

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

STATED MEETING

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October 22, 2014
Start: 1:33 p.m.
Recess: 3:40 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E:

MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO
Speaker of the Council
LETITIA JAMES
Public Advocate

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS: (CONTINUED)

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

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

Melody Kellogg

Principal

Emma Lazarus High School

Andy Casares

Former Student

Emma Lazarus High School

Mei Qui Lin

Student Government President

Emma Lazarus High School

Nacibas Mayilva [sp?]

Student

Emma Lazarus High School

Jesus Rodriguez

Former Student

Emma Lazarus High School

Dionne Wyatt Mokolo

Parent

Emma Lazarus High School

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STATED MEETING

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SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Alright, good afternoon everybody, we're gonna get started; we have only one ceremonial today, but it's a good one, so... [laughter] we have a ceremonial that's being presented by Council Member Chin, with also Council Members Dromm and Menchaca, who I think will be coming up shortly, but in the meantime I'll hand it over to Margaret. This is to recognize Emma Lazarus High School for their academic excellence and their being named by Newsweek Magazine as the number one high school in the United States for low-income students and number 20 out of all high schools in America, so that is quite an accomplishment and Council Member Chin will let us know more.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you, Madame Speaker. Good afternoon everyone. [background comments] We have always known that we have great public schools in New York City and especially in my district. [laugh] So but one of those schools recently gained a particularly outstanding honor, Emma Lazarus High School, for English language scholars who serve our immigrant community... [interpose, background comment] Oh okay. Yes, let's invite up... [laugh] [background comments] Emma Lazarus

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High School, [laughter] the principal, [background
comments] Melody Kellogg, [background comments] the
staff, the faculty, [background comment] the
students; come on up. [applause] [background
comment] Anisha [sp?], the guidance counselor who
happened to be a high school student when I was
working at her high school. [background comments]
[laugh] So we go way back. Come on up. [background
comments] Yes, that's Principal, Melody.
[background comments] I'd like to also ask my
colleague to come up and join us. [background
comments].

Okay. [background comments] Okay, good
afternoon. [background comments] Now we have always
known that we have great public schools in New York
City, right, [background comments] but especially in
my district, [laughter] in District 1, on the Lower
East Side, Chinatown, we have one of those schools
who recently gained a particularly outstanding honor,
Emma Lazarus High School, for English language
scholars who serve our immigrant community and
students who are learning English as a second
language, has distinguished itself as the best of the
best; Emma Lazarus has been named the nation's number

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one high school for low-income students by Newsweek Magazine and the nation's number 20 high school overall. Melody Kellogg, the principal of Emma Lazarus High School, is a true leader in closing the education gap and showing why our public schools are an incredible place to learn. So today it is my pleasure to present this City Council Proclamation to Principal Kellogg and some of the outstanding students, staff, parents and founders at Emma Lazarus High School. Congratulations to all of you on your remarkable achievement and I know that you will continue to make our district and the whole city proud. Joining me on this proclamation is our Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito, Council Member Danny Dromm, who's the chair of the Education Committee, and Council Member Carlos Menchaca, who is chair of our Immigration Committee. So the Clerk, could you read the proc? Thank you.

[background comments, laughter]

CITY CLERK: Council, City of New York Proclamation. The Council of the City of New York is proud to honor Emma Lazarus High School for five years of academic excellence and to congratulate the school for its most recent achievement. And whereas,

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Emma Lazarus High School, located in Manhattan at 100 Hester Street, is named after a New York City poet most famous for her words that appear at the Statue of Liberty, "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Today the school embodies the spirit of these lines by providing second-language students with a safe, secure and academically rigorous environment and program that prepares them with a firm foundation to enter institutions of higher learning, to global economy and the world of work. And whereas, Emma Lazarus High School opened its doors in 2009 as a part of a Department of Education initiative for new small schools. It fulfilled the long-time dream of its visionary founder and current principal, Melody Kellogg; under her leadership the 2nd and 4th floors of an old YMCA building have been transformed into a bustling school that supports diverse students 16 years of age and older who learn English as they complete their high school studies and prepare for the future. And whereas, in addition

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2 to Principal Kellogg, Emma Lazarus High School owes
3 its success to its tireless, multicultural staff, all
4 of whom are trained to support the needs of ESL
5 students, as well as their families. With a student
6 population comprised of more than 18 different
7 language groups, the staff shares an incredible
8 challenge, but they have embraced the opportunity and
9 the results speak for themselves. School-wide
10 curriculums meet common core standards and students
11 are required to [background comment] take the New
12 York State Regents Exams. In recent years, pass
13 rates for algebra, algebra II, geometry, languages
14 other than English, and U.S. history exams have
15 exceeded 90 percent. And whereas, this year Newsweek
16 Magazine named Emma Lazarus High School the number
17 one high school in the United States for low-income
18 students and number 20 out of all high schools in
19 America. We wish the school, its students and its
20 staff continued success in the years ahead. Now
21 therefore be it known, that the Council of the City
22 of New York honors and congratulates the staff and
23 students at Emma Lazarus High School for their
24 outstanding work that led to its ranking as the
25 number one high school in America for low-income

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2 students and commends them for creating a model for
3 other schools across the nation. Melissa Mark-
4 Viverito, Speaker for the Entire Council; Margaret S.
5 Chin, Council Member 1st District, Manhattan, Daniel
6 Dromm, Chair Committee on Education, Carlos Menchaca,
7 Chair Committee on Immigration. Thank you.

8 [cheers, applause]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: So I'd like to
10 invite the principal, Melody Kellogg, to say a few
11 words and maybe some of the students after you.

12 MELODY KELLOGG: Absolutely. Thank you
13 so much, that as a lot of what I was gonna say,
14 [laugh] so. So, Speaker, Councilmen; Margaret, thank
15 you so much; not surprisingly, this is a really big
16 honor for us and it has a lot of meaning because what
17 it says is that a New York City public high school
18 can go head to head with some of the highest-income
19 schools in the nation and still rank [applause,
20 cheers] one and 20... yeah. And you know, it also says
21 that with the right supports, with good quality
22 instruction, with dedicated teachers and with
23 students that get onboard, there's really nothing
24 that we as educators can't accomplish, even with
25 students that are often identified as not having

1 strong graduation rates; they can be successful.

2 'Kay. [background comments] Thank you. [background
3 comments] [applause] This is fun. [laughter] So
4 just very quickly, you [sic] already you a lot about
5 Emma Lazarus; we opened our doors in 2009, our
6 mission was to be able to provide a rigorous college
7 preparatory education for second-language students.
8

9 'Kay. We started with a non-standard instructional
10 model and we started with a lot of practices that
11 were not standard; however, one of the things that we
12 did go into this believing is that regardless of
13 anything, every student that we had could and would
14 be successful, and with that foundation of belief we
15 were able to accomplish a lot of what we're able to
16 do.

17 We gave you a lot of information about
18 our kids -- their ages, average entry time [sic] is
19 17 to 18 years of age, they enter as beginners, we
20 have over 18 languages in the school right now and
21 everyone of our students are second-language
22 students. So these are kind of numbers and stuff,
23 but what these kids are to us, and I think the reason
24 we work well, is because we see them as young adults
25 and we see them as young adults who just wanna learn

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STATED MEETING

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and develop and have a place to do it in, so we too are appreciative to the DOE for letting us open the school and provide the service.

Everyone you see around you here today is either a student, current or former, a parent or one of the founding members of the school, so what I wanna do too is just very publicly thank them, because what we've accomplished doesn't come because they just did their jobs; it happened because everybody gave extra, went above and beyond and that's what allowed us to be successful. So that being said, to go back to the proclamation, Madame Speaker, Councilwoman Chin, we very much appreciate... Council Members, Councilwoman Chin, thank you so much for being a supporter of our school and for everything you've done; we consider ourselves very fortunate to be in your district. 'Kay. So the only other thing... [applause] thank you... [background comment] the only other thing that I wanted to do was just give a couple of our students the opportunity to introduce themselves so you could [background comments] get a sense of what the school was through our students' eyes and why they felt the school did work for them. So if I may... [background comment]

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2 good. So this is Andy Caceres, he graduated from us
3 last year and I'm gonna let him speak [applause]
4 briefly to you. [background comment]

5 ANDY CACERES: Thank you, Miss Melody.

6 [background comments] So once again, my name is Andy
7 Caceres; I'm from Ecuador. I was in Emma Lazarus
8 High School for four years; actually, it's a
9 tremendous place and I would like to give you a
10 description of what Emma Lazarus really meant to me.

11 So I say that Emma Lazarus is basically
12 like an apple tree; it may have started as a small
13 tree, but it grew up to what it is now, okay. So we
14 start with the trunk, which in this case are you,
15 Principal Kellogg, Mr. Heckethorn, as Assistant
16 Principal, and also Miss Yang and everybody in the
17 main office. Then we move to the top, to the
18 branches, which means all the professors and
19 advisors; they were really strong and support us in
20 everything; they made us believe that we were more
21 than what anyone else could have told us we were.
22 Then we reach to the fruit, the apple; in this case,
23 we are the apple, because we are the fruit of the
24 hard work that you guys put into us and the passion
25 that you show us.

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STATED MEETING

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I feel honored to be in this place; I mean with you sharing this special moment and I would like to finish with the same words all of you told me -- good job and keep up the great work, Emma Lazarus. [laughter] Thank you. [applause, cheers, background comments]

MEI QI LIN: Hi everyone, my name is Mei Qi Lin and I am a student at Emma Lazarus High School and I'm also the current student government president. [background comment] As a senior student at Emma Lazarus High School I couldn't be more grateful for what this school has offered me. Everyday I walk into the school with warm smiles and greetings; I feel loved and welcomed.

English is our second language and it is hard for us to learn it when we first arrive, but this school has very unique language learning programs for students like us. Emma Lazarus provides us with academic tools that I never dreamed of having. We use equipment such as iPads, video cameras, audio recorders and professional software on a daily basis.

The teachers do a really good job for helping us... [background comments] helping our

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academic area [sic] and even more, they also help us to get to know how the real world is. As an immigrant student, we gradually adapted to American culture with our teachers' help and advice. We are a diverse community and with more than 18 different languages spoken at the school; while we learn English together, we also learn multiple cultures around the world. This is more than just a school for me; this is the place where I can share my thoughts and a place I've settled into. I've learned a lot here and I've become more creative, competent and I feel really energetic everyday; I feel prepared to step into a society and to put forth my efforts, thanks to Emma Lazarus.

[background comments, applause]

NACIBAS MAYILVA: Hello everyone, my name is Nacibas [sp?] Mayilva [sp?]; I'm from Uzbekistan; I have been here in New York for two years. First I attended a high school in Queens; I studied there for almost one year, but I got lost in the crowd of mainstream students, so naturally I spent most of time speaking Uzbek with Uzbek students; I didn't learn anything; I decide that changing school was the only way to improve my English. At Emma Lazarus,

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teachers are caring and teach in a way to make sure we all understand the content of our classes, even we are just learning English. I'm so comfortable here because the teachers make sure I'm never lost in the crowd. Teachers give us hands-on activities; projects to make it exciting. This style of teaching has really helped me learn English and learn the content I need to pass my exams. Now my friends are from different countries, like China, Poland, Panama and others; I don't feel so alone because I know there are many students who face the same challenge as me. It was a difficult decision to change schools, but I know it was the right one for me because I have learned not only academic subjects, but I have learned a lot how to become a better person. Thank you.

[laughter, applause, cheers]

JESUS RODRIGUEZ: Good afternoon, my name is Jesus Rodriguez; I was a first student from Emma Lazarus High School 2009. The first time I meet Miss Kellogg, I felt like comfortable with her, because all teamwork was the greatest. When I come to Dominican Republic, I can't speak or write or understand English; I spent four years in Emma

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2 Lazarus; it being my second home. Every morning I
3 wake up, I say, oh I need to go to high school, I
4 felt like I go to my second home, because I met one
5 of my best friends; I met great people; I shared my
6 ability and my speak [sic] and my understanding
7 developing the greatest gift, like I feel thankful to
8 be here as a congratulation for all you do to us.

9 [background comments] You make a warm environment we
10 can feel safe, we can speak, we can learn; thank you
11 for all your hard work; thank you Emma Lazarus High
12 School.

13 [background comments, applause, cheers,
14 laughter]

15 DIONNE WYATT MOKOLO: Hello, my name is
16 Dionne Wyatt Mokolo. I had two children from Gabon
17 who didn't speak a word of English. When they came,
18 I went to find what school they can go to; I was
19 directed to Emma Lazarus and they were absolutely
20 amazing. The day I came in, Miss Stacey made us feel
21 at home, helped us, you know, helped us say that we...
22 my children will learn English, they will get their
23 high school diploma and to this day they are now in
24 college; they speak English, they have excelled and I
25 am so proud to be a parent of Emma Lazarus High

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School; the staff is amazing, Miss Ramos is amazing, your staff... to teach these children from different countries English in a short time is amazing and I thank you. I thank you. Thank you, Miss Chin.

[applause, background comments]

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Well great, thank you so much; I mean it really is powerful to hear the success of the school, but even more so through the words of the young people that have experienced that teaching and that experience. So thank you so much for sharing it. I think we wanna take some photos [background comments] and then... that's the last of our ceremonial. Thank you.

[pause]

[background comments]

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay, we're gonna try to move along, [gavel] but we're gonna try... [background comments] Can we keep quiet a minute? [background comments] Before we get started we're gonna ask all of the... [background comment] all the members wearing pink and we wanna take a photo in the front, those of you wearing the tee shirts, I guess we wanna take a photo in the front before we get started, because now we're gonna lose people. So the

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women... the women wanna do it... the Women's Committee...
[background comments] Should we do the... [pause]
[background comments] Although we appreciate the
support of our male colleagues, this will be a photo
of just the women council members. [background
comments].

[pause]

[background comments]

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Alright, we're
ready to go.

MALE VOICE: Ladies and gentlemen, can I
have your attention please? Quiet on the floor,
please. Quiet on the floor. [background comments]
[gavel] At this time, please place all cell phones,
electronic devices to vibrate. Will all non-Council
employees, all non-Council employees please leave the
main floor of the chambers? Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
chambers. Everyone, please have a seat; visitors,
please find a seat; members. [background comments]
Let us all rise for the pledge of allegiance.

[background comments]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Roll call.

[background comments]

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STATED MEETING

CITY CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

[background comments]

[gavel]

[background comment]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet for roll
call.

CITY CLERK: Barron.

[background comments]

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

[background comments]

CITY CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

CITY CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

CITY CLERK: Cohen.

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.

CITY CLERK: Constantinides.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Here.

CITY CLERK: Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Present.

CITY CLERK: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

CITY CLERK: Cumbo.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Present.
3 CITY CLERK: Deutsch.
4 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.
5 CITY CLERK: Dickens. Dromm.
6 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.
7 CITY CLERK: Espinal. Eugene.
8 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.
9 CITY CLERK: Ferreras. Garodnick.
10 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.
11 CITY CLERK: Gentile.
12 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.
13 [background comments]
14 CITY CLERK: Gibson.
15 [background comments]
16 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Present.
17 CITY CLERK: Greenfield.
18 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Here.
19 CITY CLERK: Johnson.
20 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Here.
21 CITY CLERK: Kallos.
22 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.
23 CITY CLERK: King.
24 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Present.
25 CITY CLERK: Koo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.
CITY CLERK: Koslowitz. Lancman.
COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Present.
CITY CLERK: Lander.
COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Present.
CITY CLERK: Levin.
COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.
CITY CLERK: Levine. Maisel.
COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Here.
[background comments]
CITY CLERK: Matteo.
COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.
CITY CLERK: Mealy. Menchaca. Mendez.
COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.
CITY CLERK: Miller.
COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Present.
CITY CLERK: Palma. Reynoso.
COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Here.
CITY CLERK: Richards.
COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.
CITY CLERK: Rodriguez.
COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.
CITY CLERK: Rose.
COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

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CITY CLERK: Rosenthal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

CITY CLERK: Torres.

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Here.

CITY CLERK: Treyger.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

CITY CLERK: Ulrich. Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

CITY CLERK: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

CITY CLERK: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

CITY CLERK: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

CITY CLERK: Wills. Ignizio. Van

Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

CITY CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Here.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please rise for

the invocation delivered by Rev. David K. Brawley,

Pastor of St. Paul Community Baptist Church, 859

Hendrix Street in the Borough of Brooklyn.

[background comment] Quiet in the chambers, please.

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2 REV. DAVID K. BRAWLEY: To the Speaker;
3 our Public Advocate, I'm delighted to be here today;
4 let us pray together. God of all creation, we take
5 this moment to acknowledge your presence in this
6 assembly. We thank you for the opportunity to gather
7 together this day and to reason together on behalf of
8 this city. We are admonished over and over again to
9 pray for leaders who have the charge over us to pray
10 for those who maintain the peace of this city for
11 which we find ourselves. So we gather in your name,
12 humbly seeking your leadership, your will and your
13 wisdom as we discharge our duties as representatives
14 of your people this day, today and every day. Give
15 us the ability to selflessly serve in the stead of
16 all New Yorkers, our seniors who have built a great
17 legacy in this, our city and our youth, who right now
18 sit in school being prepared to become better
19 citizens of our world; being a servant and a servant
20 leader is a serious job oh god. Let not our
21 individual voices speak today, but our global voice
22 as representatives of those who have given this body
23 permission to serve and the expectation that we will
24 do our best to ensure better quality of life for them
25 as the people who make this great city what it is.

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2 We ask that you would guide and direct our Speaker,
3 the Council and this meeting so that it is full of
4 wisdom, productivity and that we all speak and act in
5 respect for one another. Help us today to accomplish
6 our goals while displaying your character. In the
7 spirit of god we pray and give thanks. Amen and
8 amen.

9 [background comment]

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please be seated.
11 Motion to spread the invocation, Council Member Inez
12 Barron. [background comments] Quiet in the
13 chambers, please.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Madame
15 Public Advocate. It's my pleasure to ask that we
16 spread the invocation in full upon the record and I
17 just want to make some comments about Pastor David
18 Brawley. He is the senior pastor at St. Paul's
19 Community Baptist Church, which is located in the
20 42nd Council District, which of course is my
21 district. He is a part of the East Brooklyn
22 Congregations; they are responsible for hundreds of
23 thousands of housing units that are affordable to the
24 community in which we live which has a median income
25 of about \$30,000. He has many programs in his church

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2 addressed not just for the congregation, but for the
3 community as well and they include a summer literacy
4 program, an organization called E.D.I.F.Y., which is
5 empowering and developing and improving families and
6 youth, Jewels, which is the organization for females,
7 Eldad, which is for males and includes a male dance
8 of artistic expression, and Chionesu Bakari. They
9 have a deaf ministry, they have the sacred arts and
10 they also have the Imagine Me Charter School for
11 boys.

12 The church, under the leadership of
13 Pastor Brawley has done outreach on domestic violence
14 and they have programs targeted for two NYCHA
15 developments; they're seated between Linden Houses
16 and Boulevard Houses and they have programs of
17 outreach for them. They are in the process of
18 completing senior housing, which once again, is
19 affordable and they, for me, are so well-known,
20 celebrating their 20th anniversary of the Maafa,
21 which is an acknowledgement of the transatlantic
22 slave horrors and it presents an opportunity to
23 analyze a situation, talk about it's impact and
24 address means for healing. So it is with great
25 pleasure that I acknowledge him and ask that the

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2 invocation be spread in full upon the record. Thank
3 you so much.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Also joining the
5 motion to spread the invocation, a member of St.
6 Paul's Community Baptist Church, Council Member
7 Jumaane Williams.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you,
9 Madame Public Advocate. This will be remised if I
10 didn't say anything; happens to be probably the best
11 pastor in Brooklyn; the best pastor in New York City;
12 since I joined there 8-10 years ago, a spiritual
13 enliftment [sic] has been fantastic; the wonderful
14 programs that were mentioned, [background comments]
15 particularly the focus on the young black males of
16 East New York... [interpose]

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Excuse me Council
18 Member. May we have quiet in the chambers, please?
19 Sorry.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: it's something
21 that is needed and I hope mimicked in many of the
22 churches across the City; the discipline and the
23 pride that is given to those young men is very
24 important, and of course, their focus on the Jewel
25 ministry for the women of the area, and I've had the

1
2 pleasure of presenting in Maafa for I think three or
3 four years straight, is also a source of pride for
4 myself; just wanted to make sure I participated and I
5 thank Council Member Barron for bringing the pastor
6 here and for allowing me to participate in spreading
7 the invocation.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

9 Adoption of Minutes. Council Member Menchaca.
10 Motion that the Minutes of the Stated Meeting of
11 September 23rd be adopted as printed.

12 Messages and Papers from the Mayor.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Communications
15 from City, County and Borough Offices.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: M 0154 to M 0183 on
17 Page 5, Base Station Licenses.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Petitions and
19 Communications.

20 [background comments]

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: It goes to
22 Transportation.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: No Petitions and
24 Communications.

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Land Use Call-Ups.

COMMITTEE CLERK: M 0184 to M 0187.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on Call-Up Vote. As for a roll call vote.

CITY CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

[background comments]

CITY CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I'd like to vote aye on all Call-Ups and with permission, I'd like to vote on all Coupled General Orders and Resolutions. Yes. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Uhm-hm.

CITY CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Cohen.

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Constantinides.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye on all.

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CITY CLERK: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Cumbo.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Dickens. Dromm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Espinal. Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Ferreras. Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Like to vote aye
on all Call-Ups and with permission, I'd like to vote
on all Coupled General Orders.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: I vote no on
0486-A and 0487-A and aye on the remainder.

CITY CLERK: Gibson.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I vote aye.

CITY CLERK: Greenfield.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Johnson.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye.
3 CITY CLERK: Kallos.
4 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.
5 CITY CLERK: King.
6 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye on all.
7 CITY CLERK: Koo.
8 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.
9 CITY CLERK: Koslowitz. Lancman.
10 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.
11 CITY CLERK: Lander. Levin.
12 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.
13 CITY CLERK: Levine. Maisel.
14 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Aye.
15 CITY CLERK: Matteo.
16 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Aye.
17 CITY CLERK: Mealy.
18 [pause]
19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Did she vote?
20 [background comment] Council Member Mealy, how do
21 you vote on Land Use Call-Ups?
22 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye.
23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
24 CITY CLERK: Menchaca.
25 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.

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STATED MEETING

CITY CLERK: Mendez.
COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Miller.
COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Palma. Reynoso.
COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Richards.
COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Rodriguez. Rose.
COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Rosenthal.
COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Torres.
COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Treyger.
COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Ulrich. Vacca.
COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Vallone.
COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Weprin. Williams.
COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.
CITY CLERK: Wills. Lander.
COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

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STATED MEETING

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CITY CLERK: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I vote eye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

Today's Land Use Call-Ups are adopted by a vote of 43 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative. All quiet in the chambers, please quiet in the chambers for communication from the Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Madame Public Advocate and good afternoon. Buenas tardes to all my colleagues. I first of all would like to recognize that we have been joined here today by the Minority Leader of the Turin City Council in Italy; we have Fabrizio Ricca [sp?] who's with us... [applause] as well as his Chief of Staff, Matteo Becutti [sp?] [applause]. So we say benvenuti to both of you; thank you for being here.

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2 So good afternoon; I also wanna just
3 acknowledge that one of our colleagues is not with us
4 today because she just recently had... my understanding
5 is knee surgery and that's Annabel Palma, so we
6 obviously wish her well in her recuperation.

7 Before we get started with the
8 legislation I want to acknowledge that October is
9 Breast Cancer Awareness Month, so you're gonna see a
10 lot of pink flying around here today. There are more
11 than 2.8 million people in the United States today
12 who have been treated for breast cancer; we know that
13 this is a health crisis that affects everyone and we
14 need to get everyone involved to defeat it. During
15 Breast Cancer Awareness Month is a good time to
16 remember that frequent screenings and early detection
17 are crucial in the fight to curb breast cancer-
18 related deaths and I especially wanna thank Council
19 Members Laurie Cumbo and Corey Johnson for their
20 incredible work around this issue and for
21 coordinating all of us wearing our shirts today.

22 [applause, cheers]

23 I'd also like to acknowledge that a week...
24 on a separate matter, I wanna also acknowledge that a
25 week from today marks the second anniversary when

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2 Sandy hit New York City's coastline. Countless
3 families and business had so much taken from them in
4 this natural disaster and two years later we still
5 have a lot of work to do as we continue to rebuild.
6 This Council remains dedicated to restoration efforts
7 and I especially wanna recognize Council Member Mark
8 Treyger for his work on these issues as the Chair of
9 the Recovery and Resiliency Committee. [applause]

10 On legislative matters, today we're gonna
11 be voting on a bill sponsored by Council Member Rory
12 Lancman, requiring that taxi and livery vehicles post
13 signs stating that the penalty for assaulting a
14 driver is up to 25 years in prison. Statistically,
15 taxi and livery drivers are at far greater risk of
16 facing physical threats or assaults than other
17 workers. So far this year more than 40 drivers have
18 been assaulted on the job. This legislation will
19 make clear the serious criminal penalties, including
20 lengthy incarceration that can result from attacking
21 a driver. I'd like to thank Laura Popa, Matt Gewolb,
22 Kelly Taylor and Gefarzay [sp?] Law [sic], Jonathan
23 Masserano and Lyle Frank for their work on this bill,
24 and with that I'd like to ask Council Member Lancman
25 to say a few words.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Thank you,
Madame Speaker.

The men and women who drive our taxis and livery cars for a living play a vital role in our city's mass transit system and they pay a terrible price for it. As the Speaker mentioned they suffer a tremendously higher rate of on-the-job assaults and attacks, there have been, in this year alone, over 40 assaults on taxi and livery drivers and this legislation will make sure that anybody who gets inside a taxi or a livery or for-hire vehicle knows that there are very, very serious consequences to assaulting or attacking that driver and they will know that we in the City Council, we in City government care enough about those drivers, their families; their safety that we took the time to pass this legislation.

So I wanna thank the Speaker and the Chair of the Transportation Committee, Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez, and all of my colleagues who are voting for this legislation today for taking this important step forward to make sure that those who play such an important role in our transit system

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2 here in New York City get this added measure of
3 protection. Thank you.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
5 Council Member. We also have legislation sponsored
6 by Council Member Antonio Reynoso that will require
7 the Department of Education to provide an annual
8 report to the Council detailing information about the
9 number of guidance counselors and social workers in
10 each school for each school year. The report would
11 include the number of full- and part-time guidance
12 counselors and social workers, the guidance counselor
13 and social workers to student ratio, as well as the
14 number of staff in each school that has been trained
15 in college readiness. Data from advocates and
16 testimony from students suggest that there are wide
17 discrepancies in the guidance counselor to student
18 ratio across the system and this report from the DOE
19 will allow us to better examine the issue.

20 Personally, I know how important it was to have a
21 guidance counselor give me guidance to make a
22 decision to go on to higher education, as I'm sure
23 people can attest in this room and I know we have
24 heard a lot, unfortunately, about the lack of
25 guidance counselors in our public education school

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2 system and that is something that is critically
3 important, particularly for low-income communities
4 and communities of color. So I wanna thank Laura
5 Popa, Matt Gewolb, Aysha Schomburg, Jan Atwell, Joan
6 Povolny, Andrew Vasquez, Ters [sp?] Anasar [sp?] and
7 Lyle Frank for their work on this bill and Council
8 Member Antonio Reynoso will say a few words.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I am proud to be
10 passing my first bill today, Int 0403... [cheers,
11 applause] yeah... yeah, requiring the Department of
12 Education to report on the presence of guidance
13 counselors and social workers in New York City public
14 schools. As a young man of color, I am particularly
15 proud that my first bill is an education bill that
16 will have an impact on New York City students,
17 particularly those in large or struggling schools.
18 Guidance counselors and social workers provide a
19 number of valuable services, including behavioral,
20 academic, college preparatory and career counseling.
21 However, independent studies have shown that the
22 ratio of students to counselors in the majority of
23 New York City high schools is so high that many
24 counselors are unable to effectively provide
25 students, especially those who are struggling, with

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2 the individual attention and services that they need.
3 When I was in school I was lucky enough to have a
4 guidance counselor that was able to give me lots of
5 attention and it helped me to get to where I am
6 today. I want my experience to become the norm for
7 all New York City students; Int 0403 will help us
8 analyze the data so that we can take steps forward,
9 regulating the system so that all students can
10 receive the counseling service they need to help them
11 succeed.

12 I'd like to thank all the advocates who
13 have supported this bill, particularly the Annenberg
14 Institute, Alliance for Quality Education, Advocates
15 for Children, Coalition for American Children and
16 Families, Make the Road New York, as well as Jan
17 Atwell and Donny Dromm from the Education Committee,
18 Matt Gewolb, whose father-in-law is a former guidance
19 counselor, and of course, my great Legislative
20 Director, Lacey Tauber, for her work on this bill.
21 Thank you very much.

22 [cheers]

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: And
24 congratulations, Council Member Antonio Reynoso for
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2 your first bill; many of us can remember that moment,
3 so congratulations.

4 I'm gonna say a few words in Spanish
5 first before I just say my last words here. 00:43:54
6 **[Spanish]**. And thank you for that.

7 The final two bills we'll be discussing
8 today -- we're voting on two pieces of legislation
9 that will significantly limit the City's role in the
10 Federal Government's Civil Immigration Enforcement
11 System. Recently a number of courts have ruled that
12 local authorities are not required to comply with ICE
13 detainer requests and that doing so in the absence of
14 a probable cause finding may raise civil rights
15 concerns. So these bills will require that in order
16 for any detainer to be honored it would have to be
17 supported by a warrant issued by a Federal judge
18 based on a probable cause finding. But our bills go
19 even further. In the event that ICE provides a
20 judicial warrant, the law will only allow the City to
21 honor the detainer if a subject has been convicted of
22 a violent or serious felony in the last five years or
23 if the person is a possible match on the Federal
24 Terrorist Watch List.

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2 Finally, the bills will remove ICE
3 offices from Rikers Island and significantly limit
4 the time and money we currently spend assisting ICE
5 in deporting folks who are low-level offenders or
6 will have not committed any crimes.

7 We are a city that respects the
8 constitutional rights and dignity of all our
9 residents. We also have no reason to expend scarce
10 resources assisting in enforcing broken immigration
11 laws. These bills are simple, they're about keeping
12 hard-working families united, they're about keeping
13 New Yorkers safe and secure and they're about simple
14 fairness.

15 If obstructionists in Congress insist on
16 delaying any federal action on fair and just
17 immigration reform, it falls to municipal governments
18 to pick up the slack; that's what we've been doing
19 here in New York City and it's what we continue to do
20 today with these two bills.

21 New York City is not afraid to lead on
22 immigration, our history is filled with immigrants
23 coming and contributing and that is a tradition we
24 are continuing today.

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2 I'd like to thank Jennifer Montalvo
3 [sp?], Catalina Cruz, Rachel Cordero and Brian Crowe
4 for their work on these bills, as well as the
5 advocates who continue to be such great partners on
6 this issue; a lot goes out to them as well.

7 But I have to give special recognition to
8 Rob Newman, he and I have been working on this issue
9 together since before I was Speaker, as early as
10 2011, when I sponsored the first bill to restrict the
11 City's collaboration with ICE. We have come a long
12 way since then and I personally want to thank Rob for
13 all of his efforts. Thank you so much, Rob.

14 [cheers, applause]

15 And with that, I end Communication from
16 the Speaker.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: First to our
18 guests, benvenuto.

19 And now, for General Orders, to discuss
20 Int 0403-A, a trio of members -- Council Member
21 Menchaca, Torres and Richards and in that order.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: So I just wanna
23 say thank you again for all the work and as a young
24 man of color, it is important to me that we ensure
25 that immigrant students, many of them who are

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2 classified as English language learners, some of them
3 that just spoke today, earlier in our ceremonial,
4 talking about their educational experiences, are
5 receiving the counseling and college preparatory
6 support that they need in their first language and
7 that school staff are able to communicate with
8 parents and caretakers in their native language as
9 well. Int 0403 will require the DOE to report on the
10 number of licensed and certified bilingual guidance
11 counselors and social workers in each school and the
12 number of ELL students in each school so we can
13 analyze where these services may be lacking and
14 address the issues practically. Thank you so much
15 for everyone who's made this possible.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Sixty years ago
17 the U.S. Supreme Court in Brown v. Board of Education
18 warned us it is doubtful any child may be reasonably
19 expected to succeed in life if he is denied the
20 opportunity of an education. As a young man of
21 color, I worry that we have an overzealous suspension
22 policy that denies the opportunity of an education
23 that is so essential to success in life. Too many
24 young men of color are being arbitrarily kicked out
25 of the classroom and onto the streets and our

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2 suspension policy has led to a school-to-prison
3 pipeline. I feel strongly that suspension should
4 never be a punishment of first resort; the DOE has an
5 obligation to our students to pursue restorative
6 justice interventions, including guidance counseling
7 before imposing suspension. Int 0403 will help us
8 live up to that obligation.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: As a young man
10 of color, I find it alarming that there are currently
11 more police officers than guidance counselors in New
12 York City public schools. According to the NYCLU, on
13 a typical day the NYPD makes four arrests and issues
14 seven summonses in New York City public schools and
15 of those arrested, more than 95 percent are black or
16 Latino. This is particularly troubling because it is
17 projected that close to 270,000 children in New York
18 City have a diagnosable mental disorder. Counselors
19 and social workers are better equipped to understand
20 the whole student and to be able to identify red
21 flags and invest in students psychologically,
22 emotionally and their physical well-being. Int 0403
23 will give us data that we can compare with school
24 safety data to help us better understand where
25 students' needs are being met and where they are not.

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And now, Minority Leader, Council Member Matteo.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Matteo? What's happened? [sic] [crosstalk]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: I mean... excuse me... [background comments] Ignizio.

[laughter]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Wait your turn. Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yeah. [laugh]
[background comment] Thank you, Madame Public Advocate. And I appreciate, members of the Council. I first wanna point out one thing that the Speaker mentioned, which was about Sandy and wanted to thank the Council and thank the Council members how have been at their finest moment in regards to taking care of Sandy victims and Sandy businesses in their community and I appreciate the Council for leading the way and pushing the Administration, both the former administration and the current administration, in getting what we need for our communities and I really think it is a shining moment and something we should hold up and be proud of the work that we did as a joint body with regards to Sandy recovery.

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2 With regards to bills Int 0486 and 0487
3 on behalf of the minority delegation, two pieces of
4 legislation that I believe raises significant safety
5 concerns to the people in the city and the people in
6 our country. While I agree that our national
7 immigration policy is broken and in desperate need of
8 reform, this solution, prohibiting our law
9 enforcement officers in prisons from detaining
10 criminals in cooperation with our national
11 immigration enforcement agency is not the solution.
12 Unlike the Council's vote last month to help innocent
13 children gain representation in their immigration
14 cases, these piece of legislation will help
15 individuals who have already shown a disregard for
16 the law of the community.

17 Additionally, there are significant legal
18 issues associated with our municipality dictating to
19 the Federal government, I believe and especially in
20 regards to compliance with a federal subpoena.

21 Again, I join my colleagues in their
22 frustration over Washington; both Houses, both
23 parties, for their failure to act on a comprehensive
24 immigration policy and work together, we do very
25 often in this body. But I believe that lobbying our

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2 members of Congress, our senators and our president,
3 to develop a national solution to this problem is the
4 solution and not breaking ranks with our federal
5 partners in law enforcement who seek only to keep my
6 family and your family safe. Thank you very much.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And now the most
8 valuable player of the City Council, a ranking member
9 of the minority party, Council Member Matteo.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Thank you for the
11 promotion, Madame Public Advocate. Today we're also
12 voting on Int 0438, which creates an industrial
13 business improvement district in the West Shore
14 portion of my district. I wanna start by thanking
15 all the people involved in the process... [interpose]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: I vote no...

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Oh...

18 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: hold on a
19 second...

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: We're gonna have
21 to have a talk. [laughter, background comments] I
22 wanna start by thanking all the people involved,
23 including our Finance Chair, Julissa Ferreras, her
24 staff, particularly Tanisha Edwards and Rebecca Chase
25 for their hard work. I wanna thank Cesar Claro on

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2 the SIEDC for helping me to organize these business
3 owners behind this effort to create a BID on the West
4 Shore. I also wanna thank SBA's commissioner, Maria
5 Torres Springer, her staff, my former boss and
6 predecessor, Borough President Jimmy Otto and
7 Minority Leader Ignizio.

8 In 2012 I began my involvement in the
9 creation of this BID on day one as a member of the
10 steering committee; once elected I was able to
11 continue my advocacy as a member of the City Council.
12 Today is the culmination of a lot of hard work, a
13 partnership between myself, the SIEDC and the
14 business community in Bloomfield and Chelsea.

15 We are essentially creating an enhanced
16 civic association for this area which will be
17 empowered to pool its resources to get the services
18 they need to address their unique challenges. As we
19 all know, every neighborhood, every commercial
20 corridor has unique needs and this slide of the West
21 Shore is no different. I think that is why the rate
22 of support in this IBID zone is among the highest of
23 any BID in the City.

24 Let me extend my thanks to the property
25 owners for their support and dedication. Moving

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2 forward, these property owners' investments in their
3 own area will help to turn the West Shore of the
4 borough into a jobs coast where Staten Islanders can
5 have rewarding and prosperous careers. The West
6 Shore could become home to a host of firms that need
7 larger real estate to operate or want to keep their
8 businesses local to New York City.

9 Again, I wanna thank everyone for their
10 support and look forward to the passage of this
11 legislation. Thank you.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
13 Council Member Inez Dickens for a vote.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you,
15 Madame Public Advocate. I vote aye on all Land Use
16 Call-Ups and permission please to couple votes and I
17 vote aye on all. Bye.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Feel
19 better.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reports of
22 Special Committees.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reports of
25 Standing Committees.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee
3 on Education, Int 0403-A, Report on Guidance
4 Counselors.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Report of the
6 Committee on Finance. Council Member Dromm.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you very
8 much. I wanna thank the Speaker for her many years
9 of work on improving the way the criminal justice
10 system interacts with our immigrant communities. I
11 also wanna recognize the Council staff who worked
12 hard on the legislation to put these bills and
13 hearing together -- Jennifer Montalvo, Brian Crowe,
14 Rachel Cordero, Rob Newman and the co-sponsors, along
15 with the Speaker and I, Carlos Menchaca and Rafael
16 Espinal.

17 By ending the collusion of local law
18 enforcement with jails, with federal immigration
19 authorities, New York City will be a safer place
20 where our immigrants no longer fear deportation by
21 interacting with the police. This is good news for
22 all New Yorkers, both recent immigrant families and
23 the rest of us who rely on our immigrant neighbors to
24 report crimes and to cooperate with investigations.
25 With these bills we also take a stand against the

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2 blatant unconstitutionality of the detainer program
3 which holds individuals without a criminal sentence
4 or even probably cause. Given New York's lead, I
5 hope many other localities rise up and take a stand
6 against these odious tactics of immigration customs
7 enforcement. Thank you.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reports of
9 Standing Committees. [background comment]

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee
11 on Education, Int 0403-A, Report on Guidance
12 Counselors.

13 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and
14 Coupled on General Orders.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee
16 on Finance, Int 0438, West Shore BID.

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
18 General Orders.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered Res 0450,
20 Organization Funding.

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
22 General Orders.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee
24 on Immigration, Int 0486-A in relation to persons not
25 to be detained by the Department of Corrections.

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STATED MEETING

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SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and
Coupled on General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Int 0487-A in relation
to persons not to be detained by the Police
Department.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and
Coupled on General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee
on Land Use, LU 0122 and Res 0457, sidewalk café.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee
on Transportation, Int 0082-A, penalties for
assaulting taxi drivers.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and
Coupled on General Orders.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: General Order
Calendar.

COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 0115 and Res 0458 to
LU 0118 and Reso 0460, 19 East Houston.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Resolution appointing
various persons Commissioner of Deeds.

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SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
General Orders and at this time I ask for a roll call
on all items on the Coupled General Order Calendar.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Permission to
explain my vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you. I
just wanna take a moment to congratulate Council
Member Reynoso and your first bill. As a former
school counselor myself [background comment] and also
a college professor that ran a whole program at the
masters level for counseling students, I cannot
commend you enough for this; the reality is that we
have schools where we really don't have school
counselors or may have the same experience that I
had, when I had 700 students at one point and I was
the only school counselor at a high school level and
my greatest fear that there was the potential of a
young man or young lady waiting in the long lines to
see me who could potentially be suicidal or on the
verge of dropping out of school; the stories go on,

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and that was one of my greatest nightmares being a school counselor, just the overwhelming amount of work. Certain grade levels is mandated; some grade levels school counselors are not mandated and we need to do better and I'm very hopeful that this data is gonna help us to pass better legislation to have school counselors mandated and a certain amount of school counselors per quantity of students. So thank you so much and I commend you and I commend the Speaker for the bill dealing with immigrants so we could have true justice; it's been too long and I know she advocated this for a long time; I commend you both. Thank you so much.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: How do you vote?

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

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Permission to explain my vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I have three land use items regarding a disposition in my district for a building to be constructed on MTA property at 19

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2 East Houston Street; I wanted to thank the community
3 board, the borough president, MTA the City and the
4 applicant for working through all these issues to get
5 to this point today. I am also particularly thankful
6 to Ann McCoy in the Land Use Division for her
7 guidance and input throughout this process and of
8 course, thank you to Council Member Weprin and
9 Council Member Greenfield for chairing the hearing.

10 On the biggest issue, the size of the
11 retail, the applicant has agreed to limit retail to
12 second floor and below and has withdrawn their
13 application for large-scale retail in that building.
14 The applicant also further committed to sidewalk and
15 crosswalk changes that will help preserve pedestrian
16 flow and a commitment to bring their tenants to the
17 community board, should illumination issue arise and
18 the Department of Transportation has agreed to work
19 with the applicant on these issues. So therefore I
20 have no opposition to the remaining application
21 before us and ask also my colleagues to vote to
22 approve them.

23 And I also wanted to congratulate Council
24 Member Reynoso on his first bill. I vote aye on all.
25 Thank you.

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen.

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: I'd like to congratulate Council Member Reynoso and vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Constantinides.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cumbo.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission to explain my vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: [background comment] I just want to congratulate my colleague, Council Member Reynoso; this is so fantastic. And I just wanna say for myself, growing up, "when I wasn't performing in the way that my teachers suspected that I could or what my potential was or even at times, what was wrong with me," a guidance counselor discovered that I loved art and channeled me into

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that career and what has become my passion. So I thank you for this; this is going to give us an incredible opportunity in the City Council to not only, hopefully, be able to understand what the issues are, but hopefully that we can put the resources together to make sure that there are guidance counselors and professionals that are available to help our young people as it pertains to everything from domestic violence to issues pertaining to education [background comments] and many other issues... [crosstalk]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet...

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: So thank you very much and I vote aye on all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Quiet in the chambers, please. [background comment] Quiet in the chambers. Continue with the roll call.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: No on In 0486-A and 0487-A and aye on the remainder.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dromm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Espinal.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I would like to
3 explain my vote on Int 0403.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: As a young man
6 of color, I am deeply concerned by studies that show
7 that living in a low-income community of color
8 correlates directly with a lack of college readiness.
9 In Ocean Hill, in my district, for example, only
10 about 12 percent of students are defined as college
11 ready based on their Regents exam scores. The fact
12 that college readiness counselor is inaccessible to
13 so many students only exacerbates this problem.
14 Int 0403 will help us learn not only about the
15 presence of guidance counselors and social workers in
16 schools, but also about the presence of other staff
17 who have received professional development or
18 training and post-secondary planning who may fill
19 gaps in college readiness counseling. This will help
20 us analyze whether enough teachers and administrators
21 are taking advantage of this important opportunity to
22 help ensure that our students are informed about and
23 prepared for college. And I'd like to vote aye on
24 all.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene.

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COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Congratulations to Council Member Reynoso and I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ferreras. Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

[background comment]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gibson.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Permission to explain my vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you, Madame Public Advocate. I too wanna join with our colleagues in congratulating Council Member Reynoso on his first bill; I also would like to congratulate Council Member Lancman for the bill working with the New York City Taxi Driver's Alliance in making sure that we educate and provide a lot of awareness to the public about assaulting and injuring taxi drivers and livery drivers across the city; I think it's a great step of progress and certainly hope that people will begin to think twice about assaulting or injuring a taxi driver in this city. I also wanna congratulate others for some of the other bills that we're passing today and on Int 0486 and Int 0487, I wanna thank the Speaker for her leadership, as well as Council Member

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Menchaca, Chair of Immigration. I had a number of concerns about these two bills, I recognize the intent; I recognize the purpose; as we move forward I certainly would like to be a part of the conversations around implementation and with that I will be supporting it, but with a little bit of reservation and continuing to have further conversations around this. And with that I'll be voting aye on all. Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Greenfield.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you.
May I explain my vote, please?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you, Madame Public Advocate. First I want to congratulate my colleagues -- Council Member Reynoso, really a terrific bill that's gonna save and really help so many children; thank you so much for that. I wanna thank Council Member Rory Lancman; I think that the taxi industry is fortunate, from his time in the Assembly to his time in the Council, he's been a great advocate and I really wanna congratulate him for that as well.

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I want to speak now about 0486; 0487-A...
[background comments]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Could we have
quiet in the chambers, please. Quiet in the
chambers. [crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I'll wait for
quiet and hopefully they'll freeze my time there
while we do that. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Three seconds
back on the clock. Council Member Greenfield.

[background comment]

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you; I
certainly appreciate that. You know I think any time
that you have a discussion on a hot button political
issue such as immigration you're gonna have a lot of
visceral reaction and emotional viewpoints as well.
I do think however that as legislators we really
should try our best to be above the fray and assess,
to the extent that we can, an issue from an objective
perspective and that's what I intend to do today. As
a legislator and an attorney, my first duty, which is
a sworn one, is to uphold the Constitution of the
United States of America and I take that
responsibility very seriously; some would call me a

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2 civil libertarian, but really, I view it as a duty to
3 uphold the law. The 4th Amendment is very clear; the
4 right of the people to be secure in their persons
5 against unreasonable search and seizures shall not be
6 violated, and that's really what's happening over
7 here and it's really very simple -- someone's
8 arrested; they're even convicted of a crime, they go
9 to prison; now, because that person has been afforded
10 due process -- 14th Amendment, for those of you who
11 are following at home -- they can be seized in
12 prison, but only until the end of their term; when
13 their term is up, the government can't simply hold
14 someone because they think he or she did something
15 wrong and that's what the government is doing in a
16 detainer request. If you think someone did something
17 wrong, we have a process for that, it's called an
18 arrest warrant; when the government gets that we
19 should and will respect it, but to simply lock
20 someone up because you suspect they did something
21 wrong, that's un-American and those rights apply,
22 even those who are not yet American citizens. Just
23 as how we don't beat people up in prison because
24 they're in prison, we should not keep people in
25 prison simply because we think they may have done

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2 something wrong and that is why I'm proud to support
3 this legislation and I specifically [bell] would like
4 to thank the Speaker for her leadership; not a lot is
5 happening in D.C. on this issue, but it's happening
6 here and I proudly vote aye on all.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Johnson.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Permission to
9 explain my vote.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: I want to
12 congratulate the Speaker for her hard work on these
13 bills; I also want to congratulate my colleagues,
14 Council Member Lancman and Council Member Reynoso.
15 On Council Member Reynoso's bill, I just wanna say
16 that I look back at a pivotal, important moment in my
17 life; the first person who I ever came out to in my
18 life when I was 15 years old was my guidance
19 counselor in middle school, who then stayed my
20 guidance counselor through high school, and I
21 remember it like it was yesterday. So I really know
22 how important guidance counselors are; it had a deep
23 and important impact on my life and I am proud to
24 support this bill today and I congratulate Council
25 Member Reynoso on its passage. Thank you very much.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Your vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: How do you vote?

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: I vote aye on
all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Permission to
explain my vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I wanna
congratulate Council Member Antonio Reynoso on this
legislation on behalf of myself, my mother who's a
psychologist and a commitment to making sure we have
access to mental health in our schools and my
director of constituent service, who is a social
worker, and the more of those we can get into our
schools, the better. So thank you for what you're
doing. Thank you also to Council Member Rory Lancman
for keeping our drivers safe and to our Speaker for
taking on national issues right here at home. I vote
aye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: King.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Congratulations to Antonio Reynoso and I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Congratulations to my next door neighbor, [laughter] Council Member Reynoso, for passing such a wonderful bill [background comments] and muchas gracias to the Speaker, to Council Member Menchaca and Reynoso. Thank you very much. Oh... [interpose]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And how do you vote?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote yes.

[laughter] [background comments]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lancman.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: May I please explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, sir.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: As the proud son of a public elementary school guidance counselor in St. Louis, I wanna say a big congratulations to Council Member Reynoso; you know, I remember at the dinner table this stories that my mom would tell and

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that's a school that serves a real diverse range of kids; it's a deseg [sic] program in St. Louis, so there's a whole set of kids who are in her office every day and the difference she makes in her their lives is tremendous, so I dedicate this vote to my mom, but it's with great congratulations to Council Member Reynoso on this really important piece of legislation, as my colleagues have said. And I'm also really proud to be a supporter of the Speaker's detainer bills, [background comments] I think setting a standard in New York City that this has always been a city of immigrant opportunity and we are going to keep it a city of immigrant opportunity and I couldn't think of a better way to do it than the bills that we're passing today. Congrats also to Council Member Lancman on helping keep our taxi drivers safe and I proudly vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin. Maisel.

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo.

COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: No on 0486-A and 0487-A; aye on the rest.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye on all.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Menchaca.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Permission to explain my vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: I just wanna say thank you to Council Member Lancman for your taxi bill; Council Member Reynoso, thanks for making Brooklyn proud and the work that we're gonna continue to do to reform our schools, and then finally, thank you to the Speaker and the detainer bills and as Chair of the Immigration Committee, I am so proud to be working with her; her entire career has been rooted in the progress for our immigrant community and it is incredibly important to so many of our districts and this is gonna have a huge impact. The vision that we are laying here, and especially in the last nine months, has been incredibly clear; we need to change the sentiment and the relationship between our immigrant community and government; these pieces of legislation are gonna continue to do that and I can't wait to see what will happen in the next nine months. I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye on all.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Miller.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Permission to explain.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: First I'd like to congratulate the Speaker and especially like to congratulate Council Member Reynoso on his legislation. Thank you, Madame Public Advocate. And thank you to Council Member Rory Lancman for introducing this legislation, 0082, Int 0082, which under these circumstances I would love to support, but I rise today, however, to express my dismay at the manner in which Taxi and Limousine Commission has been conducting business. This law, Int 0082, has been amended to include commuter vans so that drivers of these vehicles may also receive signage promulgated by TLC in order to help protect drivers, yet the TLC has done very little to protect the constituents in my district and throughout the city who are victimized by these same commuter vans; these are hundreds of illegal vans running throughout the City of New York and many more properly licensed vans

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which are operating in an illegal fashion. They do business directly in front of bus stops, intimidate mass transit passengers and hold little regard for the rules of the road. Particularly given the nature of this business, it's so frequently illegal.

Recently a young woman from my district ended up in a coma for 10 days after the police engaged one of these vans in a high speed chase; this is how bad things have gotten. Despite my plea, these concerns have gone unheard by the TLC. With this in mind, I cannot in good conscience vote for legislation which supports the TLC Commission which has repeatedly failed to support and protect the constituents of this city. A good relationship is beneficial to all parties at the table, but this one is certainly unhealthy. I will vote no on voting on Int 0082; the TLC has become far too comfortable with surface measures, such as decals and stickers; [bell] neither will keep my constituents alive or out of the hospital. TLC's... [interpose]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member...

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: riders and

drivers... [interpose]

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

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: deserve more
5 substantial safety measures. I vote no on 0082 and
6 aye on the rest. Thank you.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Vote aye on all.
9 [background comment] Oh, I'd like to vote aye on all
10 Call-Ups and with permission I'd like to vote on all
11 Coupled General Orders.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Permission to
15 explain my vote.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I just wanna
18 really thank everyone; to hear your stories regarding
19 guidance counselors, it just means that much more to
20 me to know that I can be helpful in ensuring that
21 what we have and the great experiences we had with
22 our guidance counselors are also something that more
23 children in our school system can experience. And I
24 wanna thank Lacey Tauber; it is her first piece of
25 legislation as well and I... [applause, cheers] and we

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have some flowers for her. So congratulations,
Lacey. Thank you.

[background comment]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: How do you vote?

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I vote aye on
all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Permission to
explain my vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: First I wanna
congratulate Council Member Reynoso and Lacey as well
on this great bill and my wife actually started as a
guidance counselor, so I understand the struggles
that they incur on a daily basis. I'm gonna vote aye
on all, but I also wanted to just back up and support
something Daneek just spoke on on Int 0082-A and in
Southern Queens in particular, in our areas, because
our transportation infrastructure is not the
greatest, we often have dollar vans running in our
particular communities and I just wanna also urge the
TLC to certainly do more enforcement in our
particular community; we are getting complaints every
day on this particular issue; it is not just a

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2 quality of life issue; you're taking your life in
3 your own hands crossing some of these streets and
4 there's been very little enforcement on this issue.
5 So I vote aye on this because I do believe that we
6 should protect... you know, do all we can to protect
7 livery drivers and everyone else who are certainly
8 useful in our communities, but we also need them
9 [background comments] to enforce and make sure that
10 we have legal vans on the street if we're gonna have
11 them out there [sic]. Thank you.

12 [background comments]

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: How do you vote?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I vote aye on
15 all.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Quiet
17 in the chambers, please. Continue roll call.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: May I explain
20 my vote?

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I would just
23 like to say that... first of all, congratulations
24 Antonio and to say that we will continue working with
25 Council Member Mealy and my other colleagues and the

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2 TLC's administration to identifying ways on how to
3 protect also the workers that he particularly
4 addressed; I believe that this a great piece of
5 legislation, since why we are doing this legislation
6 is letting anyone who gets into a taxi or a livery
7 taxi knows what are the consequences if they assault
8 any taxi drivers. So I believe that as we are
9 committed to protect the pedestrian, it is also our
10 responsibility to protect the taxi drivers. In the
11 United States, taxi drivers have [background
12 comments] 20 percent... [interpose]

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Excuse me,
14 Council Member. May we have quiet in the chambers,
15 please? Council Member. Sorry.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: In the United
17 States, taxi drivers have 20 percent more probability
18 to be assaulted than any other drivers in our
19 society. So I believe that this is good progress,
20 but we will continue working with my colleagues here
21 to expand the protection to all drivers. Thank you.
22 And I vote aye.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.
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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Permission to
3 explain my vote.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Permission to
6 explain my vote.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I would just like
9 to congratulate my colleagues for these impressive
10 packages of bills that really turns out to be, in
11 many cases, assurances of rights that people are
12 entitled to. [background comments] I'd like to
13 thank CM Reynoso for ensuring the rights of students
14 to receive a quality education with the resources
15 that are needed to accomplish [background comments]
16 that goal. I'd like to thank and congratulate
17 Council Member Matteo, from Shaolin [sic], for the
18 BID on the West Shore of Staten Island, something
19 that's going to improve the economic development
20 opportunities there. And to CM Lancman for ensuring
21 the safety of our taxi and livery drivers; they have
22 dangerous jobs and oftentimes no one seems to give
23 that a second thought. And to the Speaker for the
24 detainee bills. These bills further codify our
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2 commitment to improve the quality of life for all and
3 I'm proud to vote aye on all.

4 [background comments]

5 MALE VOICE: Keep it down, please. Keep
6 it down.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rosenthal.

9 [background comment]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye on all.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres... [crosstalk]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye on all
13 still.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I vote aye and I
16 wanna cede my time for explaining my vote to Jumaane
17 Williams, so.

18 [background comments, laugh]

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Treyger.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Permission to
21 explain my vote.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I'd like to
24 first commend [background comments] Council Member
25 Lancman on the passage of his bill. I'd like to also

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commend Council Member Antonio Reynoso; as a former teacher I can tell you that in a very large nebulous system, very little gets changed unless it's measured and today we will begin to measure the access our children have to critical guidance services. And on Int's 0486 and 0487-A, I'm actually influenced by the story of what my father went through when he was living and going to school in the former Soviet Union and he was detained because he had the audacity to listen to the voice of America to make sure that his loved ones in Israel were still alive during the Arab-Israeli War. So I take issue when any government decides to arbitrarily detain and stop people for any reason, considering where my family came from and what they endured. And with that, I vote aye on all. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye on all except Int 0486-A and 0487-A.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Could I explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I'm voting aye on
3 all. Uh 0486 and 0487, to me, I studied them and
4 gave it significant attention; they represent
5 constitutional issues and on that basis I'm voting
6 yes. Regarding Council Member Reynoso's bill, I did
7 wanna speak on guidance counselors. Years ago we did
8 have community school boards and I served on one as
9 president and member and I have to tell you what we
10 did and I hope that Chancellor Farina, when she sees
11 our vote today, will consider certain steps on how we
12 can make guidance counselors more effective. We
13 established a floor for every school based on
14 population so there was equity, so at a certain
15 threshold, when a school reached a population
16 threshold they had to hire a full-time guidance
17 counselor; when they went beyond the threshold, we
18 did point two additional time, point four; point six,
19 so that we had thresholds that were reached and then
20 escalated as population went up. So we made sure
21 that every school had guidance services. The second
22 thing we have to do today is that we have to instruct
23 guidance counselors on what we expect them to do.
24 Are they truly doing guidance; what is guidance in
25 2014? It's a very important issue; how are they

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servicing kids? We need staff development; we need a uniform policy on what we want guidance counselors to do in and out of the classroom; how do we want emergency intervention; how do we want contact with families; when do we want that? All of this has to be updated. So I'm hoping that our vote today for Council Member Reynoso's bill will indicate to DOE that it's not just time that we look at how many counselors we have, but what are they actually doing and how are they making sure that our kids don't fall through the safety net. But with that, I vote aye on all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Permission to explain my vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: I vote aye on all except I vote no on Int 0486-A and 0487-A. Congratulations Antonio on your bill and Rory Lancman. And as a fellow barrister and attorney, I get all excited when I hear David Greenfield mentioning the constitution and I see grounds for a debate here, David. We discussed there are times

1
2 when we're going to agree and disagree; this is one
3 of those times that I disagree -- requiring judicial
4 warrants should have been enough if the aim truly was
5 to protect individuals arrested for committing a
6 crime and now face deportation. However, I believe a
7 judicial warrant should have been required for any
8 crime other than a serious felony. Why are we making
9 it harder to return criminals if god for bid they
10 have raped or murdered someone? Additionally, I
11 oppose the inclusion of the five-year limitation.
12 What we are saying today is that we aren't going to
13 honor any request, even if there is a warrant
14 obtained to deport violent felons if five years has
15 passed. How does help our city at all? We would
16 rather want this murderer in our system rather than
17 being deported? Finally, removing federal officers
18 at Rikers Island sends a dangerous message to our
19 federal government -- we don't want you here
20 deporting violent felons, but we do want you to pay
21 an assistance for fighting terrorism and crime in a
22 number one targeted city in the world. There is no
23 argument presented today that these bills make us a
24 safer city, a city that demands public safety is our
25

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2 number one priority. For these reasons I vote no on
3 both bills and vote aye on all other matters today.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Weprin.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: May I be
9 excused to explain my vote?

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you.

12 First I wanna congratulate Council Member Lancman on
13 his bill; I did wanna address some things and
14 concerns that I heard about the commuter vans.
15 [background comments] I too have some similar
16 concerns, but I do wanna make sure that commuter vans
17 that are licensed and insured do have legal ways to
18 operate as the city goes to them at all times of
19 emergency; those legal vans have and continue to
20 request increased enforcement to get the people who
21 are breaking the rules off the streets.

22 Congratulations to Council Member Reynoso on his
23 bill; I'm hoping that we will actually get the
24 resources we need from this bill. When I was young,
25 and I know it's hard to believe; I needed much

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2 guidance throughout the public school system
3 [laughter] so I wanna make sure people like me get
4 the support that is needed. And then congratulations
5 to the Speaker and others on the detainer bills; this
6 one personally means a lot to me, as I learned
7 several years ago, my brother, who is in this country
8 was actually here "illegally," as we like to call it,
9 for much of his life, until several years ago; had he
10 been deported, he actually would not have been sent
11 back to Canada where he spent his first 18 years; he
12 would've been sent back to Granada, where he left as
13 a child and had no attachment to at all. And also, a
14 friend of mine was detained; luckily his wife had the
15 wherewithal to make phone calls and had contacts so
16 that we can help him. Many of the people have not
17 had those contacts and remain unable to get in
18 contact with their families, sometimes they're sent
19 other places across the country; what is happening is
20 undeniably, I think, "un-American" and
21 unconstitutional and I'm very proud to support these
22 and hopefully our federal government will get it
23 right at some point. And lastly, I just wanna thank
24 my Latino brothers and sisters for really championing
25 this and push my Caribbean family, my Caribbean

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brothers and sisters; my Caribbean community to get much more involved in immigration debate, as well as the African community. There are many more immigrants [bell] who are not a part of this debate that need to get involved immediately. Thank you.
[crosstalk]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please conclude your remarks, Council Member. Thank you. How do you...

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I had to conclude my remarks, so I didn't get to vote. I vote aye on all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

[laughter]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: No on Int 0486 and 0487 and aye on all others and congratulations to Steve Matteo and Council Member Reynoso and those that passed their bills.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye on all.

[background comments]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. All items on today's General Order Calendar were adopted by a vote of 47 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and 0 abstentions, with the exception of Int 0486-A, which was adopted by a vote of 41 in the affirmative, 6 in the negative and 0 abstentions, and Int 0487-A, which was adopted by a vote of 41 in the affirmative, 6 negative and 0 abstentions, and Int 0082-A, which was adopted by a vote of 46 in the affirmative, 1 negative and 0 abstentions. The revised Land Use Call-Up vote is 47 in the affirmative, 0 negatives. Introduction and Reading of Bills, see attached. This... [interpose]

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

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Discussion of Resolutions, Res 0166, sponsored by Council Member Debi Rose. Seeing none. The resolution reads as follows: Resolution calling upon the New York City Department of Education to establish a comprehensive college preparation program based on the college readiness program proposed by the Urban Youth

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Collaborative to improve and expand college access for all students. All of those in favor say aye.

[collective aye]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All of those opposed. Any abstentions? The ayes have it.

Res 0405, sponsored by Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito. Anyone wishing to speak on this resolution? Seeing none. It's a resolution calling upon Congress to pass and the President to sign H.R. 1217 and S. 568 to establish the Smithsonian American Latino Museum and designate the Arts and Industries building as its future location in Washington, D.C. All of those in favor, say aye.

[collective aye]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All those opposed. Any abstentions? The ayes have it. And finally, Res 0429, sponsored by Council Members Gibson and Cumbo and Council Member Gibson to speak on that resolution.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you very much, Madame Public Advocate. I wanna thank all of my colleagues for support of Res 0429 and recognizing October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the City of New York. Throughout the entire month many

1
2 of us have been a part of so many different efforts
3 to raise the level of awareness and education around
4 domestic violence; we focused on public housing, we
5 focused on [background comment] sexual assault,
6 [background comment] campus violence; we have really
7 done a lot to try to bring light to this issue that
8 remains in the darkness; [background comments] the
9 fact that so many families and children are impacted
10 by domestic violence each and every day. I wanna
11 thank the Mayor and his commission to combat domestic
12 violence, Commissioner Rose Pierre Louis for her
13 leadership; I wanna thank you, Madame Public Advocate
14 for all you've done; I wanna thank our Speaker,
15 Melissa Mark-Viverito for her leadership, as well as
16 our Women's [background comments] Issues Chair,
17 Council Member... [crosstalk]

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
19 chambers.

20 [background comments]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Laurie Cumbo, who
22 really led the charge in making sure that all of us
23 as a family recognize that in our communities we have
24 victims and families that live and struggle each and
25 every day. As we now near the end of October, I

1
2 wanna be firm in making sure that all New Yorkers
3 understand that every day we have an opportunity to
4 do more to advance services, programs and provide
5 critical resources for families in need across this
6 city. I wanna thank our advocacy groups who do all
7 this work each and every day and I most importantly
8 wanna recognize the incredibly strong survivors that
9 have now taken their pain and moved it into a purpose
10 of action of making sure that we can bring many of
11 our families out and provide them with the critical
12 public service that they truly need. And also I
13 wanna thank my distinguished colleague, Council
14 Member Cumbo, for introducing this resolution with me
15 as well. Thank you.

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

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I wanna first
19 begin by thanking all of my colleagues here today for
20 your support with "Go Purple Day," it was really very
21 inspiring to see all of you participating to bring
22 greater awareness about domestic violence as it
23 pertains to all of our districts and all of our
24 families and communities and to have this entire body
25 come together so publicly really meant a great deal

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2 to me and it really meant a great deal to all New
3 Yorkers to see us bringing greater visibility around
4 an issue that impacts all of us so much.

5 I thank you all for your support of
6 Res 0429, particularly because I want to acknowledge
7 that in 2013 there were 66 family-related homicides
8 in New York City, 16 victims were killed in The
9 Bronx, 26 victims were killed in Brooklyn, 5 victims
10 were killed in Manhattan, 13 victims were killed in
11 Queens and 2 victims were killed in Staten Island and
12 74 percent of these cases had no known prior police
13 contact and 86 percent of these cases had no current
14 order of protection. And that's why it's so
15 important for us to bring greater visibility around
16 this particular month, because there are so many
17 [bell] people that are sitting in silence. So I
18 thank all of you for your support; I look forward to
19 working with each and every one of you. Thank you
20 again.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Any
22 other members wishing to speak on Res 0429? Res 0429
23 recognizes October as Domestic Violence Awareness
24 Month in the City of New York. All of those in
25 favor, say aye.

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2 [collective aye]

3 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All of those
4 opposed. Any abstentions? The ayes have it.
5 General Discussion. Council Member Treyger.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you,
7 Madame Public Advocate. Next Wednesday marks two
8 years since the largest natural disaster in New York
9 City history hit our shores and devastated coastal
10 neighborhoods across Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island,
11 Lower Manhattan and The Bronx. As we approach that
12 milestone I wanted to give you a sense of where we
13 are with the recovery process and how we reached this
14 point and to convey the critical and urgent need that
15 still exists in neighborhoods across the City. The
16 damage caused by Sandy was truly devastating -- 43
17 lives lost, 80-mile-per-hour winds at landfall and
18 estimated \$19 billion in losses for the City, the
19 loss of 3 million cubic yards of sand, 70,000 NYCHA
20 units damaged or destroyed, the loss of power in
21 countless homes and buildings, 2 million New Yorkers
22 without water, 6 hospitals forced to close; forcing
23 the evacuation of over 2,000 patients, the closure of
24 26 nursing homes; impacting 4,500 residents, and
25 damage to over 400 parks. In the weeks and months

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2 after the City received over 20,000 applications to
3 Build It Back and learned that over 23,000 businesses
4 had been inundated by the storm. No matter how you
5 measure it, the impact was widespread and devastating
6 and requires an unprecedented response from all
7 levels of government. We all know that the pace of
8 this recovery has been far from acceptable and has
9 left thousands of residents and families in limbo,
10 unable to return home, unable to ensure their
11 financial security or reopen their business until
12 government finally provides the assistance they need.
13 It is clear that the current administration inherited
14 a process that was fundamentally flawed and had
15 failed in its mission to help New Yorkers recover.
16 Along the way, my committee, with the support of the
17 Speaker and the entire Council, has done incredible
18 work to expose inexcusable problems and red tape that
19 has been delaying this recovery. Our first hearing
20 was a historic hearing with Council Member Ritchie
21 Torres' Committee on Public Housing, which we held
22 not at City Hall, but for the first time ever in a
23 public housing complex in Coney Island's Carey
24 Gardens Community Center. At the hearing there was a
25 resident who exposed the fact [bell] that NYCHA had

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rented faulty temporary boilers that were not designed for cold weather... [interpose]

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

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: a week later we learned that FEMA had found over \$1 billion to rebuild the impacted NYCHA buildings and make them more resilient. At our Build It Back hearing... I'll close this paragraph, Public Advocate. At our Build It Back hearing, with Chairs Richards and Williams, we found that almost nobody had received actual assistance and there was no localized recovery effort. That is now changing with increased visibility, improved communication and measurable benchmarks. As a result of information revealed during our hearing on Small Business Recovery with Chair Cornegy, the Administration made the correct decision to de-couple loans and grants, as these small businesses need help and not more debt.

In closing, I have been asked whether we could finally see light at the end of the tunnel; my response is no, but we have finally found this tunnel. This recovery will not be judged by the

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2 number of announcements and presentations, it will be
3 judged... [interpose]

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member,
5 please bring your comments to a close.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: on the number of
7 people helped and assisted. This anniversary I will
8 be rolling up my sleeves with Habitat for Humanity to
9 help rebuild a house on Coney Island and I urge all
10 my colleagues to commit to a day of service helping
11 New Yorkers who are still in need two years after the
12 storm.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
14 Council Member Eugene.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you very
16 much, Madame Public Advocate and thank you, Madame
17 Speaker. My colleagues, I rise to express my
18 gratitude to the Homeland Security and also to the
19 President of the United States of America and to all
20 of you, my colleagues from this good body. You know,
21 United States is a great country and when you are
22 living in the United States you have the opportunity
23 to bring your family members for family unification.
24 But Haitian, when they had to bring their family
25 members over to the United States, they had to wait

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2 for 5, 10 or 15 years and some of the time their
3 family members died and they didn't see the promised
4 land. But in 2012 I sponsored a resolution that was
5 voted overwhelmingly by the City Council, because of
6 your support and since that time I've been working
7 very hard with my colleagues from the city, state and
8 federal government across the nation and Haitian
9 leaders to urge the federal government to act. Last
10 week the federal government, Homeland Security,
11 accept to grant to Haitian people to come to the
12 United States and to expedite the process. Now
13 family members -- brothers, sisters, wife; husband --
14 they will be able to come to the United States to
15 wait for the green card. Just imagine the suffering;
16 the pain of brothers, sisters, wife; children waiting
17 to unite with the family members, and let me tell
18 you, after the horrific earthquake that devastated
19 part of Haiti, the pain and their suffering became
20 worse, but thanks to your support and also to the
21 Homeland Security, now the Haitian people will have
22 the opportunity to come to the United States to wait
23 for their green card. On behalf of the Haitian
24 community and Haitian people, from the bottom of my
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1
2 heart, to all of you, my colleagues, thank you very
3 much.

4 And I want to... today I'm introducing also
5 two bills... [interpose]

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member,
7 your time has come to... [bell]

8 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Yes...

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: a close...
10 [crosstalk]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: two bills before
12 the Council; the first, a Local Law to streamline
13 information on federal, state and local candidates
14 into a singular guide and for the guide to be online.
15 And the second one... [interpose]

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member,
17 please bring your comments to a close; the time has
18 expired. [crosstalk]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Yes, I'm closing
20 now. The second one seeks to reserve parking for
21 senior citizens in front of the senior centers.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you very
24 much; I'm asking you for your support. Thank you.
25 [crosstalk]

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

4 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you,
5 Madame Public Advocate. First I'd like to bring my
6 colleagues' attention to two bills -- Int 0526 --
7 [background comment] the bill will require multiple
8 dwelling owners to provide notice to their tenants
9 prior to making building amenities unavailable,
10 whether it is temporary or permanent. The second is
11 Res 0454, which I'm joined with Council Members
12 Cumbo, Gibson and Barron, it's a resolution calling
13 upon the United States Congress to pass and the
14 President to sign H.R.5277/S.2695, also known as the
15 Survivor Outreach and Support Campus Act, which
16 amends the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require
17 institutions of higher education to have an
18 independent advocate for campus sexual assault
19 prevention and response. I'm proud to introduce this
20 resolution during Domestic Violence Awareness Month,
21 as it will require every college campus that receives
22 federal money to hire sexual assault counselors on
23 their campus.

24 Lastly, I wanted to make mention of
25 something that's been troubling; there's a lot of

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2 attention that's been given to the Ebola crisis,
3 apparently in the United States of America and from
4 my understanding there has been one confirmed death
5 and two people who contracted it who were actually
6 attending to that person; most of the crisis I
7 believe is in the countries in Africa, which we
8 should hopefully, as a country, not neglect anymore
9 and provide as much service and resources that are
10 needed to stem it there. In this country, however, I
11 believe that the real crisis of gun violence is
12 something that I'm hoping we will pay more attention
13 to; I know we've appointed... our federal government
14 has appointed an Ebola czar to deal with the Ebola
15 issues in the United States; there has been a little
16 over 9,000 people shot and killed this year; whatever
17 day people are listening; hear me speaking, about 32
18 people will get shot and killed; tens of thousands of
19 people have been shot and killed since Newtown. My
20 hope is that governments will take the real crisis of
21 gun violence as seriously as they're taking the Ebola
22 scare. I wanna thank the Speaker and the Mayor and
23 what we're doing in this city and hopefully others
24 will follow, [bell] but much more needs to be done.
25 Thank you.

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
3 Johnson.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you,
5 Madame Public Advocate. I rise today to speak during
6 gay and lesbian, LGBT History Month, which October
7 is; I wanna speak about someone who lived in my
8 district and was a very famous New Yorker and
9 American -- Bayard Rustin was remembered as the
10 organizer of the 1963 March on Washington, one of the
11 largest, non-violent protests ever held in the United
12 States. He brought [background comment] Gandhi's
13 protest techniques to the American civil rights
14 movement and helped mold MLK, Jr. in an international
15 symbol of peace and non-violence. Bayard Rustin's
16 biography will be as particularly important for
17 lesbian and gay Americans, highlighting the major
18 contributions of a gay man to ending official
19 segregation in America. Rustin stands at the
20 confluence of great struggles for civil, legal and
21 human rights by African-Americans and lesbian and gay
22 Americans. He officially began his life-long career
23 as a social and political activist in 1937, which is
24 when he moved to New York City. In 1941, it was a
25 turning point; it was the year that he began to work

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2 with A. Philip Randolph, his mentor. The following
3 year he was dispatched to California to help protect
4 the property of Japanese Americans imprisoned in the
5 internment camps. In 1947 he helped plan the first
6 Freedom Rides in the south to help challenge Jim Crow
7 practices. In 1956 he began working with Dr. Martin
8 Luther King, Jr. in the early days of the Montgomery
9 bus boycott. However, as a gay man, who was
10 relatively open about his sexual orientation for the
11 time, Rustin experienced much anti-gay prejudice in
12 addition to racial discrimination. Because he was
13 gay as well as having controversial political
14 positions, Rustin was often relegated to the behind-
15 the-scenes role in various campaigns. We commemorate
16 him today as an incredible activist; I am proud to
17 say that the Bayard Rustin High School is in my
18 district, on West 18th Street; [bell] lived at Penn
19 South in Chelsea and his late partner and husband,
20 Walter Naegle, still lives there today; Bayard Rustin
21 was a great American and I am so proud that he lived
22 in my district and we should honor him during LGBT
23 History Month. Thank you, Madame Public Advocate.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

25 Council Member King.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Good afternoon. I
3 rise today, my colleagues and thank you, Madame
4 Public Advocate, to ask you all in support of myself
5 and Council Member Koo's resolution that's designed
6 to help students in the public school system have a
7 better chance at learning. Over the past year I've
8 been having meetings with principals, students,
9 family members; parents, talking about the number one
10 distractions that they're incurring the schools and
11 that's apparel. So we are requesting that the State,
12 with the resolution that we're submitting today,
13 0451, we're asking you to support urging the State to
14 mandate uniform wear in the public school system.
15 Why we are asking for this? Because we wanna make
16 sure it's a safe environment for our students,
17 students who incur bullying because they're not
18 wearing the latest fashions, students who are not
19 part of certain cliques just because they can't
20 afford the right Jordans; all the issues that come
21 with not being able to afford the latest apparel;
22 parents are stressing out trying to buy their
23 children uniforms. We've had a number of
24 conversations with advocates and parents understand
25 the cost savings that they have with buying maybe

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2 three uniforms for a year as opposed to trying to
3 find outfits throughout the whole year. So I'm
4 asking us all to figure out how we can help our
5 students relieve the number one distraction that
6 they're incurring, from the young men talking about
7 it's a distraction watching young ladies with tight
8 clothing, and it's hard to tell a 14-year-old who's
9 going through puberty and all the issues that your
10 body goes through, these changes, that they're
11 supposed to ignore these challenges, as well as the
12 young sisters talking about how disrespectful of
13 young men walking with their pants down and all some
14 of the free sexual behaviors that happen in
15 stairwells in schools that are not being discussed
16 today. So I'm asking us all to help our students to
17 find a way that we can relieve this number one
18 distraction that's happening; that's not being talked
19 about and urging the State to make sure that we're
20 able to get uniform use in schools. Thank you.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
22 Council Member Kallos.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I rise on Int
24 0508 with co-sponsorship of the Progressive Caucus
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that will allow New Yorkers to register to vote...
[interpose]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
Kallos; is your microphone on?

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: My mic's on. I
rise on Int... are we... I rise on Int 0508 with co-
sponsorship of the Progressive Caucus that will allow
New Yorkers to vote online. In this day and age we
are use to filling out forms online, clicking a mouse
or swiping right and getting instant confirmation.
Voter registration should be as simple as a click
away or a swipe away. This is the way of the future,
24 states have online registration in some form; many
of them entirely paperless and it's a secure process.
I hope to build on Governor Cuomo's 2012 Reform to
allow DMV users to register online in New York State.
Thank you to the Progressive Caucus for its support,
Co-Chairs Reynoso and Richards, as well as members
Dromm, Levin, Levine, Menchaca, Rodriguez, Rose, and
Rosenthal.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you, Madame
Public Advocate. Today I am introducing Int 0509

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about tree planting. This bill will require the City to notify the owners of one-, two- or three-family homes at least 30 days in advance notice that they will be planting a tree on the sidewalk abutting their properties. Currently the City is only required to notify schools and hospitals. This bill extends coverage to homeowners. The City can notify the homeowners either by fax, regular mail, email or by carrier. This is common sense legislation. If the homeowner is responsible for maintaining of their sidewalks, the least the City can do is to notify them when they intend to plant a tree next to their homes. Thank you very much.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And now members of the LGBT Caucus, Council Members Dromm, Rose... Council Member [background comments, laughter] Dromm, Council Member Mendez and Council Member Menchaca and honorary member... [background comment] and honorary member, Council Member Rose will speak later.

[laughter]

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: We'll take all honorary members, Madame Public Advocate.

[laughter]

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council... quiet in
3 the chambers... Council Member Dromm. [laugh]

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you, Madame
5 Public Advocate. I also wanna rise in support of the
6 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender History Month,
7 which October is. I wanna mention Billy Jean King,
8 who is an American, former world number one tennis
9 player. Her position as a feminist and member of the
10 LGBT community is legendary. King's activism centers
11 on supporting not just other athletes who wanna come
12 out of the closet, but anyone who wants to live an
13 open life. At the age of 70, she still serves as a
14 leading figure in women's sports and was selected by
15 President Obama to travel to Sochi for the 2014
16 Winter Olympics as part of the official U.S.
17 delegation. King currently shares her life with her
18 partner, Ilana Kloss, another former tennis pro.
19 Though King has been inducted into the International
20 Tennis and the National Women's Halls of Fame, she
21 has received the Presidential Medal of Freedom and
22 had a tennis stadium in Queens renamed in her honor;
23 many New York City students have no idea of her many
24 accomplishments or most importantly to me, that she
25 identifies as a proud lesbian. King has broken

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barriers for women and LGBT people across the globe.
This is an important part of the greater human rights
movement and needs to be taught in our public
schools. Billy Jean King is a fabulous lesbian.
Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
[laughter] Thank you. Thank you. Council Member
Rose, you don't have your papers yet, so I'll exclude
you from [laughter] the member... so again, continuing
with the LGBT Caucus, Council Members Mendez, Torres
and Menchaca.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you, Madame
Public Advocate and I've been trying to convert
Council Member Rose for the longest, so this is
[laughter] good news and we need an out member in
Staten Island, so it's about time, so we could have
one in every borough.

So October is LGBT History Month and
today I would like honor and recognize Sylvia Rivera.
Sylvia Rivera was a Puerto Rican and Venezuelan
transgender activist; she was present at the
Stonewall Riots of 1969; she was also very active in
the civil rights movement; she was a member of the
Young Lords Party and also very active and worked

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2 with the Black Panther Party. She started an
3 organization called STAR, Street Transgender Action
4 Revolutionaries, when in 1986 we passed the Gay Civil
5 Rights Bill in this City Council and she was dismayed
6 at the exclusion of transgender and then created this
7 group. She also worked in my district on East 2nd
8 Street, where she had a building for homeless drag
9 queens and homeless transgender women. She passed
10 away in February of 2002 and for two years I worked
11 with her, when I was a staffer on the Transgender
12 Civil Rights Bill; unfortunately she didn't get to
13 see that law become a reality; she passed away in
14 February and this City Council passed that law in
15 April. In her memory and in all the work that she
16 did as a Latina and as a transgender activist, I
17 honor her today. Thank you very much.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Thank you, Madame
19 Public Advocate, you originally forgot to mention me,
20 so I thought I had been replaced by Council Member
21 Rose, but... [laughter] and that would actually have
22 been a good addition to... But I'm gonna speak in honor
23 of Audre Lorde, who was a feminist, a lesbian, poet,
24 essayist, mother, daughter of immigrants, and a self-
25 proclaimed warrior. Born in New York City in 1934 of

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2 West Indian immigrant parents, Audre came to poetry
3 in her early teens, publishing her first poem in 17
4 Magazine when she was still in high school. Over the
5 course of her life, Audre published poetry
6 anthologies, collections of essays and an
7 autobiography. Her writing blended art and activism,
8 beautifully addressing these themes ranging from
9 lesbian relationships and love to racism and
10 homophobia. Audre was the recipient of numerous
11 awards. In 1991 she was honored as New York's Poet
12 Laureate in 1991; a year later she died of liver
13 cancer, but her legacy lives on in many corners of
14 New York City, from the Audre Lorde Project and the
15 Callen-Lorde Community Health Center to the hearts
16 and minds of innumerable artists and activists.
17 Audre once famously said there was no such thing as a
18 single-issue struggle because we do not live single-
19 issue lives. Those words ring true for many of us
20 here in the New York City Council as we increasingly
21 see the intersectionality of our work. LGBTQ rights
22 depend on access to quality, affordable housing,
23 housing depends on good employment, employment
24 depends on quality education and quality education
25 requires safety and security for LGBTQ youth. All of

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these issues we fight for are interconnected;
understanding and embracing the interconnectedness of
our work as we strive for a fairer, better New York
City; that, ladies and gentlemen is the legacy of
Audre Lorde. [background comments] And a shout-out
to Council Member Rose. Yeah. Yeah. [laughter]
Yeah.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
Menchaca.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you,
Public Advocate. In honor of the LGBT History Month,
I want to highlight Patria Jimenez. She's Mexico's
first openly gay member of congress, elected in 1998
at the age of 41. She met many colleagues at that
time at the City Council, like Margarita Lopez and
company in Puerto Rico and she comes in with a very
kinda similar history to mine; the 9th of 10 children
in a conservative catholic family, Jimenez overcame
her own family's prejudices to confront the bigotry
of society at large. She works on issues of
homophobic violence, violations of basic rights,
sexual and sexuality education, cultural activism and
awareness of AIDS and HIV and other sexually
transmitted diseases. In addition, she is a leader

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2 on domestic violence initiatives and is a supporter
3 of peace negotiations with the Zapatista rebels in
4 Chiapas. As a member of the national legislature,
5 Jimenez works on behalf of sexual minorities and for
6 the dispossessed and the voiceless throughout Mexico.
7 Jimenez has been a relentless advocate for justice,
8 pressuring police to reopen investigations on the
9 deaths of thousands of openly gay and trans people;
10 these are the same things we're facing here today in
11 New York City. In 1992 she was quoted out of an
12 organization that she started, El Closet de Sor Juana
13 (the Closet of Sister Juana) -- "We always took the
14 opportunity," she says, "to forthrightly declare that
15 we were lesbians, protesting this and that, because I
16 believe it is very important to get involved within
17 social movements as lesbians, homosexuals and
18 bisexuals and to work within them, like the
19 indigenous movement in Mexico, for example; that gave
20 us presence and made us and them realize that one is
21 not alone."

22 So for her bravery in the fact of
23 injustice and for furthering the cause of the LGBT
24 Mexicans and really having an impact around the
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1
2 world, I honor her and pay tribute. Thank you so
3 much.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. I
5 wanna thank the members of the LGBT Caucus for that
6 history lesson. And now, back to General Discussion.
7 Council Member Chin. Council Member Vallone.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you,
9 Madame Advocate. I just wanted to let our fellow
10 members know what a great morning we had; Speaker
11 Melissa Mark-Viverito and Council Member Margaret
12 Chin chaired a conference with AARP, talking about
13 the status of seniors in our city and Melissa
14 unveiled some wonderful ideas with age-friendly New
15 York and she commanded a room of professionals that
16 were all there for ideas and Margaret was on the
17 panel and it was great to be there and could say the
18 City Council was ruling the day today, talking about
19 seniors and what our role will be going forward and
20 as Chair of the Senior Centers, I was very proud to
21 be there with both of them. Thank you.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
23 Cabrera.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you so
25 much, Madame Public Advocate. Today I'm introducing

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2 a resolution urging the Congress of the United States
3 to adopt House Resolution 85, the Dominican-American
4 Heritage Resolution. This resolution would honor the
5 contributions the Dominican-American community has
6 made to the United States. When adopted, [background
7 comments] this resolution will establish a national
8 month of recognition beginning January 21st, the Day
9 of the Procession of Altagracia through February 27,
10 the Dominican-American Independence Day. As the son
11 of a Dominican father, I take some personal pride and
12 satisfaction in numerous accomplishments of the
13 Dominican community, from heroes in the field of
14 sports to heroes of the field of battle, Dominican-
15 Americans have established a distinguished record of
16 service to American life. I think it is also
17 important to note that Dominican-Americans represent
18 the fastest growing Hispanic population in America,
19 are the second largest Hispanic population in New
20 York and the largest in Manhattan, though they found
21 the promised land in The Bronx.

22 So today we also pause to reflect on the
23 life and contribution of one of our great Dominican
24 heroes, Oscar de la Renta; I urge my colleagues to
25 adopt this resolution. Thank you very much.

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

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I just wanted
5 to bring to my colleagues attention Int 0518, which
6 is sponsored by myself and Council Member Jumaane
7 Williams; it's a bill that will make it unlawful for
8 a used car dealer to sell a vehicle that has been
9 recalled without making the necessary repairs. This
10 bill is simply about establishing better business
11 practices throughout the industry and about
12 protecting consumers. When a consumer goes to a
13 licensed dealership to purchase a vehicle, it is fair
14 to have an expectation that what is being sold is in
15 safe and working condition; therefore, it is
16 appropriate to hold a licensed dealer responsible for
17 selling inventory that has been recalled by the
18 manufacturer; it is unfair to sell the vehicle to and
19 ultimately pass the costs and liabilities of a
20 malfunctioning automobile to the consumer. In order
21 to deter this type of bad behavior we are proposing
22 an increase in the penalties for such infractions and
23 for those who chronically break the law, we propose a
24 revocation of their operating license. This bill
25 demonstrates our commitment to protecting consumers

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2 and it brings accountability to the industry. No one
3 is hurt if they are doing the right thing. Thank
4 you.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
6 Espinal.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Thank you,
8 Madame Public Advocate. I wanna rewind the clock and
9 talk about some intros we passed earlier today; I'm
10 so compelled to speak on them; I missed an
11 opportunity. As the son of Dominican immigrants who
12 came to this country to seek a better life for
13 themselves, I am very proud to have voted in favor of
14 Intros Nos. 0486 and 0487, the ICE detaining
15 legislation. With the passage of these two pieces of
16 legislation today, the we in this body are taking the
17 lead on what I believe is a national human rights
18 issue. For many years I have witnessed ICE set up
19 shops in our city jails to prey on some of our most
20 vulnerable immigrant inmates who have served their
21 time and expedite them into federal detention
22 centers. These immigrants are then separated from
23 their families and oftentimes transported to states
24 like Texas and Louisiana without due process of the
25 law. It is my hope that this legislation will serve

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2 as a model of other municipalities throughout the
3 country that are also struggling to keep ICE from
4 targeting its most vulnerable residents. I would
5 like to strongly commend our Speaker, Melissa Mark-
6 Viverito, for pushing forth and prioritizing this
7 bold and groundbreaking legislation and giving a
8 voice to those that need it most. Thank you.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. And
10 now the honorary member of the LGBT Caucus, Council
11 Member Rose.

12 [laughter]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: This is gonna be a
14 surprise to my family; I'm [laughter] outed at City
15 Hall. [laughter] [background comments] I don't
16 know, my family... my boo is not gonna be happy, Rosie.
17 [background comment]

18 I wanna first say that the women in the
19 City Council are awesome and I guess that really...
20 [cheers, background comments, applause] especially my
21 LGBT women. [laughter] And I would really like to
22 thank the Speaker, Council Member Cumbo, the Women's
23 Caucus and the Women's Committee for shining a light
24 on the scourge of domestic violence and the health
25 issues that women face facing breast cancer. I think

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2 that the efforts put forth by the women in City
3 Council have been phenomenal this month and I hope
4 that it not only has an impact but it will be an
5 ongoing effort.

6 And so today I also speak in support of
7 Int 0507; I'm excited to introduce this legislation
8 with Council Member Kallos to expand the waterfront
9 advisory board, giving access to our city waterfronts
10 is a valued but underused resource for the City and
11 at our Waterfront Committee yesterday we learned that
12 there are only five dockmasters to oversee our vast
13 waterfront. So with the expansion of the waterfront
14 management advisory board we will be able to better
15 oversee development on our waterfronts, protect our
16 waterfront, improve the overall upkeep and ultimately
17 enhance and increase access to our beautiful
18 waterfronts, which are the jewels and the crown of
19 New York City. So please support better management
20 of and greater access to our waterfronts by signing
21 on in support of Int 0507. Thank you so much.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
23 Council Member Mealy.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Yes, I just would
25 like to rise to let all my colleagues know that we

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lost a phenomenal woman of god this week under Archbishop Roy E. Brown of Pilgrim Assembly and under the dudamous [sp?] district, my Bishop is Robert Rochford and he just lost his wife on Sunday, Lois L. Rochford, a strong, phenomenal woman who did many things in the community and our community in Brownsville and East New York, we will miss her and I just hope that everyone knows that just losing her we have lost a warrior in our community, with things that she had done with having our young people get singing groups, to make sure they go to the hospital, to make sure that they do different things, volunteer; to know that you have to get on a community board and she had all her parishioners on all the community boards in which neighborhoods they lived in. So I know we have lost someone that we will truly, truly never forget and you will be hearing from our church about... I could say about 40,000 members in the Pilgrim Assembly, so please pray for the family and our church. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. And I'd like to ask my colleagues to join me and Council Members Gibson, Barron and Cumbo and sign onto Int No. 0517, a bill that would devote information and

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2 city services to address college sexual assault; this
3 bill is part of a larger policy and legislative
4 proposal that my office has been working on for
5 several months; the goal of our efforts is to
6 guarantee that students attending any college or
7 university in New York City can be assured of the
8 most basic and necessary services to combat and
9 respond to college sexual assaults; the bill is one
10 step in helping to provide the tools to colleges and
11 universities to achieve that and I look forward to
12 the oversight hearing on this issue on October 27th.
13 I wanna thank the Speaker and my colleagues, Council
14 Members Gibson, Barron, Cumbo and Mealy for working
15 with me on this office [sic]. And now Council Member
16 Mendez.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you, Madame
18 Public Advocate. I just wanna rise today and speak
19 about one of my predecessors, Marion Friedlander; she
20 served on the City Council for 18 years, from 1973 to
21 1991; she lost her seat after redistricting; she was
22 an incredible voice for the LGBT community and this
23 weekend we co-named a street after her and she
24 created, had the Woman's Committee created here in
25 the City Council and she got the word "councilman" to

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be called council member, so even if you were a woman you were still called a councilman. So during this month, the LGBT History Month and for Domestic Violence Month, for everything that she did for women, for tenants and for the LGBT community, I just wanna give her a shout-out. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. And now the Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito to close.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: So I wanna thank the LGBT Caucus for reminding us that October is LGBT Awareness Month and we've heard some great recognition of some of those that are LGBT members in our community and the contributions. I also am reminded, unfortunately, of the continued struggle that we must engage in. Unfortunately, although we see some great advancements across different states in this country for the advancement of marriage equality and for equal justice for all, we unfortunately have seen a setback, temporary setback, in Puerto Rico, where unfortunately some of our judges are not as enlightened and we have a Puerto Rico federal court judge just yesterday that dismissed a same-sex marriage lawsuit on the island. His name is U.S. District Court Judge Juan Perez-

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2 Gimenez, who had this lovely quote in his decision.

3 "Ultimately the very survival of the political order
4 depends upon the procreative potential embodied in
5 traditional marriage." Those are his words. It's
6 very embarrassing, to be honest, as a Puerto Rican,
7 to hear that kind of language spewed by a judge to
8 deny equal rights to couples on the island. So that
9 is a temporary setback; it is a reminder, during this
10 month in particular that the fight for justice
11 continues; there will be an appeal, obviously to that
12 case; it will be taken to Boston to be heard and
13 hopefully we will prevail.

14 So thank you all for the work that you
15 do, to the LGBT Caucus for reminding of us of the
16 accomplishments of many that have contributed to our
17 city and to our nation and with that, thank you all;
18 have a great afternoon, colleagues and it is just
19 about 3:40.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: The Black, Latino
21 and Asian Caucus is meeting after Stated in the Red
22 Room and we are now adjourned.

23 [gavel]

24 [background comments]

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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 October 24, 2014