

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

STATED MEETING

----- X

March 12, 2014
Start: 1:40 p.m.
Recess: 2:48 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO
Speaker of the Council
LETITIA JAMES
The Public Advocate

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Maria del Carmen Arroyo
Inez D. Barron
Fernando Cabrera
Margaret S. Chin
Andrew Cohen
Costa G. Constantinides
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
Elizabeth S. Crowley
Laurie A. Cumbo
Chaim M. Deutsch
Inez E. Dickens
Daniel Dromm
Rafael L. Espinal

COUNCIL MEMBERS: (CONTINUED)

Mathieu Eugene
Julissa Ferreras
Daniel R. Garodnick
James F. Gennaro
Vincent J. Gentile
Vanessa L. Gibson
David G. Greenfield
Vincent M. Ignizio
Corey D. Johnson
Ben Kallos
Andy L. King
Peter A. Koo
Karen Koslowitz
Rory I. Lancman
Brad S. Lander
Stephen T. Levin
Mark Levine
Alan N. Maisel
Steven Matteo
Darlene Mealy
Carlos Menchaca
Rosie Mendez
I. Daneek Miller
Annabel Palma
Antonio Reynoso
Donovan J. Richards
Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Deborah L. Rose
Helen K. Rosenthal
Ritchie J. Torres
Mark Treyger
Eric A. Ulrich
James Vacca
Paul A. Vallone
James G. Van Bramer
Mark S. Weprin
Jumaane D. Williams
Ruben Wills

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

Rocky Bucano
Executive Director
Teamwork Foundation, Inc.

Grandmaster Caz

Sulman Arzu-Brown
Executive Director
Garifuna Coalition USA, Inc.

Jose Avila Francisco
President
Garifuna Coalition USA, Inc.

Rev. Dr. Karen Daughtry
Pastor
The House of the Lord Church

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

STATED MEETING

4

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: We're getting ready to start. [background comments] Before we get started, I want to wish Council Member Andy King a happy birthday.

[cheers, applause, background comments]

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: I think he told me he was like 30-something; I don't now.

[background comments, laughter] I'm Council Member Fernando Cabrera and it's truly an honor to stand here with the legends, the founders; the pioneer of hip hop. [cheers, applause] To be able to put together the people that we have been able to assemble here together is just short of -- if I may use the word -- miracle. Coming from different backgrounds, people living in different places, and I wanna first thank Rocky. Rocky, thank you so much, Rocky Bucano, for being instrumental putting everybody together; [applause, cheers] we've been working on this now for a while.

And today I'm also very excited about the fact, and we're gonna be talking more about this during the press conference immediately after the Pre-Stated; the desire... there's a desire here that's been burning now for years for a hip hop museum in

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

STATED MEETING

5

the Bronx; [cheers, applause] it's time. It's time.
It's time. Started in the Bronx and it must stay in
the Bronx [background comment] and so we'll be
talking more about that later. [background comments]

So what we're gonna do, I'm gonna... I'm
gonna give the due time... this is really... really to
serve; I'm gonna be calling on each of the founders
and just... there's so much to be said about them, but
for the sake of time, I'm gonna be calling out each
one and presenting the proclamation and then we're
gonna hear from the City Clerk and then we're gonna
hear from a couple of them; I'm gonna ask my staff to
be ready.

First, Afrika Bambaataa. [cheers,
applause] Here's the godfather of hip hop, founder
of the Universal Zulu Nation, [cheers, background
comments, laughter] created the musical genre electro
funk; he recorded the critical acclaimed song,
"Planet Rock" [cheers, applause] with a Soulsonic
Force. [background comments, cheers, laughter]

We've been... let me acknowledge we've been
joined by our beloved Public Advocate, Tish James,
who has [cheers, applause] joined us, alongside with
my colleagues here in the Council.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

STATED MEETING

6

We also want to acknowledge, and I don't think he... he's... I think he got stuck at the airport, right, but I want to acknowledge... I used to... I must confess; I used to pop dance [laughter] many years ago, moonwalk, the whole thing... [background comments] there you go, there you go... [laughter] come on; don't shout me out, don't shout me out. But Kurtis Blow, [cheers, applause] music producer, rapper and minister, who in 1979 signed a deal with Mercury Records, making him the first rapper signed by a major label and Rocky, can you receive that... okay, good, Melle's gonna be receivin' it... [background comments] he's keepin' it. [laughter] He's gonna have to give you a free concert ticket... [background comments, cheers, applause] And also holding the proclamation... who are we talkin' about here, people? [background comments, cheers] Melle Mel. [background comments, laughter]. You may not know this, but he was the first to refer himself as MC, or Master of Ceremony; he was inducted in 2007 into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as part of the group, Melle Mel and the Furious Five. [background comments] Come on, let's give it up. [cheers, applause]

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

STATED MEETING

7

We also been joined and we wanna honor Grand Wizard Theodore, come on. [cheers, applause] One of early hip hop's most skilled DJs and he's universally acknowledged as the inventor of the scratch. [cheers, applause, background comments]

Then also we've been joined by Grandmaster Caz. [cheers, applause, background comments] There he is, ladies and gentlemen. DJ whose name was Casanova Fly, [cheers] he teamed up with JDL to form the Notorious Two and became the first DJ to rap while handling records on their turntables. [cheers, background comments] Come on; let's give it up. [cheers, applause]

We've also been joined by Jasie [phonetic] Jay. [background comment] Jazzy, I'm sorry, Jazzy. [background comments, cheers, applause] Jazzy. Jazzy. [cheers, background comments]

Alright; leave the pastor alone. [background comments] American Hip Hop DJ and producer who's known for his involvement in the music group, Afrika Bambaataa, and Soulsonic Force [cheers] since 1980. [background comments, applause]

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

STATED MEETING

8

We also wanna recognize one of those founders that are usually not recognized, but they were very significant and we're talkin' about Joe Conzo, photographer [cheers, applause] who captured the birth of hip hop music and culture that will forever change the world. [background comments] Cutman LJ... LG, boy, I'm turnin' it out today. [cheers, applause] LG. [background comments] I just changed your name. [background comment] Peter did it, so you can do it. Come on, it's your next level. [background comments] So... [laughter] unique DJ associated with Zulu Nation, who after serving great DJ years ago implemented his own great DJ style. Come on, let's give it up again. [cheers, applause]

Then we have Jorge Fabel Pabon, pop master, [cheers, applause] hip hop dancer, whose talents by 1982 were being featured, naturally, international. Come on, give us some moves in there my brother. [cheers, applause, background comments]

So here we go my brother. [background comment] Here we go; you ready? [laughter, cheers, applause] Well also, we want to honor Pete DJ Jones. [cheers, applause] Well I didn't really know DJ

1
2 Jones passed away on Wednesday, January 15th, 2014 at
3 the age of 79. He was known for hosting parties in
4 the 70s and in the 80s in the Bronx, has been placed
5 by legends as one of the first disc jockeys to use
6 two turntables and spin two copies of the same
7 record, which later became critical in mixing and
8 scratching. [cheers, applause]

9 I wanna turn it over to the City Clerk
10 for the reading of the proclamation and we're gonna
11 be hearing from some of these great artists.

12 [background comments, cheers]

13 CITY CLERK: Council, City of New York
14 Proclamation. New York City is more than 8 million
15 rhythm strong, but for nearly 40 years a completely
16 unique rhythm has galvanized into a signature style
17 we know as hip hop. Since its birth in the South
18 Bronx in the 1970s, hip hop has given those living in
19 neighborhoods with abandoned buildings, crime and
20 poverty a means of escape in more ways than one.
21 Today hip hop is an international multi-billion
22 dollar phenomenon and encompasses much more than
23 music. Hip hop has created a culture that
24 incorporates ethnicity, art, politics, fashion
25 technology and urban life. And whereas, in the 1980s

1
2 hip hop culture continued to evolve with every
3 generation and in the 1990s had a meteoric rise that
4 hit mainstream media and consumers, especially
5 suburban youth. Staying true to its urban roots
6 lyrics were often informed by street smarts and
7 street survival. As commercial and gangster rap
8 gained more exposure, hip hop culture as a whole was
9 suddenly and mistakenly considered synonymous with
10 many negative attributes, even though many hip hop
11 artists featured and continue to focus primarily on
12 socially conscious and politically oriented lyrics.
13 Hip hop has now grown into an entire cultural
14 movement that has changed generational thinking on
15 everything from politics and race to art and
16 language. And whereas, today hip hop continues to
17 expand with subgenres, fusion forms and regional
18 variations on all these and its culture continues to
19 influence people around the world. On this occasion,
20 the Council of the City of New York is proud to
21 recognize the original New York artists who planted
22 the seeds for this global cultural revolution.
23 Working together is the umbrella organization called
24 Universal Zulu Nation; they plan to observe November
25 2014 as hip hop month around the world and they are

1
2 currently working to open a museum to promote the
3 educational, communal and historic perspective of hip
4 hop, where it all began. Now therefore, be it known
5 that the Council of New York is proud to pay tribute
6 to Jorge Fabel Pabon, Pete DJ Jones, Grandmaster Caz,
7 Cutman LG, Rocky Bucano, Jazzy Jay, Joe Conzo, Kurtis
8 Blow, Grand Wizard Theodore, Melle Mel; Afrika
9 Bambaataa as the original legends of hip hop in
10 recognition of their pioneering contributions to hip
11 hop culture in New York City and beyond. Melissa
12 Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the Entire Council;
13 Fernando Cabrera, Council Member 14th District of
14 Bronx and many other members of the New York City
15 Council.

16 [cheers, applause]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: I wanna take a
18 moment to give one more proclamation and this moment
19 would've not been possible if it wasn't for Rocky
20 Bucano, [cheers, applause] a financial advisor and
21 current executive director at Teamwork Foundation,
22 Inc.; New York Gauchos, thank you, Rocky, for making
23 this moment possible. [applause, cheers] I'm gonna
24 turn it over to you; you could introduce the other
25 two.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

STATED MEETING

12

ROCKY BUCANO: I'd like to thank Councilman Cabrera again for your steadfast willingness to support hip hop culture in the Bronx and makin' today a reality for all of my peers that are standing here along with me. I'd like to thank Andy King, Vanessa, Letitia James, thank you for coming, all of our supporters up there in the gallery, [cheers, applause] all of our family members that are here to support us, [cheers] this is a monumental day for hip hop; we look forward to exploring the opportunity to put the Universal Hip Hop Museum at the Kingsbridge Armory [background comments, cheers, applause] and today is one step forward. Thank you guys, thank everybody. [applause, background comments, laughter]

MALE VOICE: What's goin' on everybody? [background cheers, applause] It's a great day.. is a great day today in hip hop, because just like how Rocky said, the most important thing; we celebratin' the 40th anniversary of hip hop; we've been here for 40 years and we're still goin' on strong; I've only been responsible for about may 37 of 'em so; you know what I mean; [background comments, applause] tryin' to bring up the rear, but I think... you know as far as

1
2 hip hop goes, you know we've been doin' it for so
3 long and we did it for nothin'; there wasn't no money
4 in it and we gave all we had, you know what I mean,
5 we laid it down with everything we had and sometime I
6 think the mainstream media kinda forgot about us, but
7 see the most important thing is we didn't forget
8 about us [cheers, background comments, applause] and
9 we didn't forget about y'all, because when they
10 needed som'in in the hood that was positive and that
11 was enlightenin' and that meant som'in and that was
12 the beginnin' of the revolution, we were standin' on
13 the front lines [applause, cheers] and we put it
14 there and it stayed there to this day and that's the
15 most important thing about that hip hop museum
16 because that's a difference between music and art;
17 they can have the music, they can have the dope
18 beach, you can ride around play 'em in your Jeep, but
19 guess what; we put it down for the best and we're
20 here to stay; we gonna keep it goin', [cheers,
21 applause] we are the art form, we are the history of
22 the game, we are the truth, we are the true meaning
23 of hip hop, and that's the key word, the key word is
24 important, and just because you're rich, that don't
25 necessarily mean that you're important [cheers,

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

STATED MEETING

background comments] and that's the bottom line.
Hey, I would like for Caz... Caz, end this thing out,
man; go ahead... [cheers] come on man, you gotta do
that before, man. [cheers] You gotta do it before.
Come on, now give it for Grandmaster Caz. [cheers,
applause]

GRANDMASTER CAZ: I just wanna say thank
you to hip hop, alright. [background comments]
Yeah, yeah, we are the pioneers or founders or
whatever, but without an audience we'd be doin' this
to ourselves or with ourselves or by ourselves,
alright. [cheers, applause] So because of the
audience and the people who supported our culture
this long is the reason why hip hop has grown to the
proportions that it has and I think Mel wanted me to
say, before rap was a game or hip hop was a nation,
before Lauren Hill began her miseducation, before
Milk was chillin or PE brought the noise, before
Heavy D and the Boyz, before the roof caught on fire,
before fresh was the word, before Whodini and friends
and Roxannes Revenge, before the freaks came out at
night, before say Ho, before the Crash Crew was
rockin on the radio [applause, background comments,
cheers]. Before Whitney, Mariah, J-Lo and Janet,

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

STATED MEETING

15

before Bam and the Soulsonic Force rocked the planet,
before these are the breaks, before Hard Times,
before the Sugarhill Gang and before Superrhymes,
before Reaganomics, before rappers got shot in their
stomachs, before our found hip hop in comics, before
G's, before weed was trees, before goin' raw dog gave
you a deadly disease, before [background comments]
haters, before thugs and perpetrators, before the
alphas and before the betas, before beepers and cell
phones and retro gods and Fed Ex, food stamps and
metro cards, before cops was 5-0 or gats was answers,
before all the B-Boys turned into break dancers,
[background comments] before Legs was crazy, out
turned to swazey, when Mel said it's hot, humid and
hazy, before all the bull and by no means get it
twisted we are hip hop and we have always existed
[cheers] in this physical form or in the essence of
rhyme. Grandmaster Caz, baby, greatest of all time.

[cheers, applause]

MALE VOICE: One, two, what's up? One,
one, one, one, one. [background comments] First,
always givin' our greatness to the great supreme
force to whom we call by many names, Allah, Jehovah,
Yahweh or Enyeh or the Ancients of Ornaze are to

1
2 Omarah [sic]. I'd like to say, we honor each and
3 every one who had something to do with hip hop, from
4 Kool Hert, Grandmaster Flash, DJ Breakout, Kool DJ
5 AJ, Love Badoski [sic] and all these honorable greats
6 here, we honor each and every one in hip hop [cheers,
7 applause] for makin' it happen, Sha Rock, Lisa Lee,
8 Sadies Ladies a whole army [sic] and without the
9 people, the people of this great planet Earth,
10 [background comment] the youth who put up the power
11 and the sauce to stand up for somethin' that's from
12 them given from indigenous people, us people, black,
13 some call black and brown people, better known as the
14 indigenous Moors, who came and spread this all over
15 the mighty earth for the people, by the people
16 [applause] and everybody to do somethin' with this
17 called hip hop. We honor everybody from Europa,
18 Africa, America, from Antarctica, every corners of
19 this earth for pushin' the hip hop culture --
20 knowledge, wisdom, understandin', beat boys, DJs,
21 MCs, Eversaw writers [sic], the fifth element that
22 holds it all together, the knowledge, [background
23 comment] the knowledge; we thank each and every one
24 of y'all for comin' out, supportin' hip hop, keep the
25 world we constantly wake up our youth and

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

STATED MEETING

17

understanding; glad to have a hip hop museum, but we can't stop there, we want a whole building, [background comments] we want the land. [cheers, applause] So we must always organize, organize, organize. Universal Hip Hop Museum, universal hip hop people of this great planet earth, one love. [background comments, cheers, applause].

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: So we're closing this part of the proclamations that were made for the founders of hip hop and there's gonna be a press conference right outside for a few minutes. Thank you so much.

[cheers, applause, background comments]

MALE VOICE: Ladies and gentlemen, please exit the front doors to the press conference. Please exit the front doors to the press conference. Thank you.

[background comments]

[gavel]

[background comments]

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Council Member Gibson.

[background comments]

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Alright.
3 Council Member Gibson. Oh... Speaker's here.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
5 Chambers please. Please exit quietly so we can begin
6 the next ceremonial. Please exit quietly so we may
7 begin the next ceremonial. Thank you. Hip hop
8 lives.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Ladies and
10 gentlemen, we are going to have our second ceremonial
11 and I am joined by the sponsor, Council Member
12 Vanessa Gibson, who has honored the Garifuna
13 community with this proclamation honoring Garifuna
14 American Heritage Month and I want to ask her to say
15 a few words and invite her special guests up for the
16 second very important ceremonial.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Good afternoon.
18 If everyone representing the Garifuna community can
19 please come forward so we can begin our ceremonial.
20 [background comments]

21 Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen,
22 welcome to City Hall; I am Council Member Vanessa
23 Gibson; I represent the 16th District in the Bronx
24 and I'm so honored to be here today with special
25 friends from the Garifuna American community; I wanna

1
2 thank my Council Member, my colleague, the Majority
3 Leader, Council Van Bramer for that wonderful
4 introduction and today is our ceremonial. This is a
5 celebration of Garifuna American Heritage Month, from
6 March 11, 2014 through April 12, 2014 we are going to
7 celebrate the Garifuna people. My Garifuna brothers
8 and sisters, I am so honored because I represent many
9 of you in the Bronx and when you think about the
10 Garifuna community you think about the contributions
11 that have been made; we know that the Garifuna
12 community has been through enormous challenges, all
13 of you that represent St. Vincent, Nicaragua,
14 Honduras and Belize and the Garifuna people, to me,
15 represent strength, represent courage, represent
16 bravery, represent the fact that you continue to
17 strive to be the very best you can. We here in the
18 City Council recognize the growing diversity across
19 our city and I'm especially honored to not only
20 introduce this resolution before the City Council,
21 but make sure that our Council recognizes the
22 important and invaluable contributions of the
23 Garifuna people -- business leaders, entrepreneurs,
24 community leaders -- all of the work you have done to
25 celebrate your culture, your heritage and the fact

1
2 that you are a part of American history. We are
3 thankful for your presence today and I'm delighted
4 that we are joined by my colleagues here, Council
5 Member Andy Cohen of the Bronx, Council member Andy
6 King of the Bronx, Council Member Robert Cornegy of
7 Brooklyn, and Council Member Daneek Miller of Queens,
8 Council Member Donovan Richards of Queens and Council
9 Member Debi Rose holdin' it down for Staten Island.

10 And we are all here because we want to celebrate the
11 Garifuna heritage, and over the next 30 days we will
12 make sure that we have events in our community in the
13 Bronx and in the City that will speak to the culture,
14 we will celebrate each other as brothers and sisters
15 and today is an exciting day and we also have our
16 Minority Leader here, Vinny Ignizio, who I wanna
17 recognize, [background comment] and the Public
18 Advocate, our amazing Public Advocate, Letitia James,
19 as well as our Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito. So
20 without further ado, I would like to pass the
21 microphone over to our Speaker to give us welcoming
22 remarks. Thank you so much.

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I will defer; I'm
24 a little bit obviously on skates right now; I will
25

1
2 defer to our Majority Leader, who's been doing a
3 great job standing in, to say a few words.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you
5 very much; obviously everyone knows the Speaker has
6 had a very serious incident in her district; she is
7 just back for 30 seconds, literally, so catching her
8 breath and so on behalf of the Speaker and all of the
9 Council, we're so grateful to Council Member Gibson
10 for honoring the Garifuna American community and all
11 of those in the community, in her district; I have
12 had the privilege of visiting Belize and Guatemala
13 and enjoying your beautiful, beautiful cultures and
14 countries and we're so grateful for this opportunity
15 to have all of you here and so many colleagues to
16 celebrate your contributions. And with that, I'll
17 ask the Clerk to read the proclamation and then the
18 Council Member will [background comment] let us know
19 who's gonna speak.

20 CITY CLERK: Council, City of New York
21 Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of
22 New York is proud to celebrate Garifuna America
23 Heritage Month as we honor Garifuna Coalition USA,
24 Inc. for its outstanding service to the community.
25 And whereas, we celebrate March 11th through April

1
2 12th as Garifuna-American Heritage Month to recognize
3 the enduring contributions of Garifuna Americans to
4 the fabric of New York and pay tribute to the common
5 culture and bonds of friendship that connect the
6 United States and Garifuna countries of origin. And
7 whereas, the Garifuna are an ethnic group of mixed
8 ancestry descendents of Carib, Arawak and African
9 peoples living along the Caribbean coast in Belize,
10 Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras and St. Vincent and
11 the Grenadines. And whereas, today New York City is
12 home to the largest Garifuna population outside of
13 Central America, with more than 200,000 people living
14 in the South Bronx, Brownsville and East New York and
15 Brooklyn and Manhattan's Upper West Side. And
16 whereas, the Garifuna USA Coalition, the GCU,
17 services as a vital resource, forum, advocate and
18 voice for the Garifuna immigrant community. In 2009
19 GCU opened the Garifuna Advocacy Center on East 149th
20 Street in the heart of the South Bronx. The Center's
21 volunteers provide information, educational services,
22 networking opportunities and cultural events for the
23 Garifuna community through an agreement with Phipps
24 Community Development Corporation, a 35-year-old
25 multiservice provider of educational, vocational and

1
2 community development programs. The Garifuna
3 Advocacy Center makes referrals and avails community
4 members of English as a second language and GED
5 classes and other critical services. And whereas,
6 the GCU also supports smaller Garifuna organizations
7 and has brought 10 with specific youth and women
8 constituencies into the coalition. GCU provides
9 organizational capacity building workshops in topics
10 ranging from fiscal management to media
11 communications. And whereas, GCU Voter Registration
12 Campaign seeks to engage communities in the political
13 process by registering and mobilizing new voters to
14 the polls. The organization provides voter education
15 and registration information in local areas where the
16 Garifuna gather, including parks, festivals, social
17 events and organizations. Now therefore be it known
18 that the Council of the City of New York commends
19 Garifuna Coalition USA for its work and hereby
20 proclaims March 11th through April 12th, 2014 to be
21 Garifuna American Heritage Month in New York City.
22 Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the Entire
23 Council; Vanessa L. Gibson, Council Member 16th
24 District, the Bronx.

25 [background comment, applause, cheers]

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: And on behalf of
3 the Garifuna Coalition I want to bring up Sulma Arzu-
4 Brown, our Executive Director of the Garifuna
5 Coalition. Congratulations.

6 [applause]

7 SULMA ARZU-BROWN: Good afternoon
8 everybody. First and foremost I would like to
9 acknowledge Council Member Vanessa Gibson for being
10 the first council member to bring us here to the
11 Chambers. You have contributed to our history and
12 are already continuing to write our story. This
13 really proves that New York is not a melting pot, but
14 a salad bowl full of very colorful antioxidants.

15 [laughter] Okay. I am extremely grateful because I
16 came here from Honduras at the age of 5; grew up the
17 Bronx and there were times where I thought we will
18 never leave the Bronx, but not only are we here,
19 we're here strong, we have representatives and the
20 Garifuna Coalition has managed to bring together all
21 Garifunas from Belize, Guatemala, Nicaragua and
22 Honduras. [laughter] And not only that; we've also
23 brought the first generation Garifuna Americans,
24 Mr. Nixon Arauz, who's part of our [background
25 comments] youth leadership development program, the

1
2 [speaking foreign language] Youth Leadership Program,
3 and this is extremely important because we want
4 everybody here to witness because we are a culture of
5 traditions, we pass our stories on from one
6 generation to another, so this will continue to live
7 with us. So we appreciate you and we thank you.

8 [applause, background comments]

9 SULMA ARZU-BROWN: Thank you. Thank you.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: And the president
11 of the Board, the Garifuna Coalition, a good friend
12 of mine who I've worked with over the years, Mr. Jose
13 Avila Francisco.

14 JOSE AVILA FRANCISCO: Thank you Council
15 Member; it's really... [background comment] [laughter]
16 That's my Council Member, by the way. [laughter]
17 It's quite an honor and thank you very much for this
18 occasion. It's important for me to mention the fact
19 that the reason that we... [interpose, background
20 comment] celebrate Garifuna American Heritage Month
21 from March 11 to April the 12th has to do with the
22 fact that 217 years ago our ancestors were forcibly
23 deported by the British from the Island of St.
24 Vincent and the Grenadines to an island called
25 Roatan, off the coast of Honduras. Eventually they

1
2 negotiated with the Spaniards, who allowed us to move
3 into the mainland, we kept walking to the Atlantic
4 coast; that's how we ended up in Belize, Guatemala
5 and Nicaragua and through the process of immigration,
6 begging in the 30s, as merchant marines, that's how
7 we ended up in New York, so what's important is that
8 even though we have been migrating to New York since
9 the 1930s, New York doesn't really get to know us
10 until March 25th, 1990, the Happy Land Social Club
11 fire, 87 victims; 50 of those were Garifunas and that
12 was how New York realized that we were here and the
13 question was, who are these people; how long have
14 they been here? And that is the significance of this
15 proclamation, is the fact that we started this in
16 2009 and we like to describe it as, it's our way of
17 uplifting our community from obscurity to the
18 pinnacle of recognition.

19 Council Member Gibson, we are really
20 grateful of bringing us to the New York City Council
21 Chambers; I also wanna acknowledge our friend, Maria
22 del Carmen Arroyo, Council Member Arroyo, who has
23 been a supporter of our youth leadership program; our
24 offices are just across from her district office, so
25 she is a friend, and many others and I just mention,

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Council Member Palma, who is my district... she's my Council Member, so we're very pleased; thank you very much for this occasion and we're very honored, and again, we continue to lift our community and this will contribute for the next generations, because one of the things, one of the fears out there is that our community, our heritage is at the verge of extinction; this will guarantee that it will not be extinct. Thank you.

[applause, cheers]

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: So with that, that will end ceremonials for today and this was Councilwoman Gibson's first ceremonial; she did a great job [cheers, applause] and I would ask everyone to get together and we'll take a photo. So Council Members and if everyone from the community would get really close and really tight and we'll take a photo with all of us. [background comments]

[pause]

MALE VOICE: Can we clear the floor please? Can we please clear the floor? Thank you.

[background comments]

[pause]

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

STATED MEETING

MALE VOICE: Ladies and gentlemen, can I have your attention please? Can I please have your attention? At this time, please place all cell phones, all cell phones and electronic devices to vibrate. Will all non-Council employees, all non-Council employees please leave the main floor of the Chambers; you could have a seat in the balcony. Thank you for your cooperation.

[gavel]

[background comments]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please rise for the pledge.

MALE VOICE: All rise.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under god, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Roll call.

CITY CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

CITY CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

CITY CLERK: Cabrera. Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

STATED MEETING

CITY CLERK: Cohen.
COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.
CITY CLERK: Constantinides.
COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Here.
CITY CLERK: Cornegy.
COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Present.
CITY CLERK: Crowley.
COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.
CITY CLERK: Cumbo.
COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Present.
CITY CLERK: Deutsch.
COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.
CITY CLERK: Dickens. Dromm.
COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.
CITY CLERK: Espinal.
COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Here.
CITY CLERK: Eugene. Ferreras.
COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.
CITY CLERK: Garodnick.
COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.
CITY CLERK: Gentile.
COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.
CITY CLERK: Gibson.
COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Present.

1
2 CITY CLERK: Greenfield. Eugene.
3 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.
4 [background comments]
5 CITY CLERK: Johnson.
6 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Here.
7 CITY CLERK: Kallos.
8 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Present.
9 CITY CLERK: King. Greenfield.
10 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Here.
11 CITY CLERK: Dickens.
12 FEMALE VOICE: Dickens.
13 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.
14 CITY CLERK: Koo.
15 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present
16 CITY CLERK: Koslowitz.
17 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.
18 CITY CLERK: Lancman.
19 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Here.
20 CITY CLERK: Lander.
21 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.
22 CITY CLERK: Levin.
23 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.
24 CITY CLERK: Levine. Maisel.
25 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Here.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CITY CLERK: Matteo.
COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.
CITY CLERK: Mealy. Menchaca.
COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.
CITY CLERK: Mendez. Miller.
COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Here.
CITY CLERK: Palma.
COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.
CITY CLERK: Reynoso. Richards.
COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.
CITY CLERK: Rodriguez.
COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.
CITY CLERK: Rose.
COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.
CITY CLERK: Rosenthal.
COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.
CITY CLERK: Torres.
COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Here.
CITY CLERK: Treyger.
COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.
CITY CLERK: Ulrich.
COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.
[background comment]
CITY CLERK: Vacca.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

CITY CLERK: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

CITY CLERK: Weprin. Williams. Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Yes.

[background comments]

CITY CLERK: Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Present.

CITY CLERK: Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.

CITY CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

CITY CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Here.

CITY CLERK: Levine.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please rise for
the invocation delivered by Rev. Dr. Karen Daughtry,
Pastor of House of the Lord Church at 415 Atlantic
Avenue in Brooklyn, New York.

MALE VOICE: All rise.

MALE VOICE: Quiet please.

REV. DR. DAUGHTRY: Before we do the
invocation, I'm sure that we all know about the

1
2 events that happened this morning; two people are
3 dead, others are missing and injured; let's just have
4 a moment of silence that we might remember whatever
5 is going on there.

6 [pause]

7 REV DR. DAUGHTRY: Thank you. Giving
8 honor to god this morning and he's the head of my
9 life and I thank god for being invited here today to
10 give the invocation; I wanna pay special tribute to
11 the Speaker and to the Public Advocate for this
12 auspicious occasion. We also want to remember the
13 events of the missing plane, those people that we
14 don't know what happened to; they are somebody's
15 relatives and so we want to remember them this
16 morning.

17 Let us bow our heads. Oh god our help in
18 ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter
19 from the stormy blast and our eternal homes. Most
20 gracious god, first I wanna say thank you on behalf
21 of all of those that are gathered there today, thank
22 you for life itself, thank you for the many blessings
23 you have bestowed on us, thank you for food, shelter
24 and raiment and thank you for the measure of health
25 that we enjoy which enables us to fulfill our

1
2 callings. Thank you for meaningful family, friends
3 and for all of the bountiful blessings. Thank you
4 for giving us creative minds and for the ability to
5 make decisions that will affect the society in which
6 we live. Thank you for the opportunity to be
7 involved in useful work and for the honor of bearing
8 appropriate responsibilities. In the scripture you
9 have said that you have established governing bodies
10 in order to promote peace, order and justice;
11 therefore, I pray for our Mayor, for the various
12 levels of City officials and in particular, for this
13 assembled Council. I'm asking that you would
14 graciously grant them wisdom to govern amid the
15 conflicting interests and issues of our times, grant
16 them a sense of the welfare and the needs of our
17 people, grant them a keen sense, a keen thirst for
18 justice and righteousness, grant them confidence to
19 know what's good and fitting, grant them the ability
20 to work together in harmony even when there is honest
21 disagreement; help them oh god to strive for all that
22 is within themselves to be mindful of your command to
23 remember the widows, the orphans; help them to be
24 mindful of those that are numbered among the
25 oppressed, the downtrodden, the left out and the

1
2 locked out; help them to be mindful that god requires
3 both justice and mercy. Hallelujah. And help them
4 to make decisions that will alleviate oppression.
5 Whatever is found, help them to lift up the
6 downtrodden, embrace the locked out and the left out.
7 I pray for the agenda set before them today; I ask
8 you and I beseech you to give them to know without a
9 shadow of a doubt that things that they will govern
10 on today will benefit those with whom we live and
11 work around in our beloved City. And lord, at the
12 end of this day, and at the end of this day,
13 particularly with all that's going on even during
14 these past weeks, give each one of them personal
15 peace in their lives and joy in their task knowing
16 that you are pleased with their labor, for we ask
17 these blessings and we give these thanks in the name
18 of our creator and let us all say amen, amen, amen.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
20 Steve Levin.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you Madame
22 Public Advocate; I would like to thank Dr. Daughtry
23 for her years of service and I wish her continued
24 success in leading her ministry and her congregation,
25

1
2 and with that I would like to motion to spread the
3 invocation in full upon the record.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. On
5 behalf of Council Member Rosie Mendez, there's a
6 motion that the minutes of the Stated Meetings of
7 January 8th... [interpose]

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Madame Public
9 Advocate, if I could ask for a moment, I would like
10 Council Member Inez Barron to say a few words.

11 MALE VOICE: Quiet please.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council member
13 Barron.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you Madame
15 Speaker; Madame Public Advocate. I had to rise,
16 because the pastor who delivered the invocation today
17 is my personal pastor, she is the pastor at The House
18 of the Lord Church; she's just beginning her
19 pastorship officially with this year, but for 52
20 years she has been the first lady of The House of the
21 Lord Church because she is in fact the wife of the
22 Rev. Dr. Herbert Daughtry, whom I'm sure many of you
23 know. I first met her in 1975, she operated the day
24 care center where my son went when he was 2 years
25 old; based on what I saw in her life then, I joined

1
2 the church and I've been a member there since 1975.
3 She was assigned to me as my personal big sister and
4 walked me through much of what it needs to be able to
5 stay steadfast, so she has operated many
6 organizations, she operated a stellar day care center
7 which received national acclaim and I certainly
8 didn't wanna miss this opportunity, so I want to say,
9 Pastor Daughtry, I salute you for your intelligence,
10 your beauty, your steadfastness, your humility
11 balanced by your audaciousness and thank you for all
12 that you do and I pray that god will continue to
13 bless you. Thank you so much.

14 [applause]

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Motion... On behalf
16 of Council Member Rosie Mendez, a motion that the
17 Minutes of the Stated Meetings of January 8th,
18 January 22nd and February 4th, 2014 be adopted and as
19 printed. Messages and Papers from the Mayor.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: M 0035, submitting
21 Meera Joshi for appointment to the Taxi and Limousine
22 Commission.

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Rule, Privileges
24 and Elections.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

STATED MEETING

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Communication from City, County and Borough Offices. May we have quiet in the Chambers please.

MALE VOICE: Quiet please. Keep it down.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Communication from City, County and Borough Offices.

COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Petitions and Communications.

COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Land Use Call-Ups.

COMMITTEE CLERK: M 0036.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Roll call.

CITY CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Cabrera. Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Cohen.

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Constantinides.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Yes.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CITY CLERK: Cornegy.
COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Crowley.
COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Cumbo.
FEMALE VOICE: Cumbo.
COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Deutsch.
COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Dickens.
COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Dromm.
COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Espinal.
COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Eugene.
COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Ferreras.
COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Garodnick.
COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Gentile.
COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Gibson.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I proudly vote
aye.

CITY CLERK: Greenfield.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Johnson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Kallos.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

CITY CLERK: King.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Koo.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
Koo.

MALE VOICE: Peter.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Koslowitz.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Lancman.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Yes.

CITY CLERK: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Levine.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Maisel.

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Matteo.

COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Yes.

CITY CLERK: Mealy. Menchaca.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Mendez. Miller.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Palma.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Reynoso.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Rosenthal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.

[background comments]

CITY CLERK: Torres.

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

[background comments, laughter]
CITY CLERK: Treyger.
COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Ulrich. [background
comments] Ulrich.
COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Yes.
CITY CLERK: Vacca.
COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Yes.
CITY CLERK: Vallone.
COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Weprin.
COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Williams.
COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Wills.
COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Yes.
CITY CLERK: Mendez.
COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Yes.
CITY CLERK: Ignizio.
COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.
CITY CLERK: Van Bramer.
COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Yes.
CITY CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.
SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I vote aye.

1

2

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

3

Today's Land Use Call-Ups were adopted by a vote of

4

49 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative.

5

Communication from Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito.

6

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you Madame

7

Public Advocate. I wanna say good afternoon, buenas

8

tardes to everyone. First and foremost, I really

9

wanna thank Rev. Daughtry for her invocation and her

10

moment of silence... if people could please...

11

[background comments] Can we please ask... [crosstalk]

12

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Chambers...

13

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: people to take

14

their seats? Thank you. I wanna thank Rev. Daughtry

15

for her words and the moment of silence in reference

16

to the explosion that happened this morning, as many

17

of you may be aware that has happened in my district,

18

a half-a-block from my district office, five blocks

19

from where I live, and so I wanna thank all the

20

colleagues for your words, your concerns; I wanna

21

thank the staff for really stepping up to the plate;

22

I wanna thank the Administration and all the first

23

responders; it's an unfortunate situation; it's

24

probably the worst that I've seen in my district

25

where you have an explosion that took down two

1
2 buildings that are residential buildings, that we're
3 still trying to assess and account for everyone that
4 was there. I wanna thank the Mayor personally for
5 coming up to the scene and for his leadership and his
6 comfort to the families; we've been using our office,
7 our district office as a command post for the NYPD
8 and the FDNY; there have been those impacted and
9 affected who are looking for more information who
10 have come through our door, so it is still anxious
11 time and I will be going right back up to my district
12 after this; it's a sad moment; we've had two deaths
13 reported and many, many people are hospitalized and
14 still people unaccounted for. So I thank everyone
15 for their concern and your thoughts and prayers are
16 definitely appreciated and would encourage, as we've
17 been saying, that anyone that is seeking information
18 to call 311 until the hotline number is set up.

19 So having said that, we obviously are
20 here today and I wanted to talk about a couple of
21 issues that are important to today's agenda. So
22 today's Stated Meeting we will be introducing new
23 legislation to bring much needed accountability and
24 regulation to New York City's car wash industry.
25

1
2 The proposed legislation would do the
3 following: require car washes in New York City to
4 obtain a yearly license from the Department of
5 Consumer Affairs; ensure car wash businesses follow
6 local, state and federal laws; protect workers,
7 consumers and the environment from unethical and
8 unlawful practices; require licensed applicants to
9 provide detailed information about their business
10 practices and show proof of compliance with
11 applicable laws.

12 As some of you may know, this has been a
13 very important issue to me for some time; I've
14 participated in multiple Council hearings on the car
15 wash industry in the past and it's past time to take
16 some serious action on the issue.

17 Last week I joined Attorney General Eric
18 Schneiderman to announce a \$3.9 million settlement
19 with a chain of car washes that systematically
20 underpaid employees and engaged in other unethical
21 business practices to the detriment of workers,
22 consumers and the public. Their violations dated
23 back to 2006 and it took until last week to reach an
24 agreement to which their low-wage employees, close to
25

1
2 1,000 of them, will finally receive some restitution
3 for their unpaid wages.

4 I applaud Attorney General Schneiderman
5 for his great work in the settlement, but it is
6 outrageous that anyone, especially a low-wage worker,
7 is only now being paid wages that were earned as long
8 as eight years ago. This legislation will allow the
9 City to take proactive steps in monitoring the
10 industry and ensuring that these types of problems
11 are addressed much more quickly by requiring that car
12 wash businesses obtain yearly licenses from the
13 Department of Consumer Affairs. So I look forward to
14 working with the Council, with my colleagues to pass
15 this bill and I'm excited that we are able to get the
16 ball rolling today.

17 Today we'll be voting also on approval of
18 two of Mayor de Blasio's appointments to the Conflict
19 of Interest Board today.

20 The Rules Committee has heard from these
21 appointees and it is recommending that the Council
22 vote to approve them so they can get to work serving
23 the City. In addition, the Council is exploring
24 legislative options to pass reforms which will
25 prohibit Conflicts of Interest board members from

1
2 fundraising for elections, not only within New York
3 City, but also on the State and Federal levels.

4 There's a great deal of enthusiasm for
5 this plan from the Rules Committee and the
6 Administration has indicated an openness to
7 discussing these reforms. This is a plan that we'll
8 be looking further into in the near future and I
9 definitely welcome input from my colleagues as we
10 proceed.

11 Also, I just wanted to mention a couple
12 of celebrations that are happening in these Chambers,
13 the upcoming Monday coming up is of course St.
14 Patrick's Day and on Wednesday, March 19th we're
15 having our Irish heritage celebration right here in
16 the Council Chambers. Greek independence day is on
17 Tuesday, March 25th and the Council will be holding a
18 celebration in the Chambers to commemorate that
19 occasion. And then two days later, on March 27th,
20 we'll be celebrating Bangladeshi independence, once
21 again, here in the Council Chambers. And last but
22 not least, on March 31st we'll be celebrating Women's
23 History Month.

24 Also, I do wanna recognize, in terms of
25 my comments; sorry that I'm jumping around a little

1
2 bit, but with regards to the situation in my district
3 earlier today, I do wanna thank personally my
4 colleague, our colleague, Council Member Dickens for
5 joining me up in the district today.

6 Lastly, I'll just say that, before we
7 move on, we do have probably a rare occasion where
8 two colleagues are celebrating their birthdays on the
9 same day, so we wanna definitely recognize that
10 Council Members Andy King and Council Member Ritchie,
11 Torres, also from the Bronx, so now two from the same
12 day, two from the same borough; I don't think that's
13 gonna happen very often, but we definitely wanna...
14 [applause] wish them a happy birthday. And with that
15 we end communication from the Speaker.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Our thoughts as a
17 City Council are with those who lost their lives and
18 those who are injured and their families and our
19 thoughts and prayers are with you, Madame Speaker.
20 And happy birthday to Council Member King and Torres.
21 Discussion of General Orders, Council Member
22 Williams. No, never...

23 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: My bills?

24 MALE VOICE: Yeah.
25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Oh.

[background comment] No, I wanted to talk about bills that I am... [interpose, crosstalk]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Report of Special Committees.

COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reports of Standing Committees.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Finance, Preconsidered Reso 0109, transparency reso.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on General Order.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered LU 25 and Reso 014 and LU 26 and Reso 0125.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on General Order.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land Use, LU 19 and Reso 0126, Zoning amendment.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on General Order.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections, M18 and Reso

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

STATED MEETING

0127, approving the appointment of Richard Briffault,
Conflict of Interest Board.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: M 19 and Reso 0128,
approving the appointment of Fernando A. Bohorquez,
Jr., Conflict of Interest Board.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
General Order.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: General Order
Calendar.

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

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
General Order and at this time I ask for Roll Call on
all items that are Coupled on the General Order
Calendar.

CITY CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Cabrera. Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Cohen.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Constantinides.
COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Cornegy.
COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Crowley.
COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Cumbo.
COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Deutsch.
COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Dickens.
COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Dromm.
COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Espinal.
COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Eugene.
COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Ferreras.
COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Garodnick.
COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Gentile.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Gibson.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Greenfield.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Johnson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Kallos.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

CITY CLERK: King.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Koslowitz.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Lancman.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Request

permission to explain my vote. Thank you. First of all, Madame Speaker, our heart goes out to you and everyone in your district. And I just wanna say one word more about the two COIB nominees that we're voting for today, Richard Briffault and Fernando

1
2 Bohorquez, both really excellent nominees, Briffault
3 in particular, Columbia law professor, long history
4 working on ethics work and Bohorquez, a real rising
5 star -- PRLDEF, Fund for Modern Courts -- a great
6 litigator. We noted during our hearing; we asked a
7 lot of questions that... Mr. Bohorquez has done some
8 fundraising that presented questions that we wanted
9 to ask and I'm pleased that he provided a letter that
10 was distributed in the Committee, making clear that
11 he will go beyond the requirements of his COIB letter
12 and not fundraise in any races that implicate City
13 elected officials, even if they are for state or
14 higher office, but I also wanna recognize the
15 leadership of the Speaker and of the Committee in
16 general pushing to close a loophole that this
17 essentially identified in the Ethics Law so that in
18 the future for all COIB members we will be able to
19 have an even higher level of ethics and make sure
20 that no conflicts arise through fundraising. So
21 thanks to the Committee for identifying this issue,
22 to the Speaker for her support in helping start it
23 moving forward and to the staff for getting to work
24 on the issue; I vote aye on all.

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CITY CLERK: Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Levine.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Maisel.

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Matteo.

COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye. [background
comments] Yes; can I have permission to vote on all
Land Use and General Orders? May I, Madame?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Thank you. I vote
aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Menchaca.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Mendez.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Mendez. Rosie
Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Yes.

CITY CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

STATED MEETING

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: He said aye. Oh.
Okay. Land Use Call-Ups; how do you vote?
COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye on all.
PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
CITY CLERK: Miller.
COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye on all.
CITY CLERK: Palma.
COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Reynoso.
COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Richards.
COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye... aye on
all.
CITY CLERK: Rodriguez.
COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Rose.
COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Rosenthal.
COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye on all.
CITY CLERK: Torres.
PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Where's Torres?
Torres. [background comments]
COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye. Sorry.
CITY CLERK: Treyger.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Yes.

CITY CLERK: Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.

CITY CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Introduction and

Reading of Bills.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All bills are

referred... [interpose, background comment] Oh...

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All items on today's General Order Calendar were adopted by a vote of 51 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and 0 abstentions. Revised Land Use Call-Ups are adopted by a vote of 51 in the affirmative; 0 in the negative. Introduction and Reading of Bills.

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

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Resolutions. Okay. Now General Discussion. Council Member Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Testing. Testing. Good afternoon Madame Speaker, Madame Public Advocate.

On January 23rd of this year, 4-year-old Symeir Talley-Jasper walked out of a bathroom near his public school classroom, opened the door and found himself on a sidewalk in Bedford-Stuyvesant. Alone and without a coat on a freezing day, this pre-K student had the presence of mind to make his way home; thank god he reached his apartment complex safely. This occurred just days after the remains of Avonte Oquendo, an autistic student who left his school through an unalarmed side door last October

1
2 were found on a waterfront in Queens. Our whole city
3 prayed for Avonte and grieved his loss along with his
4 family. So you can imagine the range of emotion that
5 Symeir's parents felt considering the harm that might
6 have befallen their son, and now imagine this fact;
7 Symeir's school had no idea that he was missing until
8 his parents informed them of this fact. This is
9 dangerous and unacceptable and I have since learned
10 that this was not an isolated incident. Symeir's
11 parents have called for more; our children deserve
12 more and as a parent and an elected official I feel
13 compelled to do more. Today I'm introducing a bill
14 to require the Department of Education to install
15 audible alarms on all exit doors in public school
16 buildings housing elementary school and District 75
17 programs. This simple, safe measure would alert
18 school personnel to an unauthorized departure during
19 the school day, allowing them to better protect the
20 vulnerable children entrusted in their care. This is
21 a critical safety improvement that can be
22 accomplished quickly and affordably. In fact, the
23 principal of Symeir's school acted quickly to install
24 on the doors in that building, at the cost of only
25 \$139 per door; now is the time to implement this

1
2 change citywide. I urge you to join me in requiring
3 Department of Education to make this reasonable
4 investment in the safety of New York City's public
5 school children by co-sponsoring the Audible Alarms
6 Bill. I am joined today by one of the most
7 courageous and brave young people I know, Symeir
8 Talley-Jasper, his mother, Quantasia Jasper, his
9 father, Rondell Talley and his great-grandmother,
10 Mary Jasper.

11 [applause]

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Welcome to the
13 Chambers and thank you for all that you do. Council
14 Member Williams.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you
16 Madame Chair; I just wanted to draw attention to
17 these couple of bills that I have; there's quite a
18 few, [background comments] there's a number that I
19 wanted to speak about. One -- the gun violence
20 resolution; I ask my colleagues to sign on; it's
21 basically mirroring a resolution we put forth last
22 year [background comments] and one that Karim Camara
23 and Ruth Hassell-Thompson in the State are putting
24 forth to make June Gun Violence Awareness Month;
25 thank you for all who were able to attend the press

1
2 conference today and I'm hoping that we will be able
3 to expand on the gun violence House bills that we
4 have available right now and provide some more
5 funding and just make sure that people are aware and
6 doin' the things that we can do to help prevent gun
7 violence.

8 Also, I have a Local Law that will
9 provide consumers of a breakdown of the price,
10 including any administrative service or any other fee
11 charged by the used car dealership; does not include
12 tax and registration. This actually came from a
13 personal experience trying to shop for a used car and
14 was astonished by the difference in price that was
15 advertised and the price that I walked in to purchase
16 the car for. After my fifth one, when the car was
17 bait and switched or it just was \$5,000 difference, I
18 explained that I worked for the City in different
19 capacities and they sat down and explained to me the
20 industry-wide way that this works and hopefully this
21 will curb it a little bit.

22 Next is the requirement of Police
23 Department to submit Council reports of service
24 provider to private entities, provide the Council
25 will full scope and nature of police services,

1
2 preventing and detecting crime, enforcing the law,
3 providing in private sectors... I'm sorry, in private
4 settings.

5 And the last one is the Hotel
6 Notification Bill; again, this came from personal
7 experience; a hotel that we believe would've been a
8 hot sheet motel was about to be built as-of-right;
9 and because the community wasn't notified properly we
10 were able to stop it; I'm hoping it'll prevent others
11 from being built.

12 Lastly, I wanna thank Council Member
13 Cabrera for bringin' the hip hop celebration here; it
14 was very exciting to me; hip hop means a lot to me in
15 my experience, communities that have been underserved
16 and not paid attention to, [bell] it provided such a
17 great outlet, as well as... it goes back to slaves who
18 were given scraps and created delicacies; in the
19 Caribbean we took oil drums and created steel pan
20 music; here were able to take... [interpose]

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Can you bring
22 your comments to a close, sir?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I gotcha... we
24 were here to... we took cardboard boxes, stolen

1
2 electricity and microphone and created a billion
3 dollar industry. Thank you again... [crosstalk]

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
5 Council Member Rosenthal.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you
7 Public Advocate; I appreciate the opportunity to
8 speak today. I'm asking my colleagues to sign onto
9 Intro 0171, which I'm hoping will be called Cooper's
10 Law, to remember Cooper Stock, a 9-year-old boy who
11 when crossing the street was killed by a taxi driver
12 due to failure to yield. This bill would
13 automatically suspend the license and automatically
14 call on the police to investigate the reason for the
15 death and if it's found upon investigation that the
16 death was caused by failure to yield, then the taxi
17 driver's license would be permanently revoked; this
18 is something that the City Council could do through
19 the City's Administrative Code; I would hope that the
20 City Council would, upon passing this bill, urge the
21 State to do the same with drivers license. Cooper
22 Stock's family, needless to say, has been devastated,
23 their life has been changed completely and I would
24 appreciate your considering co-sponsoring the bill
25 today. Thank you.

1
2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
3 Council Member Espinal.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Today I'm
5 introducing a resolution in support of State
6 legislation that would legalize the use of electric-
7 assisted bicycles in New York. The State legislation
8 would amend the State Vehicle and Traffic Law to
9 include electric-assisted bicycles in the definition
10 of bicycles and thus permit their use. Many people
11 will benefit, from people who make food deliveries
12 for a living, virtual cyclists, to people who have
13 health problems. New York remains one of the states
14 that has not implemented the Federal standards
15 established in 2002 that set parameters for electric-
16 assisted bicycles. To me it just doesn't make sense
17 for the State to maintain the status quo. The use of
18 electric-assisted bicycles can have positive effects
19 on New York City's economy and environment; it is a
20 mode of clean transportation and I ask my colleagues
21 to join me in supporting this measure. Thank you
22 Madame Public Advocate.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you, sir.
24 Council Member Johnson.

25

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you Madame
3 Public Advocate. I rise today to speak about Intro
4 0144. This is a bill that would require new and
5 existing residential high-rise buildings to install
6 emergency voice and alarm communication systems in
7 compliance with existing sections of the Building
8 Code. Specifically, this bill would remove existing
9 exemptions for new residential high-rise construction
10 from existing Building Code requirements and extend
11 those same installation requirements to existing
12 residential high-rises over the next two years. It
13 would further require the posting of informational
14 placards alerting tenants to these systems in public
15 and common areas. The unnecessary loss of life due
16 to the lack of communication between first responders
17 and victims can be avoided and it is important that
18 we ensure each building is equipped to alert tenants
19 to safety, precautions and developing information.
20 Evacuating a high-rise residential building in an
21 emergency can pose serious threats to the safety and
22 lives of residents. On January 5th of this year a
23 three-alarm fire caused panic in my district at 500
24 West 43rd Street, a high-rise residential building
25 called The Strand, when flames shot out of a 20th

1
2 floor apartment, heavy smoke quickly filled the
3 emergency stairwell, which claimed the life of a 27-
4 year-old young man named Daniel McClung and
5 critically injured his husband, a 32-year-old man
6 named Michael Todd Cohen. Had there been a system in
7 place to communicate with building residents, in the
8 emergency stairwells instructions that could've been
9 given to tell residents to use a different stairwell,
10 go back to their homes, Danny would be alive.

11 Intuition tells us to leave our apartments during a
12 fire, but not everyone knows if they live in a
13 fireproof building; an emergency communication system
14 in stairwells allows critical real-time information
15 to be communicated during a fire; this will allow
16 first responders to correspond with residents,
17 telling them to stay or go. [bell] I ask my
18 colleagues to sign onto this bill, and one last
19 thing, Madame Public Advocate, in 1999 there was the
20 Macaulay Culkin fire which claimed three lives in a
21 similar fashion; Mayor Giuliani, Deputy Mayor Lhota
22 and the Fire Commissioner at that time made similar
23 recommendations that I'm making today. [interpose]

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
25

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you very
3 much.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
5 Council Member Rose.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you.
7 Colleagues, today I ask for your support for Intro
8 0170; it's a bill that would retroactively require
9 secondary power for lighting for egress paths and
10 elevators. We have all read of the tragedy that can
11 occur when people fall into elevators during power
12 outages. The purpose of this bill is to ensure that
13 all emergency power systems comply with New York City
14 Building Code regulations, it would address issues
15 that develop between the City code cycles and prevent
16 any dangers that occur when a sudden lack of
17 electricity occurs. Please join me in ensuring the
18 safety of our citizens with Intro 0170. Thank you.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
20 Council Member Mark Levine.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you Madame
22 Public Advocate. I wanna call your attention to two
23 intros; first, in a state where our city has no right
24 to control its own minimum wage, it's own tax rates,
25 it's own rent laws, even by the standards of such a

1
2 state, the fact that we have no control over where we
3 place red light cameras is simply absurd and
4 indefensible. We have a pilot program now that has
5 placed six red light cameras in front of schools and
6 in the first two weeks of their operation they found
7 nearly 1,000 speeders, which testifies to the scale
8 of a problem. These are six cameras for over 1,000
9 school buildings; Intro 0117 would call upon the
10 State to grant us the power to set the number and
11 location of speed cameras in New York City.

12 Secondly, I wanna call your attention to
13 an intro that gets at the problem of inequity in
14 funding for our park system; in fact, it's accurate
15 to say that we have a tale of two park systems in New
16 York City in which a small number of parks receive a
17 large amount of private funding while the broad
18 number of 1,900 parks in the City are underfunded and
19 under-maintained. And Intro 0154 would require the
20 Parks Department to report on a park by park basis
21 the money spent on maintenance and capital
22 expenditures, which would allow us as a legislative
23 body for the first time to accurately gauge the scale
24 and scope of inequality in our park system. Thank
25 you.

1
2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
3 Council Member Laurie Cumbo.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you Madame
5 Chair. I just wanted to bring to everyone's
6 attention; on March 31st, as many of you know, on
7 Monday, we will celebrating our Women's History
8 Month, which will be a culmination of all of the
9 amazing and powerful and important events that have
10 been happening not only here, but also throughout New
11 York City. So I'm certainly looking forward to all
12 of the participation, along with my women's caucus
13 members, Council Member Crowley and Council Member
14 Mealy and the entire dynamic 15, who have been
15 meeting throughout our term, and we certainly want
16 everyone to participate; this is going to be an
17 incredible event; we're certainly going to raise the
18 bar on women's issues and bring it to new levels and
19 new heights this year. So what I'm asking for is for
20 the participation of all the members; we're gonna be
21 asking each and every one of you to recommend a
22 dynamic woman in your district who is either leading
23 the charge in education, legislation and all of these
24 different things that women are challenging the
25 system on so many ways. So I hope that you all will

1
2 participate; again, it'll be Monday, March 31st and
3 we look forward to seeing each and every one of you
4 and I look forward to the dynamic 15, as well as all
5 51 Council Members being here and excited for this
6 very special event. Thank you and I look forward to
7 your participation.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
9 Council Member Ben Kallos.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Thank you Public
11 Advocate. My heartfelt wishes and prayers with the
12 residents of Council Member Viverito's district and
13 anything that my office to the south can do to help,
14 we humbly extend our assistance.

15 I am here today to request the sign-on of
16 my colleagues on my Introduction, No. 0149, also
17 sponsored by Council Member Brad Lander. Our
18 legislature, in large part, is here to pass laws, but
19 where do they go once we pass them? How are those
20 who are governed by them able to gain access to these
21 new laws? They're currently accessible through
22 third-party vendors who receive exclusive access to
23 our law which they sell at a profit to lawyers,
24 lobbyists and those that can afford it. My first
25 online hacktivism [sic] as a lawyer was to put the

1
2 laws online at Wikilaw.org, which eventually became
3 JurisPedia.org, but now we can fix it in government.
4 I hope that my colleagues will join me today in
5 setting our laws free by putting them online.

6 I also wanted to speak to another
7 Introduction, our... sorry; another Resolution. Our
8 City Comptroller, Scott Stringer, served on his local
9 community board when he was just 16; in my
10 Governmental Operations Committee hearing on best
11 practices for community boards we learned that having
12 16- and 17-year-olds on community boards was in fact
13 a best practice, so please join me in signing onto
14 Resolution No. 115 and I am joined as a sponsor on
15 that with Council Member Mark Levine and I believe
16 Council Member Ritchie Torres, so please join us on
17 making the community boards more accessible. Thank
18 you.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
20 Council Member Mendez.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you Madame
22 Public Advocate. Today I rise to ask my colleagues
23 to sign onto Intro 0162; this would require an
24 environmental assessment to determine the density of
25 development in any of the flood-prone areas that is

1
2 now known as Zone 1. After Sandy there were areas
3 that have been targeted for development and
4 essentially were putting people back in harms way and
5 some big developments, and I think we need to
6 determine how we can get people out of the area and
7 reach safety, but we should not be building really
8 enormous big building if the... you know, if the area
9 cannot manage that many people in a Zone 1 area.

10 And I also ask my colleagues to sign onto
11 Intro 0164; this was a bill by Manhattan Borough
12 President, Gale Brewer, which is extending J-51 tax
13 benefits to any owners who will put green roofs in
14 their buildings. So thank you very much.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
16 Council Member Chin.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you Madame
18 Public Advocate. I wanna thank my fellow members of
19 the Aging Committee who participated in a great first
20 hearing on elder abuse earlier this month. At the
21 hearing we heard excellent testimonies from
22 government agencies and organizations who are
23 currently working on the front line protecting our
24 seniors from abuse. As a follow-up to this hearing
25 I'm introducing two resolutions today and one

1
2 introduction related to elder abuse. Resolution 105
3 with Council Member Vallone in support of Assembly
4 Bill 7892 and State Senate Bill 6221, which would
5 strengthen protection for older adults against
6 financial abuse by allowing a banking organization to
7 refuse to conduct transactions requiring the
8 disbursement of money into an account of a vulnerable
9 adult if there is reason to believe that financial
10 exploitation has occurred or may occur and
11 authorizing banks to provide record access to law
12 enforcement if there's a reason to believe that a
13 vulnerable adult is being exploited. Resolution 106,
14 which calls upon the New York State Legislature to
15 pass legislation requiring mandatory reporting of
16 suspected elder abuse so that professionals who work
17 with seniors will be mandated to report elder abuse
18 if they believe it is occurring. Many states in the
19 United States have already begun to create these
20 protections. Many types of professional classes are
21 already required to report child abuse and it's time
22 to extend the same protection to our seniors.

23 I'm also introducing Intro 0129 with
24 Council Member Williams to expand protection for
25 tenants against tenant harassment by increasing fees

1
2 for tenant harassment and creating an online record
3 of landlords who have committee tenant harassment
4 against their tenants. This is a piece of
5 legislation that is very important for senior tenants
6 who are particularly vulnerable to tenant harassment
7 and I ask my colleagues to join me. [bell] Thank
8 you.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
10 Council Member Rodriguez.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. I
12 would like to invite my colleagues to pay attention
13 to two legislations that I'm introducing today. One
14 is Intro 0167, a Local Law to amend the
15 Administrative Code of the City of New York in
16 relation to prohibiting certain exhibition behavior
17 with motorcycles in the streets of New York City.

18 And the second one is a Local Law to
19 amend the Administrative Code of the City of New York
20 in relation to safer arterial streets.

21 In another note, I also would like to
22 send a prayer to the families who lost those members
23 at 116 and Park Avenue, but today's explosion also
24 highlights the need for infrastructure improvements.
25 This just happened one day after the Center for Urban

1
2 Future released a report citing the need for \$47
3 billion in order to make improving infrastructure
4 that in some cases has not been touched for 100
5 years, such as gas pipes, water pipes, roadway
6 bridges and tunnels. So it is an emergency that we
7 pay attention as a city to get federal, state and
8 city dollars so that we can make all the
9 infrastructure improvements that we need in order to
10 avoid an explosion as such as the one that happened
11 at 116 and Park Avenue to happen in other communities
12 across New York City. Thank you.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. And
14 lastly, Council Member Greenfield.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you.
16 Mr. Williams, if you wouldn't mind, thank you very
17 much; appreciate it, sir. I ask my colleagues today
18 to join onto two pieces of legislation that I am
19 introducing; the first is Intro 0140; it's a Local
20 Law to amend the code of the City of New York to
21 lower the speed limit on New York City's side
22 streets. The second law is a resolution that would
23 support the Mayor's initiative to lower the speed
24 limit all across the City to 25 miles per hour.
25 These of course are significant items within Vision

1
2 Zero; I will point out that the first law, aside for
3 requiring lower speed limit on side streets would
4 also in fact require the designation of seven slow
5 zone in New York City and would require slow zones
6 around our public schools as well. So in essence,
7 what these two pieces of legislation do is; the first
8 is, it supports the Mayor's initiative; we certainly
9 hope that Albany will finally agree with our
10 contention that New York City should be in charge of
11 its own speed limits, but if for some reason Albany
12 does not do that, which I know would be shocking to
13 all of us, I have Intro 0140, which would... what we
14 are currently allowed to do, which is we would lower
15 the speed limits on those side streets. So I
16 encourage all my colleagues to join our support for
17 Vision Zero by co-sponsoring Resolution 111 and
18 Introduction 0140. Thank you.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. We
20 now stand adjourned.

21 [gavel]

22 [background comments]

23

24

25

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 April 8, 2014