

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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February 24, 2016
Start: 1:25 p.m.
Recess: 2:44 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: LETITIA JAMES
Public Advocate

MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO
Speaker for the Council

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Inez D. Barron
Joe Borelli
Fernando Cabrera
Margaret S. Chin
Andrew Cohn
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-Copeland
Daniel R. Garodnick
Vincent J. Gentile

Vanessa L. Gibson
David G. Greenfield
Barry Grodenchik
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)

Monsignor Kevin Sullivan, Executive Director
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York

2 [background noise, sound check, pause]

3 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Ladies and gentlemen,
4 can you please find a seat. We are about to begin
5 pre-ceremonials. Once again, please find your seats.
6 Please silence all electronic devices. Thank you.

7 [pause, background noise and comments]

8 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: All
9 right, we're going to get started. So, Reynoso,
10 first.

11 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet please, quiet
12 place.

13 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: All
14 right, we have two ceremonials today. We have an
15 exciting one. Well, they're both exciting, but we
16 got this first. Antonio Reynoso, Council Member
17 Reynoso is giving a proclamation, and we're doing a
18 ceremonial here in the Chambers for the Grand Street
19 Campus Wolves Football Team --[cheers/applause]--who
20 won the PSAL City Championship. [cheers/applause]
21 When was that?

22 MALE SPEAKER: I don't know.

23 MALE SPEAKER: December 6th.

24

25

2 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: Oh, okay,
3 so it was December 6th. Oh, no, Daneek has just
4 become an honorary Wolf.

5 MALE SPEAKER: He did his team for that
6 one.

7 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: Oh, he
8 did. Oh, there we go. Okay, nice rivalry. Oh, hold
9 on. No, I've got to hold this. He doesn't need--

10 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: [off mic] Give
11 me something to hold on, and don't attack it.

12 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: That's
13 very-- [pause] All right, so we have--we do have a
14 proclamation to read. Again, we really want to
15 congratulate the team and thank you, Council Member
16 Reynoso for bringing them here--

17 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: [interposing]
18 Whoo.

19 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: --to the
20 Chambers so we can properly recognize them. You make
21 us proud in the city. I know you feel proud. This
22 is a beautiful trophy, and I'm sure it's--it's nice
23 to be able to--to rub it in--

24 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: [interposing]
25 Yeah, it is.

2 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: --our
3 colleagues. [gavel]

4 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: [interposing]
5 Yeah, it is.

6 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: --you
7 know.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Yes, yes.

9 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: No, but
10 I'll--I'll hand it over to Antonio to say a few
11 words, and then we'll have the clerk read the proc.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Okay. Thank you
13 guys for being here. Grand Street Wolves, where you
14 at?

15 GRAND STREET WOLVES: [applause/cheers]
16 We're here.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I just want to
18 really thank a couple of people two harassments, high
19 graduates that have lost in the championship
20 [laughter] and yes, that's why they're wearing the
21 jerseys. It was part of the deal that they would
22 have to wear the Grand Street Wolves Jersey for
23 losing. But I just really want to give a shout out
24 to these young men here that we have in front of us
25 that are really the future, and--and bright stars on

2 Grand Street Campus with the work that they did, the
3 discipline and the hard work, and we can obviously
4 see the culmination of that. Coach Eugene, my
5 brother, I just want to say the first African-
6 American coach to win a championship in the City of
7 New York. [applause/cheers] I also want to say that
8 it's a first all Black coaching staff to win the
9 championship as well [applause/cheers]. It all
10 happened in one shot [applause/cheers]. So--so
11 because--we're going to keep this short because there
12 are going to be many times the Grand Street Campus
13 Wolves are going to come out here because this won't
14 be the last time they're champions. So one more
15 time. We really want to give it up to them [off mic]
16 allow for the Speaker to say something.

17 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: Yeah, I'm
18 just going to say one thing. Obviously, we--we
19 congratulate you. Physical discipline is critically
20 important, but we all know mental discipline is as
21 well. So keep your academics up. Keep going to
22 school. You are our future and we need you to be
23 exercising that as well. So with that, we'll ask the
24 proc--the clerk to read the proclamation.

2 CLERK: Council City of New York

3 Proclamation:

4 Whereas, the Council of the City of New
5 York is proud to honor the members of the Grand
6 Street Campus Wolves Football Team for their
7 relentless pursuit of excellence, which led them to
8 their victory at the New York City PSAL Football
9 Championship on December 6, 2015; and

10 Whereas, the Grand Street Campus Wolves
11 Football Team concluded a stellar season. It was the
12 first division title for the Wolves who finished the
13 lead with an undefeated record for 13 games. Each of
14 the players trained tirelessly to be very best both
15 individually and as a team; and

16 Whereas, under the leadership of Head
17 Coach Eugene Bruce and Assistant Coach Christopher
18 Legree, the Grand Street Campus Wolves trained
19 tirelessly to ensure the title; and

20 Whereas, the Wolves' victory marks Grand
21 Street Campus High School's first football title
22 after coming close last year during the playoffs; and

23 Whereas, in addition to the health
24 benefits of physical exercise football helps build
25 character, develop self-confidence, and teach

2 students responsibility, commitment and teamwork.

3 With this strong foundation, the Wolves are prepared
4 to pursue success in all area in the years ahead.

5 Now, therefore, be it known that the
6 Council of the City of New York honors and
7 congratulates the Grand Street Campus Wolves Football
8 Team for their stellar teamwork and victory at the
9 2014 New York City PSAL Football Championship.
10 Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the Entire
11 Council, Antonio Reynoso, Council Member 34th
12 District, Brooklyn, Queens.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: All right,
14 congratulations. [applause/cheers] We want to give
15 the coach an opportunity to say a few words, and then
16 a player.

17 COACH BRUCE EUGENE: First of all, I'd
18 like to thank you guys for having us here today.
19 This is a special day for us. This is something
20 we've over the last few years have dreamed of doing.
21 You know, we watched previous teams do it, and this
22 year we came in with a different mindset, a different
23 work ethic and, you know, it shows in the end. Thank
24 you to Mr. Reynoso, the three principals of our

2 school also, and to everyone here. Thank you for
3 having us. [applause/cheers]

4 CANSY CELESTIN: My name is Cansy
5 Celestine, (sic) -Captain and I'm just amazed because
6 my first year here we weren't that good, and
7 [laughter] and the progression that happened before
8 my eyes, I'm just very thankful.

9 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic]
10 Thank you. [applause] Wow, Presde (sic). Thank you
11 all very much. [pause] [background comments] Is
12 Council Member--is Council Member Jumaane Williams
13 here? [off mic] Are--are your people here? [pause]
14 Okay, we're going to do the second ceremonial.
15 [background comments]

16 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [off mic] Sit down,
17 please.

18 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: Again, we
19 want to congratulate the Grand Street Campus Wolves.
20 All right, you're welcome. [applause] And now we've
21 got--all right, another--more young people that are
22 going to be recognized by Council Member Williams,
23 the Brooklyn Steel Pan Orchestra who won high honors
24 in an international competition in Trinidad.
25 [applause] So a lot of great success happening here

2 in New York City. So I'll hand it off to Council
3 Member Williams.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you very
5 much. I want to say congratulations to Brooklyn
6 Steel Pan Orchestra. What number? What did you all
7 place?

8 MALE SPEAKER: [off mic] Fourth.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: They placed
10 fourth internationally. [applause] And as
11 international competition every single year. How
12 many comp--how many competitors?

13 MALE SPEAKER: [off mic] 24.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: 24 competitors
15 nationally. They had to go through different levels.
16 I'm very proud of them. A steel pan is a--an
17 instrument of the Caribbean. My family I'm proud to
18 say are Grenadian. I know Mr. Skinner is going to
19 say it starts in Trinidad. It's all right, though.
20 It's something that unites all--all of the Caribbean.
21 So, I'm very proud of them for the work that they do.
22 A steel pan and learning a steel pan really keeps our
23 young people safe in the summertime. It gives them a
24 skill. You wouldn't believe how many young people at
25 night and on weekends are practicing for the Steel

2 Band Competition. So I just want to say
3 congratulations. I don't know who is going to speak
4 on behalf. Are you going to speak on that?

5 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic]
6 Well, do you want to do the proc first?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Oh, so we'll do
8 the proc and we'll do speaking.

9 CLERK: Council, City of New--[coughs]
10 Excuse me--Council City of New York Proclamation.

11 The Council of the City of New York is
12 proud to honor the members of Brooklyn Steel
13 Orchestra for their stellar teamwork and infectious
14 music that catapulted them to their very successful
15 international competition; and

16 Whereas, the Brooklyn Steel Orchestra was
17 formed in October 2013 by a group of friends and
18 family from different steel bands spread out across
19 Brooklyn. Today, this 62-member ensemble uses the
20 steel pan to bring awareness to the versatility of
21 the instrument allowing listeners to hear that it is
22 not only indigenous to Caribbean culture, but that it
23 can be utilized effectively in other musical--music
24 practices as well;

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Sit
3 down. Okay, sit down.

4 CLERK: There is much history, love,
5 passion, high performance, excellence and etiquette
6 involved with the steel pan, and this group strives
7 to promote and educate with all of those things and
8 more in mind; and

9 Whereas, the Brooklyn Steel Orchestra
10 combines elements from Soca, Funk, Hip Hop, and R&B
11 through the rhythms of the drums, iron and steel to a
12 magical effect. In doing so, they are not only
13 raising the standards and credibility of the steel
14 pan, the ensemble also uses the instrument as a
15 positive catalyst for education among young people;
16 and

17 Whereas, when the Brooklyn Steel
18 Orchestra began, the initial intent was to prepare
19 for a spot on America's Got Talent, but in the
20 process of preparation, everyone set their sights on
21 a much larger goal, the International Panorama, the
22 world's largest steel band competition; and

23 Whereas, on August 9, 2015, the Brooklyn
24 Steel Orchestra competed in the 2015 International
25 Panorama against 24 other bands representing nine

2 different countries. In the end, the orchestra
3 reaffirmed its reputation for excellence, and not
4 only scored higher than the groups in Japan, France,
5 Britain, Canada and elsewhere, but also beat all but
6 three bands from Trinidad and Tobago, and we're
7 thrilled with their hard earned fourth place finish;
8 and

9 Whereas, the International Competition
10 was successful on many levels, but no more so than in
11 cooperation, selflessness, resourcefulness, respect,
12 sacrifice, love and commitment demonstrated by every
13 member for the Brooklyn Steel Orchestra. They have
14 truly distinguished themselves through their
15 infectious music, and we wish everyone involved
16 continued success in the years ahead.

17 Now, therefore, be it known that the
18 Council of the City of New York is proud to honor the
19 Brooklyn Steel Orchestra for fostering greater
20 harmony in New York City and the world beyond.
21 Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the Entire
22 Council, Jumaane D. Williams, Council Member, 45th
23 District Brooklyn.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: That all came
25 from Brooklyn. All from Brooklyn. So we'll have--

2 the band leader say something, and then one of the
3 young people.

4 BAND LEADER: I have to give a vote of us
5 (sic) to the Speaker. Also, Mr. Jumaane Williams.
6 [coughs] There are a lot of bad things happening in
7 Brooklyn, and this is one of the good things. We got
8 a number of youths together for practice during the
9 summer months. So instead of rampaging through the
10 streets, they would practice with their instrument.
11 The only musical instrument invented in the 20th
12 Century. This is Brooklyn's Steel Orchestra, Manager
13 Mr. Travis Roberts, Mr. Cornell Simon is the Captain.
14 This is our Alisha (sic) and also we, all my members
15 present there today. The others because of the
16 inclement weather they couldn't make it in. Thank
17 you very much for the proclamation. Thanks for
18 having us. [applause/cheers] [background comments,
19 laughter]

20 MALE BAND MEMBER: All right. Good
21 afternoon, everyone. I'd just like to say it took a
22 lot of hard work to go down to the ICP to compete.
23 We came together as a group in a very short span of
24 time. We practiced hard. We worked hard. The odds
25 we really against us, but it took a lot of hard work,

2 a lot of dedication, a lot of late nights, a lot of
3 funding and sponsorship, but we pulled it off. We
4 went down there. We came forth, and we thank you
5 guys for this opportunity and having us here today.
6 Thank you. [applause]

7 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you very
8 much.

9 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic]
10 Thank you. [background comments, pause]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I think we want
12 to take quick pictures of you. [background comments,
13 pause]

14 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic]
15 Thank you.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Applaud. (sic)

17 MALE SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you.

19 Congrats. [background comments] My mother plays
20 steel pan, too.

21 [pause]

22 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Could I have your
23 attention, please. Can I please have your attention?
24 At this time, please place all electronic devices to
25 vibrate. All electronic devices--devices to vibrate.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

17

2 Will all non-Council employees, non-Council employees
3 please leave the main floor of the Chambers. Thank
4 you. [pause]

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Everyone take a
6 seat, please. Take a seat. [coughs] Quiet in the
7 Chambers.

8 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [off mic] Quiet,
9 please.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
11 Chambers, please. [coughs] [background comments,
12 pause] All rise for the Pledge of Allegiance. Quiet
13 in the Chambers.

14 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: All rise. Please keep
15 it down. (sic) [Please of Allegiance]. Please be
16 seated. Roll call. Quiet in the Chambers.

17 CLERK: Barron.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

19 CLERK: Borelli. Cabrera.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Madam Public
21 Advocate, I'd like to acknowledge that I have a
22 Council Member for the Day, Rachel Baez, and she will
23 be voting and marking me present for the day with
24 your permission.

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Welcome.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

18

2 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Hi.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: [off mic] Say
4 present.

5 RACHEL BAEZ: Present.

6 CLERK: Chin.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

8 CLERK: Cohen. Constantinides.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: [off mic]
10 Here.

11 CLERK: Cornegy. Crowley.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

13 CLERK: Cumbo. Deutsch. Dickens.
14 Dromm.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

16 CLERK: Espinal. Eugene. Ferreras-
17 Copeland.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: [off
19 mic] Here.

20 CLERK: Garodnick.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

22 CLERK: Gentile.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

24 CLERK: Gibson.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Present.

2 CLERK: Cohen.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.

4 CLERK: Greenfield. Grodenchik.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Here.

6 CLERK: Johnson. Kallos.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.

8 CLERK: King.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Present.

10 CLERK: Koo.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

12 CLERK: Koslowitz.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

14 CLERK: Lancman. Lander. Levin. Levine.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

16 CLERK: Maisel.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the

18 Chambers.

19 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet please. Keep it

20 down.

21 CLERK: Mealy. Menchaca.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.

23 CLERK: Mendez. Miller.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Present.

25 CLERK: Palma.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: [off mic] Here.

3 CLERK: Reynoso.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Present.

5 CLERK: Richards.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

7 CLERK: Rodriguez.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: [off mic]

9 Here.

10 CLERK: Rose. Rosenthal.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

12 CLERK: Torres. Treyger. Borelli.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Here.

14 CLERK: Lancman.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: [off mic] Here.

16 CLERK: Johnson.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: [off mic] Here.

18 CLERK: Ulrich.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: [off mic] Here.

20 CLERK: Vacca.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

22 CLERK: Vallone.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

24 CLERK: Williams.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [off mic] I'm
3 here.

4 CLERK: Thank you. Wills. Matteo. Van
5 Bramer.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

7 CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

8 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic]
9 Here.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. All
11 rise. Quiet in the Chambers. [coughs]

12 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: All rise.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All rise. Those
14 in the balcony, please rise and now we'll hear an
15 invocation delivered by Monsignor Kevin Sullivan, the
16 Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the
17 Archdiocese of New York. Quiet in the Chambers.

18 MONSIGNOR KEVIN SULLIVAN: For a moment
19 let's just bow our heads. Almighty and merciful God.
20 [speaking foreign languages] We call you in
21 different languages and by different names. We thank
22 you for that diversity, but also help us to never
23 forget that you are one, and your one spirit dwells
24 in each of us. Help us to live and act in a way that
25 recognizes in advance of the dignity that you are

2 present in and among us demands. In our busy and
3 hectic world, we thank, Almighty God for this brief
4 opportunity to pause and seek your consolation and
5 guidance. We ask you to turn our thoughts and
6 actions away from our own self interest toward the
7 common interest of this great city and its people.
8 Lord, our agenda is straightforward, easy to speak.
9 We need children well educated, neighborhoods safe,
10 families decently housed, newcomers from many
11 countries welcomed, seniors nutritiously fed, people
12 working at decent jobs with living wages, and you
13 with opportunities and hope. Lord, that agenda
14 simply spoken is difficult to achieve. So we ask
15 your strength to persevere, pursue it zealous--
16 zealously and steadfastly. Lord, we do know that our
17 differing perspectives are at times accompanied with
18 expressions of our passions that can impede our
19 progress towards the common--common good. And so,
20 Almighty God, I end this prayer by borrowing from a
21 church girl from Houston and now also at least a
22 part-time New Yorker. In her recent performance and
23 video Beyonce ended a sung piece of advice: Always
24 stay gracious. Sadly, that phrase was overlooked not
25 merely by some commentators, but the advice goes

2 unheeded by too many of us in our daily actions.

3 Lord, we need and, therefore, we ask your grace to

4 remain gracious in the midst of our hard fought

5 battles to advance justice and compassion. Almighty

6 and merciful God [speaking foreign languages] or Bey

7 would say, "Lord, may we always stay gracious" and

8 let the people say amen.

9 COUNCIL MEMBERS: (in unison) Amen.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please be seated.

11 [pause]

12 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet, please.

13 [background comments]

14 [gavel]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Good afternoon.

16 It's my honor to have the Archdiocese in my--

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]

18 [shushing for quiet]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Good afternoon.

20 It's my honor to have the Archdiocese in my district,

21 and to welcome Monsignor Kevin Sullivan, who is the

22 Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the

23 Archdiocese of New York. Catholic Charities is a

24 federation of more than 90 human service agencies

25 that provide and create hope for hundreds of

2 thousands of New Yorkers in need through non-Catholic
3 and Catholics alike throughout ten counties of the
4 Archdiocese of New York from New York County to
5 Bronx, Staten Island, all the way up to Kingston on
6 both sides--

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
8 [shushing for quiet]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: --of the Hudson.
10 They do so much amazing and important work from low-
11 income housing and housing for the homeless and so
12 much of that outreach that they have done for as far
13 back as anyone can imagine to working with immigrant
14 issues, and helping our unaccompanied minors to the
15 countless social services that so many New Yorkers
16 and all of our offices rely on and providing
17 services. And, I just want to thank the Monsignor
18 for his 15 years of service as Executive Director.
19 May his words spread to all of the members of this
20 body, and to the people of the city of New York as we
21 do our work. Thank you.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. On
23 behalf of Council Member Reynoso I'd like to
24 recognize in the balcony the Grand Street Campus
25 Wolves Football Team that won [applause] the PSAL.

2 They won the PSAL City Championship 13 to 0.

3 [applause/cheers] You're some big boys. Now, you

4 continue your athletic success as well as your

5 educational achievements. Thank you and welcome to

6 the People's House. [background comments]

7 Undefeated in 13 games. [applause/cheers] Adoption

8 of Minutes. Council Member Treyger.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I make a motion
10 that the minutes of the Stated Meeting of January 19,
11 2016 be adopted as printed.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Messages and
13 Papers from the Mayor.

14 CLERK: None.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Communication
16 from City, County and Borough Offices.

17 CLERK: None.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Petitions and
19 Communications.

20 CLERK: None.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Land Use Call-
22 Ups.

23 CLERK: None.

24

25

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
3 Chambers now as we hear from the Speaker Melissa
4 Mark-Viverito.

5 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: Thank
6 you, Madam Public Advocate, and good afternoon to all
7 of my colleagues. First and foremost, we want to
8 begin today by keeping in our thoughts and wishing a
9 speeding recovery to Officers Andrew Yurkiw and
10 William Reddin who were wounded in the line of duty
11 last weekend. Our police officers serve and protect
12 us. So please--we thank them for the service and
13 please keep them in your thoughts. Also before we
14 get into the business at hand, I want to wish all of
15 my colleagues a very happy and healthy Lunar New
16 York, the Year of the Monkey. I know you all enjoyed
17 the great lunch that was generously provided by
18 Council Members Chin, Koo and Johnson. So we want to
19 thank them all for hosting that. Thank you.

20 [applause]

21 Today, our agenda is pretty
22 straightforward. Today, the Council is going to be
23 voting on legislation to require the Department of
24 Citywide Administrative Services or DCAS to examine
25 the roots of all city-owned buildings to determine if

2 solar power systems are practical. Since the
3 beginning of this session, the Council has been
4 pushing to make New York greener and more sustainable
5 as part of our effort to reduce carbon emissions by
6 80% before the year 2050. With this legislation to
7 introduce solar power to city buildings across the
8 five boroughs, we are taking another step in that
9 direction. And again, I want to thank the leadership
10 of Cost Constantinides on all issues that have to do
11 with this, and I want to ask him to say a few words
12 about the legislation.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Thank
14 you, Madam Speaker, and thank you for your strong,
15 strong leadership when it comes to New York City's
16 environment.

17 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Keep it
18 down. Keep it down, please.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: As we,
20 you know, aspire to be more green and more
21 sustainable, you have been a strong leader and thank
22 you for that. I ask my colleagues today to join me
23 in support Intro 478-A, which will require the City
24 to conduct a survey of all city-owned buildings to
25 identify whether it's feasible to install solar

2 photovoltaic or PV systems on the them. New York
3 City owns over 4,000 buildings including public
4 schools, public hospitals, libraries, courthouses,
5 wastewater treatment facilities, firehouses, office,
6 police precincts, and park recreation centers. These
7 buildings account for 65% of city government's total
8 carbon footprint. If we are able to meet our goal of
9 reducing emissions by 80% by 2050, it's critical that
10 we increase our use of renewable energy. As his
11 State of the City Address, Mayor de Blasio committed
12 to increasing solar capacity five fold over the next
13 three years. This comes in support of our overall
14 goal of 100 megawatts capacity by 2025 enough to
15 power 170,000 homes. Intro 478 supports this
16 commitment. It will require DCAS by December 31st of
17 this year and every second year after--thereafter to
18 submit to the Mayor and the Speaker a report
19 containing the following information for each city-
20 owned building: The building address, the age of the
21 building's roof and whether the roof is in good
22 condition. Where the roof is ten years old or less,
23 and in good condition the report must specify the
24 potential solar or potential size of the solar PV
25 system that could be installed. The potential energy

2 that could be generated if a solar PV system is
3 installed. The greenhouse emissions that would be
4 reduced if a solar PV system is installed, the cost
5 of installing the solar PV system that was installed
6 including the description of how it was financed, the
7 energy cost savings realized by the city, and the
8 greenhouse gas emissions reduced by that
9 installation. Where a solar PV system is not being
10 installed the building, DCAS must list the reasons
11 why, and where appropriate the reasons why an
12 alternative sustainability project such as a green
13 roof or a white roof was selected for installation on
14 the building including the alternative sustainability
15 project's benefits, any cost energy savings, and any
16 greenhouse gas emissions that will be reduced or
17 avoided. The World Economic Foreman (sic) recently
18 named climate change the biggest risk to our economic
19 future. We've already taken bold steps towards that
20 green future. We must do more to encourage
21 sustainable practices in order to combat--combat the
22 effects of climate change. I want to take the time
23 to thank Nilda Mesa in the Mayor's Office of
24 Sustainability, our Speaker, as I said before, our
25 Legislative staff, Jeff Baker, Samara Swanston, and

2 Bill Murray and Jonathan Seltzer, and members of my
3 staff, Nick Widzowski my Legislative Director, my
4 Chief of Staff Nick Wilson and my Communications
5 Director Shahaa Sharone (sp?) and Nicky Conquina
6 (sp?) my District Director. Thank you Madam Speaker.

7 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: Thank
8 you, Costa. Additionally, we'll be voting on two
9 bills sponsored by Council Members Helen Rosenthal
10 and Ritchie Torres to improve the city's efforts to
11 comply and carry out its responsibilities under the
12 Americans with Disabilities Act, and other federal,
13 State and local laws concerning persons with
14 disabilities. These bills will increase
15 accessibility for persons with disabilities with
16 respect to public events hosted by city agencies.
17 The first of these bills will require that all city
18 agencies coordinate with the Mayor's Office for
19 People with Disabilities to designate a disability
20 service facilitator at each agency who will serve as
21 the agency's primary contact for person's with
22 disabilities requesting auxiliary services; develop
23 agencies policies and procedures to ensure that
24 accessibility for persons with disabilities; and
25 conduct period training for agency staff on

2 disability access issues. And, assist in the
3 investigation of any complaint to the agency relating
4 to people with disabilities.

5 The second bill will require all
6 advertisements, posters, invitations and other
7 publicity materials for events open to the public
8 hosted by city agencies to contain information on who
9 to contact for information regarding accessibility at
10 the event, a deadline for when requests for
11 accommodations for people with disabilities must be
12 received by the event's organization, and information
13 about specific accommodations available for persons
14 with disabilities at the event. This is very
15 exciting. I want to thank Council Member Rosenthal
16 and Torres for sponsoring these bills. I'll ask
17 Council Member Rosenthal to say a few words.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you so
19 much, Speaker. You know 26 years ago, the ADA was
20 passed. So what can we expect 26 years later? I'd
21 like to think that our city would be as accessible as
22 possible. But over the past two years I've learned
23 from organizations and individuals, people with
24 disabilities that while some aspects of daily life
25 are better, access to city government and

2 participation in civic life leaves much to be
3 desired. For those in wheelchairs, it's not uncommon
4 to arrive at an event, and learn that it is not
5 wheelchair accessible. If you have hearing loss,
6 it's near impossible to hear or participate in a
7 community board meeting or town hall. Intro 883-A
8 will require that all publicity materials will make
9 it clear for those who need an accommodation, its
10 availability and who and how to contact for
11 additional accommodations. Additionally, there are
12 many agencies whose services of that agency are
13 inaccessible for people with disabilities, and the
14 agency's website is not particularly helpful. Now,
15 the Department of Transportation under this
16 Administration has really changed all that. They
17 have an ADA coordinator who can easily be contacted
18 via the DOT website, and it's present at all of the
19 Commissioner's top level meetings. When she's
20 reviewing a street redesign, the ADA Coordinator's
21 input is an integral part of that review. Intro 88-A
22 will bring--881-A will bring this position to every
23 agency. I'm proud to be the lead sponsor on these
24 two bills, which will begin to bring people who have
25 long despaired of inclusion into civic life, and open

2 up access to agency information. I want to thank the
3 Speaker, Council Member Ritchie Torres for
4 introducing the bills with me, and Council Member
5 Cohen, who needed no convincing to move this quickly
6 through his committee. I want to thank all the
7 staff, most importantly from the Legal Drafting unit
8 and the Committee Council who worked so diligently on
9 these bills. Kimberly Williams, Matthew Carlin,
10 Nicole Benny (sic) and Eric Bernstein, Terza Nassar
11 and, of course from my staff Sarah Mallory, for whom
12 these will be her first two pieces of legislation and
13 Stephanie Buhl. Thank you very much.

14 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: Thank
15 you, Helen. We're additionally voting on two bills
16 to increase accessibility to city websites. One of
17 these bills will require the adoption of an
18 accessibility standard for websites to better serve
19 New Yorkers with disabilities. The bill requires the
20 Mayor to adopt either the current federal regulations
21 on the web--on website accessibility or a standard
22 developed by the Worldwide Web Consortium. This is a
23 bill that is sponsored by Council Member Garodnick
24 who will say a few words.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank you very
3 much Madam Speaker. I want to thank you and also to
4 the chair of the Technology Committee, my neighbor
5 over here, Chair Vacca. I'm pleased that we are
6 taking up Intro 683 today, which as you noted will
7 make accessible websites truly accessible for all New
8 Yorkers. While many city websites currently have
9 features that increase accessibility, current federal
10 regulations such as the Americans with Disabilities
11 Act do not require city agency websites to conform to
12 particular accessibility standards. The result is
13 that the implementation of these features is not
14 uniform across agencies, and some websites are
15 notably lacking important features. For instance, if
16 you are a visually impaired person who wants to find
17 information on various government websites, you'd
18 have to search in different locations on each site
19 for the button to adjust the text size if that option
20 even exists. That's unacceptable and we need to do
21 better. This bill will require that the Department
22 of Information, Technology and Telecommunications
23 implement a uniform set of standards to ensure that
24 every website is accessible and consistent. No one
25 should be denied access to information or services

2 from the their government because of a disability,
3 and we need to go further to make public information
4 more accessible to people with disabilities, and I
5 thank you, Madam Speaker, and I ask my colleagues to
6 support this bill.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you,
8 member--thank you, Council Member Garodnick. The
9 second bill on website accessibility requires that
10 every city website include a translation feature for
11 viewing the text of the website in languages other
12 than English. Under this law, the translation
13 feature could no longer only be indicated in English,
14 and would instead be required to be comprehensible to
15 speakers of the seven most commonly spoken languages
16 in New York City. This bill is a first step in a
17 comprehensive set of goals I laid out several weeks
18 ago at State of the City Address to make language
19 access a priority for New York City's future. I want
20 to ask Council Member Williams, who's the sponsor of
21 that bill to say a few words followed by the chair of
22 the committee, Council Member Vacca.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you very
24 much, Madam Speaker. I want to thank you as well for
25 your leadership on these issues, and I thank Chair

2 Vacca for helping get this through the committee.
3 I'm proud to sponsor Intro 673, which will require
4 that all city websites include a feature to translate
5 text of that website into languages other than
6 English whenever practicable. The button will be
7 translated in seven of the most common languages
8 spoken in the City of New York. I think this
9 legislation will move the city dramatically forward
10 in terms of ensuring equal access to city services
11 regardless of one's background. We already have laws
12 that make it clear that we have to provide services
13 in several different languages. I believe this
14 button that we will have on the websites is in that
15 vain to make sure everyone has access in a language
16 that they understand. According to WNYC, 49% of New
17 Yorkers speak languages other than English at home.
18 The Spanish Creole of Chinese or French Creole,
19 Russian, Hebrew, Yiddish, Hindu, Hindi, Urdu and
20 Arabic are being among the most common. This button
21 will make sure it's translated in the most common
22 seven languages. I want to thank the Law--
23 Legislative Division particularly Brad Reed (sp?) and
24 my Deputy Chief of Staff and Leg Director Nick Smith,

2 and I encourage all my colleagues to vote aye. Thank
3 you.

4 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: Council
5 Member Vacca.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I thank the
7 sponsors and on behalf of the Technology Committee,
8 I--I ask my colleagues to vote aye. Making sure that
9 our websites are accessible to people with
10 disabilities and to have the language availability as
11 well is really part of our engagement policy here at
12 the Council, and I know that we've been doing more
13 and more when it comes to engaging the public. Well,
14 we have to engage all parts of the community, and I
15 think the Speaker has stated the city message,
16 outline her vision. I think going forth legislation
17 like this become increasingly important. So I'm
18 proud of the work that our committee has done. I
19 want to thank the Speaker, and I also thank Brad
20 Reed, our Counsel and Stacy Gardner, my Legislative
21 Director and, of course, Council Member Williams and
22 Garodnick for the work that went into making these
23 bills a reality. Thank you.

24 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: Thank
25 you, Chair Vacca. Today, we're also introducing nine

2 bills, which are part of a package aimed at
3 increasing the safety of our city's gas
4 infrastructure. In the past two years, we've seen
5 tragedy strike twice. Most recently in the East
6 Village, and before that, in my neighborhood in El
7 Barrio East Harlem. Both of these gas-related
8 explosions resulted in New Yorkers losing their
9 lives. In response to these losses, my colleagues
10 and I have put together this legislative package that
11 will reduce the risk of future such occurrences by
12 requiring gas piping systems in buildings to be
13 periodically inspected by licensed master plumbers.
14 Creating a short-term amnesty program to allow
15 building owners to bring their gas work up to code.
16 Increasing penalties for individuals who continue to
17 perform unsafe gas work, and improving communication
18 between the city and utility companies so that all
19 parties are aware of, and able to promptly respond
20 to issues that arise concerning the safety of our gas
21 infrastructure. I want to thank all my colleagues
22 for all the work they have done on these bills thus
23 far, and for the serious attention I know they'll
24 give these bills as they move through the legislative
25 process. Additionally, today the Council is voting

2 on a transparency resolution that will, among other
3 things, provide \$365,000 to the Young Women's
4 Initiative. This represents the first phase of a \$10
5 million commitment by the City Council. I spoke
6 about the Young Women's Initiative two weeks ago. I
7 spoke about the Young Women's Initiative two weeks
8 ago at the State of the City Address, and the message
9 was clear: New York City needs to focus on uplifting
10 young women and addressing system inequality that
11 gets in the way of girls and women in our city
12 achieving their full potential. That's what we're
13 taking--that's why we're taking the first step toward
14 it today. Through a public-private partnership, our
15 \$10 million commitment will be matched for a total of
16 \$20 million going toward the Young Women's Initiative
17 in the coming year. And, I'd like to thank all of my
18 colleagues for their support of this important
19 program. I look forward to this initiative making
20 positive impacts in the lives of countless young
21 women across the five boroughs.

22 Additionally, I want to congratulate
23 Minority Leader Member Steve Matteo who just recently
24 announced that he and his wife are expecting a child.
25 [applause/cheers] And additionally, this is Ed

2 O'Malley's last week with the Council. Ed has been
3 our Director of Administrative Services since 2006,
4 and has served the City Council and the City Clerk's
5 Office for 34 years. Additionally, we also bid
6 farewell. So thank you, Ed. I don't know if he's
7 here. Is he here? No. Okay, we want to thank him
8 for his service. Next, we're also going to bid
9 farewell to Constance Tinney (sp?) who has honorably-
10 -honorably served in the Council Minority Leader's
11 Officer for over 20 years. We definitely wish both
12 Ed and Connie the best in their retirement, and I'll
13 ask our Minority Leader Steve Matteo to say a few
14 words about Constance.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Thank you. Thank
16 you, Madam Speaker, and yes we are--my wife and I are
17 adding to the Republican team so we'll have a new
18 member soon. [laughter] I just want to take a
19 moment. It's bittersweet day for me. Ever since
20 I've been in the Council for the last 12 years, I've
21 had the wonderful, wonderful chance to work with
22 Connie as a staff member, and now as the minority
23 leader. And I think everyone in this building has
24 had a chance to be a recipient of Connie's smile, of
25 Connie's hug. She is one of the few people in this

2 world who can certainly brighten up a rainy day. She
3 had dedicated her life to City Hall. She probably
4 knows more secrets and nooks and crannies in this
5 building than anyone here. But she has been just a
6 tremendous asset to the Minority Delegation, to the
7 City Council. Connie, we are going to miss you.
8 Joe, Eric and I are going to miss you terribly.
9 We're going to miss your hugs. We're going to miss
10 your smiles. We're going to miss that we just walk
11 into the office, the Minority Leader's Office and you
12 just have everything taken care of. So, Connie, it's
13 been a blessing. You are a true friend. You're a
14 member of my family, the Republican family, the City
15 Council family. I know you're in the back, and if my
16 colleagues can just recognize and wish Connie the
17 best of luck in her retirement. [applause/cheers]

18 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: [laughs]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Thank you, Madam
20 Speaker.

21 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: Quite the
22 send off for Connie. Thank you for you for your--for
23 those years of service, Connie. Thank you so much.
24 Two more quick things I'd like to mention. First--

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
3 [shushing for quiet]

4 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: --the
5 Women's Caucus selected new chairs today, and I think
6 the exiting chairs or the incoming chairs would like
7 to present some flowers. So, I want to ask Council
8 Members Rosenthal and Cumbo, who I believe want to
9 extend some flowers and appreciation to the outgoing
10 chairs, Council Members Mealy and Crowley.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you. Thank
12 you so very much. Today was a wonderful day. We
13 were given the opportunity by our colleagues to
14 become--

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
16 [shushing for quiet]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: --the new chairs of
18 the Women's Caucus. Both Council Member Rosenthal
19 and myself consider this a huge honor, and we want to
20 thank Council Member Mealy and we want to thank
21 Council Member Crowley for their incredible work.
22 They have done so much work as it pertains to women's
23 health. A breast cancer awareness walk, heart
24 awareness walk, all of the different work that we've
25 done around ovarian cancer, promoting the next

2 generation of women leaders to run for office. Those
3 incredible programs of bringing a woman to work with
4 us so that they can understand the story behind each
5 and every one of our journeys to become council
6 members in the City of New York. So we applaud you.
7 We thank you. You have set an extraordinary high
8 bar, and we look forward to meeting that and
9 continuing to work with each and everyone of you, and
10 we look forward to all of the members of the Women's
11 Caucus remaining active and continuing to raise our
12 voice at this critical time in women's history.
13 Thank you for your service. [applause]

14 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: Very--
15 very thoughtful. So I--I thank the incoming chairs
16 for doing that. If you want to--Laurie, maybe if you
17 could--well, there's a lot of flowers.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Thank you for
19 these.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Thank you.

21 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: And as
22 I've said, and I'm going to keep saying it as a
23 reminder each and every time, there may be only 14 of
24 us councilwomen in this Council, but we are a
25 thoughtful bunch, and I think we need a little bit

2 more of this love coming into this Council in the
3 future. [applause/cheers] So I'm going to--the
4 last--

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]
6 Speaker, can I ask for a couple of unusual quick
7 things. Can we also thank Amanda Farias who's a
8 staffer for the Women's Caucus.

9 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: Oh, okay.
10 I'm with you. [applause/cheers]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: And could we
12 ask the--could we ask the women of the Caucus to very
13 quickly run right up there for a quick photo of them.

14 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: Not--I--
15 No. No, not that.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]
17 I just--I just want to--

18 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: That I
19 won't allow.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: --do it right
21 after.

22 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: I need to
23 move the agenda forward.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [laughing]

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Can I say a
3 quick thank you?

4 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO:
5 [interposing] All right we've--we've--we've--

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Speaker?

7 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: Yes.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: May I say a
9 quick thank you.

10 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: Go ahead
11 in response to it, yes.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [laughing]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: All right, it's
14 been quite a rewarding experience being a co-chair
15 with Council Member Darlene Mealy. You know, we have
16 been able to help so many women across the City of
17 New York receive vital services because of how strong
18 and dedicated the entire Caucus is.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
20 Yes.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: And I want to
22 thank all the 14 members of the Women's Caucus, and
23 especially you, Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito for
24 your leadership especially with your new announcement
25 today, which will help many, many young women achieve

2 all they're capable of achieving and believing in
3 themselves, and I do want to thank Council Member
4 Helen Rosenthal, and Council Member Laurie Cumbo for
5 the good work they've done with the Caucus and taking
6 on this new leadership responsibility. I know you
7 guys will be terrific.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [off mic] Thank
9 you.

10 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: Thank
11 you. [applause] And I do--

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
13 [shushing for quiet]

14 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: --want to
15 close today, and fortunately we--we--we've shared
16 some good news today, but I--I--we do want to end
17 with a moment of silence for Assemblywoman Barbara
18 Clark who passed away earlier this week kind of a
19 little bit suddenly, and I think Daneek just
20 indicated that she was his co-leader in Queens.
21 Barbara a trailblazer who dedicated her life to
22 serving Queens and improving the lives of all New
23 Yorkers. She's definitely going to be missed and if
24 I could ask my colleagues then for a moment of
25 silence.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please rise.

3 [Moment of silence observed]

4 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: Thank
5 you, my colleagues, and with that, I end
6 communication from the Speaker.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Discussion of
8 General Orders. Seeing none, Report of Special
9 Committees.

10 CLERK: None.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reports of
12 Standing Committees. Quite in the Chambers.

13 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
14 Environmental Protection--

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
16 [shushing for quiet]

17 CLERK: --Intro 478-A, Photovoltaic
18 Systems.

19 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: Amended
20 and coupled on General Orders.

21 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
22 Finance, Intro 1029, Fulton Street BID.

23 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled
24 on General Orders.

25 CLERK: Intro 1047, Fulton Mall.

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2 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled
3 on General Orders.

4 CLERK: Preconsidered Reso 995,
5 Organization funding.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
7 [shushing for quiet]

8 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [off mic] Keep it
9 down.

10 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled
11 on General Orders.

12 CLERK: Preconsidered LU 333 and Reso
13 998, Academy Gardens.

14 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled
15 on General Orders.

16 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Mental
17 Health, Developmental Disability, Alcoholism,
18 Substance Abuse and Disability Services, Intro 881-A,
19 Disability Service facilitators.

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

22 CLERK: Intro 883, Information Regarding
23 Accessibility.

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

2 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
3 Technology, Intro 673-A, Translation Feature on city
4 websites.

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

7 CLERK: Intro 683-A, Government website
8 accessibility.

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

11 CLERK: On the General Order Calendar
12 Resolution appointing various persons Commissioner of
13 Deeds.

14 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled
15 on General Orders, and--and my colleagues seem a
16 little boisterous today. If we could try to keep it
17 down so we can move the agenda forward, I really
18 would appreciate it. At this time, I ask for a roll
19 call on all items on the Coupled General Order
20 Calendar.

21 CLERK: Barron.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

23 CLERK: Borelli.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye

25 CLERK: Cabrera.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

3 CLERK: Chin.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

5 CLERK: Cohen.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

7 CLERK: Constantinides.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: With
9 congratulations to all my colleagues on their bills
10 today, I vote aye.

11 CLERK: Cornegy.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

13 CLERK: Crowley.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote aye.

15 CLERK: Cumbo.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: [off mic] I vote
17 aye.

18 CLERK: Deutsch.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

20 CLERK: Dromm.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: I vote aye, but

22 I'd like to also state that in the Transparency
23 Resolution I'm giving funding to the Origins Theater
24 Company, which may perform a show at the Regal

25

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2 Heights Nursing Home, and my mother is a resident at
3 the nursing home.
4 CLERK: Espinal.
5 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I vote aye.
6 CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland.
7 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: I vote
8 aye.
9 CLERK: Garodnick.
10 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.
11 CLERK: Gentile.
12 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye on all.
13 CLERK: Eugene.
14 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.
15 CLERK: Gibson.
16 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I vote aye.
17 CLERK: Cohen.
18 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.
19 CLERK: Greenfield.
20 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye on all
21 calls (sic) and aye on all. Thank you.
22 CLERK: Grodenchik.
23 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: [off mic]
24 Aye.
25 CLERK: Johnson.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye.

3 CLERK: Kallos.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

5 CLERK: King.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye on all.

7 CLERK: Koo.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye on all.

9 CLERK: Koslowitz.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye on all.

11 CLERK: Lancman.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN Aye.

13 CLERK: Lander.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [off mic] Aye.

15 CLERK: Levin.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

17 CLERK: Levine.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye on all.

19 CLERK: Maisel.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

21 CLERK: Mealy.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present and aye.

23 CLERK: Menchaca.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: [speaking

25 Spanish] I vote aye.

2 CLERK: Miller.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.

4 CLERK: Palma.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: [off mic] Aye.

6 CLERK: Reynoso.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.

8 CLERK: Richards.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.

10 CLERK: Rodriguez.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: [off mic] Aye.

12 CLERK: Rosenthal.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [off mic] Aye

14 on all.

15 CLERK: Torres.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye.

17 CLERK: Treyger.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Congratulations.

19 I vote aye.

20 CLERK: Ulrich.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

22 CLERK: Vacca.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

24 CLERK: Vallone.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on all.

2 CLERK: Williams.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [off mic] Aye.

4 CLERK: Matteo.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: I think this is a
6 roll call record so aye. [cheers]

7 CLERK: Van Bramer.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Permission to
9 explain my vote.

10 COUNCIL MEMBERS: (in unison) Oh, no.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Excuse me, you
12 could forget that. Yes.

13 [background comments and laughter]

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
15 Chambers. [gavel]

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Say yes.

17 RACHEL BAEZ: Yes.

18 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Crowd, please sit
19 down.

20 CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you so
22 much, Madam. I just want to say I vote aye on all.

23 I congratulate all my co-sponsors. The only thing I
24 wanted to say to my dear colleagues is that my Deputy
25 Chief of Staff Jason Banrey after 4-1/2 years is

2 leaving my office. Today is his last day today.
3 He's been an amazing, amazing member of my team. He
4 is leaving to become the new Deputy Commissioner of
5 the Queens Department of Transportation, and I want
6 to thank and congratulate Jason for 4-1/2 years of
7 dedicated service to this city. But, of course, he's
8 going to continue serve the good people of Queens and
9 the city. And also welcome Aerial Swerna my new
10 Communications Director. This is her first Stated.
11 So, Jason, thank you. You're the best. We've had a
12 great run, and I know you're going to continue to do
13 great things for the City of New York. With that,
14 thank you very much. [laughter, applause.]

15 CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

16 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: I vote
17 aye.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: It's straight.
19 All items on today's General Order Calendar were
20 adopted by a vote of 46 in the affirmative and 0
21 abstentions.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [off mic] Go
23 ahead.

24 RACHEL BAEZ: Introduction and Reading of
25 Bills.

2 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: All bills
3 are referred to committees as indicated on the
4 agenda.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And now
6 discussion of Resolutions beginning with Resolution
7 837, a resolution in support of Barack Obama's Second
8 Chance Pell Pilot Program, which will initiate new
9 models to allow incarcerated individuals to receive
10 Pell Grants to finance their education beginning with
11 Council Member Barron.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Madam
13 Public Advocate. President Barack Obama's Second
14 Chance Pell Pilot Program will initiate new models to
15 allow incarcerated individuals to receive Pell
16 Grants--

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
18 [shushing for quiet]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: --to finance
20 their education. The incarceration rate is
21 disproportionately higher for Black and Latino males,
22 as much as six times more incarceration for the same
23 or similar offenses. In her book *The New Jim Crowe*
24 Michelle Alexander says that the reason for these
25 disparities is conscious and unconscious racial

2 biases. Under the guise of the War on Drugs, the
3 prison population expanded exponentially. As the
4 Justice Policy Institute observed, the Clinton
5 Administration's Tough on Crime Policies resulted in
6 the largest increases in federal and state inmates of
7 any President in the American history. Arrests for
8 marijuana possession account for nearly 80% of the
9 drugs. Yet, the elimination of judicial discretion
10 through mandatory sentencing laws has forced judges--

11 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [off mic]

12 [interposing] Quiet please.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: --to impose
14 sentencing for drug crimes that often longer than
15 those. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the
16 bill, which will allow for inmates to receive
17 credits--receive the ability to take college credits.
18 And the statistics show that although the recidivism
19 rate is 44% when inmates receive an associate's
20 degree on a 13.7% return--

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
22 [shushing for quiet]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: --when they
24 receive a bachelor's on a 5.6% return and when they
25 receive a master's on less than 1% return. We must

2 move from prisons for warehousing to prisons that
3 provide comprehensive rehabilitation programs, and I
4 urge my colleagues to vote in the affirmative on this
5 resolution. Thank you.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

7 Seeing none other on Resolution 837, we're now moving
8 onto Resolution 868, a resolution calling upon the
9 President of the United States to close the federal
10 carried interest tax loophole using executive order.
11 We now call Council Member Miller.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you, Madam
13 Public Advocate. Today, I'm proud to rise in support
14 of Reso 868 and Reso 996 as proposed by Council
15 Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland, and myself.
16 Together these resolutions seek to close the carried
17 interest tax loopholes that exist in the federal and
18 city level. Just for clarity, carried interest is
19 defined as--

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
21 [shushing for quiet]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: --a set of
23 percentage of--

24 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Quiet,
25 please.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: --private

3 investment funds, and profits collected by managing
4 partners. Currently, this commission if you only--if
5 you will, is only--the only untaxed. Yet,
6 performance based pay tax typically is taxed. We can
7 think of insurance sales persons or ticket agents or
8 others as examples. So is there--it appears to be
9 illogical that money managers would not have their
10 projects--their profits taxed as well. Across the
11 nation, this has been--become a bipartisan issue, a
12 payment of profits derived from wealthy private
13 investors, firms ought to be taxed similarly as other
14 forms of compensation. I ask my members to support
15 Reso 868 and 996. Closing the loophole will enable
16 to--us to raise funds that will better serve
17 communities and create a more equitable tax system.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

19 Council Member Ferreras-Copeland,

20 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank
21 you, Madam Public Advocate. Today, I'm proud to join
22 my colleague Council Member Miller in asking my
23 fellow council members to pass two resolutions
24 calling upon the President and the State to close the
25 carried interest loophole.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [off mic]

3 [interposing] That's not right. (sic)

4 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: The
5 carried interest loophole allows hedge fund managers
6 and other investment partnerships to pay a reduced
7 tax rate on their services because the IRS classifies
8 them a capital gains and not ordinary income. This
9 is despite the fact that the fees they charge are the
10 way they make money. The same way a mechanic charges
11 for an auto repair or a barber for a haircut, in New
12 York City's financial services firms are also exempt
13 from the unincorporated business tax. This is unfair
14 to all of the businesses that do pay the full tax
15 like the mechanics and the barbers and all the
16 workers earning regular wages instead of being paid
17 by returns on investments. This means that we lose
18 revenue on the City, State and federal level. In New
19 York City alone we lose \$200 million a year because
20 the hedge fund managers do not pay business tax.
21 This is enough money to make our Youth Jobs program
22 universal twice over. At a federal level it is
23 estimated that we will lose \$17.4 billion between
24 2014 and 2023. I urge my colleagues to support this
25 resolution. Thank you.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Now,
3 seeing none other on any other resolutions, let's
4 begin with Resolution 837 for a vote. A resolution
5 again calling upon President Barack Obama's--a
6 resolution in support of President Barack Obama's
7 Second Change Pell Pilot Program, which will initiate
8 new models to allow incarcerated individuals to
9 receive Pell Grants to finance their education. All
10 those in favor say aye.

11 COUNCIL MEMBERS: (in unison) Aye.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All those
13 opposed? Any abstentions. The ayes have it. And
14 now Resolution 868, a resolution calling upon the
15 President of the United States to close the federal
16 carried interest tax loophole using executive order--
17 action. All those in favor say aye.

18 COUNCIL MEMBERS: (in unison) Aye.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All those
20 opposed? Any abstentions? The ayes have it. And
21 now Preconsidered Resolution 996, a resolution
22 calling upon the State Legislature to introduce and
23 pass and the Governor to sign legislation that would
24 eliminate the exemption of private investment fund

2 carried interest for the New York City Unincorporated
3 Business Tax. All those in favor say aye.

4 COUNCIL MEMBERS: (in unison) Aye.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All those
6 opposed? Any abstention? The ayes have it, and now
7 moving onto general discussion, let us begin with
8 Council Member Inez Barron.

9 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down, please.
10 Quiet.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. I
12 just wanted to acknowledge that this Black History
13 Month, and I just want to encourage all of my
14 colleagues to take some time and visit those websites
15 that might enlighten you as to some of the
16 contributions that were made by African-Americans
17 that were brought here against their will. Although
18 in truth they were here before Columbus, and there's
19 a book by that name, which talks about [sneezing] the
20 travels--God bless you--it talks about the travels
21 and the explorations of the Africans who came here
22 before Columbus. It's by Ivan Van Sertima, and I
23 would encourage you to look at that book. It has
24 extensive documentation, which shows the artifacts
25 that were here that pre-date Columbus coming. And

2 also talks about the artifacts that exist in Central
3 America. There's one that's known as the Olmec Head,
4 which exists in Africa and Mexico, and the features
5 are unmistakably African. So I do want to encourage
6 you all to celebrate Black History Month, and not
7 limit it to just this month. Thank you.

8 RACHEL BAEZ: Council Member Gentile.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Thank you.

10 Thank you very much. How often have we heard on
11 radio or television or read in the newspapers--

12 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Keep it
13 down, please.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: --that alternate
15 side of the street parking is suspended, but parking
16 meters remain in effect? That's happened over and
17 over again. And, people are confused and find it to
18 have no rationale to--to find a holiday where you
19 suspect alternate side of the street parking, but
20 keep the meters in effect. And that is the purpose
21 of Intro 1089, which I'm introducing today, which
22 would in effect align the alternate side of the
23 street parking suspension with the--with suspension
24 of the parking meters on those same days. If it is
25 significant enough of a holiday to suspend alternate

2 side of the street parking, it should be significant
3 enough to also suspend the parking meters for that
4 day. And in doing so we end another version of the
5 gotcha kind of ticketing that have gone on-- has gone
6 on for so long into the city, and we're trying to
7 eliminated each and every one of them. This is one
8 that still exists. So Intro 1089, I ask you to take
9 a look and to sign on. Thank you. \

10 RACHEL BAEZ: Council Member Gibson.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Great job. Thank
12 you, Madam Public Advocate. Good afternoon,
13 colleagues. I'd like to draw your attention to Intro
14 1090, of which I'm introducing with Council Member
15 Jumaane Williams that is a part of the package our
16 Speaker has talked about in relation to the gas
17 package legislation. And this bill simply would
18 require our landlords to place an unobstructed sign
19 in their buildings' lobbies instructing their
20 residents to follow protocol and call Con Edison
21 should they smell gas or believe there could be a
22 potential gas leak in their building. Many of us as
23 New Yorkers have been trained in calling 911 in the
24 event of an emergency, but in terms of a potential
25 gas emergency we must also make sure that we call Con

2 Edison. Disasters can truly be prevented if we make
3 sure that the authorities that there could
4 potentially be a gas leak, and gas is immediately
5 shut off. As we have seen all too often with the
6 recent gas emergencies, every second matters, and so
7 we want to make sure that Intro 1090 would really
8 allow building owners and landlords to provide
9 protocol to all of its residents and tenants so that
10 there procedures in place. I, too, want to join
11 Council Member Barron in wishing all of my colleagues
12 a very happy Black History Month. I'm proud to
13 celebrate that each and every day. I also want to
14 wish all of my colleagues a happy a Lunar New Year,
15 and I certainly join my Southeast Queens colleagues
16 and family in offering my thoughts and prayers to the
17 family of Assemblywoman Barbara Clark. It was an
18 honor serving with her for four years in the State
19 Assembly, someone who was the strongest advocate and
20 leader on children and families. Always fighting for
21 vulnerable children and foster care children, and
22 it's truly--she's truly going to be missed. And so I
23 offer my thoughts and prayers to her and her family,
24 her children and husband. And with that, thank you

2 very much. I ask all of my colleagues to sign onto
3 Intro 1090. Thank you.

4 RACHEL BAEZ: Council Member Deutsch.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Thank you.

6 Thank you. First, I want to congratulate Laurie
7 Angela Cumbo, and Council Member Helen Rosenthal in
8 their role as Co-Chairs of the Women's Caucus. Yes,
9 Laurie's middle name is Angela. Yes. [laughter]
10 I'm also proud to introduce Intro 1086, a bill which
11 will protect the New York City residents who are most
12 susceptible to fraud through telemarketing and
13 consumer cons. Investment scams are false IRS
14 schemes. Our older adults can be a targeted
15 population. My district has a significant amount of
16 senior residents, and concerns about fraudulent
17 telemarketing calls are increasingly common. In
18 fact, the over 60 population throughout New York City
19 makes twice as many purchases over the phone as the
20 national average, and are often preyed upon by
21 scammers looking to make a quick buck. It is our
22 responsibility to do what we can to safeguard these
23 older adults from those trying to take advantage of
24 them. Intro 1086 is a common sense piece of
25 legislation that will require the Department of

2 Consumer Affairs to provide seniors with outreach and
3 educational material in seven different languages
4 including Russian, which I represent the most. It's
5 a high--a very high population of Russian
6 constituents. This valuable information will target
7 our senior population and their caregive--caregivers
8 explaining how as potential victims they can protect
9 themselves from fraud. I encourage all my colleagues
10 to sign to Intro 1086, and protect our most valuable
11 assets, our seniors by providing them with
12 information that they need to combat these schemes.
13 I'd like to thank our Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito
14 and Council Member Rafael Espinal being co-sponsors.
15 Thank you very much.

16 RACHEL BAEZ: Council Member Treyger.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you very
18 much, Madam Public Advocate, and I think future Madam
19 Public Advocate as well. Colleagues, I ask you to
20 support Intro 1099, a--a local law, which would
21 require the DOE to report data about the veil--the
22 availability of high quality certified career and
23 technical education instruction in our high schools.
24 There is a fiscal implication difference with regards
25 to a regular CTE program and a Certified CTE Program.

2 Dedicated CTE high schools, CTE programs and
3 certified CTE instructors all provide vital
4 educational flexibility for our high school students
5 by growing numbers of students do choose to pursue
6 four-year post-secondary degrees. We also need to
7 support the educational goals of students who may not
8 seek four-year college as part of their immediate
9 post-secondary career and educational plans
10 particularly given the increasing prohibitive costs
11 of college tuition. CTE done right supplements, not
12 substitutes, traditional academic course work proving
13 high school students with meaningful skills and
14 pathways to high wage in-demand jobs. John Hopkins
15 University found that offering CTE along side
16 academic curriculum increases student motivation,
17 and--and school attachment decreasing drop-out rates.
18 Moreover, CTE covers a broad spectrum of program
19 options including STEM, IT and health science. These
20 are not marginal dead-end fields. These are the high
21 growth sectors where labor demand is outpacing the
22 supply of qualified candidates. Organized labor
23 organizations--

24 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Quiet,
25 please.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: --employers
3 planning for future needs and public school parents
4 deserve greater transparency around the state of CTE
5 in our schools. We need to know the number of
6 specialized high schools and high schools with CTE
7 programs--certified programs. Whether CTE certified
8 faculty are present in all of our high schools, and
9 most importantly what student demand is for CTE
10 programs, as indicated by their high school
11 application preferences. Please join me in working
12 to ensure that robust career and technical education
13 options are available to all public school students
14 who want them by signing onto Intro 1099. Thank you.

15 RACHEL BAEZ: Council Member Williams.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you very
17 much. As Chair of the Committee on Housing and
18 Buildings, I'm very pleased to join the Speaker with
19 her leadership, and many of my colleagues in
20 introducing legislation. It will help ensure that no
21 New York City resident ever finds herself or himself
22 injured, or worse lose their life due to tampering
23 with the city's gas infrastructure. As you know, in
24 March 2015, there was gas explosion in the East
25 Village in Council Member Mendez's district. Another

2 one prior in the Speaker's district, which claimed
3 many lives. I have two bills in this package. Intro
4 1102 will make immediately hazardous certain existing
5 violations that ECB can classify right now as either
6 immediately hazardous, major or lesser violations.
7 For example, the following behaviors will not be
8 only--will not be only immediately hazardous:

9 Supplying gas without a permit.

10 Owner's family to notify the utility
11 company of alterations.

12 Owners installing their gas systems
13 without a permit.

14 Utilities failing to get DOB approval.

15 Removing the lock to a new gas system
16 without approval.

17 Failing to inspect gas systems before and
18 after activation.

19 Fine for major violations are between
20 \$5,000 and \$10,000, and they are mitigated. The new
21 fines carry a mandatory penalty between \$1,000 and
22 \$25,000 and may not be mitigated by ECB.

23 The second Intro 1101 would require the
24 DOB to establish a six-month amnesty period for
25 owners across the city to bring their gas systems

2 installed in violation of NYC law, to bring them
3 within compliance of the City regulations. I'm very
4 proud of the leadership the Speaker is showing and
5 this Council in response to major accidents that
6 could have been prevented. I look forward to working
7 with everyone to try to get these bills passed
8 through. I hope everyone had a great Luna New York,
9 and also a great Black History Month. I again am
10 Dominican heritage. Thank you. My hope again is
11 that one day we won't have Black History Month.
12 Everyone will be learning history the way they should
13 be equally and with--with pride throughout the year.
14 But I'll continue to do what I can to make sure I
15 make my ancestors proud. Thank you.

16 RACHEL BAEZ: Council Member Chin.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. Good
18 afternoon. I'd like to draw my colleague's attention
19 to a bill and reso that I am sponsoring that will
20 provide tremendous support to informal caregivers.
21 There are over four million informal caregivers in
22 New York State who are providing unpaid care to a
23 loved one the Department for the Aging estimates that
24 there are over 1.5 million caregivers just in New
25 York City alone. And nearly three out of five

2 caregivers in the state continue to work while
3 providing elder care. I'm introducing Intro 1081
4 with Council Member Debbie Rose and Speaker Mark-
5 Viverito to require DFTA to survey the number of
6 informal caregivers in our city and the services
7 available to them. It will also ask DFTA to work
8 with other agencies to develop a comprehensive plan
9 to improve the support system for caregivers that
10 spend what little time they have to take care of
11 their aging family members. I also want to ask your
12 support on Reso 993 introduced by the Speaker and
13 myself. A resolution calling upon the State
14 Legislature to expand the New York City Childcare Tax
15 Credits by increasing the income threshold for the
16 city credit, matching the city credit to 100% of the
17 state credit. And finally, allowing caregivers to
18 claim the expenses incurred from taking care of their
19 adult dependent. The change will be critical to help
20 alleviate the burden on individuals who work non-stop
21 at their job, and then at home to provide for their
22 loved one. First, I want to thank our Speaker for
23 continuously fighting for the 1.5 million strong and
24 growing senior population in this city.

25 FEMALE SPEAKER: It's growing. (sic)

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: And I also want to
3 thank Eric Bernstein, Laura Popa, Tanisha Edwards,
4 and Rebecca Chasen for their work on this
5 introduction and reso, and I urge my fellow council
6 members to sign on. Thank you.

7 RACHEL BAEZ: Council Member Eugene.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you very
9 much, Madam Public Advocate. I want to try to be
10 very, very brief. First, let me thank all my
11 colleagues and especially the Speaker for your
12 commitment to the youth and to the young people of
13 New York City. Las year we cam together. We joined
14 forces to have the Administration in--install the
15 funding for the Summer Youth Program. That was a big
16 victory not only for the young people, for the City
17 Council, for the parents and for the City of New
18 York. This year again we have to do the same thing,
19 and I want to thank my colleagues who signed on
20 already in the letter that I sent to the Mayor, and
21 I'm sending a second letter for the Summer Youth Jobs
22 to make sure that the Administration put the
23 resources necessary so all young people in New York
24 City can have the opportunity to have a job. And I
25 thank the Speaker for her commitment to the young

2 people, and as she did announce that she's going to
3 support that. And also, I know that the effort that
4 has been doing on behalf of the young people.

5 Another thing that I want to mention also I usually
6 say that giving jobs to the young people during the
7 summer is good, but we have to do everything that we
8 can do provide jobs to the young people throughout
9 the year. And I commend the Speaker and all my
10 colleagues who have supported the youth job
11 throughout the year. And we've got to do everything
12 that we can do to increase the number of the jobs to
13 the young people through the year, and also to expand
14 those jobs to those young people who are not in
15 school, who are not working. Those young people that
16 we call disconnected youth. I think it is our more
17 responsibility in investing in the youth. It is a--
18 a good investment in the future--in the future of New
19 York City. This year again, I'm asking you not only
20 to sign on the letter, but to join forces in order to
21 provide for the young people the resources and the
22 opportunity that they need to grow up and become
23 positive citizens. Thank you very much, Madam Public
24 Advocate.

25 RACHEL BAEZ: Council Member Lander.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you very
3 much, Madam Public Advocate. Three quick things.
4 First of all, yesterday along with Council Members
5 Menchaca and Miller I had the honor to represent the
6 New York City Council at a White House meeting on
7 participatory budget. This comes out of the Harvard
8 Ash Government Innovations Award going to PBNYC, and
9 participatory budgeting is growing all across the
10 country. There was only one person doing it in
11 Chicago when we got started, and now there's--last
12 year \$70 million is being done in a number of cities.
13 But, Madam Speaker, participatory budgeting in New
14 York City is still by far the biggest and best.
15 There's even a book now, Democracy Reinvented, and
16 you're in the--in the intro (sic) to the index. So
17 we have a copy for you. But it was really great and
18 encouraging to see what we're helping lift. So a
19 special shout out to Council Member Williams, Council
20 Member Ulrich and the Speaker for helping lead the
21 way on something that is sweeping the nation.
22 Second, on Monday at 1:00 p.m. we'll be hearing Intro
23 1017-A in the Consumer Affairs Committee. That's the
24 Freelances and Free Act, the first of it's kind
25 legislation to provide protections to freelance

2 workers against theft of payment. And I invite any
3 colleagues both to sign onto the bill, but also to
4 attend the hearing. And last, but not least, I would
5 just urge people to read today's New York Times
6 editorial on the Lippman (sic) Commission and the
7 effort to take a serious look at Rikers Island, and
8 the Speaker in her State of the City called for the
9 convening of that commission to take a deep look at
10 our criminal justice system, chaired by former Chief
11 Justice Lippman, and--and to--with the goal of
12 shrinking Rikers so small that that dream of closing
13 it could become a reality. It sparked some really
14 thoughtful responses, and also some hysterical
15 responses, and I just urge people to take a look at
16 the Times editorial today, which I really think puts
17 in good context what a significant and important step
18 forward it is. Thank you.

19 RACHEL BAEZ: Council Member Cornegy.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Thank you, Madam
21 Public Advocate for a day. I just wanted spend--send
22 a special shout out and some prayers to Victor Calise
23 who is the Commissioner of the Mayor's Office on
24 Physical Disabilities who was hurt in skiing accident

2 actually. So, if we just send some good vibes out to
3 Victor.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you and now
5 to close, the Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, and may
6 Assemblywoman Barbara Clark rest in peace.

7 SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO: Thank
8 you, Madam Public Advocated. I just want to let
9 council members know that in the back in their packet
10 in the agenda today that we do start the Preliminary
11 Budget Hearings on March 1st. There is an updated
12 scheduled here of the--of the hearings that are
13 coming up. So we definitely want to make sure that
14 people keep note of that, and so with that thank you
15 to all my colleagues. Have a great--a great rest of
16 the afternoon, and we are adjourned.

17 [gavel]

18 [background noise]

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1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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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 March 2, 2016