

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

STATED MEETING

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July 24, 2014
Start: 01:55 p.m.
Recess: 03:29 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E:

MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO
Speaker

LETITIA JAMES
Public Advocate

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- ALAN N. MAISEL
- ANDREW COHEN
- ANDY L. KING
- ANNABEL PALMA
- ANTONIO REYNOSO
- BEN KALLOS
- BRAD S. LANDER
- CARLOS MENCHACA
- CHAIM M. DEUTSCH
- COREY D. JOHNSON
- COSTA G. CONSTANTINIDES
- DANIEL DROMM
- DANIEL R. GARODNICK
- DARLENE MEALY

COUNCIL MEMBERS (CONTINUED):

DAVID G. GREENFIELD
DEBORAH L. ROSE
DONOVAN J. RICHARDS
ELIZABETH S. CROWLEY
ERIC A. ULRICH
FERNANDO CABRERA
HELEN K. ROSENTHAL
I. DANEEK MILLER
INEZ D. BARRON
INEZ E. DICKENS
JAMES G. VAN BRAMER
JAMES VACCA
JULISSA FERRERAS
JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS
KAREN KOSLOWITZ
LAURIE A. CUMBO
MARGARET S. CHIN
MARIA DEL CARMEN ARROYO
MARK LEVINE
MARK S. WEPRIN
MARK TREYGER
MATHIEU EUGENE
PAUL A. VALLONE
PETER A. KOO
RAFAEL L. ESPINAL, JR.
RITCHIE J. TORRES
ROBERT E. CORNEGY, JR.
RORY I. LANCMAN
ROSIE MENDEZ
RUBEN WILLS
STEPHEN T. LEVIN
STEVEN MATTEO
VANESSA L. GIBSON
VINCENT IGNIZIO
VINCENT J. GENTILE
YDANIS A. RODRIGUEZ

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

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[gavel]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please come to order. Please come to order. Members please take your seats. Visitors please take your seats. If you're not a staff member or a visitor on the floor... members please take your seats. May we have some order?

UNKNOWN MALE: At this time please place all cell phones and pagers to vibrate. Will all non-council employees, non-council employees please leave the main floor of the chambers thank you.

[COMBINED PLEDGE]

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Roll call.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron. Cabrera. Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen?

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Constantinides.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Crowley.

STATED MEETING

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1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.
3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cumbo.
4 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Here.
5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch.
6 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.
7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Dickens.
8 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.
9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Dromm. Espinal.
10 COMMITTEE MEMBER ESPINAL: Here.
11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene. Garodnick.
12 Gentile. Gibson. Greenfield.
13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Johnson.
14 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Here.
15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos.
16 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.
17 COMMITTEE CLERK: King. Koo.
18 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.
19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz. Lancman.
20 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Here.
21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander
22 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.
23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin. Levine.
24 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.
25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel. Matteo. Mealy.

STATED MEETING

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Menchaca.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: [speaking
foreign language]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Miller. Palma.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: [speaking
foreign language]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez. Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rosenthal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres. Treyger.
Ulrich. Vacca. Vallone. Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams. Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ignizio. Van Bramer.
Speaker Mark-Viverito.

1 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

2 Please rise for the invocation delivered by
3 Reverend Doctor Cheryl G. Anthony, Pastor of Judah
4 International Christian Center 141 Rogers Avenue in
5 the Borough of Brooklyn.
6

7 REVEREND DOCTOR ANTHONY: Gracious god,
8 the god of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the god of
9 Joseph and Efren and Manassa we come on this
10 afternoon first to tell you thank you. Thank you
11 for being such a great and mighty god. Thank you
12 for being a god that sits high and looks down on
13 New York City. We ask that you would be on our
14 midst on today. We lift up this city council to
15 you. We'd ask that you would give them everything
16 that they need in order to be able to take care of
17 the needs of our city, that you would give them
18 wisdom and knowledge and understanding and that
19 they would come to know that this is one city, that
20 we might have different communities and different
21 neighborhoods and different boroughs but we are
22 bound together in one spirit. Teach us how to work
23 together and how to play together. Teach us to
24 understand that even though we might not understand
25 what's going on in another borough we understand

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2 what's going on in households. Mothers and fathers
3 and children who are struggling just to be able to
4 put food on the table and to live in a decent
5 place. So we thank you for this afternoon. We pray
6 for our speaker on this afternoon, continue to
7 undergird her. We pray for our public advocate and
8 yes we pray for our mayor that you would watch over
9 him and bring him back safe, and all of those that
10 are gathered here today. Teach us how to work
11 together that we might do the kind of work that
12 gives you the glory, the honor, and the praise.
13 This is our prayer. Ahmen.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Motion to spread
15 the invocation of full upon the record. Council
16 Member Cornegy. Quiet in the chambers.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Thank you Madam
18 Public Advocate. When I found out that today our,
19 the indication would be by Doctor Anthony I was
20 pleased and I knew that it would be a good day. I'm
21 pleased to welcome Reverend Doctor Cheryl Anthony
22 to the Stated Meeting of the New York City Council
23 Today. Revered Doctor Cheryl G. Anthony is pastor
24 of Judah International Christian Center in the
25 neighborhood of Crown Heights that I represent.

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2 Judah International is a holistic ministry whose
3 mission is to meet the spiritual, economic, and
4 social needs of all people. Due to international
5 lawman Reverend Doctor Anthony has been recognized
6 by former presidents Bill Clinton and George Bush
7 as an outstanding organization in connection with
8 the holistic approach to community wellness
9 program. They've also been recognized on the floor
10 of the New York State Senate and United States
11 House of representatives. Reverend Doctor Anthony
12 is a dedicated and energetic leader who holds the
13 distinction of being the first and thus far the
14 only woman to chair the Board of Central Brooklyn
15 Churches. She's the vice president of the labor
16 religion coalition of New York State and the past
17 chair of Bed-Stuy Crown Heights HIV Care Network.
18 She also serves on a Board of Trustees of Fordham
19 University. And most importantly she's my friend.
20 The people of the 36th district benefit greatly
21 from Doctor Anthony and Judah International's good
22 works in the community and I thank her for her
23 words of guidance to the council today. I move to
24 spread the invocation in full upon the record.
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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. I now
3 call upon the Minority Leader Vincent Ignizio for
4 an introduction. Oh, Council Member Barron to join
5 the spreading of the invocation.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you Madam
7 Public Advocate. I just wanted to say that I stand
8 and join with my colleague and say that Dr. Cheryl
9 Anthony has done fantastic work not just in the
10 district that has been mentioned but throughout
11 Brooklyn and did a... job in resting the issues of
12 super storm Sandy. Thank you so much.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: I, I apologize
14 Minority Leader Vincent Ignizio.

15 MINORITY LEADER IGNIZIO: No thank you
16 Madam Public Advocate. I rise to acknowledge
17 Councilman Mark del Rosario and his family who are
18 here with us today. Councilman del Rosario is the
19 city councilman from the city of Marikina in the
20 Republic of the Philippines. If he may stand he's
21 joined today by his niece Lenny and her husband
22 Frank of the NYPD who are constituents in my
23 district. It's been a pleasure to have you here
24 today and welcome to the chamber Madam Speaker,
25 Councilman.

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[applause]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member

we welcome to you, welcome you to New York City and to the New York City Council. Thank you and I hope you enjoy your visit. I would like to recognize that we have on the dais Dejalín Tapia, Daniel Levine, the son of Council Member Levine, and Sara Cohen, the daughter of Council Member Cohen.

Adoption of minutes.

[applause]

UNKNOWN MALE: Thank you for the

mentorship of these young leaders Madam Public Advocate. I would like to make a motion that the minutes of the stated meetings of May 14th and May 29th, 2014 be adopted as printed.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Messages and

papers from the mayor.

COMMITTEE CLERK: m-84 Withdrawing Marcy

Kesner for appointment to the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Received order.

Printed and filed.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: M-85 Submitting
Margery Pearlmudder for appointment to the Board of
Standards and Appeals.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Rules,
privileges, and elections.

COMMITTEE CLERK: M-86 submitting Adie
Shamir Barron for appointment to the Landmarks
Preservation Commission.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Rules,
privileges, and Elections.

COMMITTEE CLERK: M-87 Submitting John
Gustafson for appointment to the Landmarks
Preservation Commission.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Rules,
privileges, and elections.

COMMITTEE CLERK: M-88 Submitting Jock
Jeha for appointment to the Taxi and Limousine
Commission.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Rules,
privileges, and elections. May we please have some
quiet in the chambers?

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

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: M-89 through M-106 on
3 page four base station licenses.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Transportation.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Petitions and
6 communications.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Land Use Call-
9 ups.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: M-107 through 109.

11 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on call-
12 up, coupled on call-up vote, roll call.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Arroyo.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera. Chin.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen.

20 SARA COHEN: Aye.

21 [laughter]

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Constantinides.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Yes.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GCORNEGY: Aye.

STATED MEETING

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Crowley.
3 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.
4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cumbo.
5 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.
6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch.
7 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Yes.
8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Dickens.
9 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye. Aye.
10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Dromm.
11 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.
12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Espinal.
13 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.
14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene.
15 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.
16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ferreras. Garodnick.
17 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.
18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gentile.
19 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.
20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gibson.
21 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Aye.
22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Greenfield.
23 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Yes.
24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Johnson.
25 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye.

STATED MEETING

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1
2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos.
3 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.
4 COMMITTEE CLERK: King. Koo.
5 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.
6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz.
7 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.
8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Lancman.
9 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.
10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander.
11 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.
12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin.
13 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.
14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine.
15 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.
16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel.
17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Maisel.
18 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Aye.
19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo.
20 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Yes.
21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy.
22 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.
23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Menchaca.
24 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.
25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mendez.

STATED MEETING

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.
3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Miller.
4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Miller.
5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Palma.
6 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.
7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso.
8 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.
9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards.
10 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.
11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez.
12 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.
13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.
14 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.
15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rosenthal.
16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.
17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres.
18 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye.
19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Treyger.
20 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.
21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich. Vacca.
22 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.
23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone.
24 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.
25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Weprin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: I'd like to ask
unanimous consent to vote on all items before us
today?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: I vote aye.

Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ferreras.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer. Speaker
Mark-Viverito.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Today's land use
call-ups were adopted by a vote of 47 in the
affirmative, and 0 in the negative. May we please
have some quiet in the chamber? Quiet in the
chambers please. Thank you. Communication from
Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito.

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2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you Madam
3 Public Advocate. Good afternoon to all my
4 colleagues. Hope everyone's having a good summer.
5 Today we're voting on legislation that will expand
6 eligibility for the disability rent increase
7 exemption program in New York City. Thanks to State
8 Authorizing Legislation the governor just signed
9 into law this week we are able to increase the
10 maximum income for the level of eligibility to 50
11 thousand dollars. This is a critical step to
12 maintaining housing affordability for thousands of
13 disabled New Yorkers across the city. As people
14 remember a couple of weeks ago we signed the same,
15 similar legislation for SCREE. I'd like to thank
16 Kelly Taylor and Tarsi Nasser [sp?] from our
17 legislative team for the work on this bill and I'd
18 like to call the primary sponsor Council Member
19 Rosenthal to say a few words.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: ...move this
21 bill through the city council process
22 expeditiously. You know this is just a great day
23 for affordable housing for New York City residents.
24 We're going to open the door for even more of our
25 citizens to have access to government support for

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2 their housing in situations where they're paying
3 more than 30 percent of their income toward housing
4 that uh, rent will now be capped at 30 percent of
5 their income for all...

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Excuse me
7 Council Member. Please may we have some quiet in
8 the chambers so we may hear Council Member
9 Rosenthal. Please... [crosstalk]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Everyone's
11 just being joyous for me.

12 [laughter]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I, I hear the
14 joyous murmur. So we know that about 8,000 citizens
15 currently are able to take advantage of the
16 subsidy. We're hoping this will open the door to
17 thousands more. And I look forward to the council
18 playing a large role in getting the word out.
19 Because most important thing now is to let our
20 fellow New Yorkers [cross-talk] know about this
21 opportunity. Last night we had a housing clinic in
22 my district to discuss the new rent, the increase
23 in the rent cap for seniors. There were hundreds of
24 people who game, who came to the housing clinic. I
25 think we're going to have the same result as we get

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2 the word out for our disabled New Yorkers. So thank
3 you very very much.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you. I
5 have a little bit of an administrative point of
6 order at this point. We have the Fire Marshalls in
7 the room. I think there are too many people
8 standing along the sides. We really need to clear
9 the space a little bit. If our security director
10 will be coming by please respect his directives.
11 Thank you. The council will also be voting on two
12 pieces of legislation to improve online access to
13 city government data. One bill sponsored by Council
14 Member Lander pertains to city laws and the other
15 sponsored by Council Member Kallos pertains to the
16 city record. And we could also maintain silence,
17 thank you. These bills will require that the city
18 publish laws and the city record online promptly
19 and in a user friendly format. The city record
20 publishes thousands of notices each year but
21 accessing it is either time sensitive or expensive.
22 Putting them online in a searchable user friendly
23 format will unlock this information for interested
24 New Yorkers. We're committed to making the city
25 government as transparent and inclusive as possible

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2 and making these documents more accessible to the
3 public is a simple but significant way to
4 contribute toward that goal. I'd like to thank
5 David Seitzer, Tim Matisoft [sp?], Rob Calandro
6 [sp?], and Rachel Cordero [sp?] from our
7 Legislative Division who all did great work on
8 these bills. I thank them for their contributions
9 and I would like to call first on Council Member
10 Lander and then Council Member Kallos to speak
11 about the bills.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you very
13 much Madam Speaker and thanks also to Chair Kallos.
14 They say ignorance of the law is no excuse but that
15 doesn't mean that we're supposed to make it
16 difficult to know what the law is. I'm very pleased
17 that this bill will help us do more to let New
18 Yorkers, especially those in the research and
19 advocacy and legal communities but all New Yorkers
20 have an easier time accessing the laws we pass
21 here, the laws that have been passed over the
22 years. Since this law was originally introduced the
23 administration has stepped forward and put a link
24 on the law department's website but there's still a
25 long way to go to make it downloadable in bulk so

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2 that you can search all the laws relating to when
3 you have to sweep your sidewalks or what the rules
4 are regarding night clubs or anything that you want
5 to know about the law is downloadable in bulk,
6 easier to search, and maximize the usefulness to
7 all users. So thanks to Dave Seitzer that, council
8 who worked on the bill to the chair who's been a
9 strong advocate for open government and to the
10 speaker for helping us move this forward.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Speak on behalf
12 of two bills that will open government laws and
13 notices to public online where New Yorkers expect
14 to find it. The City Council's commitment to reform
15 and public engagement under Speaker Melissa Mark-
16 Viverito has been exceptional and these bills are
17 just another part of that. Council Member Brad
18 Lander's open law bill follows on a precedence set
19 by Hammurabi a millennium ago bringing the laws to
20 the people on stone tablets and today that means
21 online where it belongs. City record online co-
22 sponsored by Council Member and Technology
23 Committee Chair Jimmy Vacca will open meetings,
24 land use procurement, and other vital city
25 information to the public and to public private

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2 partnerships to build the next great app to make
3 our government more accessible. I want to thank
4 David Seitzer Committee Council to the Government
5 of Operations for his hard work on these bills.
6 Both will help to open information for the 21st
7 Century Government that works for the people.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you
9 Council Members. Today the City Council will also
10 be voting on legislation requiring the Department
11 of Education to evaluate and prioritize the
12 installation of door alarms linked to exterior
13 doors in our city's schools. We're asking the DOE
14 to thoroughly examine the need for security
15 measures that will prevent unauthorized departures
16 from school premises by students. We're also
17 instructing the DOE to prioritize facilities that
18 serves students with severe special needs and
19 elementary aged students. By May 30th of 2015 the
20 DOE will submit a report to the council outlining
21 the results of their evaluation and providing a
22 timeline for alarm installation. Additionally we'll
23 be requiring the DOE to submit an annual report
24 describing training on student safety protocols for
25 DOE personnel. This is a bill that will make our

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2 educational facilities safer for students and give
3 parents the peace of mind they deserve when they
4 send their children to school for the day. I want
5 to thank Iesha Schaumburg, Jen Atwell, Joan
6 Polanyi, Lyle Frank, and Terslen Aser [sp?] for
7 their work on this and I would ask Council Member
8 Cornegy, the lead sponsor, strong advocate on this
9 bill to say a few words.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Good afternoon.
11 Thank you Madam Speaker. I feel very humble to
12 stand here on this day when the city council will
13 vote on the first bill I've introduced. This is an
14 emotional moment and an emotional topic. I never
15 had the pleasure of meeting Avonte Oquendo but over
16 the past few months I spent time with his mother,
17 his grandmother, spoken with his father, heard from
18 his brother, and been joined on the steps of city
19 hall by his cousin and others who love him. I'd
20 like to acknowledge the presence of Avonte's mom
21 and grandmother and extended family right now.

22 [applause]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I'd also ask
24 that representatives of the press respect their
25 desire to be present for this important moment

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2 without being asked for interviews. Avonte's family
3 knows and appreciates that all of New York
4 developed feelings of love and connection for that
5 young man. When we learned he was missing we saw,
6 and saw the image of, the images of him running out
7 of his school we wanted to help search and just do
8 anything to bring him home. Sadly our prayers and
9 best intentions were not enough. Avonte's life was
10 lost. I'd like to ask for a moment of silence today
11 in recognition to that loss.

12 [pause]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Thank you. Soon
14 after Avonte's death was confirmed I learned that
15 the problem of unalarmed doors was not limited to
16 the public school he attended. Symeir Tall, Talley-
17 Jasper, a pre-k student in my district slipped out
18 of a side door at P.S. 59 and then there were other
19 children from Brooklyn to the Bronx, from charter
20 schools and public schools. Their principals were
21 horrified and their parents were panicked. That
22 reality is why I introduce this bill and why 46 of
23 my colleagues and the public advocate join me as
24 sponsors. It's also why parents and advocates
25 across the city have spoken out and rallied in

1
2 favor of the bill. This is an important bill and I
3 believe that it will be effective. The Department
4 of Education and the City Council have reached
5 agreement on all the provisions of Avonte's law and
6 more. We're going to work together to get this
7 done. And that agreement to cooperate is critical
8 because it tells the world that we're committed to
9 the same goal of keeping our children safe. We're
10 also joined by so many advocates for children.
11 Parents in the autism community who are celebrating
12 our vote on this bill. I'm grateful to students
13 first, the citizens committee for children, QSAC,
14 Autism Speaks, New York City Parents Union,
15 Teamsters Local 237, and a council for supervisors
16 and administrators for their votes of confidence.
17 Most importantly Avonte, and Symeir Talley Jasper's
18 families know that we have done our best to make
19 this situation right. I felt blessed to watch them
20 grow in advocacy and strength during this process.
21 And I look forward to celebrating with them here at
22 city hall when this bill is signed into law.
23 Finally I'd like to thank my speaker Melissa Mark-
24 Viverito for her leadership and for the staff
25 resources that made it possible to get to this

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2 point. Special, extra special thanks to Chairman
3 Danny Dromm whose leadership of the Education
4 Committee I respect greatly. Thanks also to public
5 advocate Letitia James for signing on as an early
6 co-sponsor and for speaking out in favor of the
7 bill at every step. I've equally, I'm equally
8 grateful to each of you and to Asia Jan Joan Tisler
9 [sp?] and Dina Shell all staff who work, whose work
10 was instrumental. And with that I urge each of you
11 to vote yes on Avonte's law today. Thank you.

12 [applause]

13 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you
14 Robert. The level of passion and commitment you've
15 demonstrated to this issue is, is very inspiring,
16 thank you. Finally we also will be voting on a
17 resolution sponsored by Council Member Debbie Rose
18 urging President Obama to include immigration
19 reform and issues of importance to African
20 immigrants as a topic of discussion in the United
21 States Africa Leader Summit next month. I want to
22 thank Julian Beckford, Jennifer Montalvo, Rob
23 Calandra, and Rachel Cordello for their work on
24 this resolution. I'd like to additionally thank
25 Laura Poppa [sp?], Matt Gowab [sp?], and Rob Newman

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2 [sp?] for other work and leadership on all the
3 legislative items on the agenda today. And with
4 that Council Member Rose can say a few words.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you.

6 Colleagues I rise today to urge you the support
7 passage of Reso 357 calling on President Barrack
8 Obama to include comprehensive immigration reform
9 on the agenda of his first United States African
10 Summit taking place next month on August 4th
11 through the 6th in Washington D.C. I wish to thank
12 Council Member Menchaca for adjusting his schedule
13 to hold this hearing on this resolution so quickly
14 and the members of the Immigration Committee for
15 voting to approve. I'd like to thank Speaker Mark-
16 Viverito for her support of this resolution and her
17 and her staff's efforts to bring it to a vote today
18 and Julien Beckford and, and Jennifer Montalvo for
19 their assistance to bring this so that it could be
20 sent to the white house and placed before them as
21 they prepare the agenda for the summit. As you know
22 many, I, in my district there's an area called Park
23 Hill which is affectionately known as little
24 Liberia, I have the largest Liberian population of
25 any city outside of Africa as well as many

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2 immigrants from Nigeria, Sierra Lion Gianna, and
3 the Ivory Coast and Ginny [sp?]. This is reflective
4 of an overall trend. The number of African
5 immigrants in the United States has doubled since
6 2000 to more than 1.6 million. And New York City is
7 the home to a significant number of these
8 immigrants. They contribute significantly to our
9 local economy and to their home economies through
10 remittances creating a vital link between two
11 continents. Given these factors America, Africa
12 should be a vital part of the discussions on
13 immigration reform taking place in the United
14 States right now. Our current immigration system
15 presents significant hurdles to those from the
16 African continent who wish to study and work in the
17 United States. For example the diversity visa
18 lottery must be reinstated. It is one of the few
19 ways for Africans to immigrate to the United
20 States. There are also concerns regarding our
21 refugee and the asylum processes. This discussion
22 on this agenda should also emphasize securing
23 access to educational and economic opportunities
24 for women and girls throughout Africa. If the
25 obstacles women face is exercising their rights

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2 were eliminated it would help assure Africa's
3 economy and social development and in turn would
4 benefit the United States. I hope that all of you
5 can support this resolution today thank you.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you
7 Council Member Rose. And that concludes
8 communication from the speaker.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Discussion of general
10 orders. Council Member Van Bramer.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you
12 Madam Public Advocate. I wanted to speak on the
13 ULURP Application in my district that we're voting
14 on today. On 49th Avenue it will continue the
15 progress in Long Island City that has been
16 happening for the last several years bringing 140
17 unit residential building to a newly zoned parcel.
18 The project will bring much needed affordable
19 housing to the neighborhood at, I might add, a
20 lower AMI than had originally been proposed. I'm
21 pleased to have worked with the developers to bring
22 a first of its kind project to the building. We've
23 secured in agreement in writing where there'll be
24 affordable rehearsal and workspace for artists that
25 will be built out and a significant portion of the

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2 ground floor of this project. I'm also pleased that
3 developer has worked with us and will include
4 organized labor as a part of this project including
5 making sure that the building service workers will
6 have union jobs, union benefits, and union pay
7 which is incredibly important to me. Finally the
8 change in the zoning map will round out the Long
9 Island City special district which is a zoning
10 district that allows for a solid mix of
11 residential, commercial, and manufacturing which is
12 unique within the city. And while the zoning map
13 change is small it is important to the future of
14 Long Island City. It's a good project, one that I'm
15 proud to support and I want to thank Chairs Weprin
16 and Greenfield and the members of the Land Use
17 Committees for their support and encourage all of
18 my colleagues to vote aye. Thank you.

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

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you Madam
22 Public Advocate. I rise to ask for support for pre-
23 considered intro 422. I thank the speaker and her
24 staff and I thank Senator Savino and Assembly
25 member Bryan Kavanoff [sp?] from the state passage

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2 of the legislation that increases the income limits
3 for DRIE to 50 thousand dollars. As the cost of
4 living and rent rises in the city our disabled
5 residents along with our seniors need all the
6 financial assistance they can get and receive so
7 that they are able to remain in their homes. The
8 expansion of DRIE will not only increase the
9 eligibility requirements for this program it will
10 also expand it to an additional 72 percent of
11 households that would become eligible. I am proud
12 to be a part of this legislation. I thank my
13 colleague Council Member Rosenthal for taking the
14 lead on this legislation. And I ask my colleagues
15 to please support it.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
17 Williams.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I too am proud
19 to work with my state and city elected officials
20 including Council Member Helen Rosenthal the
21 primary sponsor of the city legislation to increase
22 the income threshold for DRIE eligibility. I'd also
23 like to thank co-sponsor Dickens, Ulrich, and Vacca
24 for their leadership on the issue. As was mentioned
25 the bill will raise thresholds to 50 thousand

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2 dollars beginning July 1st. As chair of the
3 Committee of, on Housing and Buildings my highest
4 priority is to ensure that city government uses all
5 of the levers at our disposal to help end the
6 crisis of affordable, affordability in housing. We
7 know that millions of New Yorkers pay more than
8 half of their income in rent. And by expanding DREE
9 eligibility we will ensure that more New Yorkers
10 who have disabilities are protected against rent
11 increases that would force many to choose between
12 paying the rent and buying food or critical
13 medicine.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Any other
15 members for general orders? Seeing none.. Report of
16 special committees.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reports of
19 standing committees.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the
21 Committee on Education, intro 131-A Door Alarms in
22 School Buildings.

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and
24 coupled on general orders.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the
3 Committee on Finance, preconsidered Reso 352
4 Organization Funding.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
6 general orders.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered LU-101
8 and Reso 362 through LU-103 and Reso 364.

9 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
10 general orders.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the
12 Committee on Governmental Operations Intro 149-A
13 Online Publication of City Laws.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and
15 coupled on general orders.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Intro 363-A Publishing
17 the City Record Online.

18 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and
19 coupled on general orders.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the
21 Committee on Land Use LU-89 and Reso 365 U-DAP
22 [sp?] Bronx.

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
24 general orders.

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STATED MEETING

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COMMITTEE CLERK: LU-98 and Reso 366 and
LU-99 and Reso 367 Special Long Island City
District.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
general orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: LU-100 and Reso 368
Landmark Designation.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
general orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered LU-108
and Reso 369 Zoning Amendment.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
general orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered LU-109
and Reso 370 Property Tax Exemption.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
general orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the
committee on Mental Health Developmental
Disability, Alcoholism, Substance Abuse, and
Disability Services preconsidered Intro 422 Rent
Exemption for Persons with Disabilities.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
general orders.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the
3 Committee on Rules, Privileges, and Elections M-80
4 and Reso 371 Approving the Appointment of Cheryl
5 Cohen Ephron [sp?] as a member of the New York City
6 Planning Commission.

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
8 general orders.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: M-81 and Reso 372
10 Approving the Appointment of Biome Jong [sp?] as a
11 member of the New York City Planning Commission.

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
13 general orders.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: M-83 and Reso 373
15 Approving the Appointment of Larissa Ortiz as a
16 member of the New York City Planning Commission.

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
18 general orders.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: General order
20 calendar.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Resolution appointing
22 various persons, commission of deeds.

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
24 general orders and at this time I ask for a roll
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2 call on all items on the coupled general order
3 calendar.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Arroyo.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron. Cabrera. Chin.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye on all.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen.

9 SARA COHEN: Aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Constantinides.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Madam
12 Public Advocate may I be excused to explain my
13 vote.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: With
16 congratulations to all of my colleagues in the
17 passage of their bills especially Council Member
18 Kallos for helping to make our city laws more
19 transparent and as a father for council, thanking
20 Council Member Cornegy for your advocacy for the
21 children of the city of New York. I vote aye on
22 all.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye but
25 I'm abstaining on Land Use 98 and 99.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Very happily
aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cumbo.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dickens.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: With
congratulations to Council Member Cornegy on the
passage of Avonte bill aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dromm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Madam Public
Advocate may I have permission to explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: First I'd like to
start off by congratulating Larissa Ortiz. She is a
constituent of mine and we are voting today on
making her a member of the New York City Planning
Commission. I would like to congratulate her and
thank her for her willingness to serve in that
capacity. Second I would like to thank Council

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2 Member Robert Cornegy. This is his first piece of
3 legislation and it's a great piece of legislation.
4 He worked extremely hard on this and he really
5 persisted and we've come up with what I think is
6 the right balance. Not only does it provide door
7 alarms it also offers the opportunity for cameras
8 to be in the school. And it will be done in
9 consultation with the Department of Education and
10 with the NYPD. Additionally it addresses the issue
11 at the root core which is that we need to provide
12 training to all staff members so that with,
13 children do not leave the school in the first
14 place. And I think that's really vitally important
15 and that is in this piece of legislation. And
16 finally it requires that a report be done and
17 submitted to the city council by May 30th, 2015 to
18 indicate which schools will be the first schools to
19 have those door alarms. So again I'd like to thank
20 Council Member Cornegy, the speaker, my staff Asia
21 Schaumburg [sp?], Jan Atwell, Joan Polanyi [sp?],
22 Christina Parotti [sp?], and Medinas Nisametadine
23 [sp?] our new finance analyst, analyst as well.
24 Thank you very much. I vote aye.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Espinal.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Congratulation
to Council Member Robert Cornegy and aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ferreras.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: I vote aye on
all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Congratulations
to all my colleagues especially Robert Cornegy. I
vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gibson.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Permission Madam
Public Advocate to explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. I
want to congratulate all of my colleagues for
passage of their bills today. I especially want to
recognize Council Member Rosenthal for the DRIE
exemption bill. Huge fan. DRIE and SCRIE go a long
way in providing the affordability that's necessary
for our seniors and those that live with
disabilities and truly want to congratulate Council

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2 Member Cornegy. I know how hard he worked to get
3 this bill to the floor; lots of discussion and
4 negotiations and certainly understanding that
5 nothing we can do will ever bring the life of
6 Avonte back but we certainly remain committed to
7 preventing any type of tragedy like that. So in the
8 spirit of his soul, of Avonte Oquendo I so proudly
9 vote aye on all and certainly thank my colleague
10 Council Member Cornegy for his incredible
11 leadership during this time. I vote aye on all.
12 Thank you.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Greenfield.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: May I
15 explain my vote?

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you
18 very much. First I want to congratulate Council
19 Member Kallos and Council Member Lander for
20 bringing some much needed transparency and really
21 as I like to say common sense legislation today and
22 I think those are very significant accomplishments.
23 So I also want to congratulate Council Members
24 Rosenthal and Cohen for their leadership on this
25 important piece of legislation that's going to help

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2 thousands of New Yorkers. And finally just want to
3 congratulate and say how impressed I am with
4 Council Member Cornegy who he was committed to
5 another common sense idea. He worked very hard, he
6 wouldn't take no for an answer, he really pushed,
7 and he got it done. And to Avonte's family you have
8 our deepest sympathies and it was terrible what
9 happened. Hopefully you can find some small measure
10 of comfort knowing that we're doing everything we
11 can to make sure nothing like this ever happens
12 again. And that being said I vote aye on all.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Johnson.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Permission to
15 explain my vote?

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: A real sincere
18 congratulations to Council Member Robert Cornegy
19 who spent an enormous amount of time trying to
20 ensure that tragedies with our young people don't
21 continue to occur in the future in our public
22 schools. His effort has been valiant and it has
23 really show his medal in getting this piece of
24 legislation done. And I also want to congratulate
25 Council Member Rosenthal who put forward this DRIE

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2 piece of legislation to bring it in line with
3 SCRIE. I'm very proud of all my colleagues in the
4 passage of these bills today. And I proudly vote
5 aye on all.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye on all.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: King. Koo.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye on all.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye on all

12 and I want to congratulate Councilman Cornegy and
13 also Rosenthal and Council Member Debbie Rose.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Lancman. Lander.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Request
16 permission to explain my vote?

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you.

19 Council Member Dromm mentioned that today we're
20 approving the nomination of Larissa Ortiz. We're
21 also approving the nominations of Cheryl Cohen
22 Ephron[sp?] and Biome Jung [sp?] nominated by the
23 mayor to the City Planning Commission. We had a
24 very good hearing in the Rules Committee. They are
25 three dynamite appointees and I want to

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2 congratulate all three of them on their appointment
3 and add my voice in congratulations to Council
4 Member Cornegy. I vote aye on all.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye on all.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine.

8 COUNCIL MEMBEER LEVINE: Madam Public
9 Advocate Permission to explain my vote...

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: ...briefly. I
12 want to congratulate the sponsors of all the great
13 legislation today. Particularly want to acknowledge
14 the leadership of Council Member Cornegy and also
15 Chairman Dromm for pushing forward Avonte's law in
16 such rapid fashion. Well-deserved congratulations
17 to you both and I hope that this will be the
18 beginning, not the end, the beginning of this
19 body's effort to support children who are
20 vulnerable to suffering the fate that Avonte
21 through not only alarming doors but training staff
22 to recognize behavior that puts children at risk
23 coordinating better with security staff in all
24 buildings, installing cameras, and otherwise making
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2 sure that no child ever gets to an external door to
3 put them at risk. And I proudly vote aye on all.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Aye on all.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: With
8 congratulations to Council Member Cornegy I vote
9 aye on all.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye on all.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Menchaca.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Permission to
14 explain my vote?

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: I want to say
17 thank you to all my colleagues; Rosenthal, Kallos,
18 and Lander also to Debbie Rose council member from
19 Staten Island and her leadership in making this
20 resolution and bringing it to our attention and
21 also to Council Member Cornegy. Thank you so much
22 for making Brooklyn proud. I, I vote aye on all.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mendez

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Permission to
25 explain my vote?

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I'd like to vote aye on all and I want to congratulate my colleagues Council Member Rosenthal and Council Member Cornegy, particularly Council Member Cornegy for all you are doing today for all that we in the city council are doing today for our children who are autistic, who are in school. This goes a long way to ensuring parents as well as the teachers in the school that our children are being kept safe. Thank you very much. I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Miller. Palma.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Permission to explain my vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: [speaking foreign language] Roberto Cornegy [speaking foreign language] And congratulations to Helen Rosenthal and Council Member Inez Dickens on passing the DRIE bill. I vote aye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [speaking foreign language]

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[laughter]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye and
congratulations Council Member Cornegy.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Congratulations to
all of my colleagues for this impressive package of
bills. And I proudly vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rosenthal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I vote aye on
all. Permission to make a quick comment?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I have
watched in awe as my, as the person who's, is in
the office next to me, Robert Cornegy, has ushered
this bill through from the minute he heard about
this horrible tragedy to now. You have an amazing
staff and you're an amazing leader in the council.
And so I just want to recognize that I also would
be remiss if I did not think my legislative
director Ahmen Tagani [sp?] who was on top of the
DRIE situation and brought it to my attention so we

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2 could pass this bill in the city council. Thank you
3 very much.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Permission to
6 explain my vote?

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: First I want to
9 commend Council Member Rosenthal for spearheading
10 the expansion of DRIE. And I want to commend
11 Council Member Lander and Council Member Kallos for
12 the work they can do to do, to bring transparency
13 and accountability to city government. But above
14 all I just want to say how impressed I was with the
15 work of Council Member Cornegy. He ran what I
16 consider to be the most organic and impressive
17 legislative campaign I've seen this year. And I
18 couldn't be a greater admirer of his skill. And
19 he's, I certainly hold you in the highest regard
20 Robert and I congratulate you. You deserve every
21 kind word that has been directed towards you. I...

22 [crosstalk]

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: How do you vote?

24 [crosstalk]

25 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: ...vote aye.

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Treyger.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Permission to explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I want to commend all my colleagues for passing I think very significant pieces of legislation and as a former public school teacher I want to personally thank Councilman Cornegy for, for your leadership in addressing a need that exists in our schools that will protect not just students but I think everyone, staff as well. I think that councilman Cornegy showed us a model because it is not easy to force change at the DOE. I think everyone here knows that. But you have created a model that all of us could learn from, from grassroots, students, educators, parents, concerned leaders. So I, I thank you Robert on behalf of everyone that cares about our, our children in our schools. And I thank the speaker and Chair Dromm for really helping, showing leadership, and shepherding this bill through. I vote aye on all. Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Yes.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Vacca.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: May I explain my
vote?

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: I also want to commend Councilman Cornegy and I think so much has been said but so much more should be said for his determination and his persistence and we thank him. I did want to bring up to the council that in this past several months we've been able to increase the income limits for both the Senior Citizen Rent Exemption program and the today for the Disability Rent Increase Exemption Program. One thing we've not been able to do and we need Albany to make this complete and that is we must look at the income level of the SHIE program, the senior homeowner program. Those income limits of 26, 27 thousand dollars a year for a family, those limits are still in place. And if we're looking at affordable housing and how we can make it more affordable we have many seniors who when they receive the increase in taxes or when they receive the increase in their homeowner assessments they are not able to make ends meet so they pass it along to tenants in

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2 the two, three, four, and five family homes. So I'm
3 hoping that we can get Albany to work with us
4 because it's not going to be a complete package
5 unless we look at the senior homeowner exemption
6 program as well. But I'm proud to vote for the DRIE
7 increase in exemption. I think it's long overdue
8 and it's, it's going to help a lot of people out
9 there too. So I vote aye on all and I thank you for
10 your time.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Well done Helen
14 and Robert and aye on all.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Weprin.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye on all.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: May I be
19 excused to explain my vote?

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: First I want
22 to congratulate Council Members Kallos, Lander,
23 Rosenthal, and Rose on their Legislative victory
24 today. But I do want to give a special special
25 shout out to Council Member Cornegy, all things

1
2 have been said but... was a very very impressive
3 campaign from start to finish and I want to make
4 sure to congratulations to him and to Avonte
5 Oquendo's family. I know this is, does not bring
6 him back and hope it brings some small piece of,
7 peace and comfort that his memory will be made in
8 saving hopefully other children's lives. I did want
9 to point out and, and highlight one piece of that
10 is being done in the, in the financial part of the
11 bill. The Department of Youth and Community
12 Development has agreed to administer anti-gun
13 violence youth employment initiative. Very excited
14 about this and I'm, I'm proud to have help support
15 this. Today we'll be voting to move 145 thousand
16 dollars in funding from DOH to DYCD to launch this
17 program. Part of the task force to combat gun
18 violence and under this program students will be
19 allowed to work up to six weeks unless they are
20 still in school. These... is a hundred jobs that will
21 be given specifically to the areas that the gun
22 violence task force has been focused on. I want to
23 thank the speaker for her assistance and the
24 speaker's staff. In particular Regina Perido,
25 Pereda Ryan [sp?], Ellen Ang [sp?], Carillion

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2 Francisco [sp?], Latonya McKinley [sp?], and a
3 special big huge shout out to Margaret Nelson [sp?]
4 and Passel Bernard [sp?]. Thank you.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Wills.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: I vote aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: With
9 congratulations to all I vote aye on all.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

11 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I vote aye.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And as we await
13 the tally I want to say to Council Member Cornegy
14 you bring honor to Avonte Oquendo. Today you speak
15 for all of the children, all of the children who
16 are unable to express themselves. You are their
17 voice. Today you stand very very tall, not only
18 tall in stature but in leadership. And may this
19 provide the Oquendo family and other families with
20 special children some comfort and may Avonte rest
21 in peace.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote aye on
24 all with the exception of Land Use 98 and 99 in
25 which I abstain.

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All items on
3 today's general order calendar were adopted by a
4 vote of 48 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative,
5 and 0 abstentions with the exception of Land Use
6 call-up, Land Use 98 and Resolution 366 which was
7 adopted by a vote of 46 in the affirmative, zero in
8 the negative, and two abstentions and LU, L, Land
9 Use 99 and Resolution 367 which was adopted by a
10 vote of 46 in the affirmative, zero in the
11 negative, and two abstentions. Revised Land Use
12 call-ups were adopted by a vote of 48 in the
13 affirmative and zero negatives. At this time is
14 there any individual who'd like to speak on pre-
15 considered resolution 357? Seeing none.

16 Introduction and reading of bills.

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

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: We're going to
20 vote on preconsidered resolution 357, a resolution
21 urging the President of the United States to
22 include comprehensive immigration reform and issues
23 of importance to African immigrants and the African
24 diaspora on the agenda for the 2014 US African
25 Leaders Summit. All in favor say aye.

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[collective aye]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All opposed. Any abstentions. The 'aye's have it. General discussion.

[applause]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member... no, Council Member Rose.

[pause]

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: It ends today...

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Little did Eric Garner [sp?] know his words would be prophetic when he uttered this last Thursday. It ends today. My colleagues I'm here today with a heavy heart but a steadfast determination. On today we laid to rest my constituent Eric Garner Jr. who came to an untimely and brutal death at the hands of the NYPD during an attempted arrest. He was unarmed, nonviolent, alone, and had no history of violence. Those who were charged with protecting the public stood idly by for seven minutes with Mr. Garner's lifeless body at their feet. They made no attempt to try to help him, apply CPR or resuscitate him. As I watched the constant streaming of the horrific

1
2 video of Eric Garner's encounter with NYPD I was
3 unable to turn away from this compelling indictment
4 of man's inhumanity to man. While images of blatant
5 indifference played over and over I am sickened by
6 the cavalier attitudes of all involved and
7 frightened that not one took pause to rethink their
8 actions. Did they not hear what the world heard,
9 the constrained cries of 'I can't breathe. I can't
10 breathe' over and over until there wasn't anymore.
11 These images are etched in my mind denying me peace
12 of mind and once again our communities mourn, our
13 community is in mourning not only for the loss of
14 the life of Eric Garner but also because once again
15 we are reminded of how little value our lives have.
16 Seemingly the value of three packs of unlicensed
17 cigarettes outweighs the value of a life. Well as
18 Mr. Garner said it ends today. No more. We have to
19 demand a thorough, and I have demanded, a thorough
20 and swift investigation of what happened to Mr.
21 Garner and the actions of the NYPD officers and EMS
22 workers on July 17th. We have demanded to know why
23 all of the officers are not removed from duty
24 without pay or on restricted duty. There were up to
25 six officers involved in this incident. We have

1
2 demanded a review of NYPD and FDNY policies
3 including the use of deadly force. So reflexively
4 used in this incident. Our public safety chairwoman
5 Vanessa Gibson who I can't thank enough for all of
6 her support will, we've asked her to hold a hearing
7 and we expect that all involved agencies will
8 testify. And we should thank all of you for your
9 support of Mr. Garner's family, myself, my staff,
10 and my district during these trying times. Our
11 community mourns, it demands justice. This cannot
12 be business as usual. This cannot be white washed.
13 This cannot be given short shrift. Thank you.

14 [applause]

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
16 Williams.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you
18 Madam Public Advocate. First I'd like to
19 acknowledge some inters that I have here. My whole
20 cast; Tamara Naphtali [sp?], Katina Brazil [sp?],
21 Kristie Baker [sp?], Ariana Brown [sp?], Resita
22 Cupid [sp?], Steph Eugene Jock [sp?], Nicholas
23 Miclamma [sp?], Dale Watkins [sp?], Adrian Scott
24 [sp?], Cordell Jones [sp?], Shaniqua Burton [sp?],
25 Do Monee Washington [sp?], Henry Knight [sp?],

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2 Michael Frankton [sp?], and Josh Walden [sp?] who
3 are all here, can you please stand up. And I'd like
4 to say thank you so much for your service.

5 [applause]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: On, secondly I
7 too wanted to... most of my comments obviously have
8 been in the media when it comes to the Eric Garner
9 incident. And I want to stand behind the leadership
10 of Debbie Rose. One thing in particular that I want
11 to point out is I believe that in order for us to
12 move forward we have to 100 percent acknowledge
13 that race is an issue in this case and in so many
14 cases that have come before it. And I appreciate
15 many of the things that have been said by the
16 commissioner and indeed by the mayor. But like was
17 done in high point North Carolina where we moved
18 forward in police community relations. There the
19 commissioner acknowledged publically of the wrongs
20 that were done to that community. It is important
21 that this administration, this police commissioner
22 validate the experiences of all of communities in
23 New York City. And until we do that publically,
24 validate the problems and the issues and the
25 feelings of communities black and brown in

1
2 particular in dealing with the NYPD in this
3 community it will be difficult to move forward with
4 the great work that has been laid out and some of
5 the things that I think are helpful. So I say again
6 it is important that we validate that race has been
7 an issue in this case, in all the cases before it.
8 If we don't acknowledge race as the issue we
9 unfortunately have heard many of these words
10 before. And we will hear it again. So I ask this
11 administration, I ask this commission, I ask us all
12 to please take a moment and publically acknowledge
13 and validate the experiences that many of us have
14 felt. And I just want to thank Debbie Rose and
15 applaud her again for her leadership. Having been
16 in similar situations I know how hard it is to
17 guide a community constructively and you're doing a
18 fantastic job and I want to say thank you again.

19 [applause]

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
21 Van Bramer.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you
23 very much Madam Public advocate. Before I talk
24 about a very important bill that Council Member
25 Levin and I are introducing today I too want to

1
2 thank Councilwoman Rose for her incredible
3 leadership and her passion. And some of the things
4 that we've been sharing personally here just
5 reinforced how special Council Member Rose is. But
6 to the legislation that we're introducing Council
7 Member Steve Levin who's an amazing council member
8 and terrific friend are reintroducing our
9 legislation to have the city of New York have a
10 cultural plan which calls on the city to analyze
11 current cultural priorities, determine how
12 different communities are being served and how they
13 propose to improve the services through studying
14 the conditions of artists in the city today and
15 determine a plan on how New York City can remain an
16 artist friendly city in a time of skyrocketing
17 grants and other economic pressures. We introduced
18 this plan of response to the lack of cultural
19 planning for New York City. At various times there
20 are many cities across the country, in fact the top
21 10 cities in population have cultural plans, New
22 York City is the only one that does not. So we are
23 introducing this legislation once again in hoping
24 all of the colleagues will support it. The arts are
25 a major part of the soul of New York City and

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2 making sure that everyone in our city has access to
3 the arts and to culture and making sure that there
4 is equity across boroughs and neighborhoods is
5 incredibly important. A cultural plan will get us
6 to that point. And with that I want to thank Madam
7 Public Advocate.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
9 Council Member Rosenthal.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you
11 very much Madam Public Advocate James. I'm excited
12 today to be introducing two pieces of legislation.
13 Intro 423 to monitor the participation of worker
14 cooperatives in city procurement and resolution 358
15 calling on the state to amend the general municipal
16 law to afford the city greater latitude to advance
17 social goals through the contracting process. A
18 special thank you to my colleagues who have co-
19 sponsored intro 423 on worker cooperatives. Council
20 Member Menchaca and Arroyo. I'd also like to thank
21 all of the organizations and non-profits that
22 testified at the Committee on Community Development
23 hearing earlier this year and worker cooperatives
24 led by Councilwoman Arroyo. Through these pieces of
25 legislation I look forward to establishing more

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2 thorough monitoring to the types of businesses that
3 receive contracts with an eye for expanding the
4 number of worker cooperatives that do business with
5 the city and working with our state legislatures to
6 give this city opportunities to pursue social
7 justice policy directly through its contracting.
8 Another example came up today when we were talking
9 about those with disabilities who are less likely
10 to get city contracts in any other group. I invite
11 my colleagues to sign on to these pieces of
12 legislation, intro 423 and reso 358 and look
13 forward to expanding the conversation on how the
14 council can find more creative ways to further our
15 shared policy goals of a more equitable,
16 sustainable, progressive, and just New York City.
17 Thank you.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you
19 please..

20 [applause]

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

22 [applause]

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Quiet
24 in the chambers. Council Member Rose.

25

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I just want to
3 rise because in my emotional state I forgot to say
4 thank you. I, I forgot to thank the speaker who has
5 been phenomenal in not only providing resources of
6 staff and time but she's actually come to the
7 district a number of times. I'd like to thank the
8 public advocate who has also been there for us and,
9 and, and provided support, and to all of my council
10 members because you've been so supportive of my
11 district and our needs. And I, I just, it would
12 have been very remiss of me not to thank all of you
13 including the mayor and the police commissioner for
14 the, the support that you've given my district.
15 Thank you.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
17 Council Member Treyger.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you Madam
19 Public Advocate. I, speaking about two, two pieces
20 of legislation. The first is Intro 425. After Sandy
21 the city conducted an analysis of areas such as
22 food availability and fuel availability both of
23 which are critical. However, we also have to make
24 sure we have access to, to communication systems in
25 order to coordinate the search and rescues

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2 operations, provide information to the public, give
3 the public the ability to seek out vital
4 information and let victims to alert loved ones
5 that they are safe. This legislation lays the
6 ground work to conduct an assessment of our
7 existing communications infrastructure in some of
8 the city's most vulnerable communities impacted by
9 Sandy including Coney Island, Red hook, Rockaway,
10 Staten Island, and parts of Manhattan. In addition,
11 and make no mistake it is my belief that this is
12 the first step towards establishing a system of
13 free Wi-Fi in, Wi-Fi access in these communities
14 not just from a recreational standpoint but from a
15 public safety and disaster preparedness purpose. So
16 I ask my colleagues to please support Intro 425.
17 I'm also asking my colleagues very quickly to
18 support Resolution 359. Sandy caused an estimated
19 19 billion dollars in damage with 30 thousand homes
20 and 23 thousand businesses impacted. Many of these
21 working class and middle class families have used
22 their life savings to get back on their feet. The
23 SBA, the federal agency provided nearly 550 million
24 dollars in loans to over 10 thousand homeowners and
25 roughly 190 million dollars in loans to over 12

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2 hundred businesses. Unfortunately many New Yorkers
3 who receive loans from SBA were shut out of
4 subsequent grant opportunities that would have
5 greatly helped alleviate the financial burdens
6 these homeowners and businesses feel due to a law
7 prohibiting the duplication of federal benefits.
8 With that in mind federal legislation requiring the
9 SBA to forgive disaster loans would correct a major
10 injustice that has threatened the financial
11 stability and future of thousands of storm victims.
12 Thank you.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: May we have some
14 quiet in the chambers. Newly married Council Member
15 Miller for a vote.

16 [applause]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Speechless.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Put a ring on
19 it.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I vote aye on
21 all call-ups and general orders.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
23 Council... [crosstalk]

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Yes. Have a
25 moment?

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Have... thank you.

I take... take the podium. Today I'd like to first of all thank all my colleagues for all their support over the last few weeks and all and, and again thank the speaker for this first, this freshman year allowing it to be successful for all the guidance that, that has been delivered. But I'd also like to take a moment to talk about a gentleman who we lost recently who was an inspirational figure in my life and to most of my colleagues in government; Mr. Paul Gibson Jr. Mr. Paul Gibson was, he started his career in this very chambers as Council to the then President of the City Council Frank O'Conner before becoming the first African American Deputy Mayor in the City of New York. He handled his responsibilities with great dignity and grace at all times hearing government and is in commercial life. He, he's done a lot of phenomenal things here in the city of New York in public and private sector. His work as the Chief counsel to the NAACP is, is renowned as well as, just a lot of the work that was done here and and for that reason we are very fortunate to know

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2 Mr. Paul Gibson Jr. in Southeast Queens and we are
3 fortunate to have him in our community. He's one of
4 our great leaders and represented the best of what
5 we can become. And for this I, I, I, I, I shall
6 miss him very much. And for the record I think that
7 he's a phenomenal role model for all of us and
8 really a trailblazer here. And just wanted to put
9 that for the record. And thank you Madam Public
10 Advocate for the time.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Congratulations
12 again on your nuptials.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
15 Deutsch.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Thank you Madam
17 Public Advocate and congratulations Council Member
18 Miller for passing the ring. I'm asking for your
19 support for Intro 410 which will reduce congestion
20 and promote safety on our highways. This bill will
21 increase the amount of tow trucks available to
22 respond in the event of an accident or breakdown.
23 And by utilizing state of the art technology to
24 increase their arrival time and efficiency. Tow
25 truck companies require a permit in order to

1
2 legally operate on highways in New York City.
3 Currently permits are only awarded to a single tow
4 truck company per highway or highway segments. As a
5 result disabled vehicles are often forced to endure
6 long waits for a tow truck to arrive. As such a
7 disabled vehicle on the highway blocks traffic,
8 creates traffic jams, in addition can pose a hazard
9 to other motorists. The irony of this situation is
10 that other tow truck providers may be close by and
11 available to provide assistance but their services
12 may, may, may not be solicited. This bill requires
13 that more towing companies be permitted with a
14 mandatory minimum of at least two providers per
15 highway or highway segments. Furthermore tow
16 trucks must be outfitted with GP.S. tracking
17 devices in order to qualify for the permits. This
18 will give police the ability to, to assess where
19 the nearest available tow truck is located so that
20 our highways can be cleared of obstructions as
21 quickly as possible and ease the burden which can
22 be sometimes for hundreds and hundreds of
23 motorists.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Thank you.

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
3 Barron.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you Madam
5 Public Advocate. Just want to say I enjoyed
6 fellowshiping with all of my colleagues a few
7 weeks ago, having a good time, and taking command
8 of the volleyball court.

9 [laughter, clapping]

10 COUCIL MEMBER BARRON: As well as dodge
11 ball. I want to acknowledge I have two interns that
12 are here today; Malaya Johnson [sp?] and Tyler
13 Hickman [sp?] I'm going to ask them to stand.
14 They're interning for the summer and they're doing
15 a great job. Secondly I want to...

16 [applause]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Secondly I want
18 to give my congratulations to my colleagues who've
19 had bills passed today. Especially Cornegy, Council
20 Member Cornegy. I did serve as a principal...

21 [applause]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: And I have the
23 experience of a kindergartner leaving the school
24 and it wasn't until the teacher got back to the
25 classroom that she realized that the visiting

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2 student, this kindergartner was not there and
3 reported it to me. Of course we followed the
4 protocols, we called the police, we called the
5 parent, we pulled the records, and the parent's
6 phone wasn't working. So I marshalled the forces
7 and we went to tell this parent we don't know what
8 happened to your child. He slipped out one of the
9 21 doors that we have on the floor. Thank god that
10 when we got there the child was there. He had
11 decided he didn't want to stay in school because
12 his teacher wasn't there and he didn't know the
13 children in that class. And he had gone across a
14 major thoroughfare but thank god had gotten home
15 safely. So I understand what great relief this
16 brings to those in charge of our young children and
17 to the Avonte family, Avonte's family I just want
18 to say the sacrifice, the loss that you have
19 suffered has now been memorialized in this bill. So
20 we want to thank again Council Member Cornegy for
21 doing that. I also want to remind people as I'm in
22 my African attire which I'm often in that today is
23 101 days since the loss of the 300 girls who were
24 kidnapped in Africa. We want to keep that in mind.

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
3 please bring your comments to a close.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yes, thank you.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: And I support my
7 colleague from Staten Island Debbie Rose and I say
8 that this tragedy is a result of the broken windows
9 policy that says let's take people who are
10 committing minor offences because we think that in
11 the future there might be something of a gross
12 nature. And we need to stop the policy of the
13 broken windows that is being implemented by the
14 police commissioner. It's a policy. Thank you.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: ...you. Council
16 Member Kallos.

17 [applause]

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
19 chambers please.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I rise to stand
21 with my colleague Council Member Debbie Rose. Eric
22 Garner was not the first but he must be the last.
23 Today I'm pleased to introduce three bills with
24 Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, my
25 predecessor in the Governmental Operations

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2 Committee, a true mentor and partner. Intro 415
3 saves the video records. It would preserve and
4 upgrade our historical records for the sake of
5 accountability and scholarship and so you can watch
6 some old proceedings if you're feeling a little bit
7 insomniac. Intro 416, a traffic notification bill
8 would ensure community involvement and
9 communication in traffic changes by requiring DOT
10 to provide 30 days' notice to community boards of
11 street changes. And Introduction 417, open
12 production would put production information online
13 to property, to properly inform residents and New
14 Yorkers of the arts happening in their community. I
15 for one am a huge fan of local productions and
16 it'll give me for one an opportunity to go see my
17 favorite shows being filmed right here in New York,
18 the biggest film set in the world that happens to
19 be where 8.5 million people live. Resolution 353 in
20 support of the passage of the companion bill to
21 congresswoman Maloni's HR-863 in the senate,
22 members of the Women's Issues Committee and Chair
23 Van Bramer of Cultural Affairs Committee join me as
24 co-primary sponsors in calling on our nation's
25 capital to represent the incredible stories of

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2 women throughout history. Resolution 354 in support
3 of a statewide and national ban on misuse of
4 antibiotics in livestock production. The widespread
5 practice of using low dose antibiotics in livestock
6 feed creates a breeding ground for antibiotic
7 resistant bacteria which is dangerous to human
8 health. These resistant bacteria pass from factory
9 farms to our food systems resulting in millions of
10 Americans becoming ill each year. I'd also like to
11 recognize four interns food policy fellow Ryan
12 Rinod [sp?], summer interns Ian Schwartzberg [sp?],
13 Catherin Vedas [sp?], and Nocha May Vuchapon
14 Invatana [sp?]. Thank you.

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

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you very
18 much Madam Public Advocate. I just wanted to just
19 quickly join many of my colleagues in just
20 expressing my firm and wholehearted support for our
21 colleague Council Member Debbie Rose. Obviously
22 this tragedy last Thursday affected not just the
23 community of Staten Island but all New Yorkers and
24 people across this nation. And to my colleague I
25 have watched your strength. I have watched you

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2 stand tall in the hardest of times looking at a
3 community that is hurt, frustrated, disappointed,
4 and angry. And I assure you that not only am I your
5 colleague but I am your sister and I will continue
6 to stand with you until I get my residency in
7 Staten Island. We will continue to be together
8 because this is not just about a tragedy but this
9 is about long term reform and policy change that is
10 necessary to improve relationships between law
11 enforcement and the community. And although he, we
12 have made great progress these tragedies take us
13 back and we must not move back we must move
14 forward. And so I want to thank all of my
15 colleagues for rallying next to our colleague and
16 you madam Public Advocate for your support and our
17 speaker for your presence and your prayers. Let us
18 remember that now that we have funeralized Mr.
19 Garner now the work begins. We continue to keep the
20 family lifted up in prayer because they need it. We
21 continue to wrap ourselves around a community that
22 needs so much support and as chair of Public Safety
23 we will hold a hearing on many of the reform
24 policies and we will work with this administration
25 with our mayor and our commissioner and I truly

1
2 want to just thank you so much for your strength
3 and know that I am always here to support you. So
4 may god bless the family of Eric Garner. Thank you
5 Council Member.

6 [applause]

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
8 Levine and his son.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you.
10 Actually Madam Public Advocate I'm ably assisted
11 today by both of my sons, Daniel who you've seen
12 and also Alejandro who's here as well. And I, I
13 want to start by acknowledging what, what has to be
14 the most moving statement I've heard on the floor
15 of the city council in my here by Council Member
16 Rose. Thank you for that. We will not soon forget
17 your words and your leadership. I want to call the
18 attention to my colleagues to two items I'm proud
19 to introduce today. First is resolution 355 which
20 addresses the scourage of bullying in New York
21 City's public schools. Today nearly 20 percent of
22 high school students are subjected to physical and
23 emotional abuse on public school property and many
24 others through cyber bullying out of school hours.
25 And I'm thrilled that a young leader in my district

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2 Anthony Vargas has called attention to this issue
3 and has proposed a solution. And I think Anthony's
4 in the balcony. If so maybe he could rise and wave.
5 And give a round of applause to Anthony Vargas.

6 [applause]

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: He, he has
8 proposed that all young students be mentored by
9 older students in the public schools, peer to peer
10 mentoring which helps to boost self-esteem and
11 emotional strength among younger students to
12 prevent the problems that lead to bullying. Proud
13 to be introducing this resolution in support of
14 that policy. Also quickly want to call my
15 colleagues attention to Intro 420 which would
16 address the increasing problem of major
17 construction adjacent to school buildings. Problem
18 in my district that P.S. 19, 163 on 97th Street
19 where a 20 story tower is proposed to be erected
20 just footsteps away. This law would require very
21 strict codes related to noise that affect students
22 during school hours for any construction within 75
23 feet of a school building so that no child during
24 school hours is subjected to noise louder than 45
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2 decibels and would require robust monitoring of
3 such construction in any of these cases. Thank you.

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

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you very
7 much Madam Public Advocate. I also want to express
8 my support and solidarity with the remarks of my
9 colleague Council Member Debbie Rose from Staten
10 Island as well as other comments that were made. I
11 stand in solidarity with you in fighting this
12 tragedy. But even more importantly than it was a
13 tragedy it was an injustice. And we as council
14 members have an obligation to fight back against
15 these types of injustices. And I want you to know
16 that I want to stand there with you and be a part
17 of correcting what is wrong with that system. Thank
18 you for your, for your leadership in that. And I
19 also want to take this opportunity to thank my
20 interns Andrew Folly [sp?], Alan Fayola [sp?], and
21 Miranda Rosero [sp?] during, who are working in my
22 office this summer in the legislative office as
23 well as other interns in my district office who I
24 will announce at the next stated meeting as well.

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2 So thank you to them and thank you Council Member
3 Rose.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
5 Mealy. Council Member Richards.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Good
7 afternoon. I stand to ask my colleagues to support
8 Resolution number 356 today. In September world
9 leaders will come to New York City for a summit at
10 the United Nations on Climate Change. Related to
11 this summit there will be the people's climate
12 march, a demonstration to demand that the world
13 respond to climate change crisis and develop an
14 economy that works for both the people and the
15 environment to make a world with good green jobs,
16 clean air, and healthy communities for everyone.
17 This march is slated to be the largest
18 demonstration in history to demand action on
19 climate change. 1199 is one of the groups this week
20 who recently signed onto marching in the march as
21 well as other, hundreds of other groups including
22 the Environmental Justice Alliance and the New York
23 League of Conservation Voters. I'm urging all of my
24 colleagues at the legislative body of the new, of
25 New York City to recognize the danger, the dangers

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2 of climate change and the threat that it imposes on
3 human and the environment. Please join me in
4 endorsing the people's climate march, New York City
5 is, which we are scheduled to proceed near the
6 United Nations Summit on Climate Change that will
7 take place on September 21st, 2014 right here in
8 New York City. The summit is aimed at catalyzing
9 action by governments, businesses, and industries
10 helping the world shift toward a low carbon
11 economy. So I ask you to sign on. Thank you.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
13 Gentile.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Madam Public
15 Advocate I'm pleased to stand with the speaker and
16 other members in support of Intro 409 which allows
17 the Department of Sanitation to immediately remove
18 illegal clothing collection bins from public areas.
19 These bins are the latest..

20 [applause]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Yes. Not only
22 are these bins eye sores in many cases they deceive
23 well intentioned New Yorkers who believe they're
24 donating their used clothes to charity. The
25 clothing collected in these bins is not donated to

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2 charity but often sold by the pound. There is
3 nothing nonprofit about it. These bins are illegal,
4 unsafe, and undermine the efforts of the legitimate
5 charities that actually collect clothing for those
6 in need. So this new bill will impose strict
7 penalties on the shadowy companies engaging in this
8 illegal practice. So I want to thank the speaker
9 and her staff and the mayor for their diligent work
10 on this issue. My office and all our offices has
11 received countless complaints about these bins so
12 I'm happy to co-sponsor along with the speaker and,
13 and the other members this important legislation so
14 I ask all of you to join us as co-sponsors on Intro
15 409.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
17 Council Member Rodriguez.

18 COUCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.
19 First of all it's sad to say that we cannot promise
20 New York that we will not have another Diallo
21 [sp?], another Eric Garner in the near future.
22 That, especially those of who that represent
23 community colors in that we are not, that we are
24 also people of color. We know that it's a matter of
25 time when another case will happen because it's a

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2 matter culture, it's a matter of the training that
3 have been provided they NYPD for years, for
4 decades. I am happy to see that with the new
5 leadership, with a new commissioner police officer
6 are being instructed even not to be cursing when
7 they been trained in the academy. And that's only a
8 beginning. So we have seen, we have experience how
9 a number of police offer they being a speaking,
10 approaching our jumpster, people of colors in the
11 street in New York City. So I'm very painful to see
12 that Mayor de Blasio promised that he will a, a
13 full investigation will happen after the dayvo
14 [sp?] Eric Garner but unfortunately we cannot
15 promise our people that we will not deal with
16 another situation such as that in the near future.
17 At the same time I would like to congratulate the
18 men and woman, the NYPD who do the good work, the
19 majority of them. And to say that yes we have bad
20 apple in the NYPD as we have bad apple everywhere,
21 in governments, in the finance industry, in the
22 NYPD. And we need to get rid of those bad apple
23 because we cannot continue adding more name after
24 Diallo, Anthony Vyas [sp?], now we have Eric.
25 Enough is enough. And I hope that with the new

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2 leadership, with a new commissioner and the mayor
3 radical change should happen on how the NYPD being
4 trained so that we can build a better relationship
5 between the NYPD and our community. Thank you.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

7 [applause]

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council, Council
9 Member Menchaca.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you
11 Public Advocate. I want to first start by saying
12 that the district, district 38, especially Red Hook
13 stands with the work that Debbie Rose is doing out
14 of Staten Island. Eric Garner's family also resides
15 in Red Hook and so we stand with you in solidarity.
16 I want to speak about Intro 423 the worker co-op,
17 introduction that I'm with Arroyo and Rosenthal.
18 You know the budget we just adopted shows the
19 resounding success of worker co-ops. We've learned
20 that in Sunset Park where Center for Family Life
21 which resides in, in, in Sunset Park has been doing
22 this with immigrant communities for such a long
23 time. They have been empowering families and
24 communities for such a long time. I'm glad we're
25 going to be doing this. This bill looks hard at

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2 city procurement process that examines how worker
3 cooperatives could be integrated into city
4 contracts. The city can use its purchasing power to
5 change the lives of communities which has
6 historically been disconnected from government. We
7 want to make that happen. Intro 409 on the bins, on
8 these illegal clothing bins, the vane of so many of
9 our existences, this bill is a celebration of local
10 advocacy at its best. A special thank you to Renee
11 Giordano [sp?] at the 5th Avenue BID and really the
12 entire BID association for, for bringing daylight
13 to the troubling situation in our communities. A
14 special thank you to the speaker of the city
15 council and the staff for taking a hard look at
16 this issue and pushing forward a bill that
17 aggressively addresses a problem widespread
18 throughout our city and we're looking forward to
19 uh, Council Member Reynoso's leadership with
20 sanitation on this, in his committee. Our sidewalks
21 are for public enjoyment and we cannot have bad
22 actors taking away our precious sidewalk space.
23 These clothing bins have been negatively impacting
24 our commercial corridors for some time now. And in
25 some cases misleading the public about where

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2 they're donated goods are going. With this bill I
3 fully trust that we will be making this a success.
4 And a special shout out to our summer intern
5 Michael Noac [sp?] who's here as well. Thank you so
6 much.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
8 Council Member Levin.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you Madam
10 Public Advocate. First I want to congratulate
11 Council Member Robert Cornegy on, on the passage of
12 Intro number 131 and, and say to the family of
13 Avonte Oquendo that uh, I hope that this measure
14 brings your family some solace and some comfort in
15 knowing that the city is, is acting and acting
16 strongly to honor the memory of your son. In
17 addition I want to acknowledge the, the good work
18 of Council Member Debbie Rose and to the family of
19 Eric Garner I would like them to know that the
20 entire city is standing with your family and that
21 we will make sure that we do everything that we can
22 to ensure that your family receives some measure,
23 not a full measure but some measure of justice. In
24 addition I want to encourage my colleagues to sign
25 onto Intro number 419 sponsored by myself and our

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2 incomparable cultural affairs chair and Majority
3 Leader Jimmy Van Bramer. This would establish a
4 cultural plan in New York City. We have... in New
5 York City our arts and our culture is a major part
6 of our city, is the backbone of our city, is a
7 major part of our economy. And it gives New York
8 City a great part of its identity for many
9 centuries. A cultural plan would identify the
10 current levels of service for cultural groups in
11 each neighborhood, detail the feedback from
12 community outreach, establish a strategy to meet
13 the specific needs of each community, quantify the
14 economic impact of arts and culture in New York
15 City and ultimately put forward a targeted approach
16 to increase cultural activity citywide, increase
17 the economic impact to the arts and culture, and
18 provide support to individuals and emerging artists
19 throughout New York City. So I encourage my
20 colleagues to sign onto intro 419. Thank you very
21 much Madam Public Advocate.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. And
23 our last speaker Council Member Greenfield.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I thought
25 you forgot about me there for a second so I

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2 appreciate. Thank you Madam Public Advocate. You
3 know first I just want to say that, how, how proud
4 I am of my colleagues for standing up and speaking
5 out. I think it speaks to the integrity and the
6 importance of the body and the work that we saw
7 this week especially led by Council Member Debbie
8 Rose and Chair Vanessa Gibson and our speaker and
9 our public advocate who made a very very clear and
10 impassioned statement. And I think it's pretty
11 clear what we need to have happen over here. We
12 need to get to the bottom of this... hold those
13 people who are responsible accountable. Need to
14 make sure that it never happens again. And that's
15 the role that we play in the city council and
16 that's what we will continue to do and I want to
17 thank my colleagues for their leadership and for
18 advocating on behalf of all New Yorkers because
19 we're all behind you. On, on a another note just
20 specifically to talk about a piece of legislation
21 that I've introduced, just want folks to be aware
22 of introduce a piece of legislation into a number
23 413. This is a reintroduction of a common sense
24 piece of legislation. Basically it would require
25 restaurants to disclose on the final credit card

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2 slip whether or not gratuities, tips are included.
3 I don't know if it's happened to you but it's
4 happened to me, you go to a restaurant you look at
5 the bill and you say didn't they already put in the
6 20 percent tip. So that's what we're trying to do
7 over here. I will just add two other final notes.
8 The first is I'm counting down the days until it's
9 Mayor Tish James. And speaking of former and future
10 mayors I just want to add that I've never done this
11 before but I do specifically want to give a shout
12 out and a thanks to former Mayor Michael Bloomberg
13 for traveling to Israel the other night. He sent a
14 very clear message that it was important to reopen
15 Ben Gurion Airport to the international airlines
16 and that Israel is in fact safe and that while
17 they're engaged in the war of terror we need to
18 support them. So thank you former Mayor Bloomberg
19 and thank you future Mayor Letitia James.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you...

21 [applause]

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
23 chambers. Council Member Richards.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Oh, just
25 wanted to acknowledge my intern Johnathan Harris

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2 and I don't want to be in the doghouse with him, I
3 don't want him to work less for me. So just want
4 you to stand and, and welcome you... where's
5 Johnathan at? Oh, right here I'm sorry I'm so
6 blind.

7 [applause]

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Thank you
9 Johnathan.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Revise of vote
11 tally. 40, all items on today's general order
12 calendar were adopted by a vote of 49 in the
13 affirmative, zero negative, zero abstentions with
14 the exception of Land Use 98 and Resolution 366
15 which was adopted by a vote of 47 in the
16 affirmative, zero negative, two abstentions and
17 Land Use 99 and Resolution 367 which was adopted by
18 a vote of 47 in the affirmative, zero negative, two
19 abstentions, revised land use call-ups are adopted
20 by a vote of 49 in the affirmative, zero negative.
21 Closing remarks from the Speaker Melissa Mark-
22 Viverito.

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: At 3:30 meeting
24 is adjourned. Thank you Madam Public Advocate.

25 [applause]

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STATED MEETING

[gavel]

C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify 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 July 29, 2014