

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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April 29, 2014  
Start: 1:26 p.m.  
Recess: 2:48 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

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

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

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

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

Linda Rossi

Founder

Chrissy's Wish Memorial Fund

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I'd like to ask my colleagues to I guess pay attention to our colleagues. I'm going to have Paul Vallone; Council Member Vallone do the first ceremonial today, which is Chrissy's Wish Memorial Fund, which helps fund research on brain disorders such as anorexia, bipolar disorder and depression. So I'm going to pass it on to Council Member Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Mario and Linda Rossi, would you come on up? If my fellow council members and everyone can give me just a couple of minutes, this is a family that is near and dear to my heart. This is actually my first ceremonial and I wanted that to be this way. There is nothing worse than a parent losing a child and Mario and Linda Rossi have embodied the celebration of that life through Chrissy's Wish and when we met them, they came to our office years and years ago and they had said, "Would you help us?" And I have never taken them off our hearts, our walls, everywhere we go and the day their daughter Chrissy died, she had books on her bed and she was trying to find a cure for herself; for her own mental illness; her own

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depression and it was her wish to find that cure,  
so Mario and Linda Rossi then started Chrissy's  
Wish in honor of their daughter so that they could  
raise funds and every dollar that they've raised,  
and hopefully with this year's event we'll get to a  
half a million, has gone to that research. So I'd  
like to... [cheers, applause] well deserved. And  
now we'll have the clerk read the proclamation for  
us.

CLERK: Council City of New York

Proclamation: Whereas Christina "Chrissy" Rossi  
was born in New York on December 31st, 1979, in her  
very brief 26 years, she touched an extraordinary  
number of people. She had an unpretentious  
demeanor that quickly won friends. Even with  
illness, she was blessed with an insight into  
humanity, as well as boundless love and compassion  
for others. She continued to work and care in a  
group home of disabled adults, even as she faced  
unrelenting challenges of her own. Despite the  
unwavering love and support from family, friends  
and a special boyfriend, Chrissy, like one in five  
Americans today, suffered from a debilitating  
mental illness. And whereas on July 25th, 2006,

1  
2 Chrissy left this earth pursuing her greatest wish:  
3 peace of mind. Since then, the Chrissy's Wish  
4 Memorial Fund has had a tremendously positive  
5 impact in its work by fulfilling that same wish for  
6 others in working toward an end to the devastating  
7 mental illness that strikes so many of our friends  
8 and family members. Chrissy's Wish is dedicated to  
9 directly funding research on the myriad of brain  
10 disorders that include, but are not limited to,  
11 depression; bipolar disorder; anorexia nervosa; and  
12 suicide. Through the generosity of many supporters  
13 in the last seven years, Chrissy's Wish has raised  
14 more than \$430,000, in which 100 percent of every  
15 dollar goes directly for mental health research  
16 through the Brain and Behavior Research Foundation.  
17 And whereas the Brain and Behavior Research  
18 Foundation is the largest 100 percent non-profit  
19 donor supported organization in the world. The  
20 Brain and Behavior Research Foundation is committed  
21 to alleviating the suffering of mental illness by  
22 awarding grants that will lead to advances and  
23 breakthroughs in scientific research. For more  
24 than 25 years it has awarded nearly \$300 million  
25 worldwide to more than 3,000 scientists, carefully

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selected by its prestigious scientific council.  
Every cent of donor contributions for research is  
invested in NARSAD grants, one of the highest  
distinctions in mental health research. And  
whereas on August 22nd, 2014, the 8th Annual  
Chrissy's Wish Memorial Fundraiser will continue to  
reach for new horizons in the hopes to make  
Chrissy's greatest wish a reality for peace of mind  
and a world without mental illness. And whereas by  
assisting the researchers through Brain and  
Behavior Research Foundation NARSAD grants,  
Chrissy's Wish provides hope for a better tomorrow  
with improved treatments and ultimately cures, now  
therefore be it known that the Council of the City  
of New York gratefully honors Chrissy's Wish for  
raising awareness about mental health, tamping down  
the stigma of mental illness and lending strength  
to all who need it. Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker  
for the entire Council; Paul A. Vallone, Council  
Member, 19th District Queens. [applause]

LINDA ROSSI: I just want to first of  
all, thank Councilman Paul Vallone for his  
continued support. More important, I want to thank  
our daughter, Chrissy, for allowing us the

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opportunity to understand mental illness and to be able to hopefully raise the awareness and to change the stigma of mental illness, so thank you, Chrissy and thank you all for allowing us to come here and to speak to you. God bless you all. [applause]

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: And I want to just thank you both for your courage and your strength. You know, I think when individuals go through their trying times, it's much easier to just close up, right, and shut everything out, but you are sharing an incredible gift in founding this organization and helping the lives of so many others and I'm sure Chrissy's extremely proud of the two of you. Thank you. [applause] Okay, we ask... Council Member Laurie Cumbo I think has the second proclamation that we'll be issuing today. [background voices]

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Okay, you ready? Good afternoon, everyone! I am very, very pleased and very... thank you for that. I am very, very pleased and very proud today because this marks a very triumphant day in our history. We are celebrating the 25th Anniversary of 651 ARTS. [applause] Thank you. [cheers] 25 years; they are



1  
2 located in the Fort Greene community of Brooklyn,  
3 New York, [cheers] right, and through the support  
4 of many others, but of course, our Public Advocate,  
5 Letitia James... [cheers] that's right. 651 ARTS  
6 has become a treasure in Brooklyn New York and in  
7 an area that has undergone rapid gentrification and  
8 many cultural changes, I am so proud that this  
9 organization, through our support, has weathered  
10 the test of time and they are undergoing the first  
11 major capital project for an arts organization  
12 within the Downtown Brooklyn Arts Cultural  
13 District. So this is very huge. This is an  
14 extremely proud moment in our Brooklyn history and  
15 the City of New York. They are a beacon of light  
16 on an international level, as well as a local  
17 level, giving artists of the African Diaspora  
18 experiences that they wouldn't have any other place  
19 and 651 ARTS is what makes Brooklyn, New York such  
20 an amazing and fantastic place to be and it is  
21 because of your work and the generations of so many  
22 others before with founding Executive Director  
23 Mikki Sheppard bringing this work forward to our  
24 community so that we can be a better place and that  
25 people from all over the world will have a marker

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of the history and the contributions and the cultural talent of people of African descent in Brooklyn, New York. So this is a proud day for all of New Yorkers. We wish you all of the best in your endeavors. They will be celebrating their 25th Anniversary tomorrow with an amazing gala that will be at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in the BAM Café and we encourage all of you to come out for what's going to be a fantastic exciting evening and we hope that you all can join us and that you will make it. Thank you. [applause]

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: If the clerk can read the proclamation.

CLERK: Council City of New York Proclamation: The Council of the City of New York is proud to honor 651 ARTS for fostering greater awareness of and appreciation for the contemporary performing arts and culture of the African Diaspora and for providing meaningful, creative opportunities for performing artists of African descent. And whereas since 651 ARTS based at 651 Fulton Street made its debut in 1988, it has remained at the forefront of Brooklyn's robust rebirth as a global destination by developing,

1 producing, showcasing excellent performance and  
2 cultural programming rooted in the African  
3 Diaspora. While based in Fort Greene, 651 ARTS  
4 presents live dance, music and theater events in  
5 venues throughout the borough, and whereas to  
6 fulfill its vision of celebrating the African  
7 Diaspora, 651 ARTS encourages fruitful exchanges  
8 between US based and African artists in both the  
9 United States and Africa, embracing the unique  
10 history of our nation in general and the African  
11 American experience in particular. 651 ARTS works  
12 to expand and strengthen channels for  
13 communication, collaboration and information  
14 between the United States and Africa. It also  
15 invests in artists by providing financial and other  
16 resources needed to advance their careers and  
17 develop new work. And whereas over the last 25  
18 years, 651 ARTS dedication to artist development  
19 has been matched by its achievements in audience  
20 engagement, recognizing that art and art  
21 appreciation must be fostered and nurtured and new  
22 in each generation. The organization offers a  
23 range of educational programs that provide special  
24 opportunities for public school students to engage  
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1 with professional artists from around the world.  
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3 And whereas 651 ARTS has opened minds, ignited  
4 imaginations and nourished the souls of artists and  
5 audiences alike by giving them all opportunities to  
6 learn, grow and discover new worlds, all without  
7 leaving Brooklyn, now therefore be it known that  
8 the Council of the City of New York honors 651 ARTS  
9 for celebrating the arts and culture of the African  
10 Diaspora in New York City. Melissa Mark-Viverito,  
11 Speaker for the entire Council; Laurie A. Cumbo,  
12 Council Member, 35th District Brooklyn; Jimmy Van  
13 Bramer, Chair Cultural Affairs Committee.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,  
15 Council Member Cumbo, for inviting this wonderful  
16 organization into our Chambers so we could learn  
17 about the wonderful contributions it's made over  
18 its 25 years. Yes, a little... if we could just be  
19 silent as we hear a few words and welcome to the  
20 Council Chambers.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you so  
22 much. We are very excited about what's on the  
23 horizon for 651 ARTS. We are the only organization  
24 of color that is receiving a facility in the  
25 growing Brooklyn Cultural District and it's because

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of your support and the support and the support of Councilperson Laurie Cumbo and Public Advocate Letitia James, who's been an advocate and an activist for 651 ARTS for years, that we will finally get a home. I'd like to thank you for this [cheers, applause] acknowledgement, yes. Thank you for this honor and thank you for our continued support. Thank you so much.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you.

[cheers, applause]

[Pause]

CLERK: Ladies and gentlemen, can I have your attention, please? Can I please have your attention? At this time, please place all cell phones and electronic devices to vibrate. Will all non-Council employees, non-council employees please leave the main floor of the Chambers. Thank you.

{Pause}

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All rise for the Pledge of Allegiance. Quiet in the Chambers. [All recite Pledge of Allegiance] Roll call.

CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CLERK: Here.

CLERK: Cohen.

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.

CLERK: Constantinides. Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Present.

CLERK: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

CLERK: Cumbo.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Present.

CLERK: Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.

CLERK: Dickens.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.

[gavel]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please, quiet  
in the chambers. Everyone please find seats.  
Please. Continue with the roll call.

CLERK: Dromm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

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CLERK: Espinal. Eugene. Ferreras.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.

CLERK: Garodnick. Gentile. Gibson.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Here.

CLERK: Greenfield. Johnson. Kallos.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye, here.

CLERK: King.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Present.

CLERK: Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

CLERK: Koslowitz.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

CLERK: Lancman. Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

CLERK: Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

CLERK: Levine.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

CLERK: Maisel. Matteo.

COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.

CLERK: Mealy. Menchaca.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.

CLERK: Mendez. Miller.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Here.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

CLERK: Palma.  
COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.  
CLERK: Reynoso.  
COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Present.  
CLERK: Richards. Rodriguez.  
COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.  
CLERK: Rose.  
COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Present.  
CLERK: Rosenthal.  
COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.  
CLERK: Torres.  
COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Here.  
CLERK: Treyger.  
COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.  
CLERK: Ulrich.  
COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.  
CLERK: Vacca.  
COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.  
CLERK: Vallone.  
COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.  
CLERK: Weprin.  
COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.  
CLERK: Williams. Constantinides.  
COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Here.



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[gavel]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please may we have quiet in the Chambers? Continue with the roll call.

CLERK: Espinal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Here.

CLERK: Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Here.

CLERK: Ignizio. Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Here.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please rise for the invo... for the invocation delivered by Anindita ChatterjeeBhaumik.

[Invocation]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Motion to spread the invocation in full upon the record by Council Member Danny Dromm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you. Anindita ChatterjeeBhaumik is one of the leading advocates in the city addressing the issue of domestic violence.

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]  
Excuse me, Council Member Dromm, excuse me.  
[gavel] May we have quiet in the Chambers, please?  
Council Member Dromm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Let me just  
start again.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Anindita  
ChatterjeeBhaumik is one of the leading advocates  
in the city addressing the issue of domestic  
violence from a faith-based perspective. Anindita  
works as the NYPD's clergy liaison to the Hindu  
community and is an initiated devotee of the  
Vedanta Society of New York. As part of CONNECT  
Faith, Anindita works with clergy to build their  
capacity to address domestic violence. She  
provides spiritual counseling to women survivors of  
domestic violence who are in need of spiritual  
guidance. I make a motion to spread the invocation  
upon the record.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank...  
adoption of minutes.

CLERK: None.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 19

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Messages and papers from the Mayor.

CLERK: None.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Communication from city, county and borough offices.

CLERK: None.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Petitions and communications.

CLERK: None.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Land Use Call-Ups.

CLERK: M 49. Roll call.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Roll call.

CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

CLERK: Cohen.

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

CLERK: Constantinides.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 20

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

CLERK: Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

CLERK: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

CLERK: Cumbo.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.

CLERK: Deutsh.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Yes.

CLERK: Dickens.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

CLERK: Dromm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

CLERK: Espinal. Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

CLERK: Ferreras.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

CLERK: Gentile. Gibson.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Aye.

CLERK: Greenfield. Johnson. Kallos.

King.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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CLERK: Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

CLERK: Koslowitz.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

CLERK: Lancman.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

CLERK: Lander. Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

CLERK: Levine.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

CLERK: Maisel. Matteo.

COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Aye.

CLERK: Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

CLERK: Menchaca.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.

CLERK: Mendez. Miller.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.

CLERK: Palma.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Madam Public

Advocate, may I also have permission to go onto the  
General Calendar?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: I vote aye.

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

CLERK: Reynoso. Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.

CLERK: Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

CLERK: Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

CLERK: Rosenthal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.

CLERK: Torres.

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye.

CLERK: Treyger.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.

CLERK: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Yes.

CLERK: Vacca. Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Yes.

CLERK: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

CLERK: Williams. Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye.

CLERK: Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes, I'd like

to vote on all the items coupled on the General

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Order Calendar. I'm trying to get that right here,  
Public Advocate...

[crosstalk]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: If I may.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: I vote aye.

Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

CLERK: Johnson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye.

CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I vote aye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Today's Land  
Use Call-Ups were adopted by a vote of 44 in the  
affirmative and zero in the negative.

Communication from the Speaker, Melissa Mark-  
Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I would like to  
ask my colleagues to just stand a moment. I'm  
going to have one of our colleagues say a few  
words, but I want to recognize that you know, two

1  
2 weeks ago, New York lost an iconic figure here and  
3 a great leader when Basil Paterson passed away at  
4 the age of 87. Basil was a trailblazer and an  
5 inspiration to many who now serve as leaders in  
6 government and we know we're going to greatly miss  
7 him. His contributions are immense and I know that  
8 Council Member Inez Dickens was close and I would  
9 like for her to say a few words in remembrance.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you,  
11 Madam Speaker. The village of Harlem; indeed the  
12 City of New York and the State of New York is  
13 mourning the passing of our son, Basil Paterson, a  
14 husband, father, grandfather, mentor, influential  
15 leader and political icon. I had the immense  
16 privilege to know Basil from the age of nine.  
17 Since that day, I was blessed to have known this  
18 man of true distinction that with his steadfast  
19 vision and leadership led a movement of change with  
20 the rest of the gang of four members that included  
21 Congressman Charles Rangel; former New York City  
22 Mayor David Dinkins; former Manhattan Borough  
23 President Percy E. Sutton. Together they broke  
24 down racial barriers and gave a potent voice to  
25 African Americans in the Democratic Party, in the



1 country, the county, the state. For me, Basil  
2 became of my number one supporters, mentors and  
3 consultants. He was a brilliant thinker with a  
4 soft-spoken, unique tone of voice that forced  
5 anyone to pay close attention because you know that  
6 when he was done, you were going to walk away  
7 enriched with knowledge. Throughout his career, he  
8 set the example of a true public servant that  
9 believed that the city you served in could be made  
10 a better place for all. The love and guidance from  
11 someone such as Basil is hard to lose. He became a  
12 monumental influence to all. Many had the blessed  
13 opportunity of knowing Basil and to me, I will  
14 always remember him as a jazz music lover; a  
15 stickball fanatic; the host of Bid Whist card games  
16 that frequently had to be held in auditoriums  
17 because so many people came from far and near; a  
18 soft-spoken, but strong negotiator as the prime  
19 union labor lawyer for 1199 UFT and 32BJ, who  
20 planted his feet strong in his beliefs and moved  
21 towards his goals with accuracy and precision. My  
22 prayer goes out to Portia and their two sons,  
23 Governor David Paterson and Daniel Paterson, whom  
24 are a great product of the values instilled in them  
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by Basil, and to the rest of the Paterson family.  
Thank you, Basil, for the life that you led and the  
dedication you gave to all of us. Thank you, Madam  
Speaker.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,  
Council Member and if we could just join me in a  
brief silence as we mourn and remember Basil  
Paterson.

[Pause]

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Today we're  
going to be voting on four pieces of legislation  
related to building codes and regulations. One  
bill, sponsored by Council Member Levin, will  
require that existing concealed pipes in buildings  
be outfitted with insulation when exposed during  
repair or alteration. A second bill, also  
sponsored by Council Member Levin, requires the use  
of high efficiency lighting at construction sites,  
which will reduce energy usage for lighting by as  
much as 75 percent and I'd like Council Member  
Levin to say a few words.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you, Madam  
Speaker. Intro 16-A that we are passing today will  
amend the administrative code of the City of New

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2 York in relation to requiring insulation of exiting  
3 concealed pipes exposed during alterations or  
4 repairs and when during an alteration or repair of  
5 a building a pipe is discovered to lack insulation,  
6 the owner of the building will be required to fully  
7 insulate that pipe before finishing the work.

8 Doing so will make buildings more energy efficient  
9 and conserve energy and as we encourage all  
10 building owners in New York City to make energy  
11 upgrades, and as they do upgrades on their own to  
12 the existing housing stock in New York City, it is  
13 important that we do everything we can to make sure  
14 that we are reducing our carbon footprint here in  
15 New York City and making our buildings more energy  
16 efficient and thereby making a greener city. This  
17 is one easy way to do this and contribute to that  
18 effort. We already require that exposed pipes  
19 during new construction have insulation. This is  
20 just saying that in a renovation that... or an  
21 alteration that those same standards apply. Intro  
22 263-A will amend the building code to ensure that  
23 high efficiency lamps will be used at construction  
24 sites. Currently, there are no regulations on the  
25 energy efficiency of construction lights and this

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is something that is common sense, again, as building is picking up here in New York City, as our economy is getting better and more and more building permits are issued and more and more buildings are being upgraded or being built, this is something that will improve our energy efficiency and be another meaningful step in terms of greening our city and making our city a greater contributor to environmental conservation here on our planet. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Council Member. Another bill that we're going to be voting on today... if I could have you... council members, please. Another bill that we're going to be voting on today, sponsored by Council Member Matteo, requires that mold resistant materials be used in construction and renovation of moisture prone areas of buildings, and I'd like Council Member Matteo to say a few words.

COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to start by thanking my colleagues for the support of Intro 93-A, which will help us achieve a more resilient building stock by mandating the use of mold resistant

1 materials in moisture prone locations. Improving  
2 resiliency for the structures that are home to our  
3 city's families and businesses is always a  
4 worthwhile goal, but the challenges we have faced  
5 in Superstorm Sandy have only underscored its  
6 importance. Of the homes in Sandy affected  
7 neighborhoods that survived the flooding and tidal  
8 surge, many became ridden with mold. It should be  
9 a surprise to no one that the most resilient homes  
10 were built under the most recently updated  
11 standards. In other words, updating standards can  
12 save homeowners and taxpayers money and in this  
13 case, ensures the health and well-being of  
14 residents and their neighbors. This applies to any  
15 construction, even if it's not in an area impacted  
16 by Sandy because these locations can develop mold  
17 even when there is no flooding. This was not a  
18 rush process. The Committee on Housing and  
19 Buildings heard concerned testimony and made  
20 changes to more precisely indicate the areas of a  
21 building that could be breeding grounds for mold so  
22 that developers and property owners would not bear  
23 and undue cost. I have to give particular thanks  
24 to Councilman Jumaane Williams for his leadership  
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as chair of that committee. His commitment to greater resiliency has made it possible for standard improvements like this Introduction to see the light of day. I also want to thank his committee staff, Ed Atkin and Cullen Howe for their diligent work on this legislation, as well as Rob Newman. Many thanks also has to go to my predecessor, Staten Island Borough President James Oddo, and his counsel when he was a minority leader, Chris Decicco. He introduced this bill last session and I appreciate being able to carry the standard forward on this issue. I'd also like to thank my Chief of Staff, David Carr for his work on this bill. Finally, I want to thank the Speaker for making resiliency a watchword for this council. I also want to express my gratitude to minority leader Ignizio for being a co-prime sponsor of this legislation and all of the co-sponsors. With that said, I ask my colleagues to vote yes on Intro 93-A. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Council Member. Another measure sponsored by Council Member Koo will allow hold open devices to be installed on stairway entrances and buildings.

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These devices allow easier access to building stairways, while automatically closing doors in the event of a fire, and I'd like Council Member Koo to say a few words about his bill.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This legislation is intended to encourage the use of stairs by making their existence and location clear and to protect public safety. These devices will be electronically monitored so that for example, if smoke is detected in a building, the device will automatically deactivate so that the door is able to close. Taking the stairs instead of the elevator can be a good way for people to stay fit and healthy and knowing exactly where the stairs are in case of an emergency can save lives. I would like to thank the Speaker and my colleagues for arranging this bill and I look forward to this passage. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Council Member. So I'd like to thank Rob Newman, Laura Popa, Jeff Baker, Ed Atkin, Cullen Howe from legislative staff for the work on these bills. I'd also like to thank Housing and Building's Chair Jumaane Williams for his leadership on these four

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pieces of legislation and I want to invite him to say a few words about the bills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd obviously like to thank you for your leadership, as well as congratulate my colleagues, Levin, Koo, Matteo and Ignizio and I'm proud to have worked with my colleagues, as well as the Green Codes Task Force, a group of industry experts; union representatives; tenant advocates; environmentalists; academics developers; building owners and government officials to pass legislation that will green New York City's construction codes. All four bills hopefully will be passed today and be a tremendous step toward improving the health and safety of New Yorkers in all five boroughs. Thank you again.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Council Member. Today, we're also introducing new council rules that will make this body more effective, inclusive and transparent. We spoke a lot about it at the press conference. I won't go into all the details on that. I'd like our Rules Committee chair, Council Member Brad Lander for his hard work on these reforms and I also would like to



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thank the Council's legislative and policy staff for all of their hard work, particularly David Seitzer, Michael Freedman-Schnapp and Ivan Luevanos, as well as all the council members for their feedback in this process. It was really very, very engaging. And finally, I'd like to acknowledge the observance of Yom HaShoah. Yesterday was a day of remembrance for the six million innocent Jewish people who were murdered during the Holocaust. This is also a time to remember all who suffered and died at the hands of the Nazi regime. As we mourn and remember, we also vow to never again to allow such brutality and horrors to occur. And with that ends Communication from the Speaker.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Discussion of General Orders. Seeing none, report of Special Committees?

CLERK: None.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reports of Standing Committees.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Finance, Intro 192, Downtown Lower Manhattan bid.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 34

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on

3 General Order.

4 CLERK: Intro 193, Kings Highway bid.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on

6 General Order.

7 CLERK: Intro 194, Church Avenue bid.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on

9 General Order.

10 CLERK: Preconsidered Reso 190,

11 organization funding.

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on

13 General Order.

14 CLERK: Preconsidered LU 52 and Reso

15 212 through LU 55 and Reso 215, various tax

16 abatements.

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on

18 General Order.

19 CLERK: Report of the Committee on

20 Housing and Buildings Intro 16-A, pipe Insulation.

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and

22 Coupled on General Order.

23 CLERK: Intro 93-A, use of mold-

24 resistant materials.

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1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 35

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
3 Coupled on General Order.

4 CLERK: Intro 203-A, hold open devices.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
6 Coupled on General Order.

7 CLERK: Intro 263-A, construction site  
8 lighting.

9 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
10 Coupled on General Order.

11 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land  
12 Use LU 28 through LU 33.

13 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Approved with  
14 Modifications and Referred to the City Planning  
15 Commission pursuant to Rule 11.70(b) of the Rules  
16 of the Council in Section 197-(d) of the New York  
17 City Charter.

18 CLERK: LU 36 and Reso 216, landmark  
19 designation.

20 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
21 General Order.

22 CLERK: LU 39 and Reso 217 and LU 40  
23 and Reso 218, sidewalk cafes.

24 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
25 General Order.

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CLERK: LU 41 To LU 43, zoning amendments.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Approved with Modifications and Referred to the City Planning Commissioner pursuant to Rule 11.70(b) of the Rules of the Council and Section 197-(d) of the New York City Charter.

CLERK: LU 44 and Reso 219, sidewalk café.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on General Order.

CLERK: LU 45 and Reso 220 through LU 48 and Reso 223, zoning amendments.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on General Order.

CLERK: LU 51 and Reso 224, Kings County Hospital Center.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on General Order.

CLERK: General Order Calendar Resolution appointing various persons Commissioner of Deeds.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on General Order and at this time, I ask for a roll

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call on all items on the Coupled General Order  
Calendar.

CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Permission to  
explain my vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. In  
regards to Land Use 28 through 33... this is the  
appropriate time for that; 28 through 33?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yes, I was here  
for the testimony being presented by Two Trees  
Management for this project and my concern was that  
they did not abide by the parkland agreement that  
they had agreed they would do. They reduced the  
acreage for parkland and that was a very important  
issue to me and I did bring it up again at the vote  
and it was indicated that they did not meet what  
they had indicated they would do, so based on that  
lack of compliance, I'm voting no on those, but aye  
on the others. Thank you.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

Continue.

CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye on all.

CLERK: Cohen.

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye on all.

CLERK: Constantinides.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye on  
all.

CLERK: Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye on all.

CLERK: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

CLERK: Cumbo.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.

CLERK: Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye on all.

CLERK: Dickens.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

CLERK: Dromm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

CLERK: Espinal.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye on all  
General Orders and Call-Ups.  
CLERK: Eugene.  
COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.  
CLERK: Ferreras.  
COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye on all.  
CLERK: Garodnick.  
COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.  
CLERK: Gentile.  
COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye on all and  
all Land Use Call-Ups.  
CLERK: Gibson.  
COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Aye on all.  
CLERK: Greenfield.  
COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye on all.  
CLERK: Johnson.  
COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye on all.  
CLERK: Kallos.  
COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye on all.  
CLERK: King.  
COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye on all.  
CLERK: Koo.  
COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye on all.  
CLERK: Koslowitz.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 40

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye on all.

CLERK: Lancman.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

CLERK: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye on all.

CLERK: Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Permission to  
explain my vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank you very much for  
passing Intro 16-A and 263-A, but I also wanted  
to...

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]  
May we have quiet in the Chambers? Excuse me,  
Council Member.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I also was  
remiss...

[crosstalk]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please have  
quiet.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I was also  
remiss earlier in not acknowledging the very hard  
work of Rob Newman, Laura Popa, the Green Codes



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Task Force and our Committee Chair Jumaane Williams. Thank you very much all and with that, aye on all.

CLERK: Levine.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye on all.

CLERK: Maisel.

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Aye on all.

CLERK: Matteo.

COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Aye on all.

CLERK: Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye on all.

CLERK: Menchaca.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye on all.

CLERK: Miller.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye on all.

CLERK: Reynoso.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Permission to explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I'd just like to congratulate my neighbor and Council Member Steve Levin on his great piece of legislation and my brother from another party, Steve Matteo, for the great work. Congratulations to you both. I

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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vote aye on all and all Land Use Call-Ups. Thank  
you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

Continue with roll call.

CLERK: Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye on all.

CLERK: Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

CLERK: Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

CLERK: Rosenthal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye on all.

CLERK: Torres.

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye on all.

CLERK: Treyger.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye on all.

CLERK: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Yes.

CLERK: Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

CLERK: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on all.

CLERK: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye on all.

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CLERK: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

CLERK: Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye on all.

CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye on all.

CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I vote aye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All items on today's General order Calendar were adopted by a vote of 50 in the affirmative and zero in the negative and zero abstentions. Introduction and Reading of Bills.

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

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Okay and revised Land Use Call-Ups were adopted by a vote of 50 in the affirmative, zero in the negative. Introduction and Reading of Bills were referred. There are no resolutions and now we'll turn to General Discussion. Council Member Miller.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Good afternoon. Thank you, Madam Public Advocate. Over the past few months, there's been a lot of discussion about

1  
2 New York's Tale of Two Cities and I am proud of the  
3 work that we've done here at the Council and this  
4 administration to eradicate that. Yet, the truth  
5 for far too many New Yorkers remains the same and  
6 their realities continue to be the same. With this  
7 in mind, I would ask you to join myself and Council  
8 Member Danny Dromm in sponsoring Resolution 189.

9 This resolution calls on the State Legislators to  
10 pass and the Governor to approve that governments  
11 across this state establish their own minimum wage  
12 standards. Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins along  
13 with the Black Latino Asian Caucus and Karim Camara  
14 are currently leading the charge of these bills in  
15 their respective Houses. New York City should not  
16 be held to the economic standards of Rochester,  
17 Syracuse and Buffalo. Likewise, these cities  
18 should not be held to the standards of our economy,  
19 which can withstand a higher minimum wage.

20 Therefore, I invite you to attend tomorrow's  
21 hearing of Civil Service and Labor Committee on the  
22 16th floor at 1:00 p.m. and I hope that you will  
23 all sign onto this resolution. We must make sure  
24 and ensure that the minimum wage; the current  
25 minimum wage is the floor and not the ceiling for

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all working people here in the City of New York.  
Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

Council Member Kallos?

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Thank you.

Today, I'll be speaking to four items. In October of last year, between our Primaries and General Elections, more than 30 council members stood together on the steps of City Hall calling for Rules Reform. Today, I'm proud to be a part of a council that is delivering on its promise and I urge members of the audience, as well as anyone watching on the simulcast to please join us on May 7th for the Rules Reform hearing on that so we can have the best possible Rules Reforms possible. I'd also like to speak to Resolution 194, calling on the State Legislature and Governor to pass legislation to prevent companies who profit from the Holocaust that have not paid restitution from being awarded governments contracts. As we remember the Holocaust with the observance of Yom HaShoah this week, please join me in signing on to say we will never forget and that's with Council Member Mark Levine, who is chair of the Jewish

1  
2 Caucus. Lastly, I'm ecstatically proud to  
3 introduce the Construction Safety Act,  
4 Introductions 298 and 299. In the twilight hours  
5 of the Bloomberg Administration, a series of  
6 changes to our city's much needed crane and rigging  
7 safety standards were rushed through. These  
8 introductions will ensure the construction above  
9 New Yorkers' heads is done under safety standards  
10 our city needs. Introduction 298, the rigging  
11 bill, prevents weakened regulations from going into  
12 effect in October. That would allow a merely  
13 competent person with a 32-hour course to  
14 substitute for a licensed Maser Rigger with years  
15 of experience. The cranes bill would ensure that  
16 our City government handles licensing in accordance  
17 with strict safety standards, not a private  
18 corporation. I look forward to working with all of  
19 you to keep our city's construction and our  
20 residents safe. Thank you.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

22 Council Member Reynoso?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Thank you.

24 Today, I want to call to your attention Resolution  
25 198, calling on the Department of Education to

1 reform its process for the placement of "Over the  
2 Counter" students. "Over the Counter" is a term  
3 used to describe students who do not participate in  
4 the High School Choice process, about 36,000  
5 students every year. According to the Annenberg  
6 Institute' report, *Over the Counter, Under the*  
7 *Radar*, these students tend to be new immigrants,  
8 special needs students, previously incarcerated  
9 teens, poor or transient or homeless youth,  
10 students, over age for grade and students who have  
11 histories of behavioral incidents in their previous  
12 schools. Under the current system, the DOE assigns  
13 the majority of these students to struggling  
14 schools, which already have significant  
15 concentrations of high needs students. Meanwhile,  
16 high performing schools tend to receive a low  
17 number of Over the Counter students. This  
18 resolution calls on the DOE to develop a method by  
19 which OTC students will be more equitably  
20 distributed throughout our school system. By doing  
21 this, DOE can ensure that the system as a whole is  
22 serving these students, rather than limiting this  
23 responsibility to a small number of already  
24 overburdened schools. I would greatly appreciate  
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1  
2 your support as we move forward with this  
3 resolution. Thank you.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
5 Council Member Vacca. Quiet in the Chambers,  
6 please. Council Member Vacca.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Thank you, Madam  
8 Public Advocate. I rise to speak on Resolution  
9 203, which I've introduced and I hope my colleagues  
10 will sign onto, and that concerns stopping the  
11 yearly increases in our water bills. Every year  
12 the rates go up. There's no end in sight. I've  
13 introduced this resolution because of all taxes and  
14 this is a tax; it's not a fee. This is one of the  
15 most regressive. Whether you own a house and you  
16 make \$200,000 a year or whether you're a senior  
17 citizen and you own a house and you make \$20,000 a  
18 year, you get the same rate increase every year.  
19 Now, this year, the rate increase is going to be  
20 3.3 percent, which is the lowest and it's a step in  
21 the right direction, but in the ensuing years we  
22 have to pledge no more increases. These increases  
23 number one, they force affordable housing to become  
24 more and more scarce. Many property owners are on  
25 fixed income, they're facing foreclosure or they're



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2 senior citizens so therefore, when they get these  
3 increases they often have no choice but to pass it  
4 along to tenants if they own a two, three, four-  
5 family house and it drives rent into the  
6 unaffordable category even further. We have tax  
7 abatements in this city. We have the SCRIE  
8 Program. We have the SCHE Program. Yet, there's  
9 no such program when it comes to our water bills;  
10 no exemption for veterans, for the disabled or for  
11 the elderly. It's a straight rate and speaking of  
12 a straight rate, it does nothing when it comes to  
13 saving water. When these water meters were  
14 installed, we were told if you saved water your  
15 bill would go down. I'm telling you you could die  
16 of dehydration and your water bill would not go  
17 down in the City of New York. Something has to be  
18 done and every year we talk about it, the rate  
19 increase takes place and it goes by the wayside.  
20 I'm hoping this year we'll do more than talk. The  
21 State has to act because again, this is a creature  
22 of the State, but if we're talking about affordable  
23 housing in this city, well, the water rates have  
24 got to be front and center when it comes to that  
25 discussion. Thank you. [chime]

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
3 Council Member King.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Thank you, Madam  
5 Public Advocate. I rise today on a personal  
6 experience in my district. Knowing that this  
7 winter and spring we've seen a number of fires  
8 across the City of New York, in my district we've  
9 had some houses that were totally destroyed based  
10 on fire hydrants being obstructed for the firemen  
11 to get to. So on behalf of that and my neighbors,  
12 we know that fire hydrants are a essential to  
13 combating fires. In New York City and across the  
14 nation, firefighters are impeded from efficiency  
15 dousing fires which may occur during colder months  
16 because of poor access to fire hydrants, which may  
17 have been frosted over and covered through dirt and  
18 debris. Currently, it's a crime under the New York  
19 Code Section 15-205 to obstruct the use of any fire  
20 hydrant or to allow any snow or ice to be thrown or  
21 piled on around hydrants, so Local Law that I'm  
22 introducing, 300, this law will give property  
23 owners an affirmative duty to clear away snow and  
24 debris from fire hydrants on their sidewalks, which  
25 will aid firefighters in their performance of their

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duties. I urge my colleagues please to sign onto this bill today. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

Quiet in the Chambers, please. Council Member Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Thank you, Madam

Public Advocate. Today, I rise not to speak about legislation, but I'm going to take a minute. A little while ago, the Speaker spoke and... one of great council members, Inez Dickens, spoke eloquently about a leader that we just lost, Basil Paterson. And Inez Dickens did it, which was fitting, not just because of her relationship; because she has been someone on the forefront of fighting racial equality for as long as I've known her and we have had other giants that we have given tremendous accolades to: David Dinkins, Hector Figueroa and Shirley Chisholm, to name a few and in that, we gave a moment of silence to this great giant, Basil Paterson, but I think that this state and this city, the most progressive on earth, would be remiss if we didn't give a moment of outrage for the comments that were made recently about NBA players and which affected all minorities and

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everywhere in this nation. I've had many phone calls over the weekend from a lot of the members and I just think that we need to do something as a body and with the Speaker's permission and we have a 59 seconds left, I would just ask all of the members to stand here just in solidarity to show that those racist remarks were repugnant and will not be tolerated and I would ask the Speaker to call for a moment of outrage, but quietly protesting or whatever she deems fit.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the Chambers, please.

[Pause]

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you for that, Council Member Wills.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member Dromm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you. I'd like to call my colleagues' attention to Intro 292 regarding the use of solitary confinement on Rikers Island. As many of you know, the State has begun to deal with this issue, particularly as it relates

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to juveniles in State [chime] facilities; however,  
those laws recently passed; those regulations...

[crosstalk]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member,  
let me just get some silence for you. Please,  
quiet in the Chamber. I apologize. Council Member  
Dromm?

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Those  
regulations do not relate to our City jails, so  
therefore, I've introduced Intro 292, which would  
require the Department of Corrections to post a  
monthly report on its website regarding punitive  
segregation or solitary confinement. I have done  
that with Council Member King and Council Member  
Lancman and yesterday with Council Member Elizabeth  
Crowley, five council members visited Rikers Island  
along with other staff members from other council  
members' offices and we saw firsthand the  
conditions under which many of these offenders are  
held and much of the conditions or many of the  
conditions that we saw were quite shocking. So in  
order to avoid a death like we saw just recently of  
the homeless man who was baked to death; literally  
baked to death in his cell while in solitary

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confinement and whose funeral was held this past weekend, we need to get facts and figures to begin to deal with these abuses. I also want to thank Council Member Miller for co-sponsoring with me the Resolution 189 to authorize local governments to establish and enforce higher levels of the minimum wage and urge my colleagues as well to sign onto that. Thank you very, very much.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

Council Member Ferreras?

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Colleagues, today I introduce a piece of legislation that will set limitations on the amount that New Yorkers are paying in convenience fees at online portals hosted by City agencies and governmental entities. More and more New Yorkers pay violations taxes and bills using online portals among other payments for their convenience and time efficiency. Convenience fees are often assessed for using the online system and at times, the associated fees are a surprise to those using the system or they are unpredictable. This bill will set limits on the fees to a maximum of two percent of the payment being made or \$50. The lower amount will be the convenience fee paid.

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These online portals are meant to serve as an efficient and expedited system for the City to collect and for the New Yorkers to pay violations and bills, but when unpredictable fees add up, the convenience is lost. This legislation will help to increase transparency for New Yorkers when making online payments and will limit inconvenience. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation by signing on as co-sponsors. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

Council Member Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Thank you. I

urge you to support Intro 290 in relation to tree planting abutting residential private property owned by a senior citizen or a disabled person. First off, let me start out by clarifying I'm not anti-trees. I am fully aware trees are an essential aspect to our quality of life; cleaning the air and beautifying the city; however, many times maintaining the property surrounding trees can be difficult for a senior or a disabled homeowner. Tree pits have proven to be magnets for trash and clear to ECB violations. Their leaves, natural fallen debris or any accumulated trash has

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to be swept up during Sanitation's grounding hours. Comically, the City can show up at your home on any given day without notice; plant a tree, whether the homeowner wants it or not. My bill is not meant to hinder the amount of trees planted, but merely giving senior and disabled homeowners the option they deserve: to have a tree or not to have a tree. Join me in giving our seniors and disabled a voice in having a choice in deciding of the ability to maintain the responsibilities that come along with having a tree. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
Council Member Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Good afternoon. Today, I'm speaking on Introduction 313, which would establish an Air Quality Task Force. According to the Department of Health, 2,000 people or six people a day die a year from poor air quality in New York City. Another report by Mount Sinai Hospital shows asthma rates have tripled within the last three decades and are leading causes of hospital emergency room visits, hospitalizations and children being absent from school. Communities such as East Harlem, the South



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Bronx and Southeast Queens and others have had some of the highest asthma rates due to poor air quality for far too long, which brings me to today's legislation, which would establish an Air Quality Task Force. The task force will establish recommendations with respect to adverse air quality impacts from industrial activities and sources, small area sources and air pollution hot spots and other unaddressed sources of air pollution. The task force will also bring together some of our greatest minds from City agencies, advocates and others to come up with tangible solutions that we can do to clean our air, so I urge my colleagues to sign onto Introduction 313 today. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

Council Member Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you, Madam

Public Advocate. I want to ask my colleagues to sign onto Resolutions 195 and 196 I'm introducing today. 195 is a resolution calling on the New York State Housing... I'm sorry, the New York City Housing Authority to conduct a survey of its entire portfolio to determine how much leasable property is owned throughout the city. This is following up

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on NYCHA's efforts over the last year or so to sell or lease part of their properties. We want to make sure that we have an accurate assessment of what they're actually talking about and looking at in all of our communities. Reso 196 is a resolution calling on the New York State Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign Senate Bill 6477 and Assembly Bill 8637, which would allow health care professionals to prescribe or dispense an opioid antagonist such as Naloxone by a non-patient specific order...

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]  
Quiet in the Chambers, please.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: That provides protections against criminal and civil liability, as well as professional disciplinary action resulting from such prescribing and this is to help combat the increase in opiate addiction throughout our city and state and to help lifesaving medications and opioid antagonists get into the hands of those that can use them. Also, I want to introduce and welcome one of my interns this afternoon. Lily Goodspeed is here. She's a graduate of Brown University and she's been an

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intern now for a number of months and has done great work on our participatory budgeting and constituent services. Welcome, Lily. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
Council Member Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We recently heard our Mayor talk about his first hundred days and we certainly applaud him for all of those things that he has done; however, there is an issue, which he brought up during his campaign, which has not been addressed or resolved and I'm calling on my colleagues to remind him that during the time that he campaigned that he agreed that there would be a quick settlement to the Central Park Five case. And we know the names of Kharey Wise, Kevin Richardson, Raymond Santana, Antron McCray and Yusef Salaam. These were five teenage boys who were convicted under some very strange practices by the District Attorney's office at that time and the actual perpetrator of the crime did confess and say that he alone was the perpetrator of the crime and his DNA confirmed his confession. So we want to remind the Mayor that he, during his campaign time,

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said that he would have a quick settlement and I would urge my colleagues to join in reminding him that and push towards a settlement so that these five young men who spent many years in prison under a wrongful conviction, which has been vacated, are entitled to justice so that they can move on with their lives. They were vilified during that time. Certain people took out full page ads calling for them to have the death sentence imposed and they're due to full compensation, so I'd urge my colleagues to remind the Mayor as he goes forward that we need a quick settlement in this case so that they can move on with their lives. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

Council Member Williams? May we ask those in the hallway to please be quiet?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you. I ask my colleagues to join me in hopefully supporting three pieces of legislation. The first one is a resolution calling on the Landmarks Preservation Committee to landmark Jackie Robinson's family home in my district, 5224 Tilden Avenue. It's Resolution 209. It's the home of the first African American family in East Flatbush. An

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African American couple, Eleanor and Christopher  
Palin, were the first African Americans to arrive  
in the East Flatbush neighborhood. We have a  
petition to get this house landmarked. A Jewish  
family, the Satlows, were one of the only neighbors  
who refused to sign the petition and the courage  
stands up against their racist neighbors and based  
on what we heard today with my colleagues about the  
Clippers, what happened then is very apropos now  
and I'm very disappointed at the arbitrary rulings  
of the Landmarks Preservation Commission and I'm  
calling on my colleagues to join me in asking for  
this house that has already been nationally  
landmarked to be landmarked in the city so we can  
prevent it from being torn down. Also, the New  
York Fair Chance Act; New York City Fair Chance  
Act, Intro 318, I'm proud to introduce it with  
Borough President Gayle Brewer, Public Advocate  
Letitia James, Council Members Johnson, Torres,  
Miller, Chin, Palmer, Gibson, Reynoso, Dromm and  
Richards. We are asking that people sign on. It  
ends hiring discrimination. The law is needed to  
forgive everyone, regardless of whether they made a  
mistake in their past, a chance to compete for a

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2 job. It is commonly called Ban the Box. We just  
3 want to make sure that all of our people applying  
4 for jobs are applying and considered based on the  
5 merit of who they are now, not what they did in the  
6 past and at least allow them to have a foot in the  
7 door, so we're asking everyone to sign onto the  
8 Fair Chance Act. And last, but not least, sad but  
9 on a lighter note, we want to ask people to sign  
10 onto Resolution 208 to commemorate the life and  
11 death of legendary DJ Frankie Knuckles, the  
12 "Godfather of House." Frankie Knuckles was born in  
13 the Bronx in 1955; passed away on March 13th... I'm  
14 sorry, March 31st, 2014. He played a pivotal role  
15 in creating the House Music genre. He won a Grammy  
16 in 1997. He co-founded Def Mix Productions and DJ  
17 David Morales, which is based at NYC. [chime] Hope  
18 to gain my support on all three pieces of  
19 legislation. Thank you.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

21 Council Member Gentile.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Thank you and  
23 in conjunction with Councilman Richards' Air  
24 Quality Task Force, I ask you to take a look at  
25 Intro 297. This legislation would place air

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monitors on heavy use thoroughfares and in recreational areas. Their readings would then be reported to the Mayor and the Speaker and mitigating responsive actions would be from the DEP, DOT and DOE to any regulation violating the levels of contaminants that might be detected and that would be required under this legislation. Contaminants, as you know, in the air can affect adversely the health of New Yorkers, especially where those contaminants exist in large supply like on heavily used thoroughfares and places where people remain for some time such as parks. So we need to assure greater level air quality and health for all those who live in New York City and frequent its most used streets or recreational spaces. So in conjunction with Councilman Richards' Air Quality Task Force, I ask you to take a look at Intro 297.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

Council Member Cumbo.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you. I

want to first start off by thanking all of my colleagues in government for participating in Denim Day. It was a resounding success and people from

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all over the country took place right on the steps of City Hall and it was really a strong declaration of a movement, particularly of young women, against violence against women and they stood together very proudly and I was proud to be amongst them as part of the Chair of the Women's Issues Committee, as well as a member of the Women's Caucus and it was a very proud day and international coverage appeared all over in recognition of this. I also want to bring your attention to Council Member Williams and I are writing to respectfully request our support on Intro 289, which will require the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, HPD, to make available all housing applications in multiple languages. As New York City is such a diverse city with an estimated 200 languages spoken in New York City, we cannot deny New Yorkers the opportunity to apply for affordable housing because of a language barrier, and this bill would require the translation of application forms into six languages: Arabic, Chinese, Haitian, Creole, Russian and Spanish and any other language that HPD would like to translate the applications into as needed in the various developments. I also want to



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bring your attention to something that is very dear and close to my heart. As many of you know, New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer found many of the city's public schools are in violation of New York State law, which sets minimal instruction requirements that schools must meet for the Arts at each grade level. It's also found that there's a growing recognition by employers that we need high school and college graduates who are critical thinkers, creators, innovators, entrepreneurs and collaborators, and Arts education provides that foundation. New York State should ensure adequate and dedicated funding and resources to ensure a high quality Arts [chime] education in all schools and I hope that my colleagues...

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Will sign onto this resolution.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member Levine?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you,  
3 Madam Public Speaker. I want to call my  
4 colleagues' attention to two items. First is Reso  
5 194, which I'm co-sponsoring with Council Member  
6 Kallos, a day after Yom HaShoah. There is a French  
7 Rail Company known as Societe Nationale des  
8 Chermins de fer Francais. Its acronym is SNCF,  
9 which during World War II transported 75,000 French  
10 Jews to death camps in Germany. Only five percent  
11 survived; the rest perished in transit or at the  
12 camps. Hundreds of survivors and their descendants  
13 live in the United States today and this company  
14 has steadfastly refused to pay reparations. Sadly,  
15 two states already in the United States, Virginia  
16 and Massachusetts, have awarded multi-million  
17 dollar contracts to this company for work on their  
18 railways and the state of Maryland has cleared them  
19 to bid on a \$6 billion for railway work in that  
20 state. We want to preempt such unconscionable  
21 support with taxpayer dollars to this company in  
22 New York by calling on New York State to bar  
23 companies who have failed to pay reparation from  
24 the Holocaust for receiving state contracts.  
25 Secondly, I want to call your attention, on a

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2 slightly less weighty matter, to Intro 303, which  
3 would, for the first time in New York City history,  
4 establish recognition for a Buddhist holiday in our  
5 parking regulations. This would be the holiday of  
6 Vesak, which occurs in May, which is the Buddhist  
7 holiday which commemorates the birth, enlightenment  
8 and death of the Buddha. This is a community which  
9 now numbers nearly half a million in New York City.  
10 It has virtually no formal recognition in any way  
11 from State government. Those of you with large  
12 Asian communities in your district are probably  
13 aware that this holiday is common for the observant  
14 to attend Temple and to hold parades and ceremonies  
15 in the street and we would like, in a small way, to  
16 recognize their ascent and growing importance in  
17 our city. [chime] Thank you.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
19 Council Member Lander?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you,  
21 Madam Public Advocate. I want to note since  
22 Council Member Wills had us stand up just a few  
23 short minutes ago, the NBA has banned Donald  
24 Sterling for life from the NBA and [applause,  
25 cheers] fined him \$2.5 million and indicated

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they're going to force him to sell the team, so that's fast action from just the New York City Council rising to stand on its feet. [laughter] It's no...

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]

That's power.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I want to rise

today to say how proud I am of the action the Speaker took just a few short minutes ago downstairs and on the floor now introducing Resolution 184, which is the bill to amend the Rules of the New York City Council. This is comprehensive and historic reform by taking punitive politics out of a member items, ensuring fair consideration of legislation, empowering chairs and opening this body up further to the public. These reforms will help make sure the City Council is more fair, more responsive, more transparent and better able to genuinely hear the voices of all New Yorkers. It's come through a very inclusive process. I really want to praise this as a model of what inclusive leadership can look like and thank the Speaker for it. We had a wonderful hearing to begin to develop it. We'll

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2 have a further hearing on the bill, which is being  
3 introduced today, the text of which is now online  
4 so people can see it in its detail a week from  
5 Wednesday, May 7th and I encourage everyone to  
6 attend. I want to thank the council staff again  
7 who worked on this bill, especially Dave Seitzer,  
8 Michael Freedman-Schnapp and Ivan Luevanos, as well  
9 as Gary Altman, Ramon Martinez and my Chief of  
10 Staff, Rachel Goodman, who put a lot of time in on  
11 it and thank our good government partners as well  
12 at Common Cause, NYBURG [sic] and Citizens' Union,  
13 all of whom joined us earlier and are here today.  
14 This is still just one more step. We will have a  
15 hearing. We're interested in continuing to improve  
16 to the bill, but it's a big step. It really is a  
17 comprehensive and historic reform and I look  
18 forward to moving forward and bringing it back to  
19 the floor for a bill. Thank you very much.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member  
21 Rodriguez.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: First of  
23 all, I would like to invite all my colleagues to  
24 the hearing that we have tomorrow on Vision Zero  
25 where we have 22 bills and resolutions and it

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2 will... the hearing will start off with a family  
3 who had lost a loved one. Before the Commission,  
4 they will come to testify and we have a press  
5 conference first at 12:00 noon and I also wanted to  
6 say how proud I am also of our Speaker. You know,  
7 she was asked a question today and I know that  
8 that's a question that she's been asked in many  
9 places: "Don't you think that you're losing power  
10 by sharing the power of the Council?" And I think  
11 that not every day we see someone that getting into  
12 a position and has all the power in his or her  
13 hands to say we want to make changes and share that  
14 power. So for me, sometime... we been here many  
15 times and we see the link and we say the government  
16 of the people, by the people, for the people.  
17 Sometimes I can say that this Council not  
18 necessarily has been the Council of all the members  
19 and this positive approach taken by the Speaker  
20 saying we need to bring democracy; we need to bring  
21 fairness; we need to bring transparency. I have no  
22 doubt that it will mark the day; the history of  
23 this Council and I believe that April 29th, 2014  
24 will be always known as the day when we introduced  
25 changes at the Council that will impact everyone

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from the average New Yorkers that will have the opportunity to go in and speak to a local council member and saying, "I would like for you to move this legislation." In the four years that I have been at the Council, I was never allowed [chime] to see one of my good bills passing or having a vote in this Council so...

[crosstalk]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

[crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: For me, as someone that lived in those four years...

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]  
Please conclude...

[crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: And someone that...

[crosstalk]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Your remarks.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Someone that introduced good bills having more than 34 council members signing, I am so proud that now the future council members will see their bill more fully.

[crosstalk]

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
Thank you. Power comes from giving power to  
others. Council Member Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Madam Public  
Advocate, I'd just like to say that although we're  
celebrating a victory of the owner being banned, he  
actually gets the last laugh because he purchased  
that team for \$12 million in the '80s and is due to  
sell it for \$2 billion.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Let us now  
conclude with remarks from the Speaker, Melissa...  
oh, Council... sorry, I apologize. Council Member  
Johnson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you,  
Madam Public Advocate. Following on Council Member  
Rodriguez's remarks, I just do want to say that I  
believe today is a historic day in the New York  
City Council with the introduction of what I  
believe to be transformative Rules Reform in this  
Council. I want to recognize the leadership of  
Speaker Mark-Viverito and the Chair of the Rules  
Committee, Brad Lander and for the folks that came  
before me that have been pushing for these rules  
changes for years. I know Council Member Barron



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discussed how this conversation started back in 2001 with the class that was elected back then, and I feel very confident that these rules changes are going to empower the Council, individual members and allow for us to truly respond to our constituents in a much better, more effective way. A couple more things: I want to follow up on Council Williams on Introduction 318, which is giving people a fair chance; banning the box for the formally incarcerated in New York City. People who are incarcerated should not be judged on one low moment in their life. They should be able to get back into the system after they've gone through rehabilitation and when they're getting their foot in the door, they should not be automatically disqualified because of a criminal record. They should be judged on their merit and we would see less recidivism if we had people being active and brought back into the workforce. So I am very proud to co-sponsor this piece of legislation and I look forward to it getting a hearing and hopefully passing to bring more fairness and justice and progressive values to New York City and I will end with this. Council Member Van Bramer, Cumbo and I

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put forward a resolution for the Justice for Jazz Campaign; jazz musicians in New York City, who are older, who are not getting benefits that they deserve. They are destitute now, after decades of playing in some of the most famous clubs in New York City. It is shameful. We look forward to working to bring more justice to these jazz musicians who have made a great part of our city.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Public Advocate.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Council Member Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Good afternoon, Council Members. I rise to ask you to consider signing onto Intro 288. It is a bill that would amend the City Code that would ask for any non-profit organization that receives greater than 50 percent of the organizational funds from the City of New York; that those who are an officer of position such as CEOs or CLOs leading management positions in those not-for profits that receive greater than 50 percent from the City of New York must sign conflict of interest disclosures. This

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is something that hundreds of city managers do every year; elected officials who do that as well, and I want to make sure that we don't have a situation that we have currently out in Queens with the CEO of our libraries having two full-time jobs. So I encourage you to sign onto Intro 288, which calls for greater disclosure of leaders of these not-for profits. I, too, want to thank the Speaker for introducing today's Rule Bill Reform. I want to thank the Rules Committee. It'll ensure that discretionary funding is distributed in a fair and transparent way and it would also make sure that in the future they are not used for political gain or misuse. And I also encourage my colleagues to sign onto Reso 186, which would add onto Council Member Levin's bill that we're passing today, would ask for the State to do a tax deduction for anybody that does insulation of mechanical properties within their home or buildings. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And now a quick announcement from Council Member King, quick.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Quick, just want to remind everybody from the BLAC that we have a caucus meeting directly right after this, so I'm

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going to ask you swiftly to make your way to the conference so we can complete this meeting as soon as possible. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And now the Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito to conclude.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: So just a moment of levity I guess, just letting my colleagues to take note that the efficiency of these meetings has reached the Editorial Boards of Colorado Springs, Colorado [applause, cheers] where they put an editorial saying, "Yakety Yak Council," in reference to their Council, lamenting the fact that their meetings last 13 hours [background voices, laughter] and talking about that they watched the April 10th meeting; this is the Editorial Board of Colorado Springs, of the New York City Council. It lasted 57 minutes and 36 seconds, including six minutes for roll call and opening prayer. It was professional, orderly and down to business. So thank you all. [applause, cheers] And I also want to take a moment to introduce the new General Counsel for the City Council, Kathleen Ahn is here [applause] and very much look forward to working with her. She...

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[laughter] She was a former General Counsel at SBS.  
I'm very excited to have her on our team. And it  
is now 2:45 and we will be finishing this meeting.  
Thank you all very much.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: We stand  
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. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.



Date: 05/15/2014