  
25 Majority Leader and I wanna thank Dr. Watkins for

1  
2 coming and early and staying, hurrying up and waiting  
3 to provide the people's house with prayer that is  
4 much needed as we bid adieu to many of our members and  
5 we welcome new ones coming in. Motion to spread the  
6 Invocation in full upon the Record.

7 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: So  
8 ordered. Council Member Lappin. [crosstalk]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Thank you. I  
11 need to correct my vote on 1188-A; I abstain.

12 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Thank you  
13 very much Council Member.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Next we're going to move  
15 on to communications from city, county and borough  
16 offices and then go back to do the moments of silence  
17 after that.

18 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Adoption  
19 of the Minutes, Council Member Lander.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I move that the  
21 Minutes of the Stated Meeting of November 14, 2013 be  
22 adopted as printed.

23 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: So  
24 ordered. Messages and Papers from the Mayor.

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STATED MEETING

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CITY CLERK: M 1338 -- The Mayor's veto of Introductory Number 951-A.

SPEAKER QUINN: Government Operations.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA:

Communication from City, County and Borough offices.

CITY CLERK: M 1339 -- Election of Vanessa L. Gibson, Council Member 16th District.

SPEAKER QUINN: And if I could now ask Majority Leader Joel Rivera, Deputy Majority Leader Leroy Comrie, the Chair of the Bronx delegation, Annabel Palma and Minority Leader Jimmy Oddo to escort in our newest Council Member, Vanessa L. Gibson; I wanna recognize Vanessa's mother who is with us as well as Aurelia Greene, the Deputy Borough President of the great Borough of the Bronx and we will have our swearing in.

[applause, cheers]

CITY CLERK: Okay, if you would please hold up your right hand and hand on bible and repeat after me. I Vanessa L. Gibson...

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I Vanessa L. Gibson...

CITY CLERK: do solemnly swear...

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STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: do solemnly swear...

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

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America...

CITY CLERK: and I will support the Constitution of the State of New York...

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: and I will support the Constitution of the State of New York...

CITY CLERK: and the Charter of the City of New York.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: and the Charter of the City of New York...

CITY CLERK: and that I will faithfully discharge...

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: and that I will faithfully discharge...

CITY CLERK: the duties of the Office of...

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: the duties of the Office of...

CITY CLERK: Council Member...

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Council Member...

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CITY CLERK: 16th District...

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: 16th District...

CITY CLERK: Borough of the Bronx...

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Borough of the  
Bronx...

[laughter, cheers]

CITY CLERK: in the City of New York...

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: in the City of  
New York...

CITY CLERK: according to the best of my  
ability...

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: according to the  
best of my ability...

CITY CLERK: so help me god.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: so help me god.

[applause, cheers]

CITY CLERK: Council Member,  
congratulations.

[applause, background comments]

SPEAKER QUINN: And Council Member, would  
you like to say a few words?

[background comments]

SPEAKER QUINN: When she's finished  
huggin' and kissin'. I would say one thing she could

1  
2 add to her swearing in is, she won't miss those rides  
3 on the throughway. [laughter] So, Councilman.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you. Good  
5 afternoon ladies and gentlemen; it is such a  
6 pleasure; it is an honor to be here and I am so  
7 excited, I thank you so much, this is an incredible  
8 journey for me to be install in the New York City  
9 Council, an incredible body of public officials that  
10 represent the city of New York; I thank you so much;  
11 all of you who I know personally, thank you so much  
12 for helping me to get to this wonderful body. I  
13 wanna thank our amazing speaker and all of my  
14 colleagues who are here, our minority leader, our  
15 majority leader and I certainly want to thank my  
16 family; without them I would not be here. [applause]  
17 And for all of you wondering who the beautiful twin  
18 is -- I always say she looks like me; she is my  
19 mother and I'm thankful for her [cheers, applause]  
20 and my aunt and my uncle are here and an amazing  
21 woman, for those of you that know my story, you know  
22 that I came from Albany and I served for four years  
23 in the State Assembly and if not for this woman  
24 guiding me and opening an door of opportunity for me,  
25 I would not be here and I always call her my second



1  
2 mother; she's someone who I look up to, she continues  
3 to guide me every day and I'm so thankful that once  
4 again she's always here by my side; she is the  
5 amazing Deputy Borough President, the Honorable  
6 Aurelia Greene. [cheers, applause] Thank you.  
7 [laugh] And so again, I'm just really excited; this  
8 is an opportunity for me to open a new chapter of  
9 public service in my career; I'm definitely looking  
10 forward to working with all of you to move this city  
11 forward; to be the continued advocates that we need  
12 to be on behalf of the people of the great city of  
13 New York. So I'm looking forward to it; thank you so  
14 much. Happy Holidays everyone and god bless you all.  
15 Thank you.

16 [applause, cheers]

17 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. And as folks  
18 make their way back seats, if I could ask everyone to  
19 please rise for a moment.

20 MALE VOICE: All rise.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: We have two moments of  
22 silence today; the first is to note that on November  
23 30th, 2013 an on-duty NYPD traffic agent, Kalyanarat  
24 Ranasinghe, 71, was killed when he was accidentally  
25 run over by a truck pulling out of a parking space in

1  
2 Midtown Manhattan; he was a telecommunications  
3 engineer in his native Sri Lanka before moving to the  
4 United States with his wife and daughter in 2001.  
5 His main purpose in moving to the United States was  
6 to help his daughter with her education; he joined  
7 the NYPD in 2006, Commissioner Ray Kelly, in  
8 eulogizing him said that "His peaceful temperament  
9 helped him to succeed in a challenging job that can  
10 be difficult and he had the stamina of traffic  
11 enforcement agents half his age." He is survived by  
12 his wife and their daughter.

13           We also today of course are rising in a  
14 moment of silence and I wanna thank Council Member  
15 Jackson for bringing us the poster of Nelson Mandela  
16 today, but we stand as the world is still mourning as  
17 we say goodbye to one of the world's greatest men,  
18 greatest leaders and a great champion against the  
19 forces of oppression. In a country ravaged by  
20 racism, poverty and inequality, Nelson Mandela faced  
21 seemingly insurmountable odds, yet he never relented  
22 in his fight for his people. Throughout his 27 years  
23 unjustly imprisoned he stayed committed to his dream  
24 of a democratic and free society, famously saying,  
25 "It's an ideal which I hope to live for and to

1  
2 achieve, but if need be, it's an ideal for which I am  
3 prepared to die." When he walked out of prison a  
4 free man, his work and his revolution continued and  
5 he lived to see the end of apartheid and to lead  
6 South Africa as its first black president. He will  
7 forever be remembered for all of that work, but will  
8 also be remembered not just as a leader of the  
9 antiapartheid struggle, but of a global champion on  
10 issues from HIV and AIDS to equality, to appropriate  
11 rural development; to education for all. And I am  
12 sure there are council members who would like to say  
13 a few words, so I will open up the floor before we  
14 stand in moments of silence. Council Member Jackson.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you  
16 Speaker and clearly the world is mourning the death  
17 of our world leader and it's clear that our President  
18 Barak Obama, who spoke today on behalf of all  
19 Americans, joined by former Presidents Bush, Clinton  
20 and Carter, to say that we appreciate everything that  
21 he has done as the leader of South Africa and the  
22 words that we chose, and I say we; my staff and I  
23 discussed it, and it speaks for itself... move over  
24 just a little bit, brother... it says, "Education is  
25 the most powerful weapon which you can use to change

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2 the world." And knowing my involvement in education  
3 and where I've come from and where I am now, those  
4 words are very, very powerful. So with all due  
5 respect, we honor and appreciate this world leader  
6 that I call the lion, and that lion is at world peace  
7 today. Thank you Madame Speaker.

8 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. Council  
9 Member King.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: All I ask of us is  
11 that as we stand that this man is a giant and he  
12 deserves a standing ovation [clapping] for all that  
13 he's... [applause] I'm asking us all to give him a  
14 round of applause for what he's meant for many of us.  
15 God rest his soul.

16 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Council  
17 Member Williams, followed by Council Member Barron.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you. One  
19 of my... some of my first involvements in political  
20 activism had to do with the antiapartheid movement; I  
21 stopped drinking Coca Cola, 'cause I knew they were  
22 investing in; I didn't realize they also owned M&M's,  
23 but I did the best that I could; I remember my mother  
24 breaking me past the barriers in Yankee Stadium so we  
25 can hear him speak. No words can really mention what

1  
2 he's meant to South Africa and meant to the world.  
3 Couple things I want to mention is that we make sure  
4 we take away the lesson of forgiveness; I can't  
5 imagine what would have happened to him personally  
6 and what would've happened to that country had he not  
7 had the god-filled power and ability to forgive when  
8 anyone could not have asked for and should've asked  
9 for forgiveness; second, I wanna make sure we don't  
10 forget that while there's many praises being sung  
11 now; until 2008 he was listed as a terrorist and I  
12 wanna mention that and keep saying that, because a  
13 lot of times we don't forget that people don't want  
14 you to descant, whether they classify it as peaceful  
15 or classify it as non-peaceful, descant is the issue  
16 and one of the things that I've learned is that you  
17 have to keep descanting and one of the things... one of  
18 the sayings that meant the most to me from him was,  
19 getting people out of poverty is not an act of  
20 charity, it is an act of justice, and I find it funny  
21 that a lot of the people who are praising him, which  
22 we should, are some of the people that I hear not  
23 taking that to heed and I'm wondering how long before  
24 we go back to business as usual and some of us are,  
25 but I hope that at least we'll do a little bit better

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2 to really eradicate this thing called poverty if  
3 Mandela is somebody that we really, really laud and  
4 really want to take homage with. Thank you.

5 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Thank you  
6 very much Council Member. Council Member Barron.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Nelson Mandela  
8 indeed is an iconic figure, incredible humility; I  
9 know I would not have come out of prison after 27  
10 years with a smile on my face, [background comments]  
11 but he did; he had a smile that was so sparkling  
12 bright it could light up the universe. But there are  
13 people right in this country that helped him get  
14 captured, some of the very people that are praising  
15 him now when he was a gorilla in gorilla warfare,  
16 called him terrorist after he tried so many peaceful  
17 ways to get liberation. So Nelson Mandela, we will  
18 always remember his spirit; I remember the Free South  
19 Africa movement that took hold in this nation and one  
20 of the first people to get arrested, and I organized  
21 it here in New York, was Mayor David Dinkins, Rev.  
22 Herbert Daughtry, Judge William Booth and Harriet  
23 Michel, right at the South African Consulate; this is  
24 a time when Ronald Reagan was calling for  
25 constructive engagement with the evil system of

1  
2 apartheid. So as we remember his journey, and just  
3 like Martin Luther King, who couldn't find a church  
4 to speak in in New York City when he went against the  
5 war; he had to go to a church outside of our  
6 community, is because after death people find  
7 fondness, but when we're alive and fighting as  
8 revolutionaries and fighting for the right causes,  
9 we're vilified. So Nelson my brother, rest in peace  
10 for a job well done.

11 [applause]

12 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Thank you  
13 very much, Charles. Council Member Rodriguez,  
14 followed by Council Member Vann.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I'd like to  
16 acknowledge Nelson Mandela if we don't act, if we  
17 have two cities, one that provides opportunity to  
18 working class and the rest without opportunity for  
19 children to get quality education; affordable  
20 housing, then we are not celebrating Nelson Mandela.  
21 And I believe that what the city has been saying,  
22 especially in this past election, is that we want to  
23 move forward as one city. So I hope that we get to  
24 the mountain of Martin Luther King, the one that he  
25 promised that we should be, and the best way to

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2 remember Nelson Mandela to say, there's still a lot  
3 of work that we've gotta do. We have to make every  
4 corner for our city a corner of opportunity; no one  
5 should be left behind. If we want to remember Nelson  
6 Mandela, let's be sure that anyone, regardless of our  
7 color of our skin and the socioeconomic background,  
8 has the same opportunity. So let's celebrate Nelson  
9 Mandela with our actions. Thank you.

10 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Thank you  
11 very much. Next we have Council Member Vann,  
12 followed by Council Dilan.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [background  
14 comment] I believe that Madiba, President Nelson  
15 Mandela, is... was the greatest humanitarian of modern  
16 times, if you will. I believe that he would be among  
17 the greatest humanitarians through all times. I have  
18 been blessed... had the opportunity to be in the  
19 presence of greatness on a couple of occasions; when  
20 he first landed in New York City after getting out of  
21 prison and he landed in New York City, I was one of  
22 those at the airport; had an opportunity to meet him  
23 and he made his first stop in New York City at Boys  
24 and Girls High School in my district in Bed-Stuy in  
25 Brooklyn, and just to be in his presence, it's awe



1  
2 inspiring, as you could well imagine. I was  
3 fortunate again, Speaker; I happened to chair the  
4 Black and Puerto Rican Caucus at that time, and when  
5 Mayor Dinkins brought him to City Council, I was  
6 there to represent them and I had the opportunity to  
7 be the first person in New York City to give him a  
8 check for ANC, [background comment] alright, it  
9 wasn't a very big check, but it was the first check  
10 and I'll tell you why in a minute that's significant.  
11 I had an opportunity when traveling with Mayor  
12 Dinkins in South Africa to meet with ANC and begin to  
13 prepare them for governance and at his house he had a  
14 reception for us, we met with him and when I came  
15 through I had a present for him of pictures that had  
16 been taken, and he looked at me; he says, "I remember  
17 you." Nelson Mandela remembered me [laughter] can  
18 you imagine what that did for me, how I felt and I'm  
19 still on that high? [background comments, laughter]  
20 And when I returned home and my first day in the  
21 assembly, you may remember and I'll repeat it here --  
22 this is the hand that shook the hand [laughter] of  
23 Nelson Mandela [applause] and these are the lips that  
24 kissed the hand of Winnie Mandela. [background  
25

1  
2 comments] Rest in peace Mandela, job well done.

3 [background comments, applause]

4 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Council  
5 Member Dilan, followed by Council Member Mealy,  
6 followed by Council Member Eugene.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Thank you Mr.  
8 Majority Leader. There's very few times in a  
9 person's life where they remember where they are when  
10 a significant event happened. As I was growing up as  
11 a child my parents often told me where they were when  
12 Kennedy was killed, and Nelson Mandela was one of  
13 those folks that I can identify with in my life; I  
14 remember exactly where I was when he was freed from  
15 prison, I remember exactly where I was when he became  
16 president of South Africa and I remember exactly  
17 where I was when he passed away, and those memories  
18 will always be with me. To Madiba I wanna say to  
19 you, thank you for the person that you were and the  
20 manner in which you did it, because after 27 years in  
21 prison you certainly have the right to feel like you  
22 can win your struggle using violence and the fact  
23 that you did it in a non-violent manner, you gave the  
24 gift of life to so many people who are still walking  
25 on this earth because you chose a path of peace and

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2 that is a very difficult sacrifice to make in  
3 politics, especially on the global scale. I know  
4 many of us here who serve in the City Council feel  
5 like we sacrifice a lot of our times and a lot of  
6 ourselves from our families, Madiba, you made the  
7 ultimate sacrifice from the family perspective for  
8 the advance of your people and I'd like to publicly  
9 thank you for all the contributions you gave to this  
10 entire world. Thank you.

11 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Thank you.  
12 Council Member Mealy, followed by Council Member  
13 Eugene.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I just wanna say,  
15 we have lost an icon and for someone who'd been in  
16 the jail cell where Nelson Mandela stayed 27 years,  
17 how small it was, to see all those men, two toilets  
18 and two showers for about 250 men, I don't know if  
19 half of us could even go through that, and just to  
20 know that to walk in the places where he thought that  
21 was a garden... he probably thought it was Central  
22 Park, that little piece of garden they had, 'cause he  
23 was in solitary. Just going to South Africa and  
24 seeing it and experiencing where all this has  
25 happened, and I've got a little excerpt of his speech

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2 when he became president. "We understand it still  
3 that there is no easy road to freedom. We know it  
4 well that none of us acting alone can achieve  
5 success. We must therefore act together as a united  
6 people, for national reconciliation, for the nation  
7 building, for the birth of a new world. Let there be  
8 justice for all. Let there be peace for all. Let  
9 there be work, bread, water and salt for all. Let  
10 each know that for each the body, the mind and the  
11 soul have been freed to fulfill themselves. Never,  
12 never and never again shall it be that this beautiful  
13 land will again experience the oppression of one by  
14 another and suffer the indignity of being the skunk  
15 of the world. Let freedom reign. The sun shall  
16 never set on so glorious a human achievement." And  
17 that is what Nelson Mandela was all about; imagine 27  
18 years. And I concur with my colleague, let one of us  
19 go in jail for one year and come out saying kumbaya.  
20 So he has shown us what true love is all about, to be  
21 a nation building. Thank you, Madame Speaker.

22 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Next we  
23 have Council Member Eugene.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you very  
25 much, Majority Leader. I was not planning to speak,

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2 but I feel compelled to do it, because as somebody  
3 who was born and raised in Haiti, and I believe that  
4 the history of Haiti is similar to the history of  
5 South Africa in that Nelson Mandela remind me of my  
6 ancestors [speaking foreign language], who fought to  
7 liberate the slaves and to abolish slavery in Haiti  
8 where the right and dignity of people were not  
9 respected. Like Nelson Mandela, Toussaint  
10 L'Ouverture, the fighter of Haitian nation, was  
11 arrested also, but he died in France because he was  
12 fighting for justice for human dignity. But Nelson  
13 Mandela didn't die, but he continued to fight after  
14 26 years in jail, but he was fighting for human  
15 dignity not only for South Africa, for human respect,  
16 but he's an inspiration; he should be an inspiration  
17 for all of us. I hope that when we will leave this  
18 place we will take the commitment to continue to  
19 fight for those who are undermined, those who are not  
20 respected and we will continue to think about Nelson  
21 Mandela and remember that all men are created equal  
22 and are entitled to respect and dignity. May soul  
23 rest in peace. Thank you.

24 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. [pause]

25 Thank you Mr. Majority Leader.

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STATED MEETING

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Thank you very much Madame Speaker. We now mo... before we move on with the agenda, let me introduce the incoming council members from the next session who are here with us in the audience; [background comments] we have Steve Matteo, who is here with us...

SPEAKER QUINN: Shh.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: we have Alan Maisel, who is here with us as well; I saw them earlier in the audience; we have Ritchie Torres, who is my replacement in the City Council, with us, I saw him earlier, and while we may all look up to Al Vann, because he's been a legend in the Council in his entire career, for the first time I've seen Al Vann look up to somebody else, [laughter] it was Robert Cornegy here with us when they were taking a picture. So welcome to City Hall.

Next we move on to Petitions and Communications.

CITY CLERK: M 1340 to M 1351, Base Station Licenses.

SPEAKER QUINN: Transportation.

CITY CLERK: There are no Petitions or Communications.

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STATED MEETING

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Land Use  
Call-Ups.

CITY CLERK: M 1352 and 1353.

SPEAKER QUINN: If we could Couple those,  
please and have a Roll Call on the Coupled Land Use  
Call-Ups.

[background comments]

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: So  
ordered.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Comrie.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dickens.

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STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

[background comment]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dilan.

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dromm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: May I have  
permission to vote on all Land Use Items and General  
Orders?

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ferreras. [background  
comment] Fidler.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gennaro.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gibson.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gonzalez. [background  
comment] Greenfield.



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STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [background  
comments]

SPEAKER QUINN: Shh.

[background comments]

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you  
Madame Speaker. I vote aye and I request unanimous  
consent to vote on all items on today's calendar and  
agenda.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: So  
ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I vote aye.  
Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Halloran.

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Ask unanimous  
consent to vote on all calendared items. Aye on all.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Jackson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: King.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koppell.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

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STATED MEETING

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander.  
COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin.  
COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy.  
COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Palma.  
COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Yes.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Reyna.  
COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards.  
COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.  
COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich.  
COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Yes.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Vacca.  
COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone.  
COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Vann.  
COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams.  
COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

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STATED MEETING

COMMITTEE CLERK: Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Oddo. Rivera.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: I vote  
aye, but I'd also like to mention that my predecessor  
is here as well, who also happens to be my father,  
he's right there in the back videotaping the whole  
entire... [applause, background comments] today's  
events. I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Oddo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: May I have the  
unanimous consent to vote aye on all, including all  
Coupled General Orders, Calendar and Land Use Call-  
Ups?

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Should I  
say no or should I say yes?

[laughter, background comments]

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Unless you tell me...  
I'll vote... [interpose]

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Go right  
ahead. [laughing]

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: I'll vote however  
3 you want, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

4 [background comments]

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vacca.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I ask permission  
7 to vote aye on all Call-Ups and Intros and  
8 Resolutions.

9 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: So  
10 ordered.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Thank you.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

13 SPEAKER QUINN: Aye on all.

14 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Today's  
15 Land Use Call-Ups were adopted by a vote of 49 in the  
16 affirmative, with 0 in the negative. We now move on  
17 to Communication from the Speaker.

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. We have a lot  
19 of legislation we're voting on today -- Intro 1009-A  
20 requires an annual report on preferred source  
21 contract awards. I wanna thank the sponsor, Council  
22 Member Koppell and the Chair of the Committee,  
23 Council Member Mealy. I wanna thank Shannon Mangogut  
24 [phonetic] and Alex Pustilnik for their work on this  
25 [background comments] legislation.

1  
2 Also, out of the education Committee we  
3 have two pieces of legislation, one of which is  
4 Council Member King's first piece of legislation, so  
5 that's exciting... [applause, cheers] the first bill is  
6 Intro 0925-A, sponsored by the Chair of the  
7 Committee, Chair Jackson, which requires the  
8 Department of Education to provide data regarding the  
9 provision of arts instructional requirements specific  
10 by different arts designations and Council Member  
11 King's bill, which requires the DOE to distribute  
12 information on college saving plans to all new  
13 students, even those entering kindergarten, which is  
14 terrific. Let me call on the Chair to speak on both  
15 bills and then Council Member King to speak on his  
16 bill. [background comments] If we could get a  
17 little quiet.

18 [background comments]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you Madame  
20 Speaker. As I said to Andy King, I thank him and his  
21 staff for pushing forward this particular bill in  
22 order to give parents and guardians the opportunity  
23 to put money aside for their children so that  
24 hopefully all of them will have the opportunity for  
25 higher education. I indicated to him and earlier to

1  
2 the Speaker that as someone that has raised three  
3 beautiful girls, my wife and myself, I've had the  
4 opportunity, the fortunate opportunity to put away  
5 money for our two grandchildren that are now 4 years  
6 old and 1, and so this is very, very important for  
7 the future of our children and Andy, I thank you for  
8 pursuing this on behalf of all of the people of our  
9 great city. [background comments]

10                   And the second bills is an arts  
11 legislation that would [background comments] mandate  
12 the Department of Education to give us statistical  
13 information as to whether or not the minimum  
14 requirements in arts are being mandated to in New  
15 York City at all levels, and years ago; not too many  
16 years ago, but approximately five years ago there  
17 used to be specific money targeted for the arts and  
18 then it was put in the general fund of a school with  
19 no guarantee that the money will be spent for art  
20 education. But now we have the opportunity next  
21 year, in order to show statistically whether or not  
22 requirements are being met and so that as members of  
23 this body, the City Council, we could make sure that  
24 appropriate dollars are spent for education through  
25 the arts and I thank Ed and all of the people with

1  
2 the Center for Arts Education and Doug Israel for  
3 helping as advocates to move this forward to where we  
4 are today and I indicated to him this afternoon that  
5 the obligation for all of us is to make sure that  
6 whoever the next chancellor is, that they know that  
7 this is a law that was passed and we are going to  
8 expect that they give us the information that we need  
9 so we can monitor and push forward anything necessary  
10 to make it happen. Thank you very much for all  
11 involved, including all of the staff of the central  
12 staff and the Education Committee. Thank you, Madame  
13 Speaker.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much. And  
15 we're passing a number of pieces of legislation out  
16 of the Fire and Criminal Justice Committee and I  
17 wanna thank Chair Crowley, who shepherded all of the  
18 legislation and is sponsor of two of the pieces of  
19 legislation; I wanna thank [coughing] Rob Calandra  
20 and Will Hungetsch [phonetic] for their work on the  
21 legislation. The first piece of legislation is  
22 sponsored by Council Member Fidler and let me come  
23 back to that at the end.

24 Intro 0803-A, sponsored by the Chair,  
25 requires the Department of Corrections to make its

1  
2 electronic database of people buried at Hart Island,  
3 which is commonly known as Potter's Field, since 1977  
4 available on its website. [background comments] If  
5 we could get a little quiet.

6           Also, Intro 0804-A [background comments]  
7 will require the Department of Corrections to put its  
8 Hart Island visitation policy in writing, posted on  
9 its website and make it available to anyone who  
10 requests a copy.

11           The third piece of legislation, Intro  
12 0143-A, as I mentioned, sponsored by Council Member  
13 Fidler, is a piece of legislation that we have named  
14 the Ariel Russo Reporting Timing legislation. This  
15 piece of legislation will require that the City keeps  
16 track of the timing of emergency responses from the  
17 time the 9-1-1 call is placed. I think we all  
18 remember in the tragic accident that killed Ariel  
19 Russo; it was in fact not four minutes, but eight  
20 minutes from when the call was placed before  
21 emergency responders got to the scene; this piece of  
22 legislation can of course not bring Ariel back, but  
23 it will make sure that her tragic death was no in  
24 vain and that we're doing something to make sure that  
25 we respond more quickly, have accurate information to



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analyze our emergency responses and give every  
accident victim the best chance possible at survival.  
Let me call on the sponsor of the bill, Council  
Member Fidler and then Chair Crowley to speak on all  
three bills. And if we could get a little quiet for  
Council Member Fidler and Chair Crowley. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Thank you Madame  
Speak and I'll try and be brief; I certainly wanna  
thank you and [background comments] Chairwoman  
Crowley.. [interpose]

SPEAKER QUINN: Ple.. I am very sorry; we  
didn't go... [background comment] before we... we didn't  
call on Council Member King on your legislation; I'm  
sorry, we moved ahead; I'm sorry. Sorry, Lew.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Should we wait  
for Council... [interpose]

SPEAKER QUINN: Yeah, let's do that and  
then we'll come back around. I'm sorry. Council  
Member King. [crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: When I fir...

SPEAKER QUINN: Your first bill, you  
were... you know, we all got so excited we forgot to  
have you speak... [crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Well... [laughter]

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SPEAKER QUINN: I apologize.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Well I thank you,  
it's always... [crosstalk]

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SPEAKER QUINN: The perfect Christmas  
bowtie distracted us, so I apologize.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Thank you Madame  
Speaker and I really appreciate your leadership in  
the Council and it's been a real delight and joy over  
this first year, but I'm glad that I finally got this  
first one under my belt; I feel like the... [background  
comments] the next child that's in the candy store  
who got his first piece and now I'm gonna look  
forward to move more legislation. But I wanna thank  
Aysha Schomburg, who was very instrumental in the  
Education Committee, along with... thank you for this  
gift... I will treasure it all my life. [background  
comment] Also I wanna thank Eric Henry from my staff  
who... my legislative person who helped make this piece  
of legislation real for me as we discussed it in the  
office. I wanna thank [background comments] the  
Committee Chair, Robert Jackson for allowing me to  
knock on his door, track him down in the parking lot,  
you know and just [laughter] call him every time I  
could to make sure this piece of legislation gets

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1  
2 heard. But I think it's just so important -- before  
3 I came to the Council I was so focused on helping  
4 children understand the importance of education and  
5 learning, but also understanding that in order to  
6 obtain those goals and being productive adults it  
7 requires funding and we know right now, the latest  
8 statistics tell us that student loan debt is up to \$1  
9 trillion and we know that we need our young people to  
10 be informed and educated; they need to take a vested  
11 interest and it starts in the early years of being  
12 motivated, the importance of education. So I'm  
13 really grateful today that we'll be able to pass  
14 1091; I thank my colleagues for allowing me to share  
15 in this time in this moment; this, you know, is the  
16 first of everything that you jump up and down and do  
17 a back flip, so again, I appreciate everybody who  
18 helped me today and I'm just so excited; I am gonna  
19 do a back flip... there it goes. Alright, god bless.  
20 [applause, background comments]

21 SPEAKER QUINN: Got me a little nervous  
22 there for a second. I just... before we call on  
23 Council Member Fidler, I wanna share some happy news,  
24 which is that Counsel to the Health Committee, Dan  
25 Heifetz, just had a beautiful baby, Vivien Steel

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Heifetz, so if we could send our thoughts [applause, background comments] and prayers to... to Dan and to Vivien and I apologize, Council Member Fidler.  
[background comments]

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Quite alright; if Council Member King is excited now, wait till he gets one of those cheap Mike Bloomberg bill-signing pens, uhm... [laughter] [interpose]

SPEAKER QUINN: Don't ruin the moment, Lew.

[background comments]

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: not terribly useful for writing, but very, very nice to display on your wall. In any event, I'll try and be quick. I wanna thank the Speaker and Chairwoman Crowley for their help in passing this bill, as well as the Fire and Criminal Justice Committee staff; my Counsel Brad Reid, but most of all, to the parents of Ariel Russo, who have steadfastly looked to try and find some meaning in what would otherwise be the most meaningless and cruel thing that can happen to a parent and that's the loss of their child. This bill obviously makes a tremendous amount of sense; if you have information you should use it, particularly as

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2 we are shifting over to a new 9-1-1 system, we should  
3 know exactly what's working and what is not, we  
4 should know really the true measure of the job that  
5 we're doing and we should know if something is wrong,  
6 how we can fix it. That's what this bill does; I  
7 look forward to its passage today, I look forward to  
8 getting my cheap... my Bloomberg pen shortly when he  
9 signs it into law. Before I turn the microphone  
10 back, I just want to acknowledge the presence of Luke  
11 Sanpry [phonetic], a member of my staff and intern,  
12 Valeria [phonetic] Rushinsky [phonetic], who are here  
13 for their first council meeting, so. [background  
14 comments, applause]

15 SPEAKER QUINN: Chair Crowley.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Thank you Madame  
17 Speaker. I wanna thank Committee staff for their  
18 help in bringing these bills up today for a vote. I  
19 wanna thank Rob Calandra and Will Hungetsch; I wanna  
20 thank Lew Fidler for his introduction of 0143-A,  
21 which will be known as the Ariel Russo Bill and my  
22 heart goes out to the family of Ariel Russo, who was  
23 here at the Council earlier today. This bill will  
24 make sure that when somebody calls for emergency  
25 help, from the second that call is placed to the

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2 moment help arrives, we know exactly how long it  
3 takes for both fire and medical emergencies; it's a  
4 step in the right direction in fixing a system that  
5 has been recently plagued with consistent problems.

6           The other two bills that are coming out  
7 of the Fire and Criminal Justice Committee  
8 [background comments] have to do with Hart Island,  
9 which is the City's Potter's Field. Many people  
10 don't know the history of Hart Island, but nearly one  
11 million people have been buried on the island and for  
12 years it's been difficult to find out exactly who is  
13 buried there and if you did have somebody you were  
14 interested in visiting the grave, it was very  
15 difficult to get there. Now these two laws will make  
16 sure that the City posts a visitation policy and that  
17 the history of somebody buried on the island is put  
18 in a database and made public online.

19           And Majority Leader, I'd like to also  
20 request consent to vote yes on all Calendar Items.

21           PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: So  
22 ordered.

23           COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Thank you. I  
24 vote aye.

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2           SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. We are also  
3 voting on two pieces of legislation today that deal  
4 with electronic cars; one dealing with a requirement  
5 around a certain percentage of electrical... of parking  
6 garages and open parking lots having electric vehicle  
7 charging stations, which was introduced and sponsored  
8 by Chair Dilan and a second creating an Electric Car  
9 Advisory Board, sponsored by Council Member Gale  
10 Brewer. Let me call on Chair Dilan and then Council  
11 Member Brewer.

12           COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Thank you Madame  
13 Speaker and I'm proud that the City is taking this  
14 small but important first step to allow for  
15 [background comments] the infrastructure for electric  
16 vehicles and I say... [interpose]

17           SPEAKER QUINN: Could we get a little  
18 quiet for Council Member Dilan? Thank you.

19           COUNCIL MEMBER: and I say a small step,  
20 because [background comments] in reality the  
21 infrastructure to support these vehicles does not yet  
22 exist in this city and the information that we got  
23 about the capacity of what electric vehicles can do  
24 for our city, for our environment and frankly, for  
25 our wallets, because we won't be paying upwards of \$4

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2 for gasoline anymore if we find a way to, as a city,  
3 amend our building codes and other codes to allow for  
4 this new type of technology to expand itself in a  
5 major and impactful way. As it stands right now, the  
6 capacity only allows for about an eight-hour  
7 timeframe to allow for some of the electric vehicles  
8 that are out on the market to charge and if you  
9 imagine taking your car to the gas station and it  
10 takes you eight hours to fill up your tank of gas so  
11 that you could move on, it's not exactly practical.  
12 But the way these cars perform on a per-mileage basis  
13 is excellent and great and the impact that it has on  
14 our environment is great. Where we fall being and  
15 what's hurting, I believe the market for these  
16 vehicles in a broad structure is the lack of  
17 refueling or recharging infrastructure, so I'm glad  
18 that the City is taking this first step, but for the  
19 members who are returning or if any of my colleagues  
20 are joining government in any way, shape or fashion,  
21 I think this is a worthwhile cause to focus your time  
22 and energy on, because the impact that it will have  
23 on our country and city and state will be profound,  
24 so I'm glad to be voting on these two items today and  
25 I think you, Madame Speaker.



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SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you Chair Dilan.

And just before I call on Council Member Brewer, I  
wanna thank Ed Atkin, Jeff Baker, Baba [phonetic] Hom  
[phonetic] and Laura Popa [phonetic] for their work  
on the electric car legislation.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you Madame  
Speaker. I certainly wanna thank Chair Vacca,  
Counsel Lyle Frank and Will Colegrove from my office.  
Use of electric cars first came to our attention when  
we were visiting Israel and we had the opportunity to  
visit factories there and look at some of their very  
interesting pilot programs. So I think as Chair  
Dilan indicated, the market for electric vehicle  
charging is now immense and it goes much further than  
what we think of today; we can transition personal  
vehicles, ambulances, delivery trucks and more off of  
fossil fuels if we can make a sincere effort to  
improve electrical charging infrastructure in our  
city. It's not just an environmental issue; it's  
also a quality of life issue. We receive tons of  
complaints every day from constituents who live or  
work next to a food vendor or an ambulance that's  
running the generator. So if we can plug vehicles  
into the electrical grid, we will greatly reduce

1  
2 noise and smell and carbon emissions and this is good  
3 for businesses, as they save money on fuel, and there  
4 are fewer complaints.

5           So we've met with several companies who  
6 have already developed the technology to move vendors  
7 and now trucks and even cars through electricity.  
8 However, the biggest stumbling block they face is the  
9 lack of a car permitting process from the City to  
10 expand this technology. I understand that there are  
11 potential issues involved with a large-scale  
12 implementation of curbside vehicle charges and  
13 recognizing this, as the Speaker indicated, we have  
14 suggested a task force today. Committee members  
15 would include the DOT commissioner, Environmental  
16 Protection commissioner, Buildings commissioner,  
17 Long-Term Planning, Electric Vehicle Industry rep,  
18 speaker rep, Borough President rep and other  
19 transportation and environmental advocates, so I  
20 guess I thank Israel for giving us this idea.

21           SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much. And  
22 we're also passing legislation today, putting into  
23 place the recommendations of the Lobbying Commission;  
24 I wanna thank David Seitzer, Jim Caras, Liz Fein,  
25 Alex Pustilnik and Rob Newman for their work on this

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2 legislation. I wanna thank former Council Member  
3 Herb Berman and the members of the Lobbying  
4 Commission for their work. This piece of  
5 legislation, which was sponsored by Council Member  
6 Brewer and shepherded through her Committee, will  
7 both strengthen the city's lobbying laws and add  
8 greater transparency and clarity to the laws and  
9 hopefully reduce duplicative paperwork for lobbyists  
10 and will hopefully further empower our great City  
11 Clerk, Mike McSweeney and his office and areas around  
12 lobbyist enforcement. And let me call on the Chair  
13 and the sponsor of the bill, Council Member Brewer.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you Madame  
15 Speaker. I too wanna thank Jim Caras and David  
16 Seitzer and Tim Matisoff [phonetic] and Will  
17 Colegrove from my office and I think as you  
18 indicated, the definition of lobbying will now  
19 include any attempt to influence the Council,  
20 including drafting, introduction, amendment, passage,  
21 or defeat of a bill, as well as the calendar and  
22 scope of oversight hearings; it covers attempts to  
23 influence or to oppose legislation and some  
24 exemptions were made for architects and engineers; we  
25 could be more specific later on. It's an excellent

1  
2 lobbying bill, certainly former Council Member Herbie  
3 Berman, head of the Lobbying Commission, shepherded  
4 all the discussions and did a wonderful job, as he  
5 always does. I wanna thank the City Clerk and also  
6 indicate that as part of the concept, the City Clerk  
7 will be able to hire somebody to do the very  
8 important education for those who would be coming  
9 under this bill and there would be the opportunity to  
10 have enough grace period so that you understand  
11 [background comments] before you get fined for any  
12 infraction. [background comments] So it's probably  
13 a unique and very important as part of the Speaker's  
14 legacy on transparency and good government. Thank  
15 you very much.

16 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. I also want  
17 to thank Chair Rivera in the Rules, Privileges and  
18 Elections Committee for a number of appointments  
19 today -- Josephine Bolus as a member of the Health  
20 and Hospitals Corporation re-appointing, Fred  
21 Cerullo, a member of the Council and extended family  
22 to the City Planning Commission and another member of  
23 the Council family, who I think is still here,  
24 [background comments] Chris Collins, our former  
25 Deputy Director and Counsel to Land Use Division who

1  
2 has been an outstanding member of the Board and  
3 Standards and Appeals [applause], so...

4 We also are passing [background comments]  
5 a legislation today, Intro 1188; I wanna thank Chair  
6 Mark-Viverito, co-naming 56 thoroughfares and public  
7 places; I wanna thank Chris Santori, Pang [phonetic]  
8 Trimal [phonetic], Mulva [phonetic] Hill, Jeff Baker  
9 and Baba Hom for their work on the legislation, and  
10 last but certainly not least, we are passing a number  
11 of significant Land Use Items today; I wanna thank  
12 Chair Comrie, Chair Weprin, Chair Levin, Chair Lander  
13 for their work, as well as Gail Benjamin and Ramon  
14 Martinez and I wanna call on Council Member Cabrera,  
15 because the Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment is being  
16 passed today, finally. Council Member Cabrera.

17 [cheers, applause]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you so  
19 much Madame Speaker and I want to... [interpose,  
20 background comment]

21 SPEAKER QUINN: A little quiet, please.  
22 [background comment]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you Madame  
24 Speaker; I wanna personally thank you for all the  
25 help that you provided yesterday; I wanna thank Ramon

1  
2 Martinez, who spent countless hours on the phone with  
3 me and I kept him late at night and woke him up early  
4 in the morning. I wanna give a special thanks to the  
5 Bronx delegation, but specifically to the three  
6 Council Members who are right here in this last row  
7 who provided advice, courage, mentorship and Council  
8 Member and my dean of the Bronx delegation, Annabel  
9 Palma, thank you for your leadership and bringing the  
10 Bronx delegation together. I wanna give a special  
11 thanks to my Chairmen, Carl Hasty and Patrick Jenkins  
12 and Bronx Borough President for all their work and  
13 leadership they have provided in the Bronx. Other  
14 Council Members [background comments] here, like  
15 Council Member Wills and Brewer from the other  
16 boroughs and everyone else who stood with me  
17 [background comments] along the side -- Margaret Chin  
18 -- and I could just go on and on with the type of  
19 support; I've been just totally encouraged with the  
20 type of support I have received here. Chairmen  
21 Weprin and Comrie and Gail Benjamin for all the  
22 information that I needed regarding the Land Use.  
23 But I wanna say that I'm very proud of this project;  
24 this is a project that is gonna bring forth the  
25 largest ice skating complex, not only in the United

1  
2 States, but in the world. We're gonna have an  
3 opportunity for young people, especially people of  
4 color, young people who before didn't have  
5 accessibility or availability to an ice skating rink;  
6 we're gonna have nine skating rinks; it's gonna be an  
7 incredible complex that is gonna provide tremendous  
8 services to the community, but 2500 young people are  
9 gonna be able to receive free services, 52,000 square  
10 feet worth of space for other non-profits to come in.  
11 I heard Council Member Barron earlier suggesting a  
12 hip-hop museum. I mean everybody's knocking in the  
13 doors and we have many groups that would like to come  
14 in and be part of this great project. I wanna thank  
15 the Mayor's office, Mayor Bloomberg, his staff,  
16 Deputy Mayor Wilson and Nina Lynch and all the staff  
17 who stood up with me last night and addressing, in  
18 particular, three issues that we were able to find  
19 good resolutions; we're talking about a traffic  
20 mitigation fund that's gonna have \$250,000; this is  
21 above what was decided and the CBA -- this is well  
22 above that, but it's gonna be administered by EDC and  
23 is gonna be able to help with traffic studies and be  
24 able to address some of the issues that we have  
25 regarding parking, the Kingsbridge Road Business

1  
2 Assistance Program, where \$150,000 were allocated as  
3 well to be able to help the local businesses and to  
4 have improvements take place in that community so it  
5 will feel like one whole business district moving  
6 together and it will have a tremendous matching  
7 appearance and atmosphere in the community. Also, to  
8 be able to have \$25,000 allocated to encourage those  
9 who are coming from out of the district to be able to  
10 use mass transit and finally, a program that's gonna  
11 be administered through the Bronx Museum of the Arts,  
12 where \$9,000 for five years, each year \$9,000; we're  
13 gonna have a contest for young people to do some art  
14 and to be debuted right there in the Kingsbridge  
15 Armory. I've very proud of all the work of all the  
16 people who have put forth a tremendous amount of  
17 energy and effort. And let me just say a special  
18 thanks to my Chief of Staff. Also my chief of staff  
19 was the chair of the community board many years ago,  
20 over four years ago, who has stood with me and has  
21 provided a tremendous amount of guidance and help.  
22 And thank you everyone, I really mean it from the  
23 bottom of my heart for all the work during this  
24 wonderful journey. Thank you so much, Madame  
25 Speaker.



1  
2 [applause]

3 SPEAKER QUINN: Tha... thank you... thank you  
4 and that concludes Communications from the Speaker.

5 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Thank you  
6 very much, Madame... [interpose]

7 SPEAKER QUINN: Oh I'm so sorry; that is  
8 totally wrong, completely wrong. Apparently here on  
9 this side of the room today I'm just not remember to  
10 call on you -- we are also passing today the second  
11 largest rezoning in the history of the Borough of  
12 Queens; it is in Council Member Wills' and Council  
13 Member Ulrich's district today and I wanna  
14 congratulate both of them and call on Council Member  
15 Ulrich, who was very -- I mean this as a compliment  
16 -- persistent in getting this rezoning passed  
17 quickly; it's an important rezoning to Ozone Park to  
18 both Council Member Ulrich and Wills to make sure we  
19 protect the residential nature, allow appropriate  
20 development near mass transit and make sure the  
21 commercial area doesn't further encroach on the  
22 important residential community of Ozone Park. Let  
23 me call on Council Member Ulrich and if Council  
24 Member Wills has anything to add. Thank you, Eric.

25

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Thank you,  
3 Speaker Quinn and I promise to be brief. I am  
4 someone who was born and raised in Ozone Park, very  
5 proud to come from that neighborhood, I speak of it  
6 fondly; my district office is there on 101st Avenue.  
7 But Ozone Park has changed a great deal since the  
8 last rezoning was initiated in 1961, like so many  
9 other neighborhoods throughout the city, rapid  
10 growth, demographic changes, the needs; the demands  
11 have changed significantly over the years and now we  
12 were confronted with an opportunity really to protect  
13 the character, the residential one- and two-family  
14 character of the community, but also explore  
15 opportunities to strengthen economic development  
16 along the commercial corridors on 101st Avenue, on  
17 Rockaway Boulevard, on Liberty Avenue, spanning all  
18 the way into Council Member Ruben Wills' district, so  
19 we share Ozone Park and South Ozone Park, but as  
20 someone who was born and raised there, I am very  
21 proud to vote on this rezoning today. As the Speaker  
22 mentioned, it will encourage appropriate development  
23 in the most appropriate locations and we're very,  
24 very happy about that.

1  
2 I wanna thank first the City Planning  
3 Commission, Amanda Bird and the Chair in the Queens  
4 office of the City Planning Commission headed up by  
5 Mr. John Young, for a phenomenal job that they did  
6 working with the elected officials and both Community  
7 Boards, 9 and 10, who also worked very hard on this  
8 proposal, making sure that it got here today, the  
9 Borough President's office, Helen Marshall and her  
10 staff for also approving this rezoning resolution and  
11 of course, here at the Council, we would not be  
12 voting on it at this very moment if it were not for  
13 the assistance of the... help of the Committee on Land  
14 Use and the Subcommittee on Zoning, my colleagues and  
15 my friends, Leroy Comrie and Mark Weprin and of  
16 course, Gail Benjamin and the Land Use Division and  
17 the team here, the staff of the City Council, for a  
18 phenomenal job. I wanna thank you all for your  
19 assistance; this will have a very positive impact on  
20 a neighborhood that I love so dearly for the next 50  
21 years, so this work is very, very important, what we  
22 are voting to approve today, and I wanna thank all of  
23 you for your support. Thank you very much, Speaker  
24 Quinn.

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2                   SPEAKER QUINN: Anybody else I'm  
3 forgetting? Alright, good. That concludes  
4 Communications from the Speaker. Thanks for the  
5 assists from Council Member King and Council Member  
6 Ulrich... moving on.

7                   PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Thank you  
8 very much, Madame Speaker. We now move on to  
9 Discussion of General Orders. We have Council Member  
10 Chin, followed by Council Member Koppell.

11 [background comments]

12                   COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. I would  
13 like to speak on 1188-A, co-naming of Private Danny  
14 Chen Way. I think as the Council know, that back in  
15 2012 the City Council passed a resolution calling on  
16 the Department of Defense to institute a more  
17 effective cultural diversity training and this year  
18 in January President Obama signed into law the  
19 National Defense Authorization Act of 2013, which  
20 requires uniformed services to track, respond and  
21 hold accountable hazing incidents in the military.  
22 We have come a long way in fighting for justice for  
23 Private Danny Chen and in co-naming a corner of  
24 Elizabeth and Canal Streets Private Danny Chen Way,  
25 it is... for this vote it's gonna be a vote for

1  
2 tolerance, acceptance and above all, respect.  
3 Private Danny Chen Way will be an enduring testament  
4 to the life of this remarkable young man and serve as  
5 a powerful reminder that bullying and racism have no  
6 place in our society. So I really thank my  
7 colleagues for all your support and we just wanna  
8 make sure that since that terrible day in 2011 we  
9 have come so far as a community, outpouring of  
10 support came from every corner of our nation, along  
11 with a true desire to make change to make sure that  
12 no one else needs to go through what Danny did and to  
13 make sure that no other family needs to grieve as  
14 Danny's parents still do today. So by co-naming this  
15 street as Private Danny Chen Way, I think we will  
16 honor this young man's life and memory and I wanted  
17 to thank my colleagues, Danny's parents, OCA-New York  
18 and all the Council staff for making this happen.  
19 Thank you.

20 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Thank you  
21 very much. Council Member Koppell followed by  
22 Council Member... newly minted Council Member Gibson.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Thank you, Mr.  
24 Majority Leader. The Kingsbridge Armory, which today  
25 we're facilitating as a development into indeed the

1 world's largest ice skating center with nine rinks  
2 that's gonna offer recreational opportunities,  
3 athletic training opportunities and other  
4 opportunities in the community center that's part of  
5 the development. It's a dream that actually I had  
6 over 20 years ago, when this empty armory standing  
7 there like a sore thumb cried out for positive  
8 development and I said, because my daughters had ice  
9 skated up in Lake Placid in the Olympic facilities  
10 that were there, and they're not great figure  
11 skaters, they're very good; they're not great figure  
12 skaters, but Lake Placid is open to world-class  
13 athletes and rank and file citizens, but the 15  
14 million people in the metropolitan area, most of them  
15 can't get to Lake Placid and afford to go there. So  
16 we had this tremendous armory, one of the largest  
17 indoor spaces in America and it was lying fallow and  
18 I said this could be a magnificent athletic training  
19 and participation facility. And I wanna say that  
20 someone who's here today, Mr. Majority Leader, well-  
21 known to you, Assemblyman Jose Rivera, former  
22 Councilman Jose Rivera, he came up during the  
23 Giuliani administration with the \$27 million to put a  
24 new roof and if he hadn't come up with that money we  
25

1  
2 wouldn't be here today offering the public this  
3 wonderful facility. So this is really a dream come  
4 true; it's something that will be an iconic structure  
5 in the Bronx and bring to the Northwest Bronx the  
6 kind of attention that only perhaps one other  
7 facility in the Bronx brings and that's Yankee  
8 Stadium. It's terrific and the developers deserve a  
9 huge amount of credit for working with the community  
10 and working out a community benefits agreement [bell]  
11 that will provide community resources and a community  
12 center. I am only delighted that at the end of my  
13 service in Council I can support this dream come true  
14 and I hope it'll pass unanimously and I look forward  
15 to skating at the Kingsbridge Armory.

16 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Thank you  
17 Council Member. Next we have... [applause] newly  
18 minted Council Member Vanessa Gibson.

19 [background comments]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER VANESSA GIBSON: Thank you  
21 very much, Mr. Majority Leader. And I neglected..  
22 [interpose, background comment] Before I speak, I  
23 neglected to acknowledge so many of the incredible  
24 staff that have been so friendly, I feel like I have  
25 more friends than I ever could imagine, so I wanna

1  
2 thank Chuck and Ramon and Liz Fein, who was  
3 incredible, and Pasquale and everyone who really made  
4 my transition as smooth as possible. So I am excited  
5 and I rise today just to express my support on the  
6 Land Use Items relative to the Kingsbridge National  
7 Ice Center; it is a great moment for the history of  
8 the Bronx. I am excited to be a part of this body to  
9 vote in the affirmative on this, because I believe  
10 this national ice center is going to revitalize,  
11 rebuild and reinvest in the Bronx. After so many  
12 years of looking at the empty Kingsbridge Armory,  
13 this is a great opportunity and speaks to the  
14 testament of what it means to work with the developer  
15 as community representatives, elected officials,  
16 clergy members and all advocates and how we can work  
17 together for the betterment of the people of the  
18 Bronx and the city, and so a living wage component,  
19 recreational opportunities for our children;  
20 families, this model is going to serve as a beacon of  
21 opportunity for hundreds and hundreds of residents in  
22 New York City and so I am excited and I do wanna  
23 thank Council Member Cabrera, our colleague, for his  
24 incredible commitment and leadership and all of the  
25 parties involved from the Bronx Borough President,



1  
2 every community advocate who stood up for the  
3 residents of the Kingsbridge community and all of the  
4 clergy members that really worked hard to make this a  
5 reality. It is an exciting time and it's a great  
6 moment in the history of the Bronx and not only am I  
7 a proud supporter of the Kingsbridge Ice Center, but  
8 I'm certainly delighted that I can be here in this  
9 body later on to vote in the affirmative for the  
10 history of the Bronx and the Kingsbridge National Ice  
11 Center; [bell] I proudly support it. Thank you.

12 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Wow, let's  
13 give her a round of applause for being right on the  
14 button. [laughter, applause]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Oh, thank you;  
16 two minutes.

17 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Seeing no  
18 others, I'm gonna close off the Discussion of General  
19 Orders with my remarks on the Kingsbridge Armory. In  
20 1996 my father, you know was able to give and  
21 allocate \$27 million for the renovations.. [interpose]

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Could we get a little  
23 quiet for the Majority Leader, please?

24 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Thank you  
25 Madame Speaker. Like Council Member Koppell stated,

1  
2 my father was able to allocate \$27 million for the  
3 renovation of the Kingsbridge Armory. I remember  
4 back then when I was just a kid, my mother and my  
5 father took me to see Dave Winfield, you know give  
6 out toys to the needy kids in the community; that was  
7 one of the public uses. I've known that, you know  
8 various things and activities have been held there,  
9 for movies being filmed and other types of  
10 activities, but the neighborhood never had something  
11 special there that they desperately needed. Giuliani  
12 wanted to put something there; I know that Bloomberg  
13 wanted... Mayor Bloomberg wanted to do something a few  
14 years ago, but I know that the activists who are here  
15 with us today, the KARA who's upstairs in the  
16 balcony, SBU, young kids who grew up in activism, and  
17 the Northwest Bronx Community Clergy Coalition and my  
18 good friend sitting to my left, who was a young  
19 reporter at the Norwood News who was reporting on the  
20 need to have some special type of venue there at  
21 Kingsbridge Armory; today really is a proud day. I  
22 wanna thank my colleague Fernando Cabrera for being  
23 at the helm and making sure that the deal that was  
24 able to be solidified was something that benefits the  
25 entire community; I know our Borough President Ruben

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Diaz, Jr. has been working tirelessly, you know for this particular project, because it means so much, not only to the youth who are going to be able to take advantage of this spectacular opportunity for an ice skating rink, but it builds up the local economy. So all these players coming together, we are seeing a dream come true for many. You know they say Rome wasn't built in a day, but the Kingsbridge Armory took several decades to get to where we are today, so today is a very proud day for all of us. Thank you very much.

I guess now at this point we move on to Reports of Special Committees.

COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Reports of Standing Committees.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Contracts, Intro 1009-A, preferred source contracts awards.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and Coupled on General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Education, Intro 0925-A, arts instructional requirements.

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STATED MEETING

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and Coupled on  
General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Intro 1091-A, college  
savings plans.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and Coupled on  
General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee  
on Fire and Criminal Justice, Intro 0143-A, reporting  
response times.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and Coupled on  
General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Intro 0803-A, Hart's  
Island.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and Coupled on  
General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Intro 0804-A, Hart's  
Island visitation policy.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and Coupled on  
General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee  
on General Welfare, Intro 1194-A, food security.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and Coupled on  
General Orders.

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STATED MEETING

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Governmental Operations, Intro 1172-A, lobbying regulations.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and Coupled on General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Housing and Buildings, Intro 1176-A, electric vehicle charging stations.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land Use, LU 0951 and Reso 2061 through LU 0953 and Reso 2063.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 0964 and Reso 2064 through LU 0967 and Reso 2067, Kingsbridge Armory.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 0971 and Reso 2068 through LU 0974 and Reso 2071, Greenpoint-Williamsburg.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

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STATED MEETING

COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 0975 and Reso 2072,  
Sidewalk Café.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 0988 and Reso 2073,  
Zoning Map amendment.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 0990 and Reso 2074,  
school facility.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 0991 and Reso 2075,  
UDAAP Queens.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 0992 and Reso 2076,  
tax exemption.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered LU 0993  
and Reso 2077, Ozone Park Rezoning.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
Orders.

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STATED MEETING

87

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Parks and Recreation, Intro 1188-A, naming of 56 thoroughfares and public places.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and Coupled on General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections, M 1305 and Reso 2078, approving the re-appointment of Christopher Collins, Board of Standards and Appeals.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: M 1306 and Reso 2079, approving the re-appointment of Alfred Cerullo, III, City Planning Commission.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered M 1354 and Reso 2080, approving the re-designation of Josephine Bolus, Health and Hospital Corporation.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management, Intro 1140-A.

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STATED MEETING

88

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and Coupled on  
General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee  
on Small Business, Intro 1191-A, language preference  
for agency inspections.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and Coupled on  
General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee  
on Transportation, Intro 0635-A, commuter van  
information.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and Laid Over.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Intro 0844-A, electric  
vehicle advisory committee.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and Coupled on  
General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Intro 0930-A, taxi  
reporting data.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and Coupled on  
General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Intro 1114-A.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and Coupled on  
General Orders.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: General  
Order Calendar.



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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Resolution appointing  
3 various persons Commissioner of Deeds.

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders  
5 and at this time I ask for a Roll Call on all items  
6 Coupled on the General Order Calendar and there is a  
7 resolution to vote on today as well.

8 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: So  
9 ordered.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Arroyo.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Mr. Majority  
12 Leader, we haven't been here long enough today, so  
13 I'm gonna explain my vote. [laughter]

14 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Be as long  
15 as you want.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: And I apologize  
17 to my colleagues; I don't usually do this, but I...  
18 [laughter] I... I wanna highlight that among the street  
19 co-namings and the public space co-namings, there are  
20 two in particular that I'm very proud of; the first,  
21 in honor of the great Puerto Rican composer, Miguel  
22 Angel Amadeo. His song, loosely translated,  
23 "Whatever You're Gonna Give Me, Give Me While I'm  
24 Alive," so today the Council does that in his honor.  
25 And celebrating the legacy of Mariano Rivera, the

1  
2 great Yankee, the corner of 161st Street and River  
3 Avenue will now be Rivera Avenue. And I vote aye on  
4 all.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: My colleagues, on  
7 the rare occasion I will explain my vote. [laughter]  
8 I certainly am certain that all the intros and resos  
9 that will be passed today people will celebrate, but  
10 I have... honestly it compels me to say that the  
11 Greenpoint project, which has about 125 percent of  
12 the AMI as the top amount of income required for that  
13 project in an area that they say is \$35,000 for a  
14 family of four; some say \$60,000, but 125 percent of  
15 the AMI is over \$100,000 and I don't consider that  
16 affordable. And the Rheingold project of the 977  
17 housing units, only 30 percent will be affordable, 70  
18 percent will not be affordable in a neighborhood that  
19 has a low AMI. And the Kingsbridge project, I did  
20 speak to some of the local activists there and some  
21 people felt that nine skating arenas was a big much;  
22 five skating arenas, along with other kinds of sports  
23 complex, a more diversified complex of sporting,  
24 could've been built and it would've satisfied all of  
25 the other community benefits agreements and jobs, but

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nine skating arenas was a bit much for some of the leaders in the Bronx and I'm gonna be their voice today and vote against that as well. So for 0971, 0972, 0973, 0974 and 0990 on Greenpoint, I vote no. 0951, 0952, 0953 on Rheingold I vote no. 0964, 0965, 0966 and 0967 on Kingsbridge I vote no and have a happy holiday and god bless all.

SPEAKER QUINN: And that could be a Charles Barron no-vote record in one Stated Meeting.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: I was just gonna say that...

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye on all the rest.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Ma... Madame Speaker, I wa... [interpose]

SPEAKER QUINN: The one thing that's left.

[background comment]

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: I was gonna say, Madame Speaker; did he vote yes on anything? [laughter]

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: All the rest.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: All the rest. Okay.

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STATED MEETING

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I'm gonna vote aye on all; I do wanna mention that there is on West 77th Street in the Parks and Recreation listing, a Miles Davis Way; he lived there for many years; we're delighted that that co-sign will be part of our community and then, actually in 1980 police officer Calabrese and police officer Keegan were killed right next to the 59th Street transit hub and there will be a co-sign in that location. With that I vote aye. Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I'm sorry my colleagues; I wanna abstain on the appointments... [laughter] this is an abstention, Madame Speaker; this is progress... I wanna [laughter] abstain on the appointments to the Board of Standards and Appeals to the New York City Planning Commission and to the Health and Hospitals Corporation; I wanna abstain on those appointments.

[background comment]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera.

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COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: I wanna congratulate Andy King on his very first bill [background comments] today, fantastic, and I wanna encourage everybody else to vote aye on the Kingsbridge Armory. Thank you so much.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Comrie.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dickens.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dilan.

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Fidler.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I want to congratulate Council Member King on his first bill, I wanna congratulate Council Member Cabrera on his perseverance, I wanna congratulate Councilman Rivera's father on so many things... [laughter] and with that I... oh and one other thing, as far as the Mariano Rivera street naming is concerned, even a

1  
2 diehard Met fan can recognize a classy job that was  
3 really well done and so I vote aye on all.

4 [background applause, comments]

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gennaro.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Mr. Leader, I  
7 wish to speak on my vote.

8 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Yes.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yeah, I'm gonna  
10 vote yes on all; I just wanna give a shout-out to  
11 Andy King on his first bill, I'm very happy for him.  
12 I'm also very happy for Chris Collins, a great guy  
13 who served the city and this council with great  
14 distinction for a long time and I'm happy to him back  
15 on the BSA. And I think it bears mentioning; I don't  
16 think it's been mentioned so far, that with regard to  
17 Mandela, this body in 1985 passed Local Law 19 of  
18 1985, which is the first big city to do a South  
19 African divestment bill; that was a big deal; that  
20 was, you know in my early years of city government  
21 and perhaps there are some members of this council  
22 that don't know that this council took that act back  
23 in 1985 to help bring down apartheid; I just felt  
24 that should be mentioned, and I vote aye on all.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gentile.

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STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: I vote aye on all, except for M 1305 and the accompanying Reso 2078; I abstain.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gibson.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I wanna congratulate Council Member King on his first bill, as well as Council Member Cabrera on the fantastic job with the Kingsbridge Armory and also wanna echo the sentiments of Council Member Arroyo in renaming River Avenue as Mariano Rivera Way; this is a great day for the Bronx and I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Jackson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: King.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: First I'd like to thank Andy King for his first piece of legislation, [laughter] but I wanna give a shout-out to my colleague Cabrera and I've gotta say, I'm just gonna go back in time for a minute, as a Knick fan... I'm gonna go back to 1969, when he won the world championship; anything that begins with Knick and we talk about the Kingsbridge Ice Skating Center should be okay, so I vote aye on all.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Koppell. [background  
3 comment] Koslowitz.

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

6 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Yes.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I wanna thank  
8 everybody that has something on the calendar today...  
9 [laughter] and I wanna give a shout-out to Chris  
10 Collins and Fred Cerullo who I had the pleasure of  
11 working with; I wanna congratulate them and I vote  
12 aye on all.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Koppell.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye on all.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Permission to  
17 explain my vote.

18 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Yes.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you very  
20 much, Mr. Majority Leader. I too want to  
21 congratulate Council Member King and congratulate  
22 Council Member Gibson on her first Stated Meeting. I  
23 just wanted to take this opportunity for a moment to  
24 acknowledge those that worked on the Greenpoint  
25 Landing rezoning project, which was basically a



1  
2 follow-up action to the 2005 rezoning, which was a  
3 very large rezoning; this did some minor things in  
4 comparison, but assured that there would be 431 units  
5 of affordable housing, which range from 40 percent of  
6 AMI up to the 125 percent of AMI that Council Member  
7 Barron referenced, but does go down and the vast  
8 majority are in the lower AMI areas, but I do wanna  
9 acknowledge there are a lot of benefits to this  
10 project, but I wanna acknowledge those that worked on  
11 it, my staff, Chief of Staff, Ashley Thompson,  
12 Legislative Director Rami Metal and Environmental  
13 Director Lisa Bloodgood, the Council Land Use staff,  
14 Gail Benjamin, Amy Levitan and Ann McCoy, and of  
15 course, Ramon Martinez; those at Greenpoint Landing,  
16 George and Marian Klein, who were very patient with  
17 me in working through a lot of the issues over the  
18 last week or so; Pete Crockadakas [phonetic] and  
19 Melanie Meyers, who worked on it and who were on the  
20 phone with me till the wee hours of the morning, and  
21 I wanna acknowledge Jim Gennaro, my colleague who  
22 took my call late on Sunday night to give me some  
23 good advice on environmental matters in the project,  
24 so thank you very much Jim, and thank you very much  
25 to all of my colleagues; I vote aye on all.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I wanna say kudos  
4 to my colleague, Mr. King and Cabrera for the Kings  
5 Armory ice skating and I wish it was more other  
6 activities there, but I'm glad for the Bronx and I  
7 vote aye on all.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mendez. Palma.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Permission to  
10 explain my vote, Mr. Majority Leader.

11 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Yes.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Thank you. I  
13 wanna congratulate Andy King on his first bill, but a  
14 special congratulations to Council Member Cabrera for  
15 the work and time that you put in around the  
16 Kingsbridge Armory; for decades it was a community  
17 that had been long neglected and we could not find a  
18 good project that would make sure that all the needs  
19 of that community were addressed and while this was  
20 not an easy task, you stood up and you made sure that  
21 the community and all stakeholders were... their needs  
22 were addressed; I wanna give a shout-out to our Bronx  
23 Borough President for the vision that he has for the  
24 Bronx and not giving up on the Bronx; a united  
25 delegation is able to deliver for their borough and I

1  
2 am proud today to be voting for the Kingsbridge  
3 Armory under the leadership of this delegation for  
4 the Bronx. Thank you. I vote aye on all.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Reyna.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: I vote aye on all.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye on all.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Permission to  
11 explain my vote, please.

12 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Yes.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Understanding what  
14 it's like to have a huge ULURP project, I'd like to  
15 congratulate Council Member Cabrera and say I  
16 commiserate with you through the angst of ULURP, the  
17 ULURP process, congratulations; you did a good job.  
18 And I'd like to congratulate, of course, Council  
19 Member King for the passage of his first bill. I  
20 would also like to welcome and congratulate Vanessa  
21 Gibson for her first vote as a City Council Member  
22 and to Margaret Chin for memorializing the life of  
23 Danny Chen with that street renaming, and so I don't  
24 have to take the mic again, I'd like to thank my  
25 intern, Colleen Shay, for exemplary service to our

1  
2 office in helping us in our preparation for bills and  
3 legislation. And with that I vote aye on all. Thank  
4 you.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich. Vallone.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: May I be briefly  
7 excused, please?

8 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Yes.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: First of all,  
10 all hail Council Member King, [laughter] but I... I do  
11 have to rain a little bit on the Mariano parade; I'm  
12 a huge fan and there are a lot of deserving people  
13 here that we're naming streets after, but I'm gonna  
14 have to abstain, because as I've said many, many  
15 times, we should never name anything after a living  
16 person; I have a bill in that says that; it hasn't  
17 moved for some reason, but I do have that bill and I  
18 would be violating my own bill if I voted for this.  
19 As I've said many times, people who are alive can  
20 give donations, people who are alive can give  
21 endorsements, they can be too powerful, like Joe  
22 Bruno Upstate, they can go on to do something bad,  
23 like Bernie Kerik; this is a precedent we should not  
24 be setting; it's a violation, by the way of our own  
25 Council rules; I'm reading off a memo from '08 that

1  
2 says the number one criteria for naming a street, the  
3 person has to be deceased. As I said, huge Mariano  
4 fan; if anyone deserves it he does, but we are  
5 setting a very bad precedent, we're opening the flood  
6 gates even more, if that's possible, so I'm forced to  
7 abstain on 1188-A and vote aye on the rest.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vann.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: With  
10 congratulations to brother King and sister Gibson, I  
11 vote aye on all.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams.

13 [background comments]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

15 [laughter, background comments]

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Wills.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Mr. Majority  
18 Leader, may I have a moment to explain my vote?

19 [laughter]

20 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Yes.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Mr. Majority  
22 Leader, I was born on August 9th... [laughter] August  
23 9th was a sunny day; it was a warm, sunny day...  
24 [laughter] I wanna just thank Councilman... I mean I  
25 wanna congratulate Council Member King on his first

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piece of legislation, Council Member Cabrera, you did a tremendous job with this ULURP process and sticking up for your community and as Council Member Koppell said, it took 20 years to get this done, but I wanna make sure that no one in this chamber or in the city forgets that even though it took 20 years to get this done, Vanessa Gibson got it done the first day she was elected. [background comments, laughter]  
Congratulations.

[background comment]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rivera.

[background comments]

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Didn't hear my own name. [laughter] I wanna vote aye on all items on today's calendar... [interpose]

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Then vote...  
[laughter] vote aye on all.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: I was trying to compensate whether or not I was gonna vote [background comment] in the affirmative or in the negative, if I was gonna... [crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Vote aye on all.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: vote against my own name being... [crosstalk]

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COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Yes, Mr. Majority Leader, thank you very much.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: put up on a street sign and I wanna thank you, Maria del Carmen Arroyo... [crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: I'm sorry, 25 hours straight.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: [laughter] Mari... [background comments] Council Member Arroyo, I wanna thank you for renaming a street in the Rivera... in the honor of the Riveras of the Bronx; I vote aye on all items on today's agenda, especially the Kingsbridge Armory; I know all the kids in the Bronx are gonna be grateful to be able to finally take advantage of the great ice skating rink and I know of a young man in particular, Caleb Josayo [phonetic] who's gonna love to go ice skating, so thank you very much and congratulations; I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

SPEAKER QUINN: Aye on all and I just wanna remind folks about the Council's holiday party, which will start at about 6:00. Thank you.

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[background comments]

SPEAKER QUINN: Also there is a reception for our new council member in the red room if folks would like to join afterwards.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Actually, Madame Speaker, isn't it the tradition; the newest member has to pay for dinner for every council member...

[applause, background comments]

SPEAKER QUINN: That's uh...

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: in the room? And all staff... [interpose]

SPEAKER QUINN: That's an informal tradition, nothing we could confirm on or off the record, so.

[laughter, background comments]

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Well as the Chair of the Rules Committee I wanna personally implement the new rule right now. [laughter]

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Mr. Majority Leader, as of last week I was still on State payroll.

[laughter]

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Oh okay.

[laughter]



1 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you.

2 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: That's a  
3 good one, that's a good one.

4 [background comments, laughter]

5 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: And I know  
6 you're grate... and Vanessa, I know you're grateful to  
7 be on the City payroll now. [laughter] All item...  
8 with all the jokes being set aside, all items on  
9 [laughter] today's General Order Calendar...

10 [background comments]

11 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: were  
12 adopted by a vote of 49 in the affirmative, 0 in the  
13 negative and 0 abstentions, with the exception of LU  
14 0951 through 0953 and the accompanying Resolutions,  
15 which was adopted by a vote of 48 in the affirmative,  
16 1 in the negative and 0 abstentions, and LU 0964  
17 through 0967 and the accompanying Resolutions, which  
18 was adopted by a vote of 48 in the affirmative, 1 in  
19 the negative and 0 abstentions. LU 0971 through 0974  
20 and LU 0990 with the accompanying Resolutions, which  
21 was adopted by a vote of 48 in the affirmative, with  
22 1 in the negative and 0 abstentions, and M 1305 with  
23 Reso 2078, which was adopted by a vote of 47 in the  
24 affirmative, 0 in the negative and 2 abstentions, and  
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2 Intro 1188-A, which was adopted by a vote of 47 in  
3 the affirmative, 0 in the negative and 2 abstentions,  
4 and M 1306 and Reso 2079, which was adopted by a vote  
5 of 48 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and 1  
6 abstention, and M 1354 with Reso 2080, which was  
7 adopted by a vote of 48 in the affirmative, 0 in the  
8 negative and 1 abstention. And that's all she wrote  
9 for this stack over here. We... [interpose]

10 [cheers, applause]

11 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: we now  
12 move onto Introduction and Reading of the Bills.

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

15 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Okay. We  
16 now move on to Discussion of Resolutions; we have one  
17 Resolution on today's calendar; it's Resolution 1394,  
18 Resolution calling upon the New York State Education  
19 Department, the New York State Legislature and the  
20 Governor to reexamine public school accountability  
21 systems and to develop a system based on multiple  
22 forms of assessment which do not require extensive  
23 standardized testing. Adopted by the Committee on  
24 Education. All in favor say aye.

25 [collective aye]

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: I'm sorry; I think  
3 Council Member Jackson wanted to speak... [interpose]

4 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Yes.

5 SPEAKER QUINN: on the Resolution.

6 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: I just saw  
7 his hand go up. Council Member Jackson. [crosstalk]

8 SPEAKER QUINN: If we could get... I'm  
9 sorry, just one second, quiet for Council Member  
10 Jackson, please.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you  
12 Speaker Quinn and my colleagues, I rise in order to  
13 just express how important this resolution is and our  
14 children's education is heading towards collateral  
15 damage as we continue to subject our students to  
16 constant testing environment that now the curriculum  
17 and is based on test prep and we have known that.  
18 This approach is diminishing our children's natural  
19 love of learning and driving excellent teachers out  
20 of our schools, and our school system should promote  
21 innovation, creativity and problem-solving and  
22 shouldn't a good, sound, basic education be based on  
23 these principles? I say to all of you today, this  
24 evening, as a result of pressure from advocates and  
25 parents, the State Commissioner of Education and the

1  
2 Chancellor are holding hearings on the common core  
3 curriculum and it's very, very important at this time  
4 that we send a message to the next chancellor, the  
5 next mayor and everyone else that high-stake testing  
6 should not continue, and so I thank Time Out From  
7 Testing for being involved with this and other  
8 advocates in pushing forward this resolution. [bell]  
9 I urge you to vote yes on this resolution. Thank  
10 you.

11 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Anyone  
12 else wanna speak on this particular resolution?  
13 Seeing none, we'll now call for the vote on this  
14 resolution. All in favor say aye.

15 [collective aye]

16 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: All  
17 opposed say nay. Any abstentions? The ayes have it.  
18 We now move on to General Discussion; we have Council  
19 Member Mealy.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I just rise to... I  
21 don't know if everyone remembered; December 7th was  
22 Pearl Harbor Day and I had a big event and I just  
23 want us to never forget Pearl Harbor; we just did an  
24 inter-generational event and our young people found  
25 out what Pearl Harbor was all about, first time ever

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in a 100 years on our own soil we were attacked and we can never forget that. And just to give you a little history that we found out at our event, when you think of Rikers Island, that was the first place that got emancipated from the cowboys, buffalo soldiers. So those regimens started at Rikers Island and we had to do our research and find out now our young people think of Rikers Island different, so I just want us to think about and remember Pearl Harbor, a lot of people are living free this day and not thinking about being attacked because of our men and women in the Army and in our services, so thank you.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Any others wanna speak on today's General Discussions? Seeing none, this meeting is now adjourned.

[gavel]

[background cheers, applause]

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           January 3, 2013