

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

STATED MEETING
OF THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

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February 4, 2014
Start: 1:32 p.m.
Recess: 2:57 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E: Melissa Mark-Viverito
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Margaret S. Chin
- Rosie Mendez
- Corey D. Johnson
- Daniel R. Garodnick
- Ben Kallos
- Helen K. Rosenthal
- Mark Levine
- Melissa Mark-Viverito
- Inez E. Dickens
- Ydanis A. Rodriguez
- Andrew Cohen
- Andy L. King
- James Vacca
- Fernando Cabrera
- Ritchie J. Torres
- Vanessa L. Gibson
- Maria Del Carmen Arroyo

Annabel Palma
Paul A. Vallone
Peter A. Koo
Julissa Ferreras
Costa G. Constantinides
Mark S. Weprin
Rory I. Lancman
Daniel Dromm
James G. Van Bramer
I. Daneek Miller
Ruben Wills
Karen Koslowitz
Elizabeth S. Crowley
Donovan J. Richards
Eric A. Ulrich
Stephen T. Levin
Antonio Reynoso
Laurie A. Cumbo
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.
Carlos Menchaca
Bradford S. Lander
Mathieu Eugene
Darlene Mealy
Inez D. Barron
Vincent J. Gentile
David G. Greenfield
Jumaane D. Williams
Alan N. Maisel
Mark Treyger
Chaim M. Deutsch
Deborah L. Rose
Steven Matteo
Vincent M. Ignizo

Letitia James
Madam Public Advocate

Reverend Clinton Miller
Brown Memorial Baptist Church

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

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STATED MEETING

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LETITIA JAMES: May members please
have their seats. Roll call. Pledge first.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Arroyo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [off mic]

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Cabrera?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: [off mic]

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Chin?

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Cohen?

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Present.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Constantinides?

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Here.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Cornegy? Crowley?

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [off mic]

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Cumbo?

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Present.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Deutsch?

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Dickens?

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Dromm?

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

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STATED MEETING

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Espinal?
COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Here.
CLERK MCSWEENEY: Eugene? Ferreras?
COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.
CLERK MCSWEENEY: Cornegy?
COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Present.
CLERK MCSWEENEY: Garodnick?
COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.
CLERK MCSWEENEY: Gentile? Gibson?
COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Present.
CLERK MCSWEENEY: Greenfield?
Johnson?
COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Present.
CLERK MCSWEENEY: Kallos?
COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.
CLERK MCSWEENEY: King?
COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Present.
CLERK MCSWEENEY: Koo?
COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.
CLERK MCSWEENEY: Koslowtiz?
COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Present.
CLERK MCSWEENEY: Lancman?
COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Present.
CLERK MCSWEENEY: Lander?

STATED MEETING

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.
3 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Levin?
4 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.
5 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Levine?
6 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.
7 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Maisel?
8 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Here.
9 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Matteo?
10 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.
11 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Mealy? Menchaca?
12 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.
13 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Mendez?
14 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.
15 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Miller?
16 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Present.
17 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Palma?
18 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.
19 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Reynoso? Richards?
20 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Here.
21 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Rodriguez?
22 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.
23 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Rose?
24 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.
25 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Rosenthal?

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STATED MEETING

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COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Torres?

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Here.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Treyger?

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: [speaking
Russian] which in Russian means I'm here.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Thank you. Ulrich?
Vacca? Vallone?

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Weprin?

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Williams? Cabrera?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Wills?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Here.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Ignizio? Van
Bramer?

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Speaker Mark-
Viverito?

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Here.

LETITIA JAMES: Please rise for the
invocation by Reverend Clinton Miller of Brown
Memorial Baptist Church.

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2 REVEREND MILLER: Let us pray.
3 Eternal and righteous God, we're thankful for
4 this day. We're thankful for life. We're
5 thankful for purpose. Now God, as we come
6 before your presence we ask that you would
7 bless all families who have lost loved ones to
8 violence, drug addiction and also to illness.
9 We come asking a special blessing on this City
10 Council. Remind them, oh God, that they are to
11 lead this city in spirit and in truth. We're
12 thankful for this public advocate and each
13 member of this council and the Mayor. We ask,
14 oh God, that they would work together, even
15 during those difficult politically awkward
16 moments, allow them to work together with
17 mutual respect with the people from Brooklyn,
18 Queens, the Bronx, Staten Island and Manhattan
19 in the forefront of their minds. Then oh God,
20 we come before your presence on this fourth day
21 of February, remembering the contributions of
22 African-Americans in this chamber. Remind us,
23 oh God, that without black history there's no
24 New York City history, and without the history
25 of those who have come from all parts of this

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2 world to this city for a better life, there is
3 no New York City history. We ask, oh God, that
4 you would bless them and remind them that even
5 the Government shall rest upon your shoulder.
6 In your mighty and matchless name we pray,
7 amen.

8 LETITIA JAMES: Motion to spread the
9 invocation in full upon the record by my
10 Council Member, Council Member Laurie Cumbo.

11 LAURIE CUMBO: That's right. Thank
12 you. I am more than pleased and proud to have
13 Reverend Clinton Miller from the Brown Memorial
14 Baptist Church, which is in my district.
15 Reverend Miller was born in Brooklyn, New York
16 and serves as the senior pastor of the historic
17 Brown Memorial Baptist Church. He has overseen
18 a massive renovation project, which required
19 the church to raise millions of dollars, and
20 under his leadership, he was able to preserve
21 an architectural gem right in our community in
22 Brooklyn, New York. He is a passionate
23 advocate for social justice and has taken on
24 some of the most challenging issues within our
25 district. He has been a fighter and a champion

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2 for affordable housing, for equal pay, for
3 aiming sure that those that are disadvantaged
4 and those that are voiceless have a voice. He
5 serves on the boards including the Harlem YMCA,
6 The Bedford YMCA, the Brooklyn Chapter of the
7 American Red Cross and Bishop Loughlin Board of
8 Governors. So much of the work of Reverend
9 Miller can be outside of the sanctuary walls.
10 He is a leader. He is a champion. He is a
11 fighter, and he is a spiritual advisor for so
12 many in our community. I am pleased to have
13 Brown Memorial Baptist Church in my district. I
14 am pleased to call him a friend. I thank you
15 for your leadership. I thank you for your
16 service and the decades of work that you have
17 given to our community. Thank you.

18 LETITIA JAMES: Adoption of the
19 minutes, Council Member Margaret Chin.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Motion of the
21 minutes of the Stated Meeting of December 19th,
22 2013 be adopted as printed. Thank you.

23 LETITIA JAMES: Messages and papers
24 from the Mayor.

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STATED MEETING

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SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Rules,
Privileges and Elections.

LETITIA JAMES: Communication from
the City County and Borough offices.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Wait. Hold
on.

UNKNOWN: M18 submitting Richard
Briffault for appointment to the Conflict of
Interest Board.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Rules,
Privileges and Elections.

UNKNOWN: M19 submitting Fernando A.
Bohorquez, Junior for appointment to the
Conflicts of Interest Board.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Rules,
Privileges and Elections.

LETITIA JAMES: Communication from
the city, county and borough offices.

UNKNOWN: None.

LETITIA JAMES: Petitions and
communications?

UNKNOWN: None.

LETITIA JAMES: Land Use Call-ups?

UNKNOWN: M20 Sidewalk café.

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STATED MEETING

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SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Roll call.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Arroyo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Cabrera?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Chin?

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Cohen?

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Constantinides?

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Cornegy?

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Crowley? Cumbo?

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Deutsch?

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Dickens?

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Dromm?

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Espinal?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.
CLERK MCSWEENEY: Eugene?
COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: [off mic]
CLERK MCSWEENEY: Ferreras?
COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.
CLERK MCSWEENEY: Garodnick?
COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.
CLERK MCSWEENEY: Gentile?
COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.
CLERK MCSWEENEY: Gibson?
COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Aye.
CLERK MCSWEENEY: Greenfield?
COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.
CLERK MCSWEENEY: Johnson?
COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: [off mic]
CLERK MCSWEENEY: Kallos?
COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.
CLERK MCSWEENEY: King?
COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye.
CLERK MCSWEENEY: Koo?
COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.
CLERK MCSWEENEY: Koslowtiz?
COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.
CLERK MCSWEENEY: Lancman?

STATED MEETING

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COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.
CLERK MCSWEENEY: Lander?
COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.
CLERK MCSWEENEY: Levin?
COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.
CLERK MCSWEENEY: Levine?
COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: [off mic]
CLERK MCSWEENEY: Maisel?
COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Aye.
CLERK MCSWEENEY: Matteo?
COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Aye.
CLERK MCSWEENEY: Mealy?
COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.
CLERK MCSWEENEY: Menchaca?
COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.
CLERK MCSWEENEY: Mendez?
COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.
CLERK MCSWEENEY: Miller?
COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.
CLERK MCSWEENEY: Palma?
COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.
CLERK MCSWEENEY: Reynoso?
COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.
CLERK MCSWEENEY: Richards?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.
3 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Rodriguez?
4 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.
5 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Rose?
6 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.
7 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Rosenthal?
8 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.
9 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Torres?
10 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye.
11 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Treyger?
12 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.
13 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Ulrich?
14 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.
15 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Vacca?
16 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.
17 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Vallone?
18 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.
19 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Weprin?
20 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.
21 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Williams?
22 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.
23 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Wills?
24 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye.
25 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Johnson?

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STATED MEETING

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COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Ignizio?

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: I ask unanimous consent, the vote today's vote calendar, please.

LETITIA JAMES: ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Thank you. I vote no on 1208 and aye on all of this. Thank you.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Levine?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Van Bramer?

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Speaker Mark-Viverito?

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I vote aye.

LETITIA JAMES: Today's Land Use Call-ups were adopted by a vote of 49 in the affirmative, zero in the negative. Communication from the Speaker Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you. I want to first just recognize that we do have a former colleague with us here, former Council Member Charles Barron is here with us today. I

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2 also want to wish our colleagues, Council
3 Members Chin and Koo in particular and all the
4 Asian residents in our city a happy and healthy
5 lunar new year. Celebrations were held and
6 continue to be held throughout the city for
7 this past weekend and in the upcoming weeks, as
8 lunar New Year 4712, the year of the horse was
9 welcomed with great festivities and parades. I
10 also want to remind everyone that February
11 marks Black History--well, African-American and
12 Black History Month, and all month throughout
13 the city of New York, countless events marking
14 this great accomplishments and sacrifices of
15 African-Americans in our city, state and nation
16 throughout our history book will be celebrated.
17 So I wanted to make sure that that was
18 acknowledged. On today's calendar we're voting
19 on several items. Obviously we had introduced
20 and we have overwritten several Mayoral vetoes
21 from the last administration. We also have on
22 the agenda, the appointment of Mark G. Peters
23 as Commission of the New York City Department
24 of Investigation. That was heard extensively
25 last week and there was a vote this morning in

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2 the Committee of Rules, Privileges and
3 Elections, and some--and a Land Use item that
4 had been chaired by Council Member Greenfield
5 in the Land Use Committee. I would like first
6 to ask the speakers regarding the Mayoral
7 override to say a few words. There are a
8 couple of members who do want to speak. First
9 we have Civil Service and Labor Committee
10 Chair, Daneek Miller on Intro 1208, which is
11 the provision of sick time earned by employees.
12 And to be clear, this is a technical clean-up
13 of the bill that we passed in the last session.
14 So I know that Council Member Daneek Miller
15 wanted to say a few words.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you,
17 Madam Speaker. Thank you for the opportunity
18 to speak on this technical amendment of the
19 Earned Sick Time Act. As the new Chair of the
20 Committee in Civil Service and Labor it's an
21 honor to have the opportunity to serve and
22 impact the lives of so many working people
23 throughout the city of New York. I appreciate
24 the faith and confidence that you and my
25 colleagues have shown through this appointment.

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2 I would also like to extend my thanks to
3 Council Member Chin and former member Brewer
4 for their sponsorship of this legislation as
5 well as the members of the committee,
6 Constantinides, Cornegy, Crowley and Dromm. I
7 am proud of this bill. It's a positive first
8 step for this Council, protecting the dignity
9 and respect of working people throughout the
10 city. It's a important first step. It also
11 will allow for loved ones to continue providing
12 families--for their families while maximizing
13 productivity as employees. So with that, I look
14 forward to working on this bill and urge my
15 colleagues to vote in the affirmative. Thank
16 you.

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
18 Chair Miller. We also have a Mayoral override,
19 the Chair has chosen not to speak from the
20 Environmental Protection Committee, Intro 867A
21 which has the creation of a voluntary master
22 environmental hazard remediation technician
23 registration program. Also in the Finance
24 Committee, Intro 172-A, exemptions from the
25 payment of fees for fire department permits,

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2 inspections and performance tests. Council
3 Member Vacca, who is the sponsor of this bill
4 will say a few words.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Yes, Madam
6 Speaker, I'd like to speak on this bill. I had
7 sponsored this because the Mayor assessed this
8 charge in order to keep fire companies open and
9 it penalizes unfairly many non-profits in our
10 city by levying these charges, which many of
11 them cannot afford due to the social services
12 and safety net programs that they provide. We
13 should not be having discussions about closing
14 ladder and engine companies in the city, and by
15 doing this, the Mayor, I think, shifted the
16 discussion, assessed the fee that should not
17 have been assessed in the first place, and I
18 hope that my colleagues today will override the
19 Mayor's veto in this regard, and I thank you
20 for--Madam Speaker, for bringing this to the
21 floor. Thank you.

22 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you
23 Council Member Vacca. We also have another
24 override out of the Health Committee, Intro
25 933-A which is the creating--which will create

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2 an animal abuse registry. Council Member
3 Gentile is the sponsor of that bill, has chosen
4 not to speak, but Chair of the Committee,
5 Council Member Johnson, will say a few words.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you,
7 Madam Speaker. Today, the council will vote to
8 file the Mayor's veto and vote to repass
9 introduction number 933A, which would
10 establish, as you said, an animal abuse
11 registry, prohibit people convicted of animal
12 abuse crimes from owning or residing with an
13 animal and establish criminal penalties for
14 failing to comply with the law. This bill was
15 sponsored by former Council Member Peter
16 Vallone, Junior and current Council Member
17 Vincent Gentile. It will ensure that animals do
18 not end up in the hands of those likely to
19 mistreat them. Today, I recommend to my
20 colleagues that we file the Mayor's veto and
21 repass this legislation. I'd like to thank all
22 the advocates who work with the Council over
23 the course of these hearings to improve the
24 bill, and I'd like to thank the staff, Jeff
25 Campana [phonetic] the Legislative Council, Dan

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2 Hayfith [phonetic] the Committee Council,
3 Crystal Pond, the Policy Analyst, Crilhien
4 Francisco, the Finance Analyst, and for all my
5 colleagues that spent so much time working on
6 this piece of legislation, thank you very much.

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
8 Council Member Johnson. On to the Public
9 Safety Committee, we have intro 859-A, which
10 was requiring the police department to submit
11 to the Council reports of crime in all parks
12 and playgrounds within the city that are
13 greater than one acre in size. Again, a Mayoral
14 override and Council Member Eugene is the
15 sponsor; will not speak, but Council Member
16 Gibson, Chair of the Public Safety Committee
17 will say a few words.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you
19 very much, Madam Speaker, and to you and my
20 colleauges, I want to thank each and every one
21 of you for your support and entrusting in me to
22 lead as the Chair of the Committee on Public
23 Safety. Today, I stand before all of my
24 colleagues urging all of you to vote yes on
25 overriding previous Mayor Michael Bloomberg's

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2 veto of Intro 859A that was previously
3 supported and passed by the Council. As we all
4 know, New York City's greatest asset are our
5 city parks and in a sprawling landscape like
6 ours in the city, it is important that we
7 provide all of our residents with a robust and
8 a safe park system to provide adequate
9 recreational opportunities for so many children
10 and families in New York. In order to ensure
11 that people have a pleasant experience in our
12 city parks, we must be vigilant about their
13 safety because the unfortunate truth is that
14 many parks are not immune to crime. In fact,
15 the latest data that was received from the
16 NYPD, we learned that major felony crime
17 complaints in parks for the third quarter of
18 2003 was the highest quarter on record since
19 2008, which was when we began receiving the
20 data for 31 of the city's largest parks. It is
21 truly clear that crime in parks is a serious
22 issue and just like crime that occurs outside
23 of our parks, it is equally as important that
24 we are all informed about the occurrences and
25 trends so we can adequately work together as

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2 partners to stop problems before they arise. I
3 am urging my colleagues to truly support this
4 bill, which would provide this body with
5 sufficient information on crime that relates in
6 our parks. I thank you for the opportunity and
7 urge a yes vote. Thank you.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
9 Council Member Gibson. Out of the
10 Transportation Committee, we have Intro 1055-A,
11 requiring that NYPD to report information
12 concerning vehicle collisions in which a driver
13 left the scene of the collision. Council
14 Member Koo is the sponsor of that bill, but
15 Council Member Rodriguez, Chair of the
16 Committee, will say a few words.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you,
18 Madam Speaker or allowing us to go over
19 important bills today. With a veto override of
20 the NYPD hit and run reporting bill, we are
21 sending a clear message that these vicious
22 crimes must be taken seriously and followed to
23 the fullest extent. Too many parents of
24 children and family members of victims
25 testified before our Committee last year,

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2 displaying their pain publicly so that we as a
3 council would take action. We are taking that
4 action today in letting our city know that we
5 take pedestrian deaths as city as homicides
6 when it comes to the investigation and
7 arresting of the criminals who commit it. I
8 would like to thank former Council Member Leroy
9 Comrie for his leadership of this bill as well
10 as Council Member Koo and Rosie Mendez for
11 their continued effort in seeing this bill
12 become law. Thank you.

13 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
14 Council Member Rodriguez. Out of the Rules and
15 Privileges and Elections Committee, we just met
16 this morning. We had an extensive hearing last
17 week. The nomination of Mark Peters as
18 Commissioner of the New York City Department of
19 Investigations. As I said in the Committee, as
20 I said the hearing last week, we in the City
21 Council take our job very seriously of vetting
22 and being oversight on the Mayor and obviously
23 the appointment of the Commissioner of the New
24 York City Department of Investigation is truly
25 an important appointment. The questions that

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2 emerged--the questioning that emerged and the
3 answers were ones that we took very seriously.
4 Again, as I mentioned, and we had a vote this
5 morning out of the Chair, out of the Committee
6 on Rules and Privileges. And so I want to call
7 on Council Member Lander to say a few words
8 regarding this nomination.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you,
10 Madam Speaker. The Council votes today on
11 Mayor de Blasio's nomination of Mark G. Peters
12 to serve as the next Commissioner for the
13 Department of Investigation. DOI works as the
14 watchdog of New York City Government to root
15 out waste, fraud and abuse, to combat
16 corruption and to fight for public integrity.
17 Last week as the Speaker noted, the Committee
18 on Rules, Privileges and Elections held a
19 thorough hearing on the nominations and I want
20 to thank all the members of the committee and
21 several other members who attended for your
22 very strong questions as well as the staff for
23 preparing such excellent briefing materials,
24 and also thank Mr. Peters who sat in one chair
25 for more than three hours and gave us a lot of

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2 time. It was clear from our hearing that Mr.
3 Peters has the qualifications and the vision to
4 lead the Department of Investigation. He has a
5 long career in law enforcement, public
6 integrity, and civil rights, and he outlined a
7 very thoughtful and detailed approach to DOI,
8 including not just rooting out corruption and
9 being reactive when there is fraud, but being
10 pro-active to help agencies set up sufficient
11 public integrity controls. Though one
12 significant concern that did arise in our
13 deliberation is whether Mr. Peter's recent
14 service as Treasurer for Mayor de Blasio's
15 campaign and transition and by extension, his
16 close relationship with the Mayor presents a
17 problem for the zealous fulfillment of his
18 duties and the Committee, after extensive
19 question and review of the briefing materials
20 overwhelming concluded that it did not present
21 a problem and was satisfied with his answers.
22 In coming to that conclusion, we reviewed the
23 criteria set forth in the City Charter. It's
24 important to note that Charter does not
25 establish specific requirements of independence

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2 for the Department of Investigations
3 Commissioner as it does for COIB and other key
4 positions, but instead views the DOI
5 Commissioner as a member of the Mayor's
6 administration and that the work of advancing
7 integrity and rooting out corruption are tasks
8 for which the Mayor with his counsel shares
9 responsibility. Citizen's union and others
10 noted in their testimony that his service as
11 Treasurer does not in and of itself disqualify
12 him for this position. That said, committee
13 members asked him extensive questions about his
14 impartiality, about when he would recuse
15 himself, about how he would pursue the
16 investigations, and came to feel that he has
17 the integrity to pursue the fact wherever they
18 lead. As a member of the New York State Public
19 Integrity Commission, he voted to levy the
20 largest fine in history against a sitting
21 Governor, Governor Patterson who had appointed
22 him to the Commission, and he gave very
23 thoughtful answers to how he would approach
24 cases and what he would do in cases when
25 integrity, trust and fairness were required. As

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2 a result, the Committee voted overwhelmingly to
3 confirm Mr. Peters, and I enthusiastically
4 encourage our colleagues to join us. One final
5 note, the new Commissioner, when he gets to
6 work will be responsible for appointing the
7 city's first NYPD Inspector General as a result
8 of Local Law 70 that this council passed last
9 year, co-sponsored by Council Member Williams
10 and myself, and we were pleased to hear that
11 he's an enthusiastic supporter of this new
12 office, sees its success as a priority and is
13 committed to working with this Council to make
14 sure that we get the robust oversight, not just
15 of the NYPD, but of the all city agencies which
16 the citizens of the city deserve. Thank you
17 very much, Madam Speaker.

18 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
19 Council Member Lander. And as been indicated,
20 it was voted overwhelmingly in the Rules,
21 Privileges Committees, obviously asking and
22 having Mr. Peters really take into account some
23 of the concerns that were raised. We will
24 obviously highly encourage him to do that.
25 Finally, I would just like to mention and to

1
2 note that we are introducing today Resolution
3 Number Two, which I have sponsored along with
4 46 of my colleagues in support of the city's
5 plan to establish high quality universal pre-k
6 and afterschool programs. I want to thank
7 everyone who signed on to this Reso as well as
8 those who joined me in Albany last week to
9 testify and meet with legislators on the
10 budget. Early childhood education is the
11 greatest investment we can make towards
12 reducing the achievement gap in our city, and
13 we need a dedicated revenue stream for this
14 critical priority which we can achieve in the
15 form of a modest tax on the city's highest
16 earners. So I look forward to bringing this
17 resolution to the floor at an upcoming stated
18 council meeting, also continuing to work with
19 all of my colleagues and our partners in Albany
20 on this important issue. And this morning we
21 heard the Mayor announce the appointment of
22 Deputy Mayor Buery who will have specifically
23 the task of moving forward this agenda, the
24 implementation also of the afterschool programs
25 that are so desperately needed throughout our

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2 city, and this morning in my district, was with
3 the Mayor and with former Secretary of State
4 Hillary Clinton highlighting the need for more
5 parental involvement in early education for our
6 children. And obviously this is all coming
7 together, demonstrating the real serious
8 priority and sense of urgency that we have in
9 the city of New York to make sure that we
10 provide universal pre-k. So again, I want to
11 thank all my colleagues for their support, and
12 that ends communication from the Speaker.

13 LETITIA JAMES: Discussion of
14 general orders, Council Member Dan Garodnick.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank you
16 very much Madam Public Advocate. I rise to
17 speak on the subject of Mark Peters'
18 appointment as the DOI Commissioner. At our
19 hearing last week I raised the question of how
20 close is too close for a Mayor to be to his DOI
21 Commissioner. The fact that Mr. Peters was the
22 Treasurer to the Mayor's campaign as recently
23 as January raised obvious questions about his
24 ability to be impartial and independent when
25 pursuing impropriety in the Mayor's domain.

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2 Our constituents need to feel confident that
3 DOI can act as an independent check on the
4 administration and on all aspects of city
5 government. Of course, rather than being the
6 Mayor's Treasurer, Mr. Peter could instead have
7 been his best friend from high school, his
8 wife's former business associate or any other
9 professional or personal relationship that
10 could have created the wrong appearance, a
11 challenge, I would add which has the potential
12 to be present in any situation where the Mayor
13 has the power to appoint the DOI Commissioner,
14 which he does. However, these concerns in my
15 view, in this case, are outweighed by the
16 professionalism and credentials of this
17 candidate. I was extremely impressed by Mr.
18 Peters and was satisfied by his responses to
19 concerns raised at the hearing by both myself
20 and other members of the committee. He has a
21 background that is extremely well suited for
22 this position and has distinguished himself as
23 an independent voice in other matters of public
24 integrity as Chair Lander noted, even levying
25 significant fines against the same Governor

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2 that had appointed him. I trust that he will
3 continue in that vein. I also note that it
4 became clear from Mr. Peters' testimony that he
5 envisions the role of the inspector--I'm sorry,
6 of the DOI Commissioner as much as a pursuer of
7 bad facts and bad acts as he does as someone
8 who implements good protocols to prevent fraud
9 and abuse in the first instance. In that
10 context, the relationship with the Mayor is not
11 at all a bad thing. It will be our
12 responsibility to make sure that he acts as
13 independently as he's committed to do, and
14 along those lines I want to again urge Mr.
15 Peters to make his own independent choice on
16 the Inspector General for the NYPD without any
17 influence by the Mayor. The mayor has the
18 privilege of choosing the DOI Commissioner and
19 the NYPD Commissioner. He should not also have
20 the opportunity to pick the Inspector General.
21 Thank you.

22 LETITIA JAMES: Thank you.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: And I
24 will vote yes.

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2 LETITIA JAMES: Thank you. Council
3 Member Rosie Mendez?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you.
5 Today we are voting on a Landmarking of Tammany
6 Hall. It is located in my district across from
7 Union Square. This is a building that we've
8 been working on landmarking for many, many
9 years. Tammany Hall was built in 1928 for use
10 by the New York City Democratic party and it
11 was built in the Colonial Revival style. It's
12 on the east side of Union square, and it is an
13 incredibly beautiful building. Tammany Hall
14 and all the Democratic parties started out as
15 the social safety net for individuals who
16 needed services in our community.
17 Unfortunately, Tammany Hall went the way of
18 corruption, but Tammany Hall in this particular
19 building also was the home club of Mayor
20 Fiorello La Guardia and Mayor Jimmy Walker. I
21 believe out in the audience, my friend Jack
22 Taylor who worked for many years on this
23 landmarking is here today. I want to thank him
24 for all his years of hard work. We finally got
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Tammany Hall landmarked. Thank you very much.
And I ask my colleagues to vote in favor.

LETITIA JAMES: Report of special
committees?

UNKNOWN: None.

LETITIA JAMES: Reports of standing
committees?

UNKNOWN: Report of the Committee on
Civil Service and Labor Intro 1208A, Employee
sick time.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
general order.

UNKNOWN: M10, Mayor's veto, Intro
number 1208A.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Couple to be
filed.

UNKNOWN: Report of the Committee on
Environmental Protection, Intro 867A,
environmental hazard remediation program.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
general order.

UNKNOWN: M7, Mayor's veto, Intro
Number 867A.

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STATED MEETING

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SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled to be
filed.

UNKNOWN: Report of the Committee on
Finance, Intro 172A, Fire Department permit
fees.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
general order.

UNKNOWN: M5, Mayor's veto, Intro
Number 172A.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled to be
filed.

UNKNOWN: Pre-considered Reso 8,
organization funding.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
general order.

UNKNOWN: Report of the Committee on
Health, Intro 933A, animal abuse registry.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
general order.

UNKNOWN: M8, Mayor's veto of Intro
Number 933A.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled to be
filed.

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STATED MEETING

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UNKNOWN: Report of the Committee on Land Use, Pre-considered LU1 and Reso 33 through pre-considered LU4 and Reso 36 on page four.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on general order.

UNKNOWN: Pre-considered LU5 and Reso 37 through pre-considered LU8 and Reso 40, landmark designations.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: coupled on general order.

UNKNOWN: Pre-considered LU9 and Reso 41, UDAAP [phonetic] Bronx.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on general order.

UNKNOWN: Pre-considered LU10, UDAAP Brooklyn.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on general order.

UNKNOWN: Report of the Committee on Public Safety, Intro 859A, police reports of crime and parks.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on general order.

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STATED MEETING

UNKNOWN: M6, Mayor's veto, Intro
Number 859A.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled to be
filed.

UNKNOWN: Report of the Committee on
Rules, Privileges and Elections, Pre-considered
Reso 43, approving changes to committees.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
general order.

UNKNOWN: M14 and Reso 44, approving
the appointment of Mark G. Peters, Commissioner
Department of Investigation.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
general order.

UNKNOWN: Report of the Committee on
Transportation, Intro 1055A, Police Department
reports concerning vehicle collisions.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled to be
filed.

UNKNOWN: M9, Mayor's veto, Intro
Number 1055A.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Sorry.
Coupled on GO, on general order. Can we go
back to the Intro 1055A, please?

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STATED MEETING

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UNKNOWN: Yes, ma'am.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: It's coupled on general order.

UNKNOWN: M9 is the Mayor's veto of intro number 1055A.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled to be filed.

LETITIA JAMES: Roll call. When you vote on the six--

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: General order calendar.

UNKNOWN: Resolution appointing various persons, Commissioner of Deeds.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on general order. And at this time, I ask for our roll call on all items on the Couple General Order Calendar.

LEITITA JAMES: When you vote on the six intros vetoed by Mayor Bloomberg at the end of the last session, Intro 172A, 859A, 867A, 933A, 1055A, and 1208A, the question before the Council is, shall these intros be re-passed, the objection of the Mayor notwithstanding.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Arroyo?

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STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: So, I say
aye to all or what?

UNKNOWN: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Yes?

LETITIA JAMES: Yes.

Council Member ARROYO: Aye on all.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye on all.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Cabrera?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye on all.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Chin?

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye on all.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Cohen?

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye on all.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Constantinides?

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Madam
Public Advocate, may I be excused to explain my
vote?

LETITIA JAMES: Just want to rise
very quickly that the Council's taking on many
important bills today, but I want to rise to
speak in favor of the override of 867A, which
is a bill that marries both the previous
Council and this Council on good environmental

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2 policy and protecting of consumers in the City
3 of New York. I want to congratulate Council
4 Member Genarro, former Council Member Gennaro,
5 who was the Chair of the Environmental
6 Protection Committee for his leadership on this
7 and, of course, our Speaker Melissa Mark-
8 Viverito and the current Chair of the
9 Environmental Protection Committee, Donovan
10 Richards for continuing to stand up for the
11 city's consumers for good environmental policy.
12 I vote aye on all.

13 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Cornegy?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye on all.

15 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Crowley?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye on all.

17 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Cumbo?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye on all.

19 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Deutsch?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye on all.

21 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Dickens?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye on all.

23 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Dromm?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye on all.

25 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Espinal?

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STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye on all.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Eugene?

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye on all.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Ferreras?

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye on

all.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Garodnick?

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Gentile?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye on all.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Gibson?

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Permission

to explain my vote, quickly?

LETITIA JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I neglected

to give credit to the prime sponsor and former

member of the Council, Peter Vallone, Junior,

also Chair of the Public Safety Committee. I

want to thank him for his support, his

leadership on Intro 859A, and I vote aye on

all.

LETITIA JAMES: Thank you.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Greenfield?

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STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: May I explain my vote?

LETITIA JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you. I wanted to first congratulate Council Member Chin on a major zoning change in her district at 300 Lafayette, which is a project that she and the community have been working on for the last four years. I just want to congratulate Council Member Mendez on the landmarking that she's been working on I think for some 30 years, and I want to congratulate Mr. Peters on his appointment, and I vote aye on all.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Johnson?

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye on all.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Kallos?

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye on all.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: King?

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye on all.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Koo?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Permission to explain my vote?

LETITIA JAMES: Yes.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I'm really
3 pleased to be here today to demonstrate my
4 support of Intro 1055A, which had previously
5 been vetoed by former Mayor Bloomberg. Over the
6 past year, there have been many tragic car
7 accidents throughout New York City and back in
8 my home district. This override will be our
9 first step to ensure that all New Yorkers have
10 access to hit and run reports. And it's a great
11 step forward towards pedestrian safety. I would
12 like to thank City Council Speaker Mark-
13 Viverito and Council Member Rodriguez for their
14 overwhelming support throughout this process.
15 With that, I vote aye on all. And I also
16 wanted to wish everyone a happy new year in the
17 year of the horse. May everyone have enough
18 horsepower to do their jobs. Thank you.

19 [laughter]

20 LETITIA JAMES: And happy horsepower
21 to you. Next?

22 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Koslowtiz?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye on
24 all.

25 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Lancman?

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STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: No, as to M14, but yes on everything else.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Lander?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye on all.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Levin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye on all.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Levine?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye on all.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Maisel?

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Aye on all.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Matteo?

COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: No on 1208A. Aye on the rest.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Mealy?

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye on all.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Menchaca?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Public Advocate James, permission to explain?

LETITIA JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: While I believe that in an instance of overriding Intro 172A, the veto makes sense, or overriding the veto makes sense. I asked my colleagues to take a hard look at the fee structures more

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generally. Not all non-profits are created equal. Some non-profits may be better positioned to take on fees, like fees for the Fire Department permits than say a small for-profit property owner. There may be an opportunity to create a more new on system where large non-profit institutions can carry a slightly higher burden than smaller institutions. I look forward to working with the Finance Chair Ferreras, Speaker and my colleagues to review this further in this next session. Never the less, I vote aye on all.

LETITIA JAMES: Thank you.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Mendez?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you.

Today, Council Member Dan Garodnick and I are reintroducing a piece of legislation from the last legislative session.

LETITIA JAMES: Council Member--

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: No? Next round? Sorry.

LETITIA JAMES: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: You're all going to like this later. Okay?

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STATED MEETING

LETITIA JAMES: How do you vote?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Excuse me?

LETITIA JAMES: How do you vote?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I vote aye on
all.

LETITIA JAMES: Thank you.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Miller?

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye on all.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Palma?

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: No on M14.
Aye on all the rest.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Reynoso?

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye on all.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Richards?

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye on
all.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Rodriguez?

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Rose?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye on all.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Rosenthal?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye on
all.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Torres?

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STATED MEETING

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COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye on all.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Treyger?

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye on all.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Ulrich?

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Yes.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Vacca?

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye on all.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Vallone?

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: A brief
moment, Madam Advocate?

LETITIA JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: I just
wanted to say thank you to my colleagues on
what we are doing today and a special thank you
for my brother who's looking on from Astoria
for the creating of the animal abuse registry.
He worked tirelessly on this and he wanted to
make sure that he gave a special thank you for
continuing his efforts as I do myself. It's an
honor to vote today. Aye on all.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Weprin?

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye on all.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Williams?

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

4 LETITIA JAMES: Yes.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIMANS: Thank
6 you. First, I want to just give a shout out and
7 congratulate Richard Buery for his appointment,
8 who I went to church with at Saint Gabriel's
9 School Church. We grew up. They produced some
10 good people over there. I'm going to vote aye
11 on all with the exception of--I don't know what
12 the number is, Mark Peters? M14?

13 LETITIA JAMES: M14.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: With the
15 exception of M14, which I abstain. As
16 mentioned in the Rules Committee, there's
17 definitely an implication of what I believe or
18 who I believe would be a pretty good
19 Commissioner, actually, based on his background
20 and the things that he's done. I was concerned
21 for two reasons. One, was a issue of the
22 significant input that was mentioned that the
23 Mayor would have on the Inspector General, and
24 I hope that he heard the concerns and hopefully
25 maybe was a wrong choice of words, but

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2 hopefully we'll rethink the amount of
3 significant input the Mayor would have and that
4 he would speak with several groups and several
5 people, including the council and communities
6 that would all have a certain amount of input.
7 And the second had to do with the length of
8 time in which he resigned as Treasurer. As I
9 said in the Rules Committee, I think it's going
10 to be--you'll be hard pressed to find anybody
11 who has the credentials needed that doesn't
12 have some kind of relationship with someone,
13 but I was concerned about resigning less than
14 30 days and then being attempted--being brought
15 in for an appointment. So, I'm still deeply
16 conflicted on that count and because of that
17 I'm abstaining from that, but I do wish the new
18 Commissioner lots of luck, and based on his
19 experience I believe he'll make a good
20 Commissioner. Thank you.

21 LETITIA JAMES: Thank you.

22 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Wills?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye.

24 CLERK MCSWEENEY: Van Bramer?
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STATED MEETING

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COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye on
all.

CLERK MCSWEENEY: Speaker Mark-
Viverito?

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Vote aye on
all.

LETITIA JAMES: All items on today's
General Order Calendar were adopted by a vote
of 51 in the affirmative and zero in the
negative and zero abstentions with the
exception of Intro 1208A, which was adopted by
a vote of 49 affirmative, two negative and zero
abstentions, and M14 which was adopted by a
vote of 48 in the affirmative, two in the
negative and one abstentions, and the revised
Land Use Call-ups are adopted by a motion of 51
in the affirmative and zero in the negative.
Introduction reading of bills.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All bills are
referred to Committees as indicated on the
agenda.

LETITIA JAMES: Discussion of
Resolutions, Madam Speaker.

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you.

3 In the Resolution section of our agenda today
4 we will be voting on pre-considered Reso number
5 three, which was passed by the state and
6 federal legislation committee. I want to thank
7 the sponsor of this resolution, Council Member
8 Inez Barron as well as members of the Black,
9 Latino, Asian Caucus for bringing attention to
10 this issue. I would also like to thank Chair
11 Koslowtiz for ushering this resolution through
12 her committee. There are 11 Assembly or Senate
13 districts, representing over one million New
14 Yorkers that are currently vacant. More than
15 half of these districts are located in New York
16 City. These include the former Assembly
17 Districts of four of our colleagues who have
18 been elected to the City Council, as well as
19 the former Senate District of our Brooklyn
20 Borough President Eric Adams, amongst others.
21 Within the five boroughs these districts are
22 primarily located in communities of color,
23 which have been left without the representation
24 they deserve in Albany. It is crucial that
25 special elections be called immediately.

1
2 Normally, special elections have been called
3 soon after the vacancy occurs, and elections to
4 fill the seats for those taking new offices on
5 January 1st of a given year are usually held in
6 mid to late February. This year, though, the
7 Governor has yet to call a special election to
8 fill these 11 vacancies. At a time when the
9 legislature enters its busiest time and the
10 most important time, we need to assure that
11 these communities have a seat at the table. In
12 the coming months, the legislature will pass
13 the state budget, as well as discuss,
14 negotiate, and adopt legislation. These
15 decisions will determine how resources are
16 allocated and essential services are delivered
17 in the affected districts, which is a
18 particular concern, again, to communities of
19 color. So, again, this is a pre-considered
20 Reso. I want to thank the Black, Latino, Asian
21 Caucus, Council Member Reyna and Barron for
22 bringing this to our attention. We will be
23 voting on it and I would like to ask the
24 sponsor of this resolution, Council Member Inez
25 Barron to say a few words.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you,
3 Madam Speaker. I want to thank the Speaker as
4 well as Chairman Koslowtiz for bringing this to
5 her committee, and I just want to read briefly
6 from the letter that I presented in testimony
7 as well as a letter from Congresswoman Yvette
8 Clarke, as well as read briefly from a letter
9 from Senator Parker. There are presently 11
10 vacancies across New York State representing
11 approximately 1.5 million people. Six of these
12 districts are in down state New York,
13 accounting for more than 700,000 people in
14 Brooklyn alone. Since January 1st, 2014, these
15 six districts in New York City composed mostly
16 of African-American and Latino constituents
17 have not had a voice in the negotiations or a
18 seat at the table to ensure that their
19 interests are included in the legislation and
20 budget negotiations for the ensuing year.
21 Additionally, there are no services being
22 provided for the local district offices in
23 these communities. And then, a letter from the
24 Central Brooklyn Black Legislators Coalition,
25 "Dear Governor Cuomo, we write to you as a

1 coalition of black Brooklyn legislators, which
2 includes elected officials on the federal,
3 state, and city levels in government to express
4 our collective concern for the delay in
5 scheduling special elections for several state,
6 Assembly and State Senate seats, which has
7 effectively disenfranchised 1.5 million people.
8 These districts are majority, minority
9 districts, and as a result are subject to the
10 protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
11 As Americans we recall with pride that on the
12 cusp of the American Revolution, James Otis
13 proclaimed, "Taxation without representation is
14 tyranny." These people of Brooklyn pay their
15 taxes, income taxes on their wages, sales tax
16 on products and services, capital gains tax,
17 property tax, and the various fees required to
18 obtain a driver's license or operate a
19 business. As the New York State legislative
20 calendar typically ends in June, the delay in
21 scheduling special elections until June or
22 September will, in effect, prevent those
23 affected from participating in the form of
24 representative self-government known to us as
25

1
2 "democracy." Not having representation at this
3 stage renders these communities vulnerable,
4 defenseless, disadvantaged and ultimately
5 underserved." And the letter is signed by
6 Congresswoman Yvette Clark, Rita Kamara
7 [phonetic], the honorable Jumaane Williams,
8 Robert Cornegy, Laurie Cumbo, and there is--
9 there are other signatures that are being added
10 as the letter is being circulated. And finally,
11 just briefly from Senator Kevin Parker's letter
12 to the Governor, "Communities without state and
13 legislative representatives have no voice in
14 how thousands of other bills are amended,
15 debated, or passed into law. These communities
16 also have no representative to provide them
17 with constituent service or voice their
18 community's concerns in legislative oversight
19 proceedings. The absence of legislative
20 representation in these 11 districts therefore
21 disproportionately harms New York's African-
22 American, Latino and new American communities."
23 I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this
24 Reso. Thank you. And I want to thank all of
25

1
2 my members of the BLAC for signing onto this.
3 Thank you.

4 LETITIA JAMES: Thank you. We now
5 will be voting on the pre-considered Reso, a
6 Resolution calling upon the New York State
7 Governor to call for a special election to fill
8 all vacancies, the New York State Assembly and
9 New York State Senate. It is a voice vote. All
10 in favor say aye.

11 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

12 LETITIA JAMES: All against say no.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: No,
14 permission--

15 LETITIA JAMES: [interposing] Any
16 abstentions?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: to explain
18 my vote?

19 LETITIA JAMES: Council Member
20 Williams?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you.
22 Yeah, I wanted to speak on this--in this
23 Resolution before we voted. I definitely vote
24 aye, but I want to also just impress the
25 importance of this issue and my frustration

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2 with the Governor, I believe has ignored many
3 issues in the Black, Latino, Asian communities.
4 I've heard that he refused for some time to
5 meet with some black electives in the state,
6 and I do know that he refused to meet with
7 Codrie [phonetic] of black electives in
8 Brooklyn. He has taken a lot of time to deal
9 with the hospitals that are closing in Black
10 and Latino communities, and to me, this is
11 another front to those communities. It is a
12 problem and I hope that the Governor who I
13 assume would want the support of black and
14 Latinos as he runs for this year and perhaps
15 next year, will be wanting these same
16 communities to support him, and I would urge
17 him to please listen to what we are saying and
18 address the issues or concerns. Thank you.

19 LETITIA JAMES: Council Member
20 Gibson?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you
22 very much, Madam Public Advocate. I too want to
23 thank Council Member Barron and the members of
24 the BLAC as well as Council Member Williams
25 just for their support of this important

1
2 Resolution. Eighty percent of my Council
3 District right now has no Assembly Member.
4 There are two vacant Assembly Districts in the
5 Bronx and one of which I used to serve in, and
6 it is crucially important that at a time when
7 the state legislature is embarking on a budget
8 that will be passed for April 1st, the start of
9 the state fiscal year as well as important
10 policy issues that are confronting the State of
11 New York. It is truly important that Governor
12 Cuomo recognizes how important these vacant
13 seats are, and we need representation. We talk
14 about equality. We talk about justice. We talk
15 about fairness. Communities of color
16 throughout New York City are looking for
17 Assembly services in the local community and
18 unfortunately it has remained vacant for
19 several months. So, I thank you, Council Member
20 Barron, and I too want to add my voice to this
21 Resolution in making sure that Governor Cuomo
22 knows how important nine vacant Assembly seats
23 as well as two state Senate vacant seats are in
24 the state. Thank you.

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LETITIA JAMES: Council Member

Kallos?

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Thank you, Public Advocate. With nine vacancies in the State Assembly, two vacancies in the State Senate, city and state news counts 1,786,166 New York State residents who are left without state representation. And I commend this Resolution to remedy this problem. New York special election process, however, is deeply flawed. According to a report by Citizen's Union, circumventing democracy, the flawed system for vacancies for elected office in New York. One in four legislators was elected in a special election, contest with an abysmally-- I'm sorry, "an abysmally low average voter turn out of 12 percent" with an incumbency re-election rate of 96 percent over the last decade. Citizen's Union states in this report, "The continuation of a closed party nominating process in which party leaders essentially ordain the candidates whose names will appear on a special election ballot limits voter participation in our representative democracy."

1
2 It seems that Governor Andrew Cuomo is refusing
3 to call these special elections in order to
4 avoid this undemocratic process. I hope to vote
5 in favor of this resolution with a friendly
6 amendment to call the Governor to change the
7 special election law to require party primaries
8 or non-partisan elections.

9 LETITIA JAMES: Thank you.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I vote no on
11 this Resolution as written, but encourage the
12 Governor to amend the special election law to
13 require party primaries or non-partisan
14 elections as was recommended by Citizen's
15 Union, then call a special election to provide
16 representation to 1,786,--

17 LETITIA JAMES: [interposing]
18 Council Member, could you please conclude your
19 remarks?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: 166--

21 LETITIA JAMES: [interposing] Thank
22 you sir. Thank you.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: residents.

24 LETITIA JAMES: Are there any other
25 members that wish to be heard? Again, we will

1
2 be voting on this Resolution calling upon the
3 New York State Governor to call for a special
4 election to fill all vacancies in the New York
5 State Assembly and New York State Senate. It is
6 a voice vote. All in favor say aye.

7 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

8 LETITIA JAMES: All opposed? All
9 abstentions? The aye's have it. General
10 discussion. Council Member Mendez?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Colleagues,
12 today I rise again to talk about Intro 17.
13 Council Member Dan Garodnick and I are
14 reintroducing a piece of legislation from the
15 last legislative session. Then Council Member,
16 now Borough President Gale Brewer was also a
17 Co-prime sponsor of this bill. Current after-
18 hours variance permits allow construction
19 activity to be performed before 7:00 a.m. and
20 after 6:00 p.m. as well as on weekends. This
21 legislation will require the Department of
22 Buildings to provide more transparency, allow
23 for a public comment period, as well as ban any
24 Sunday construction work, and limit time
25 allowed for construction work during the

1
2 evenings and on Saturdays. While New York City
3 is a city that never sleeps, every New Yorker
4 deserves a good night sleep. At a time where
5 there is proliferation of development and
6 construction in dense urban environments, this
7 legislation will set a real criterion to
8 determine when the Department of Buildings can
9 issue and after-hours variance for
10 construction. Currently, after-hours variance
11 seemed to be issued on request. DOB is
12 permitting developers to create intolerable
13 living conditions for community residents who
14 are continuously subjected to loud noise for
15 six, sometimes seven days a week and often
16 times exceeding more than 70 hours per week of
17 unabated noise construction. After-hours
18 variance should be the exception, not the rule.
19 I hope you sign onto this legislation. Thank
20 you.

21 LETITIA JAMES: Thank you. Council
22 Member Rose?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Sorry. My
24 colleagues, I rise and this is in the spirit of
25 Robert Jackson and something comes over you

1
2 when you sit in this seat. But my colleagues,
3 we are at the time of year when we have the
4 opportunity to re-introduce legislation that
5 didn't quite make it through the process the
6 last term for one reason or another. The bills
7 I am re-introducing today are very worthy of
8 consideration by this August [phonetic] body
9 and I hope we will have the opportunity for
10 public hearings and come to the floor for a
11 vote very quickly. And they are, with Council
12 Member Vacca, a bill requiring the collection
13 and reporting of data related to buss and
14 subway fair evasion, a bill to exempt
15 motorcycles and similar vehicles from the
16 requirement of purchasing muni-meter time, a
17 law creating a Staten Island hospital bed
18 taskforce, Resolutions in support of the
19 Federal Campus Safety Act and urging Congress
20 to improve the disability claims process for
21 victims of military sexual trauma, a Resolution
22 call-in for a one year moratorium on school
23 closing and force co-locations so that the
24 impact on communities of these policies can be
25 appropriately studied, a Resolution calling on

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2 the MTA to institute fare discounts for seniors
3 and persons with disabilities on express buses
4 during rush hour, a resolution calling on New
5 York State Legislature to pass and the Governor
6 to sign a Domestic Violence Survivors Justice
7 Act, and finally, a resolution calling on ACS
8 to provide summer school classes to juveniles
9 detained in New York City facilities during the
10 summer months. That is a total of nine bills
11 and the resolutions ranging from the hospital
12 bed crisis on Staten Island to domestic
13 violence to transportation to education. I hope
14 I can count on your support for all of these
15 important policy issues in the coming month.
16 Thank you for your indulgence.

17 LETITIA JAMES: Thank you. Council
18 Member Williams?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you.
20 First, there was one thing I forgot to mention
21 with the Mark Peters that I want--I thought was
22 important that also weighed on me was the fact
23 that none of the good government groups--the
24 good government groups were either silent or
25 actually supportive of him. I wanted to make

1
2 sure I mentioned that. I wanted to say I look
3 forward to the day when all history is taught
4 in schools and we don't need to designate
5 months to highlight them. However, that is not
6 being done. So we today are in the month of
7 Black History Month in February, and I hope
8 everyone will take some time to brush up on
9 some of the black history that actually can't
10 fit in a month, but you can try your best to
11 get as much as you can. To that note, I have
12 one or two bills I am re-introducing and
13 introducing as well. I just want to highlight
14 one of them that actually have been myself and
15 Council Member Van Bramer. So I want to thank
16 him for his support, but as a bill to place
17 signage on the intersection of Wall and Water
18 Street in Manhattan to mark the site of New
19 York's first open slave market. There are too
20 often the history, background of people of
21 African descent in this country and definitely
22 in this city is literally stepped on throughout
23 the city and throughout this country, and I'm
24 hoping--matter of fact, in my district, I
25 everyday walk over and on street names that are

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2 named off the people who owned people who
3 looked like me. So I'm hoping that we can move
4 forward, remembering this history and
5 commemorating what happened with this open
6 slave trade market signage. So I want to thank
7 Council Member Van Bramer for his support and
8 I'm hoping that we can forward on this and I
9 hope everyone will take a look at the other
10 bills that I have put in and hopefully sign
11 onto that as well. Oh, and one thing that I
12 think--I'm hoping we do concentrate on this
13 month and the month going forward is the gun
14 violence that is going on in many of these
15 communities and the resources that are needed
16 to help temper that. Thank you.

17 LETITIA JAMES: Thank you. Council
18 Member Garodnick?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank you
20 very much. I want to thank Council Member
21 Mendez for so articulately explaining Intro 17.
22 Ditto to what she said on that one. I want to
23 just draw my colleague's attention to Intro
24 Six. New York City, this is on a bill requiring
25 more disclosure in campaign communications.

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2 New York City is one of the nation's leading
3 campaign finance programs, but when it comes to
4 disclosure of political communications, we are
5 somewhat behind. In Federal elections,
6 candidates are required to include a simple
7 paid for by disclosure on all political
8 communications, but there is no requirement
9 today that exists at the city level. That's
10 why I've introduced a bill today that will
11 close that loop hole and require disclosure on
12 all political communication in New York City,
13 something that is already required for
14 independent expenditures in city elections.
15 There should be no mystery about the source of
16 political communications. Let's make sure that
17 candidates are taking ownership of their claims
18 and assertions, and at the same time create a
19 strong disincentive to resort to hostile or
20 negative attacks. So I want to invite my
21 colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring this
22 bill which is Intro Number Six. Thank you.

23 LETITIA JAMES: Council Member

24 Barron?

25

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yes, thank
3 you. I also rise to talk about February being
4 designated as Black History Month, and we need
5 to make sure that history is inclusive of all
6 of the groups that were involved in creating
7 this nation, and those people who are sometime
8 presented with glorified history, in fact, have
9 some tainting to them. So all the people who
10 are sitting over there by Thomas Jefferson be
11 careful. That statue may topple because I've
12 been chiseling at that pedestal. So, but in
13 all seriousness, we do want to make sure that
14 our history is included, and in the Committee
15 Meeting for Landmarks, I noted that 39 and 41
16 Ward [phonetic] Street were in an area that was
17 an African-American area. As we know, the
18 African-American burial ground was there. So,
19 the boundaries of what was considered the city
20 pretty much ended on the other side of the City
21 Hall, and what I ask is that the significance
22 of African-Americans, especially as we do land-
23 marking is included. It was a brief footnote
24 in their presentation so I did ask that they
25 correct that and make it more expansive, and on

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2 that note we do want to acknowledge that the
3 honorable Shirley Chisom [phonetic] now has a
4 Forever stamp and I would encourage you all to
5 get one, use them, and propagate the great work
6 of a woman who was unbought and unbossed
7 [phonetic] and share her story with others.
8 Thank you.

9 LETITIA JAMES: Council Member
10 Richards.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Good
12 afternoon. I rise to ask my colleagues to
13 support Reso's--Resolution Numbers 16 through
14 18. These all have to do with liquor stores in
15 our communities. The first Reso would increase
16 the required distance between the premises
17 selling liquor or wine at retail consumption
18 off the premises of a school, church,
19 synagogue, or other place of worship from 200
20 feet to 800 feet. The second one calls on the
21 New York State Legislature and the Governor to
22 at least issue a 60 day notice to community
23 boards before--once an application goes into
24 the New York State Liquor Authority. And the
25 third one also calls on them to create a

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2 process in which the Community Board would see
3 these applications ahead of time. I just want
4 to speak of two places in my district and we've
5 just been seeing these liquor stores go up. We
6 have Springfield High School in my district
7 where obviously the liquor store is not going
8 up for other reasons now, but this is a school
9 that was recovering and has gone through a
10 great deal over the years and is now on the
11 right path to success and a few months ago
12 there would have been a liquor store that would
13 literally have gone up across the street from
14 the school because it was 199 feet or less than
15 200 feet to the facility. So we have to, I
16 believe, take a closer look at this. I know
17 it's a state issue, and the State Liquor
18 Authority approves around 98 percent of liquor
19 store applications anytime they come up, but we
20 must do, and I'm calling on the state to do
21 more on this. So I'm asking my colleagues to
22 sign on today. Thank you.

23 LETITIA JAMES: Council Member
24 Cabrera?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you
3 so much. In the spirit of African-American
4 Month, I want to draw attention to Intro Two, a
5 bill that would--it's in relation to the co-
6 naming of the David Dinkins Washington Bridge.
7 The New York Times did a very interesting
8 article regarding the accomplishments that our
9 good beloved Mayor have done and during his
10 time in 1989 to 1993. Let me just name a few
11 under Dinkins, Safe Streets Safe Cities
12 Program. Crime in New York City decreased more
13 dramatically and more rapidly, both in terms of
14 actual numbers and percentage than in any time
15 in modern New York City history. The rates of
16 most crimes made consecutive declines during
17 the last 36 months of his four year term,
18 ending a 30-year upper spiral. Dinkins also
19 initiated a hiring program that expanded the
20 police department nearly 25 percent. And I
21 talked to you about the clean up and revival of
22 Time's Square, including persuading Walt Disney
23 Corporation to rehabilitate an old 42nd Street
24 theater. The City's revenue producing events
25 such as Fashion Week, Restaurant Week, Broadway

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2 on Broadway were all created under Dinkins. He
3 made major commitment to rehabilitation of the
4 dilapidated housing in northern Harlem, the
5 South Bronx, Brooklyn despite significant
6 budget constraint. More housings were developed
7 during his time in a single term than in the
8 two terms Mayor Giuliani had an opportunity to
9 be here. I could say much more, but in respect
10 of time, thank you so much.

11 LETITIA JAMES: Thank you. Council
12 Member Chin.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you,
14 Public Advocate. I rise to ask my colleagues
15 to support Intro Three, a local law to amend
16 the administrative code of the City of New York
17 in relation to the recovery of relocation
18 expense incurred by the Department of Housing
19 and Preservation Development, pursuant to a
20 vacate order. Vacate orders are a constant
21 reality in lower Manhattan and other neighbors
22 in New York City with old buildings and many
23 illegal conversions. In 2013, last year alone,
24 my district faced three major vacate orders and
25 numerous partial vacate leaving hundreds of

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2 tenants without homes and enable to shoulder
3 the cost of long term temporary housing. The
4 city works with the Red Cross and community
5 organizations to place displaced tenants in
6 emergency shelters, but for many family, this
7 assistance after much paperwork is too little
8 and too late. This legislation would require
9 the city Department, HPD to mandate building
10 owners to deposit monies in an escrow account
11 with HPD. The funds will be readily available
12 to help relocate tenants into temporary housing
13 in the event of a vacate order. In the midst of
14 all the disorder of vacating one's home,
15 residents should at least have the assurance of
16 a place to go until they can make more
17 permanent arrangement. Making the building
18 owner responsible is the right thing to do and
19 I ask my colleagues to support it. Thank you.

20 LETITIA JAMES: Thank you. Council
21 Member King?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: I rise today.
23 Again, I want to congratulate us all being re-
24 elected and elected. Happy Lunar Year to Koo
25 and Chin. In addition to that, I want to add

1
2 for Black History's celebration month. Support,
3 asking everyone to support Cabrera and his
4 Intro Two, making sure that that bridge which
5 connects the Bronx and Manhattan, which I go
6 across frequently is re-named after one of the
7 greatest Mayors that we've had, Mayor David
8 Dinkins. In addition to that, I ask us all as
9 we continue to figure our way out around City
10 Hall and create new legislation, that I ask you
11 all to support Intro 12, which is a local law
12 to amend the Administrative Code of the City of
13 New York in relation to requiring the
14 Department of Education to report academic and
15 demographic information on co-located schools.
16 As we continue to fund the education system, I
17 know in my district that we have a number of
18 campuses, and I would like to see a comparison
19 chart of how effective that one school is to
20 another, especially when they're co-located or
21 if they're charter schools to make sure that
22 the funding that we're putting into the
23 education system's actually, is actually
24 training and educating children that go to
25 those buildings. Secondly, I ask you all to

1 support a resolution. I'm calling upon the
2 State of New York, this is Reso 10, the New
3 York State Legislator to introduce and pass and
4 the Governor to sign into law which will amend
5 the penal law by increasing criminal penalties
6 for assaulting a train operator, ticket
7 inspector, conductor, signal person, bus
8 operator, or train agent employee at any
9 transit agency authority or company. I find it
10 appalling that these men and women who serve us
11 every day, whether they drive a bus or drive a
12 train, that they are subjected to violence
13 because people have issues, and we need to let
14 New Yorkers know that if you assault any one of
15 our service in the City of New York that you
16 will be penalized just as well if you were to
17 assault a police officer. So I'm urging you all
18 to please sign this and making sure that as we
19 move forward, I ask us all--this sheet here,
20 this calendar, and also the sheets that we
21 signed if we wanted to sign into an intro, when
22 I was here I just offered this. My challenge
23 is trying to identify what it is--
24
25

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2 LETITIA JAMES: [interposing] Thank
3 you, Council Member. Please conclude your
4 remarks.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: If you don't
6 know, please ask somebody so we can all help
7 each other--

8 LETITIA JAMES: [interposing] Thank
9 you. Council Member--

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: [interposing]
11 to move the legislative process. Thank you.

12 LETITIA JAMES: Levin?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you,
14 Madam Public Advocate. My colleagues, I am
15 introducing today three introductions and four
16 resolutions, and I would ask that you sign on
17 in support of them. Two of the introductions
18 have to do with resiliency in housing and
19 buildings requiring an analysis of the heating
20 and cooling needs upon/during building design
21 for new buildings and requiring insulation of
22 existing concealed pipes exposed during
23 alterations and repairs. That helps us reduce
24 our carbon footprint in New York City. The
25 other Intro, Intro 15 would require the

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2 Department of Education to report annually on
3 revenues received from the fund for public
4 schools. The Four resolutions, two have to do
5 with our environmental protection. One would--
6 is a resolution calling on the state
7 legislative have passed and the Governor signed
8 Senate Bill 4921, Assembly Bill 6863 that
9 relate to the protection of public health from
10 radon in natural gas. The other, Resolution
11 14, would call on supporting--it's a resolution
12 support President Obama's efforts to use the
13 Clean Air Act to reduce greenhouse gas
14 pollution and calling upon the Environmental
15 Protection Agency to fully enforce the Clean
16 Air Act by regulating greenhouse gases in order
17 to avert potentially catastrophic effects of
18 climate change. The two other resolutions, one
19 is calling on the New York State legislature to
20 pass and the Governor to sign legislation that
21 would define honey and provide standards for
22 honey sold in the state. This is an issue in
23 which New York State honey producers are being
24 compromised by products that are not fully
25 standardized and take away from hard-working

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2 honey producers here in New York State. And
3 the other Resolution, Resolution 11, would call
4 on the state legislature to pass the marijuana
5 Regulation and Taxation Act and the governor to
6 sign such legislation to law. This is a bill
7 introduced by Richard Godfried [phonetic] in
8 the Assembly and Liz Kruger [phonetic] in the
9 Senate that would legalize, regulate, and tax
10 the sale of marijuana in New York State. Thank
11 you very much.

12 LETITIA JAMES: Council Member
13 Greenfield?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank
15 you, Madam Public Advocate. I sit today and
16 ask that you, my colleagues, consider co-
17 sponsoring Intro Nine, not just because it's
18 one of the first 10 Intros, but also because it
19 is a fine piece of legislation. Any of you have
20 happened to walk through what is known as a
21 pedestrian bridge, these are generally the
22 bridges that cover the cuts out of the MTA or
23 the LIRR. You will find that it is a
24 significant challenge because in most cases,
25 neither the MTA nor the LIR, nor the relevant

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2 authority maintains those pedestrian bridges,
3 and as a result they are full of ice and snow.
4 This is a serious challenge to many folks, many
5 of my constituents, especially the elderly, the
6 young who are wheeling carriages of their
7 children in many cases, and is a very serious
8 hazard. So this common sense piece of
9 legislation would require the City to maintain
10 a list and to find out and to hold responsible
11 whomever is responsible in fact for snow or ice
12 removal on the pedestrian bridges. And
13 considering the weather that we've been having,
14 the weather that we are anticipating, I would
15 encourage you to quickly sign onto this
16 legislation so we can get a pass and we can
17 finally get clearer pedestrian bridges in the
18 city of New York. Thank you.

19 LETITIA JAMES: Thank you. Council
20 Member Vacca?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Thank you. I
22 rise to speak in favor of Intro 28. Of course
23 I would be in favor of it; I introduced it.
24 It's about Community Board meetings being web
25 cast, and I think that it's about time.

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2 Community Boards represent the nearest level of
3 local government. People should be aware of
4 what the board is doing, how the board conducts
5 business, and what issues in their local
6 communities are coming up and how the agenda is
7 being addressed. So I hope that this bill will
8 be considered by the members. It's before the
9 Technology Committee, which I chair, so I
10 promise to give it a fair immediate hearing and
11 then vote yes as democratically as I possibly
12 can. Thank you very much.

13 LETITIA JAMES: Thank you. And
14 lastly, Council Member Johnson.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you,
16 Madam Public Advocate, and thank you to all my
17 colleagues for the discussion today. I want to
18 follow up on Council Member Barron and Council
19 Member Williams' remarks with regard to black
20 history month, and just mention that in my
21 district I feel very honored and proud that
22 some significant trailblazers in the black
23 community resided in the district and made a
24 mark in the district, especially LGBT people,
25 who I--

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LETITIA JAMES: [interposing]

Council Member, may we please have a quiet in the chamber. Council Member Johnson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Especially LGBT African-American individuals who made their mark on history, specifically Biard Ruston [phonetic] who was one of Martin Luther King, Junior's closest aides. A high school in Chelsea is named after him and he lived for many years at the Mutual [phonetic] Redevelopment Houses Penn South in my district. Audre Lorde who was a trailblazer in the community, and there is a health center named The Callen-Lorde Health Center in Chelsea, which provides healthcare to low income folks that need it. And Alvin Ailey, where the Alvin Ailey Dance Company is located in Hell's Kitchen, and is considered one of the finest dance companies across the world. I think that LGBT African-American people should be discussed and talked about in Black History Month as well, and I wanted to mention those three trailblazers who left a mark in my own district. Thank you very much.

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LETITIA JAMES: Thank you. Madam Speaker, we now stand adjourned until February 26th at 1:00 Ceremonials and 1:30 Stated Council Meeting.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: And if I could just tell--remind, particularly the new colleagues, when we are in these sessions, if you do want to speak please make sure that you get your name on the list so that in the future we don't have the confusion that occurred earlier. And [speaking Spanish] It is 3:00, minus five minutes and we are adjourned. Thank you, Madam Public Advocate.

LETITIA JAMES: Very good. We're adjourned.

[gavel]

C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date 02/06/2014