

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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April 7, 2016  
Start: 1:33 p.m.  
Recess: 3:41 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: LETITIA JAMES  
Public Advocate

MELISSA MARK-VIVERIIO  
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  
Rafael Salamanca  
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)

Pastor Lawrence Aker  
Cornerstone Baptist Church  
289 Lewis Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11221

2 [sound check, pause]

3 [cheers/applause, background  
4 conversation]

5 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: The Women's Caucus  
6 members please to the front.

7 [background comments, noise, laughter,  
8 crowd noise]

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yeah, yeah, all  
10 right. Can we have quiet in the Chambers? Excuse  
11 me. Quiet in the Chambers. [gavel] For ceremonials  
12 quiet in the Chambers, quiet in the Chambers, clear  
13 the aisles.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right, we're  
15 going to get started and we--we need to--

16 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [off mic]  
17 [interposing] Quiet, please.

18 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: --bring a little  
19 order into the Chamber. [coughs] We're going to  
20 start with the first ceremonial that I will be doing  
21 with Council Members Levine and Kallos and this is in  
22 recognition of JCRC's 40th Anniversary.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: And Helen.  
24  
25

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Oh, and Helen,  
3 and Helen, and the Jewish Caucus and anybody else who  
4 wants to join us up here.

5 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [off mic] Keep it down  
6 please. Keep it down, please.

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Everybody, I'm  
8 going to hand it off to Mark as Chair of the Jewish  
9 Caucus to say a few words. Everybody can join us.  
10 Obviously, JCRC is a great partner with us here in  
11 the Council, and so we definitely wanted to recognize  
12 them on that accomplish. Forty years a long time, a  
13 long year--many years of service. Oh, there is--

14 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Keep it  
15 down, please. Keep it down. Thank you.

16 [background comments]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Oh, wow. All  
18 right, Congressman Eliot.

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Oh, Congressman  
20 Eliot Engel is here. Welcome to our Chambers. Nice  
21 to see you. [applause] All right. Come on in.

22 CONGRESSMAN ELIOT ENGEL: Thank you.

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Mark, this is a  
24 big deal.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

6

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: I'm going to let  
3 them kick it off. Thank you very much.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: What do you want  
5 me to do?

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay, you're  
7 fine. Whatever you want to do.

8 [background comments]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: [Speaking foreign  
10 language ] (sp?) Welcome. I'm Council Member Ben  
11 Kallos. I'm Vice Chair of the Jewish Caucus. I'm  
12 here with our Chair Mark Levine, and I'd like to  
13 welcome the Jewish Community Relations Council. I'd  
14 like to welcome. We're joined today by the Executive  
15 Vice President and CEO, Michael Miller as well as  
16 Board members. [cheers/applause] Board members  
17 Michael Lustwig (sp?) Jennifer Faulk, Dr. Frank  
18 Charlotte, Jeffrey Wisenfeld and President-Elect  
19 Charles Timmel, who is actually my constituent, and  
20 we'd like to recognize them from the City Council  
21 with a Proclamation, and we're proud to honor and  
22 present this Proclamation celebrating 40 years of the  
23 Jewish Community Relations Council of New York  
24 coordinating joint and cooperative action amongst its  
25 members, which is actually the miracle. And which I

2 might [laughs] for those who got that one. And they  
3 also coordinate with other organizations to promote  
4 equality and opportunity and civil rights, and civil  
5 liberties for Jewish and other racial, religious and  
6 ethnic groups in New York. Encourage amicable  
7 relationship and mutual understanding and respect  
8 among various groups in New York. Help create and  
9 maintain conditions that are conduct--conducive to  
10 encouraging the continuity and vitality of Jewish in  
11 pluristic society, protect and strengthen the rights  
12 and interests of the Jewish community in New York.  
13 Combat anti-semitism and every other form of racism  
14 or group prejudice. Develop an intelligent and  
15 effective public opinion within and outside the  
16 Jewish community on Jewish community relations  
17 issues, problems, concerns and commitments. Provide  
18 for a Jewish communal leadership to exchange views  
19 with key local, national and global public officials  
20 and opinion molders. We thank you and say [Speaking  
21 Hebrew] [background comments] [speaking foreign  
22 language] See you at the Celebrate Israel Day  
23 Parade.

24

25

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I think that--I  
3 think he just said the proclamation. Is that it,  
4 Mark.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: It's very--

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: You can go ahead.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Very, very  
8 briefly. This is so special, you know, JCRC really  
9 represents the best of Jewish New York. You all  
10 have--you have found a way to bring together the  
11 largest and most diverse Jewish community on earth  
12 and that ain't easy. But you have really become the  
13 one place where whether we live in Riverdale or--or  
14 Eastern Queens or Far Rockaway--

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic]  
16 [interposing] Or the Upper West Side.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: --or the Upper  
18 West Side--

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic]  
20 [interposing] Or Crown Heights.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Or Crown Heights.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: [off mic] Or the  
23 Upper East Side.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Ore East Harlem,  
25 we find a home a JCRC. And you have--you haven't



2 stopped there. You've reached--you've extended your  
3 arms out to New Yorkers of all backgrounds of all  
4 faiths to build bridges and relationships that have  
5 served us so well. That's challenging work, but it's  
6 so important to us, and it's why I really treasure  
7 your contribution over these last 40 years. Thank  
8 you and many, many great years to come.

9 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: We'd like the  
10 Proclamation.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Okay, I'd like  
12 [cheers/applause] I'd like to ask our clerk  
13 [applause] to please read the Proclamation.

14 CLERK: Council City of New York  
15 Proclamation.

16 The Jewish Community Relations Council of  
17 New York--

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

20 CLERK: JCRC-NY founded as a non-profit  
21 in 1976 is the proactive central coordinating and  
22 resource organization for the Jewish Community across  
23 eight counties in the New York area. Its dedicated  
24 citizens share a deep commitment to act as advocates  
25 for the local and international Jewish Community and

2 its progressive conveners to train the next  
3 generation of civic and non-profit leaders; and

4           Whereas, since its inception, JCRC-NY has  
5 increasingly worked to extend its coordination to the  
6 multi-ethnic, multi-faith population in our region.

7 In doing so, it performs a leading role in the  
8 protection, preservation and development of Jewish  
9 life in New York and fostered mutual respect,  
10 diversified op--diversified options and an overall  
11 sense of inclusion respecting member of all  
12 backgrounds; and

13           Whereas, JCRC-NY also supports more than  
14 three dozen other organizations including Celebrate  
15 Israel NY, the Universal Torah Registry, Russian  
16 Speaking Outreach and the Council of Young Jewish  
17 Presidents among others to build a stronger New York  
18 Jewish community. By working directly with municipal  
19 offices and agencies as well as State legislators,  
20 senators and congressional members. They urge  
21 support on many issues of concern for the New York  
22 Jewish Community. At this great milestone, we  
23 reflect upon this organization's great legacy of  
24 achievements and reaffirm our faith in its equally--  
25 equally bright future.

2                   Now, therefore, be it known that the  
3 Council of the City of New York including all members  
4 of its Jewish Caucus honors the Jewish Community  
5 Relations Council of New York in celebration of its  
6 40th anniversary and its outstanding service and  
7 enduring contributions to New York City. Melissa  
8 Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the Entire Council, Mark  
9 D. Levine, Chair, Jewish Caucus, Ben Kallos, Council  
10 Member, Fifth District Manhattan and the members of  
11 the Jewish Caucus of the City Council

12                   COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank--thank you  
13 so much. [cheers/applause] Rabbi Miller. Rabbi  
14 Miller would you say a few words, please.

15                   RABBI MILLER: Just a word or two because  
16 I don't want to keep everybody. We are at JCRC we're  
17 both a Jewish Community Relations Council serving the  
18 Jewish community, the very broad and diverse Jewish  
19 community, but we're also a Jewish community  
20 relations Council serving all New Yorkers looking out  
21 at--at the City Council members who are here, the  
22 City Council as a whole. You, too, are reflective of  
23 all New Yorkers. So the partnership between JCRC and  
24 the City Council is very deep and very meaningful.  
25 We look forward, President-Elect Timmel and myself

2 look forward with all of our board members to  
3 continue this relationship, and look forward as well  
4 to the next trip to Israel. [laughs] And many people  
5 have been bothering about it [laughs] but in--in  
6 truth the partnership is--is very strong, and it's  
7 one that we look forward to working together for  
8 many, many years to come to improve the quality of  
9 life of all New Yorkers, and to build friendships and  
10 bridges between all the ethnicities and faith groups  
11 that reside here in New York. Thank you very, very  
12 mouth. [cheers/applause]

13 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Congratulations.  
15 Mazel tov.

16 [background comments]

17 CHARLES TIMMEL: So I'm Charles Timmel.  
18 I'm President-Elect of the Jewish Community Relations  
19 Council of New York. You know, New York is diversity,  
20 and this is what we do. We work for all New Yorkers  
21 to make New York the wonderful city that it is.  
22 We've been privileged to do this for 40 years. So on  
23 behalf of the Board of the Jewish Community Relations  
24 Council of New York, Madam President, on behalf of  
25 our donors, on behalf of our community and on behalf

2 of our beneficiaries and Senior Jay (sic) Federation,  
3 we thank you for this extraordinary honor, and we  
4 look forward to the privilege of serving New York for  
5 many, many years to come. [applause] [background  
6 comments]

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Well, thank you  
8 all again and we look forward to--we're going to  
9 your--your gala coming up because to continue to  
10 solidify these bonds that have existed for so long,  
11 and all the work that you do, which is very mission  
12 driven, and--and is aligned with the work that we do  
13 here in the Council. So thank you, Michael, for all  
14 you do and JCRC and congratulations---

15 RABBI MILLER: Thank you so much--

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: --on--on being  
17 recognized. So thank you.

18 CHARLES TIMMEL: Thank you.

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right.

20 [applause] [background comments]

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right, I  
22 think we have two more ceremonials. [background  
23 comments] We have--we'll do the Crowley. Liz Crowley  
24 has a proclamation. Where's Liz. [background  
25 comments]

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down, please.  
3 Keep it down.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay, this is  
5 going to be with the Women's Caucus. Okay, the--the  
6 Women's Caucus can join and Council Member Crowley to  
7 recognize Catalyst Organization, which promotes  
8 equality for women in the workplace. Anybody here  
9 form Catalyst that's going to receive this  
10 proclamation, please join us, and I'll hand it off to  
11 Council member Crowley. Hold on one second. Let it  
12 quiet down a little bit. [background comments] All  
13 right, we're going to move onto the next ceremonial.

14 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Keep it  
15 down, please. Keep it down.

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay. Council  
17 Member Crowley.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Good afternoon.  
19 Good afternoon. I want to thank CEO and President of  
20 Catalyst Deborah Gillis for being here today, and the  
21 member and team members of Catalyst to receive the  
22 award for the hard work that you do each and every  
23 year. today, the Council is recognizing the work of  
24 Catalyst, which has been together for over 40 years.  
25 Catalyst promotes women in the workforce, and next

2 week this whole country will be looking at equal pay  
3 on Equal Pay Day. And it's fitting that this Council  
4 is set to pass a bill that requires the City to  
5 survey the businesses that do work with the city.  
6 Over \$13 billion each year.

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [interposing] Can  
8 we please get some quiet. We want to give respect to  
9 the people we're honoring today. They're doing  
10 important work on behalf of the City, and so we would  
11 like some quiet. Thank you.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Thank you, Madam  
13 Speaker. Each year this city contracts out with over  
14 60,000 different businesses and spend over \$13  
15 billion in the City budget. Yet, we have no idea the  
16 diversity of these companies. Who sits on their  
17 board, who the executive level and staff is of these  
18 companies. And study after study that Catalyst has  
19 done with various different organizations show that  
20 when you have women on board or women in leadership  
21 roles, those companies do better, better productivity  
22 and better profitability. And I want to thank them  
23 for the work that they do, and I want to invite  
24 Deborah to say a few words on behalf of Catalyst.

2 DEBORAH GILLIS: Thank you very much for  
3 this special recognition, which I accept on--

4 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [off mic]  
5 [interposing] Keep it down, please. Keep it down.

6 DEBORAH GILLIS: -- behalf of the Catalyst  
7 staff and Board of Directors and, of course, I want  
8 to extend congratulations to the leadership that the  
9 city is showing today, and taking an important step  
10 for women, for businesses and for everyone in New  
11 York because when women succeed in business, the  
12 economy and the society succeeds. So congratulations  
13 on this important step and thank you for your  
14 advocacy. [cheers/applause]

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: There's the  
16 Proclamation. [on mic] So if we could have the  
17 clerk read the Proclamation.

18 CLERK: Council City of New York  
19 Proclamation.

20 Whereas, Catalyst is the leading non-  
21 profit organization dedicated to accelerating  
22 progress for women through workplace inclusion. For  
23 more than five decades it has been at the forefront  
24 of women's advancement in business since Catalyst was  
25 founded in 1962, a year when such equality was a



2 distant dream. It has been creating workplaces where  
3 people of all genders, races and ethnicities can  
4 thrive; and

5           Whereas, today Catalyst research, tools,  
6 services, events and programs raise awareness of how  
7 inclusion benefits today's global businesses and  
8 provides guidance and solutions on how to enact real  
9 change. Its research reveals challenges and  
10 opportunities for organizations and women at work  
11 around the globe. Catalyst studies women and men  
12 across job levels, functions and geographies to learn  
13 about women's experiences in business and barriers to  
14 their career advancement, and the individual and  
15 organizational strategies that lead to success, and

16           Whereas, whether measuring or diagnosing  
17 talent management gaps, or a identifying the best  
18 programs that organizations and business leaders can  
19 use to leverage top talent, Catalyst relies on fact-  
20 based scientific methods and experience as well as  
21 partnerships and collaborations to find the answers.  
22 As a result, Catalyst is the most trusted resource  
23 for knowledge on gender, leadership and include--  
24 include--inclusive talent management in the world.  
25 More than 800 member organizations rely on it's

2 comprehensive knowledge of today's workplace to  
3 identify barriers and pioneer solutions; and

4           Whereas, members of Catalyst are  
5 consistently instrumental in advocating for equal  
6 opportunities for all members of the workforce  
7 whether it be through their support for legislation,  
8 addressing diversity issues or their presence at  
9 events and rallies promoting gender and racial  
10 equality including Equal Pay Day. We wish them all  
11 continued success.

12           Now, therefore, be it known that the  
13 Council of the City of New York including all members  
14 of its Women's Caucus honor Catalyst for its  
15 extraordinary contributions to accelerating progress  
16 for women through workplace inclusion. Melissa Mark-  
17 Viverito Speaker for the Entire Council, Elizabeth  
18 Crowley, Council Member, Thirtieth District, Queens,  
19 Laurie A. Cumbo, Co-Chair, Women's Caucus, Helen  
20 Rosenthal, Co-Chair, Women Caucus and the rest of the  
21 members of the Women's Caucus.

22           SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: So again,  
23 congratulations. Today is--is--it's also a big day.  
24 The Women's Caucus has their--all--all the junior  
25 council members here. Again, a step of really

2 working with our young women to inspire them, and we  
3 be inspired by that--by you as young people to create  
4 opportunities for growth and leadership development,  
5 very important, and we've been fighting that we have  
6 also increase the representation of women in the  
7 Council. So this a day about women's empowerment.  
8 There's on 14 our 51. We have a lot of work to do,  
9 but we'll get there. [cheers/applause] But thank  
10 you for--for what you do at advocating in the  
11 workforce, and thank you to--to the Women's Caucus  
12 for putting this together. [cheers/applause] All  
13 right, we have one more ceremonial. [pause]  
14 [background comments] All right, we're going to do  
15 the last ceremonial. Are they just trying to get  
16 some photos. [background comments, pause] So the  
17 last ceremonial is the 100--celebrating the 150th  
18 anniversary of the ASPCA. If the ASPCA  
19 representative can come up. [applause] Oh, wow, a  
20 lot of them. [laughs] So anybody that know me knows  
21 that I love animals, and the humane treatment of  
22 animals. [applause] I adopted a stray tabby that  
23 continues to be part of my life, and we also had  
24 adopted a dog from one of our local shelters. The  
25 ASPCA does wonderful work. We've done spay/neuter

2 programs with them. They run a great facility on  
3 91st Street I believe it is.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: 92nd Street.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: 92nd.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: We'll take. Hold  
7 on.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: A beautiful  
9 facility. They do a lot of adoptions obviously. So  
10 we really want to commend you for 150 years. That's  
11 a long, long time serving--serving here in New York  
12 City. So thank you for that and--and I don't know if  
13 Ben wants to say something, a few words, but we'll  
14 ask if--what?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Come on over  
16 here.

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Come on Margaret.  
18 Here, Ben, go ahead.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: It's a pleasure  
20 to have the ASPCA in my district at 92nd Street.  
21 Anyone here, anyone in the body please consider  
22 adopting a cat or a dog today. I know that Council  
23 Member Johnson just adopted a cat. The ASPCA is  
24 where I adopted my first cat [applause] and it's  
25 amazing, and if you want a new member of your family,

2 please head on down for your--your new forever member  
3 of the family, and you can visit [aspca.org](http://aspca.org) to donate  
4 and support the cause.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: And obviously  
6 also we highly encourage people to spay and neuter  
7 their pets. It's really important as well.  
8 Unfortunately, we do not have no-kill shelters in the  
9 City of New York.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: We're working on  
11 it.

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: We need to. We--  
13 we are, but we need to definitely encourage that  
14 people adopt and--and work with organizations like  
15 the ASPCA and Animal Care and Control to really  
16 improve the lives of our furry friends. So with  
17 that, I would like to ask the Clerk to read the  
18 Proclamation.

19 CLERK: Council City of New York  
20 Proclamation.

21 The American Society for the Prevention  
22 of Cruelty to Animals, the ASPCA, was founded on  
23 April 10, 1866 by Henry Bergh, a New Yorker who  
24 briefly served under President Lincoln. After  
25 witnessing many violent acts towards animals in New

2 York and abroad, Henry Bergh founded the ASPCA on the  
3 belief that protecting animals was an issue that  
4 crossed class boundaries and party lines. In the  
5 face of indifference, opposition and ridicule, he  
6 raised his voice for the voiceless and made a strong  
7 moral and legal case that convinced prominent leaders  
8 to act--to enact the first anti-cruelty law in the  
9 United States; and

10           Whereas, today 150 years later, the ASPCA  
11 continues to uphold Henry Bergh's--

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

14           CLERK: --to compassion locally and  
15 nationally by advocating for the strongest possible  
16 protections through the passage of legislation in the  
17 establishment the public policies that combat animal  
18 cruelty and by providing expert legal assistance to  
19 prosecutors, law enforcement and cruelty  
20 investigators. Since 2014, the ASPCA has broadened--  
21 has been broadened its reach with the first of its  
22 kind partnership with the NYPD. Today, over 5,400  
23 members of the NYPD have been trained so that dogs  
24 and cats across the five boroughs are protected by  
25 better laws and effective enforcement. The

2 ASPCA/NYPD partnership led to the launch of the  
3 Canine Annex for Recovery and Enrichment or CARE,  
4 which has rescued and rehabilitated more than 100  
5 dogs; and

6           Whereas, each year over 2.5 million pets  
7 are euthanized in American animal shelters. The  
8 ASPCA is working to end the tragic euthanasia of  
9 adoptable animals by offering free and low-cost spay-  
10 neuter surgery via five mobile spay and neuter  
11 clinics. In 2015, the ASPCA's Community Medicine  
12 Team performed 45,862 spay-neuter surgeries. The  
13 same year the ASPCA found homes for a record breaking  
14 number of New York City animals through 4,601  
15 adoptions; and

16           Whereas, the ASPCA has grown to become  
17 one of America's largest welfare grant makers  
18 providing support to many other U.S. based non-profit  
19 animal welfare organizations. Since 2008, it has  
20 awarded more than \$93 million in grants to nearly  
21 2,800 animal shelters, municipal and government  
22 agencies, rescue groups, sanctuaries and other animal  
23 welfare organizations nationwide. It has also  
24 granted over \$24 million to organizations in New York  
25 State to support programs that improve live release

2 rates of shelter animals, increase the population of  
3 spayed or neutered animals, investigate and rescue  
4 animals from cruelty, and decrease the number of  
5 animals entering the shelter system.

6 Now, therefore, be it known that the  
7 Council of the City of New York is proud to honor the  
8 ASPCA in celebration of its 150th Anniversary, and  
9 urges all New Yorkers to improve positive outcomes  
10 form shelter animals by volunteering to foster  
11 animals and by advocating for adequate resources for  
12 animal welfare programs. Melissa Mark-Viverito,  
13 Speaker for the Entire Council, Ben Kallos, Council  
14 Member Fifth District Manhattan and many members of  
15 the New York City Council.

16 FEMALE SPEAKER: All right, I'll hold  
17 this. Thank you so much for this honor.

18 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [off mic]  
19 [interposing] Keep it down, please. Keep it down,  
20 please.

21 FEMALE SPEAKER: The ASPCA is incredibly  
22 fortunate to have more than 2 million members across  
23 the country, but I don't think there's any question  
24 that New York City is our home. It's in New York  
25 City 150 years ago this week that Henry Bergh founded



2 the ASPCA, and it's in New York City that we have our  
3 National Headquarters, our Adoption Center, our  
4 hospital, our Kitten Nursery, and this Sunday the  
5 Paws Parade--New York City Paws Parade an  
6 Adoptapalooza event in Manhattan and Brooklyn where  
7 we're hoping we're going to see lots of you. It's  
8 through our strong partnerships with important  
9 organizations in New York City like the Animal Care  
10 Centers of New York City, the Alliance for New York  
11 City Animals, and many other shelter and rescue  
12 groups in New York City that we're able to do life  
13 saving work for homeless animals' needs in the city.  
14 And it's through our partnership with NYPD that we're  
15 able to help save and protect more victims of animal  
16 cruelty than ever before in New York City's history.  
17 And finally, because strong laws to protect animals  
18 are the reason why we can do that other good work, we  
19 are so grateful to the City Council for supporting so  
20 many important humane measures over the years, and  
21 helping to make New York the humane city that the  
22 ASPCA is so proud to call home.

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Well, thank you.

24 FEMALE SPEAKER: Thank you so much.

25 [applause]

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you so  
3 much. All right, thank you for your effort. All  
4 right and with that we end ceremonials.

5 [pause, background comments]

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Ladies and gentlemen,  
7 can I have your attention, please? Can I please have  
8 your attention? At this time, at this time please  
9 place all electronic devices to vibrate. Can I  
10 please have all non-Council employees please leave  
11 the main floor of the Chambers. Could I have all  
12 council member seated in their seats, please? Thank  
13 you. [pause]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND:  
15 Colleagues, I'd like to take--I'd like to now.

16 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: I like to hear it  
17 quiet.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the--  
19 quite in the Chambers, please. Quiet in the  
20 Chambers. Everyone please have their seats. Please  
21 have your seats. Please have your seats. I'd like  
22 to now call upon Council Member Julissa Ferreras.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: On  
24 behalf of all New York City Council Members, staff  
25 and everyone here--

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]

3 [shushing for quiet]

4 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: --I'd

5 like to wish our Speaker a very happy birthday.

6 [cheers/applause] It has now become a tradition, and

7 the cake came from--

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: [interposing]

9 Jumaane, could you lead us off, please.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: --a

11 wonderful Dominican bakery in Corona.

12 [cheers/applause] This is some good Dominican cake.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Okay, everyone

14 join.

15 COUNCIL MEMBERS: [Sing Happy Birthday

16 sung to the Speaker]

17 [cheers/applause]

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [sings] How--how

19 old are you now? How old? [laughs]

20 [cheers/applause]

21 [gavel]

22 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [off mic] Quiet,

23 please. Quiet please. Could I have order.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the

25 chambers. All rise.

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Everyone rise. Rise.

3 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please join me in  
4 the Pledge of Allegiance.

5 [Pledge of Allegiance]

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please be seated  
7 roll call.

8 CLERK: Barron.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

10 CLERK: Borelli. Cabrera.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the  
13 Chambers. [shushing for quiet] Quiet in the  
14 Chambers please.

15 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Keep it  
16 down please.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

18 CLERK: Thank you. Chin.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

20 CLERK: Cohen.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.

22 CLERK: Constantinides.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Here.

24 CLERK: Cornegy.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Presente.

2 CLERK: Crowley.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [off mic] Here.

4 CLERK: Cumbo.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Present.

6 CLERK: Deutsch.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Present.

8 CLERK: Dickens.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.

10 CLERK: Dromm.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: [off mic] Here.

12 CLERK: Espinal.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Here.

14 CLERK: Eugene.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Present.

16 CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: [off

18 mic] Present.

19 CLERK: Garodnick.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

21 CLERK: Gentile.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

23 CLERK: Gibson.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Here.

25 CLERK: Greenfield. Grodenchik.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Grodenchik is  
3 here.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [laughs]

5 CLERK: Johnson.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Here.

7 CLERK: Kallos.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Ho.

9 CLERK: King.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: [off mic] Present.

11 CLERK: Koo.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

13 CLERK: Koslowitz.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

15 CLERK: Lancman.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Here.

17 CLERK: Lander.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [off mic] Here.

19 CLERK: Levin.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

21 CLERK: Levine.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

23 CLERK: Maisel.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Here.

25 CLERK: Mealy.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Mealy.

3 FRANCESCA SMALL: Francesca Small for  
4 Mealy. Here.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: There you go.

6 [laughter]

7 CLERK: Menchaca.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.

9 CLERK: Mendez.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

11 CLERK: Miller. Palma. Reynoso.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Present.

13 CLERK: Richards.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

15 CLERK: Rodriguez.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

17 CLERK: Rose.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: [off mic] Here.

19 CLERK: Rosenthal.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

21 CLERK: Salamanca.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.

23 CLERK: Torres.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: [off mic]

25 Present.

2 CLERK: Treyger.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

4 CLERK: Ulrich.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here on time.

6 [laughter]

7 CLERK: Vacca.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

9 CLERK: Vallone.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

11 CLERK: Williams.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

13 CLERK: Wills. Matteo.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.

15 CLERK: Van Bramer.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

17 CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

18 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Present.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. All

20 rise.

21 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: All rise.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the

23 Chambers. Please remove all hats. All hats. Thank

24 you. And now we will hear the Invocation delivered

25 by Reverend Lawrence Aker of the Cornerstone Baptist



2 Church at 289 Lewis Avenue in the Borough of  
3 Brooklyn.

4 REVEREND LEWIS AKER: Let us pray.  
5 Heavenly Father, we thank you on this beautiful  
6 spring day. You've given us health and strength.  
7 You've blessed us with liquid sunshine and we say  
8 thank you. We also come to ask a special blessing of  
9 wisdom and discernment upon this special group of  
10 legislators, men and women that you have ordained, 51  
11 people that you have purposed together for such a  
12 time as this. We ask that you will watch over this  
13 city, which is one of your many wonderful creations,  
14 a city that never sleeps, but we are thankful that  
15 you never sleep nor slumber. Thank you for being the  
16 Eternal Keeper in a world that is ever changing.  
17 Strengthen them as they seek to make a better New  
18 York for all. May the Lord bless you, and keep you.  
19 May the Lord make his face to shine on you and be  
20 gracious to you. May the Lord turn his face toward  
21 you and give each of you peace. Amen.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please--please be  
23 seated. [coughs] And not the motion to spread the  
24 Invocation. Council Member Cornegy please be quiet.  
25 Quiet in the Chambers.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: You want--you  
3 want me to be quiet or spread the Invocation?

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: No. [laughter]  
5 Council Member Cornegy, you have the floor.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: So on behalf of  
7 the Cornerstone Baptist Church, which I am a member,  
8 it is a pleasure to have my Pastor who has taught me  
9 that decency or--decency and order are always the  
10 order of the day. Who our church--my pastor has  
11 proclaimed that every seat in our church is a--a love  
12 seat, and who exemplifies the idea that church beyond  
13 the walls is the model of the day for our ecumenical  
14 community. I--I--I love my pastor and his wife. My  
15 pastor is a good friend who serves our community with  
16 distinction and dignity. My children enjoy service  
17 at the church, and are both Girl Scouts and Boy  
18 Scouts at Cornerstone Baptist Church. I just love to  
19 spread the motion--I'd like to make a motion to  
20 spread the Invocation in full upon the record on  
21 behalf the best church this side of--this--this side  
22 of Brooklyn, Cornerstone Baptist Church.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you,  
24 Council Member Cornegy and the entire Brooklyn

2 Delegation joins you in that. Adoption of minutes,  
3 Council Member Van Bramer.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I make a  
5 motion that the Minutes of the Stated Meeting of  
6 March 9, 2016 be adopted as printed.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Messages and  
8 Papers from the Mayor.

9 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: M 388 submitting  
10 Frank Carone for reappointment to the Taxi and  
11 Limousine Commission.

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Rules, Privileges  
13 and Elections.

14 CLERK: M 389 submitting Lauvienska  
15 Polanco for appointment to the TLC.

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Rules, Privileges  
17 and elections.

18 CLERK: M 390 submitting Jeanne Lutfy for  
19 appointment to the Landmarks Preservation commission.

20 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Rules, Privileges  
21 and Elections.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [off mic]  
23 Communications from-- [on mic] Communications from  
24 City, County and Borough offices.

25 CLERK: None.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Petitions and  
3 communications.

4 CLERK: None.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Land Use Call-  
6 Ups.

7 CLERK: M 391 Sidewalk Cafe.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Roll call.

9 CLERK: Van Bramer.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I would like  
11 to vote aye on all call-ups and with permission I'd  
12 like to vote on all coupled general orders and  
13 resolutions.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I vote aye.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

17 CLERK: Barron.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yes.

19 CLERK: Borelli.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye.

21 CLERK: Cabrera.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

23 CLERK: Thank you. Chin.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

25 CLERK: Cohen.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

3 CLERK: Constantinides.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

5 CLERK: Cornegy.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

7 CLERK: Crowley.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Yes.

9 CLERK: Cumbo.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I guess my vote is  
11 aye. (sic)

12 CLERK: Deutsch.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Excuse me.

14 Council Member Crowley, the rules require that  
15 members have to specifically vote. We recognize that  
16 we have some members who are serving as Council  
17 Members, but City Council Members have to vote on the  
18 record.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote ayes.

20 CLERK: Dickens.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [off mic] Aye.

22 CLERK: Dromm.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

24 CLERK: Espinal.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.

2 CLERK: Eugene.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I would like to  
4 vote aye on all call-ups, and all coupled general  
5 orders and the resolution.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you.

10 CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Next.

12 CLERK: Garodnick.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

14 CLERK: Gentile.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

16 CLERK: Gibson.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Aye.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Ferreras-

19 Copeland.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: Aye.

21 CLERK: Greenfield. Grodenchik.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: [off mic]

23 Aye.

24 CLERK: Johnson.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye.

2 CLERK: Kallos.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

4 CLERK: King.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: King.

6 CLERK: Koo.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

8 CLERK: Koslowitz.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

10 CLERK: Lancman.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: [off mic] Aye.

12 CLERK: Lander.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [off mic] Aye.

14 CLERK: Levin.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

16 CLERK: Levine.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

18 CLERK: Maisel.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

20 CLERK: Mealy.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY/FRANCESCA SMALL:

22 Fancesca and I say aye. (in unison) There you go.

23 CLERK: Menchaca.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.

25 CLERK: Mendez.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ/ASSISTANT: Aye.  
3 (in unison)  
4 CLERK: Miller. Palma. Reynoso.  
5 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.  
6 CLERK: Richards.  
7 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.  
8 CLERK: Rodriguez.  
9 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: [off mic] Aye.  
10 CLERK: Rose.  
11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: [off mic] Aye.  
12 CLERK: Rosenthal.  
13 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.  
14 CLERK: Salamanca.  
15 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye.  
16 CLERK: Torres.  
17 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: [off mic] Aye.  
18 CLERK: Treyger.  
19 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.  
20 CLERK: Ulrich.  
21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Ulrich.  
22 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Yes.  
23 CLERK: Vacca.  
24  
25



2 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I vote aye and I  
3 ask permission to vote aye on all general calendar  
4 order numbers.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Thank you.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

8 CLERK: Vallone.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Madam Advocate,  
10 I ask permission to vote aye on all--all matters on  
11 today's calendar and call-ups.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: I vote aye and  
14 let's go nuts.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

16 CLERK: Williams. Matteo. Speaker Mark-  
17 Viverito.

18 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] I vote  
19 aye. [pause]

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All items on  
21 today's Land Use Call-Ups were adopted by a vote of  
22 47 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative. Quiet in  
23 the Chambers as we now hear from the Speaker Melissa  
24 Mark-Viverito.

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Madam  
3 Public Advocate and good afternoon to all my  
4 colleagues. So I just want to begin today  
5 remembering a few great New Yorkers who we've lost.  
6 Former FDNY Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta passed  
7 away on March 24th. Commissioner Scoppetta had a  
8 long career of service to New York. We're very  
9 grateful for all those years of services in many  
10 different capacities, and definitely keep him in our  
11 thoughts.

12 Also, on March 22n, Malik Izaak Taylor  
13 better known as Phife of a Tribe Called Quest passed  
14 away at the young age of 45. A Tribe Called Quest  
15 was a pioneer hip-hop act from Queens and Phife work-  
16 -Phife's work will be celebrated for generations to  
17 come. And finally, also this week, just the other  
18 day we unveiled a commemorative plaque for Council  
19 Member James E. Davis, and we named our Members  
20 Lounge after him. [applause] Council Member--  
21 Council Member Davis was a dedicated public servant  
22 who was tragically killed and assassinated in a  
23 senseless act of violence in this very room on June  
24 23rd, 2003. The plaque we unveiled for him will  
25 serve as an endearing testament to his memory and his

2 legacy of public service. So first off, I want to  
3 thank my colleagues for your thoughtfulness in--in  
4 celebrating my birthday. Very much appreciated and  
5 that cake looked good so I guess I'll--I will try to  
6 have a piece of it. So thank you all very much for  
7 the--for the good wishes. Today, we're going to be  
8 voting on four bills giving city agencies greater  
9 ability to enforce penalties for violations  
10 returnable to the Environmental Control Board. These  
11 bill with issues--these bills deal with issues that  
12 have made it difficult for city agencies and the  
13 Department of Finance to collect outstanding debt  
14 stemming from ECB violations. To address that, this  
15 legislation holds violators accountable for  
16 unresolved debts, and puts in place policies that  
17 will help agencies and the Department of Finance  
18 identify those who owe debts from the ECB. An  
19 additional bill in this package will authorize a 90-  
20 day amnesty program to resolve current outstanding  
21 judgments issued by the Environmental Control Board.  
22 Those who are subject to ECB judgments will be able  
23 to resolve those judgments by paying 75% of the  
24 imposed penalty and having the accrued interest  
25 waived. The legislation will also require the

2 Department of Finance to conduct an outreach campaign  
3 to publicize the Amnesty Program in order to maximize  
4 participation. For the staff I want to thank Richard  
5 Poderos (sp?), Maya Deshmukh, Laura Wenn, Tanisha  
6 Edwards, Rebecca Chasan and Wes Jones. Council  
7 Members Kallos and Julissa Ferreras-Copeland are the  
8 co-sponsors of this legislation, and I would like to  
9 ask them to say a few words. Council Member Kallos.  
10 [background comments]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Thank you,  
12 Speaker. Everyday council members receive calls,  
13 emails, even Tweets with photos of quality of life  
14 problems like trash on sidewalks, noise before or  
15 after hours and dangerous construction often because  
16 of a bad neighbor. Until now, a 311 complaint might  
17 result in a violation, but those violations are  
18 rarely collected to the tune of \$1.6 billion. We've  
19 been working on this quality of life issue since May  
20 of 2014 [background comments] when Council Member  
21 Ferreras-Copeland and I raised the issue at a joint  
22 budget hearing--

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for  
24 quiet]

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: --of our  
3 committee. Following our hearing, the Department of  
4 Finance issued a report in June of 2014, which  
5 provides the basis for this legislation and Local Law  
6 11 of 2015 sponsored by Council Member Ferreras-  
7 Copeland I require reporting on quality of  
8 violations--quality of life violations. The first  
9 report issued in November 2015 support the need for  
10 further reforms. Two main problems became apparent.  
11 One, violations were missing information necessary to  
12 find who was responsible, and two, bad neighbors with  
13 outstanding violations could still do business  
14 without correcting mistakes or changing their  
15 behavior. The first two bills will help us identify  
16 who is responsible. Introduction 807-A sponsored by  
17 Council Member Ferreras-Copeland and I requires the  
18 City to make reasonable efforts to find the person  
19 responsible instead of generally writing the  
20 violation to "owner of."

21 Introduction 812-A, that I sponsored with  
22 Council Member Ferreras-Copeland requires agencies to  
23 included unique identifiers like borough, block and  
24 lot, BBL, and building identification number on  
25 notices of violation. The final bill intro--

2 Introduction 810-A, that I sponsored with Council  
3 Member Gentile, requires agencies to consider all  
4 outstanding or repeated quality of life violations  
5 when renewing or granting permits, licenses or  
6 registrations with public reporting on applications  
7 reviewed and denied. Moving forward, when New  
8 Yorkers complain and a violation is issued, instead  
9 of ignoring it or paying it as a cost of doing  
10 business, bad neighbors will have to improve their  
11 behavior. Passing the bills--these bills will not  
12 only help the City collect \$1.6 billion, but will  
13 more importantly change the behavior that jeopardized  
14 public safety, and it will actually help improve our  
15 quality of life. I would like to thank the Speaker,  
16 Council Member Ferreras-Copeland. We've been working  
17 on this for two years. Matt Gewolb, Rachel Cordero,  
18 Smिता Deshmukh, Wes Jones, Tanisha Edwards, Rebecca  
19 Chasan and my Legislative Director Paul Westrick.  
20 We've been negotiating these bills for months and  
21 years, and I hope that we can count on your support  
22 today. Thank you.

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Council Member  
24 Ferreras-Copeland. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd  
25 like to thank the Finance Division staff and the

2 Legislative staff who helped us put this bill--this  
3 package of bills together. Council Member Kallos and  
4 also the Administration, Commissioner Gia (sp?), and  
5 his leadership on this for the amnesty component. I  
6 just ask all my colleagues now that we're passing  
7 this amnesty, our constituents should use it. This  
8 is 90 days that we can give them to be able to waive  
9 significant penalties off of their bills. So those  
10 that are--have been living in the shadows, have been  
11 in debt, and have thought of paying other bills  
12 before they pay their ECB debt, this is a 90-day  
13 window to get this resolved. After these 90 days,  
14 the Department of Finance will not be as lenient. So  
15 I urge all of my colleagues to help us spread the  
16 word to our constituencies. Most of this debt is  
17 debt that we find from the Department of Sanitation  
18 or the Department of Buildings. So it is imperative  
19 that we give them this opportunity in these next 90  
20 days. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you, Public  
21 Advocate.

22 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you. Next  
23 we're going to be voting on legis--legislation  
24 requiring city agencies to request information  
25 regarding race, ethnicity, and gender information

2 from the executive boards of companies that contract  
3 with the City. Though contractors would not be  
4 obliged to provide this information and city agencies  
5 will be prohibited from conditioning contract awards  
6 on such information or the lack thereof, this  
7 voluntary program will allow us to have better  
8 insight into the diversity of firms that we do  
9 business with. From the staff side, I want to thank  
10 Alex Paulenoff, Katelyn Caruso, Malaika Jabali,  
11 Rachel Harris, Alli Ali, Jeff Baker, Ed Atkin and  
12 Annie Decker. this is a bill by Council Member  
13 Crowley, and I would like her to say a few words.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Thank you, Madam  
15 Speaker. Intro 740-A will require the Department of  
16 Small Business Services to produce a survey for  
17 companies that do business with the City. The survey  
18 will obtain the demographics of the company's  
19 executive directors, officers and board members.  
20 Currently, New York City has no data on the gender  
21 and racial makeup of the people holding these  
22 positions. Not only is this bill fair and smart, but  
23 it promotes equal opportunity. And it's fitting that  
24 this vote is held during the last stated meeting  
25 before Equal Pay Day, which is April 12th. Studies



2 show that equal opportunity assists in achieving  
3 equal pay for equal work, and we have an opportunity  
4 and responsibility to do all we can to close the  
5 gender pay gap. Today, women hold less than 5% of  
6 CEO positions and only 16% of board seats at Fortune  
7 500 companies. This lack in top level opportunity is  
8 pervasive in board rooms big and small across the  
9 country. But this is more than an injustice to  
10 women. It is actually hurting most companies' bottom  
11 lines. Study after study show that when people of  
12 different genders and races hold leadership  
13 positions, it improves companies' financial  
14 performance, economic growth, productivity and  
15 profitability. It is clear that when companies  
16 perform most effective it is when they bring real  
17 opportunity and equal opportunity allowing everyone a  
18 seat at the table. In 2015, the City of New York  
19 procured \$13.8 billion worth of goods and services  
20 through more than 60,000 different transactions.  
21 Intro 74--704-A will provide the city with the data  
22 it needs to ensure that city contracted businesses  
23 are promoting the diversity that makes this city so  
24 great. I'd like to thank our Speaker Melissa Mark-  
25 Viverito, my co-sponsor Council Member Darlene Mealy

2 for her commitment to this legislation. I would like  
3 to thank Council Member Dan Garodnick for his support  
4 as Chair of the Economic Development Committee. I'd  
5 also like to recognize the advocacy groups that have  
6 helped such as Catalyst, PowHer, 20/20, Women on  
7 Boards, 30% Coalition, Direct Women and Diverse  
8 Visions. I look forward to this bill becoming a law  
9 and creating a city where all nor--all New Yorkers  
10 can succeed. Thank you. Please vote aye.

11 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you. We're  
12 also going to be voting on a resolution with a lot of  
13 significance not only to me and many of my colleagues  
14 but to countless New Yorkers. This resolution calls  
15 upon the United States Supreme Court to issue a  
16 decision in the United States versus Texas that  
17 upholds the implementation of President Obama's  
18 expansion to the Deferred Action for Childhood  
19 Arrivals Program, and the creation of a new program,  
20 Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and lawful  
21 permanent residents. The Deferred Action for  
22 Childhood Arrivals Program allows undocumented youth  
23 who enter the country prior to the age of 16, and who  
24 meet a certain set of criteria to remain in the  
25 United States and avoid deportation. In New York

2 City alone, as many as 220,000 individuals could be  
3 eligible for DACA and DAPA programs if the Supreme  
4 Court allows them to go forward. New York City has  
5 always been a home to immigrants, and we intend to  
6 keep it that way. This Smart Immigration Policy from  
7 the White House we can do just that. So we're  
8 calling upon the Supreme Court to allow President  
9 Obama's plan to move forward as intended. I want to  
10 thank Rachel Cordero and Indiana Porta for their help  
11 on that resolution.

12           Additionally, we're going to be voting on  
13 a package of five bills reforming--reforming city's  
14 taxi and for-hire vehicle industries. These bills  
15 will, among other things, help protect the personal  
16 data of customers, streamline the licensing process  
17 for taxi drivers, improve price transparency for  
18 black cars and strengthen rules prohibiting illegal  
19 street hails. As this sector evolves, it's important  
20 that our policies keep up so that passengers and  
21 drivers are best served. These bills, which are part  
22 of a package of reforms we announced in January help  
23 to level the playing field while also fostering  
24 innovation and protecting consumers. Chair of

2 Transportation Ydanis Rodriguez will say a few words,  
3 as well as Council Member Dan Garodnick

4 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down please.

5 FEMALE SPEAKER: Quiet down.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you,  
7 Madam Speaker. I'm proud to start with my colleagues  
8 today as we pass a very meaningful reform to our taxi  
9 and for-hire vehicle industry. This bill will bring  
10 improvement that consumers can rely on ensuring the  
11 data is secure, that they can get into a car knowing  
12 they will not facer the sticker shock at the end.  
13 And with the assurance that their ride will be safe  
14 with a TLC licensed driver behind the wheel. These  
15 reforms will also help the many hard working drivers  
16 in our city who will no longer have to worry about  
17 getting two different licenses to do the same jobs.  
18 This flexibility will support these men and women  
19 that they will no longer feel confined to one sector  
20 or another based on the--on a needless division in  
21 licensing.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for  
23 quiet]

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I want to  
25 thank Council Members Garodnick and Lancman for their

2 work on this package of bills, and I wan to  
3 especially thank our--thank our Madam Speaker,  
4 Melissa Mark-Viverito for her support and the support  
5 of the Administration and also all their work to  
6 improve the taxi and for-hire vehicles industry in  
7 New York City. This bill will benefit all New  
8 Yorkers, and I'm glad to see them pass today. Thank  
9 you.

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Council Member  
11 Garodnick.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank you very  
13 much Madam Speaker. I want to speak on Intros 1080  
14 and 658, which will ensure that our consumer  
15 protections are keeping pace with our technology so  
16 that people are free to take advantage of these e-  
17 Hail apps without worrying about what it will cost  
18 both in terms of the price of their rides, and the  
19 security of their personal information. Under Intro  
20 1080, black cars and limousines must provide a  
21 binding fare quote either as a specific price or a  
22 range upon request before the ride is booked. If  
23 given in a range, the upper limit of the fare quote  
24 cannot exceed 150% of the lower limit. For example,  
25 \$8.00 to \$12.00. Regardless, the final fare a

2 customer is charged could not be more than 20% above  
3 the initial quote, ore the upper end of the range,  
4 which will greatly increase price transparency and  
5 provide more certainty to passengers. The changes  
6 will apply to all black car and luxury limousine  
7 services including e-Hail apps like Uber, Lyft and  
8 Via. So when you book your Uber and check how much  
9 it should cost, you will not be surprised with an  
10 outlandish charge when it comes time to pay. Price  
11 certainty is not the only aspect of for-hire vehicles  
12 that is currently inadequate for consumer protection.  
13 Many of us were outraged when reports emerged that  
14 Uber had used a tool called God View, which enabled  
15 it to access and track the locations of their  
16 customers without their consent. This was not only  
17 morally wrong, but also potentially dangerous for the  
18 people who were tracked. And while Uber claims to  
19 have changed their policies so that this blatant  
20 disregard for privacy will not happen again, we have  
21 to go further to ensure that they and others are held  
22 to these claims with binding regulations, and that a  
23 new high standard for privacy becomes the new minimum  
24 standard for Uber and for every other company. The  
25 potential for abuse is just too high to allow these

2 companies to self-regulate how they use our personal  
3 information. We will require all entities licensed  
4 by the Taxi and Limousine Commission to come up with  
5 a privacy and personal data security policy for all  
6 drivers and customers securing customers against  
7 having their personal information violated by a cab  
8 company. Further, these companies will face  
9 penalties not just for failing to implement privacy  
10 policies, but also for each and every breach of these  
11 policies. This way, the penalties will truly match  
12 the scope of any potential security breaches and  
13 companies will receive more than slap on the wrist  
14 for major exposures of customer data. These bills  
15 will ensure that every passenger regardless of the  
16 company they patronize will be provided with a fair  
17 and secure experience. Eliminating the price  
18 uncertainty for users of taxi apps and protecting  
19 their personal information will greatly benefit the  
20 growing numbers of New Yorkers who use these services  
21 every day. So I thank you, Madam Speaker, the Chair  
22 of the Transportation Committee Ydanis Rodriguez as  
23 well as Kelly Taylor, Leah Reese, Matt Gewolb. Thank  
24 you all for your support, and I encourage my  
25 colleagues to vote aye.

2                   SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,  
3 Council Member, and finally the Council is voting on  
4 legislation that will make the City's Pedestrian  
5 Plaza Program permanent, and allow the Department of  
6 Transportation to create rules for plazas.  
7 Pedestrian plazas are public spaces within street  
8 beds close to vehicular traffic creating more open  
9 space for community use, and enhancing pedestrian  
10 safety in the area. These plazas have been  
11 resounding successes, but some plazas, most notably  
12 Times Square, have major congestion and quality of  
13 life issues that interfere with residents' and  
14 tourists' ability to enjoy these spaces. This bill  
15 will not only protect the city's existing plazas from  
16 being removed without an extensive public process,  
17 but will give DOT the much needed ability to create  
18 general rules for all plazas, and to regulate  
19 commercial activity within individual plazas as  
20 needed. We want to keep the unique atmosphere of  
21 plazas like Times Square, which has been a boon for  
22 the city. But also make sure that our plazas are  
23 safe spaces for the entire community enjoy. On the  
24 staff side, I want to also--I want to thank Kelly  
25 Taylor, Jonathan Masserano, Gafar Zaaloff, Rob



2 Newman, Matt Gewolb. I'm going to ask Council  
3 Members Johnson, Garodnick and Rodriguez to say a few  
4 words. Council Member Johnson.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam  
6 Speaker. Times Square is one of the great symbols in  
7 our great city that encapsulates New York's energy,  
8 its scale, its diversity, its quirkiness, and in a  
9 good way it's craziness. Just this past February,  
10 Times Square saw 300,000 pedestrians walk through it  
11 in a single day. To put that in context, that's  
12 larger than the population of Newark just in a  
13 matter--in a handful of blocks. It's a phonetic  
14 scene with plenty of characters in all senses of the  
15 word. This bill today aims to put in sense some  
16 common sense regulations to ensure that our plazas  
17 remain safe. We are not looking to put anyone out of  
18 business. We're looking to come up with rules for  
19 commercial activity on these plazas in Times Square.  
20 This bill will give DOT the rule making authority to  
21 come up with designated areas and zones that  
22 commercial activity can take place. The vast  
23 majority of cost and characters and other individuals  
24 who are engaging in commercial activity are law  
25 abiding citizens who have done nothing wrong. The

2 congestion is just far too much on these plazas. And  
3 so today we are putting into place what we believe  
4 are constitutional safeguards to ensure that  
5 commercial activity can take place and pedestrians  
6 and tourists can move freely on these plazas. I want  
7 to thank Council Member Garodnick for his partnership  
8 on this. I want to thank the Speaker for her  
9 support. I particularly want to thank Chair  
10 Rodriguez--

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]  
12 [shushing for quiet].

13 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: --for his heal  
14 throughout this process. I want to thank Tim  
15 Tompkins and the Times Square Alliance, Kelly Taylor,  
16 Matt Gewolb, Terzah Nasser, Laura Popa, Rob Newman,  
17 and Louis Cholden Brown from my office. I think this  
18 is a good measure to move forward and to make Times  
19 Square a safer and better place for everyone to  
20 enjoy. Thank you very much.

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you Council  
22 Member. Council Member Garodnick.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank you  
24 again. I want to add my voice in support of 1109 and  
25 thank Council Member Johnson and the Committee Chair

2 Ydanis Rodriguez for all of the work that went into  
3 this bill. As you heard, the bill would give the  
4 Department of Transportation rule making authority in  
5 all of our pedestrian plazas so that we can bring  
6 some order to these public spaces. We have all  
7 enjoyed the results of the plaza since they were  
8 first proposed. They limit interactions between  
9 pedestrians and cars. The number of crashes down,  
10 and even in perhaps the City's most high profile  
11 pedestrian plaza in Times Square, we have a safer  
12 more pedestrian friendly environment at the Cross  
13 Roads of the World. But these positive changes have  
14 also brought new challenges. A growing number of  
15 hawkers, costume characters and solicitors of every  
16 stripe some of whom are bad actors. They harass  
17 tourists. They aggressively solicit tips, and even  
18 worse, they get into fights with each other. Have  
19 been reported to have groped people and get arrested  
20 for assault and battery at an increasing rate. Just  
21 Google your favorite super hero we've arrested in  
22 Times Square, and you will get a million hits. You  
23 should be able to visit Times Square and experience  
24 the quiriness and edginess that makes it unique  
25 without needing to run in the opposite direction

2 every time you see someone in a costume. But Times  
3 Square is not the only plaza in New York City. There  
4 are currently 53 of them, and 20 more are in the  
5 pipeline. Each one is unique and will require its  
6 own set of rules to account for site-specific  
7 conditions. The DOT today does not have the power to  
8 make rules on these plazas, and that's why the bill  
9 lays out what the DOT should be taking into account  
10 when determining how to regulate each plaza. These  
11 plazas are not streets. They are now public spaces,  
12 and they need to be regulated as such, and frankly,  
13 it would not make sense for the City Council to hold  
14 back the authority on making rules for individual  
15 plazas. For us to create rules for each of the 53  
16 and up to 73 individual plazas around the city with  
17 hearings and with approval of the Council and the  
18 Mayor simply is too burdensome, too complicated and  
19 not flexible enough for us.

20 Intro 1109 will give the Department of  
21 Transportation rule making authority in pedestrian  
22 plazas in addition to providing a time line and  
23 criteria for the department to designate new  
24 pedestrian plazas throughout the city so that we can  
25 bring some order out of the chaos. So again, I want

2 to thank the Speaker and my colleagues, especially  
3 Council Member Johnson, Borough President Brewer, Tim  
4 Tompkins, Caitlin Lewis at the Times Square Alliance,  
5 and everyone else who contributed their time and  
6 creativity to this effort, and I look forward to  
7 passing this bill today. Thank you.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Council Member  
9 Rodriguez.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you,  
11 Madam Speaker and thank you to the colleagues of this  
12 bill, Council Member Johnson, Garodnick and Lander.  
13 Today's vote on our plaza as it--as it is related to  
14 Times Square, marks a significant step forward for  
15 the Innovative Plaza Program. We will ensure that  
16 our many public spaces will be protected for years to  
17 come. As it is related to Times Square, the DOT will  
18 take a closer look at how to best provide ample space  
19 to support the hardworking men and women who dress up  
20 to provide a living--a lively environment in this  
21 area. I've spoke with these men and women on Tuesday  
22 hearing their feedback and concern, and we understand  
23 that they are trying to make a living for themselves  
24 and their families. We should aim to post clear  
25 signs to encourage tipping--tapping--tipping for

2 tourists and visitors to ensure that they don't have  
3 to advocate for themselves with folks who may not  
4 understand the dynamics. It would also be a good  
5 idea to provide another space for art and education  
6 in this--in the Times Square Plaza, and the other  
7 plazas across the city for cultural and education  
8 programming. And specifically to be sure that plazas  
9 are regularly--regularly--regularly used. It would  
10 also be great to see business near major plazas that  
11 have seen a major return from this public space  
12 helping to support less frequented plazas in the  
13 outer boroughs with programming and upkeep in order  
14 to avoid a Tale of Two Cities when it comes to our  
15 plazas. I'm proud of the work that has gone into  
16 this process and believe it will end with a result  
17 that benefits all parties. I want to thank to thank  
18 my colleagues, Council Member Johnson, Garodnick,  
19 Lancman and Torres as well as the Speaker Melissa  
20 Mark-Viverito and her team that have worked  
21 tirelessly on this bill. I also want to thank Tim  
22 Tompkins from the Times Square Alliance who has been  
23 a great leader in this great process. Thank you.

24 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you Council  
25 Member, and lastly, I want to thank the Women's

2 Caucus for--I think is the second year, if I'm not  
3 mistaken with Council Members for a day that joins  
4 every--oh, the third year. Okay, the third year.  
5 And so, we welcome the young women that are here with  
6 us today, alongside our female colleague learning  
7 about this legislative body and the role that we  
8 play. I have with me, Guadalupe Salsa from my  
9 district, a young woman who lives in a block in East  
10 Harlem on 116th Street on goes to Heritage High  
11 School. So she's here with me and we welcome her  
12 here as well, and with that, I end Communication from  
13 the Speaker.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Thank  
15 you, Madam Speaker. We also welcome Spider Man to  
16 the balcony. Thank you. [background comments]  
17 Discussions of General Orders. Seeing none, you can  
18 be seated thank you. Reports of special Committees.

19 CLERK: None.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reports of  
21 Standing Committees.

22 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
23 Economic Development Intro--

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]  
25 [shushing for quiet]

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2 CLERK: --704-A, City Contractor's Study.

3 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [off mic] Keep it  
4 down. Keep it down.

5 GUADALUPE SALSA: Amended and coupled on  
6 GO.

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: On General  
8 Orders.

9 GUADALUPE SALSA: On General Orders.

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay.

11 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
12 Finance Intro 806-B, Environment Control Board  
13 Judgments.

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

16 GUADALUPE SALSA: Amended and Coupled on  
17 General Orders.

18 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
19 Governmental Operations, Intro 807-A, Notices of  
20 Violation.

21 GUADALUPE SALSA: Amended and coupled on  
22 GO orders.

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: On General  
24 Orders.

25 GUADALUPE SALSA: On General Orders.



2 CLERK: Intro 810-A, Unpaid Civil  
3 Penalties.

4 GUADALUPE SALSA: Amended and Coupled on  
5 GO.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: General Orders.

7 CLERK: Intro 812-A, Unique Identifiers  
8 for Buildings.

9 GUADALUPE SALSA: Amended and Coupled on  
10 GO--General Orders.

11 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Rules,  
12 Privileges and Elections, M 321 and Reso 1031  
13 approving the designation of Ramon Peguero, Civilian  
14 Complaint Review Board.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
16 General Orders.

17 CLERK: M 379 and Reso 1032 approving the  
18 designation of Marbre Stahly-Butts, Civilian  
19 Complaint Review Board.

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

22 CLERK: M 380 and Reso 1033, approving  
23 the reappointment of Michael Regan, Board of  
24 Correction.

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

4 CLERK: M 386 and Reso 1034, approving  
5 the reappointment of Michelle de la Uz, Planning  
6 Commission.

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
8 General Orders.

9 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
10 Transportation, Intro 658-A, TLC Personnel  
11 Information Policies.

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

14 CLERK: Intro 1080-A, Black Car Fare  
15 Quotes.

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

18 CLERK: Intro 1092-A, Retirement of Black  
19 Cars.

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

22 CLERK: Intro 1095-A, Universal Drivers  
23 License.

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

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2 CLERK: Intro 1096-A, accepting  
3 passengers by street hail.

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

6 CLERK: Intro 1109-B, Pedestrian Plazas.

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

9 CLERK: On the General Order Calendar,  
10 Resolution Appointing Various Persons Commissioner of  
11 Deeds.

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

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the  
16 Chambers before the vote. Quiet in the Chambers,  
17 please. Thank you.

18 CLERK: Barron.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Permission to  
20 explain my vote.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. I  
23 want to introduce my Council Member for a day. It's  
24 Sahai (sp?) Douglas. She's a senior at the Watch  
25 Academy for Total Community at Thomas Jefferson

2 Campus. She's a leader with her peers. She's earned  
3 grades throughout her career that have put her on the  
4 Heiress to Honor Society. She's the President of the  
5 Student Government. She's had perfect attendance  
6 since fourth grade.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Ooh.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: She assists with  
9 special needs students [cheers/applause]. She tutors  
10 in--she tutors small groups of students. She helps  
11 to assess and record student progress. She helps  
12 prepare lesson materials. She hasn't been involved  
13 in social activism because that's very important to  
14 me. She amassed 12 college credits earning A's in  
15 all of her classes. She's been voted the best  
16 science project and the best peer aviator (sic) and  
17 received the Rosa Parks Award. She's an intern at  
18 Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital where she has  
19 developed the general characteristics of bacteria and  
20 other organisms to help understand the relationship  
21 of plants and environmental health. So I want to  
22 make sure we all meet her and greet her and encourage  
23 here, and in my vote I vote aye on all, and I'm  
24 abstaining on 1109-B. Thank you.

25 CLERK: Borelli.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye on all  
3 except 1095-A, 1096-A, M 321 and Reso 1031, M 379 and  
4 Reso 1032, M 380 and Reso 1033.

5 CLERK: Cabrera.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Permission to  
7 explain my vote?

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: I want to  
10 congratulate--

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

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: --Council Members  
14 Corey Johnson and Dan Garodnick for the hours they  
15 spent in coming up with a strategic way in dealing  
16 with the plaza. And also, I would like to recognize  
17 Council Member Andy King, who brought these issues to  
18 our attention very, very early on. Congratulations  
19 and to all the other colleagues in the bills, and I  
20 vote aye on all.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

22 CLERK: Chin.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Permission to  
24 explain my vote?

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I just wanted to  
3 introduce my junior counsel Ginger Diaz (sp?). She's  
4 a student in my district from the High School for  
5 Dual Language and Asian Studies. Ginger volunteered  
6 in my office, and she's dedicated to really helping  
7 people, and she wants to also volunteer in the Senior  
8 Center. She's been learning Mandarin since she was  
9 four years old. So I'm glad that she can continue  
10 that in high school. I vote aye on all. Thank you.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

12 CLERK: Cohen.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: I vote aye.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

15 CLERK: Constantinides.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

17 CLERK: Cornegy.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Cornegy.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Permission to  
20 explain my vote.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes. [laughs]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Sorry. So I  
23 vote aye on all except 1109. I said when the  
24 possibility of regulating the activity of costumes  
25 individuals in Times Square through DCA first arose,

2 and I feel the same way today. Don't knock the  
3 hustle. I feel strongly that we should not regulate  
4 or police any New Yorker out of harmless activity  
5 that they rely on to keep money in their pockets, and  
6 put food on the table. And that includes posing in  
7 costumes and performing for tips in the transit  
8 system. To me, this expressive activity helps make  
9 New York City a more vibrant world class city. And  
10 although I respect that this is a different idea, and  
11 believe that it arises from good intentions, I'm not  
12 convinced that it will do harm. Therefore, I vote no  
13 on 1109.

14 CLERK: Crowley.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Permission to  
16 explain my vote.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I'd like to  
19 introduce my Council Member for the Day, Council  
20 Member Tatiana Torres. Tatiana is a student, an  
21 outstanding student at Grover Cleveland High School.  
22 She recently helped our office with the participatory  
23 budgeting process. She loves help others and one day  
24 would like to possibly be a teacher or possibly a  
25 council member, but she knows that her line of work

2 with be in helping people and doing good for the  
3 community. So I thank her for all that she's done so  
4 far, and I know she's going to be outstanding as she  
5 moves forward in her career and her studies as well.  
6 I vote aye, and Tatiana is going to help me vote aye,  
7 too.

8 TATIANA TORRES: Aye.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: We vote aye.  
10 Thank you.

11 CLERK: Cumbo.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission to  
13 explain my vote.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you so much.

16 I want to first congratulate former Women's Caucus  
17 Co-Chairs Crowley and Mealy for extending Women's  
18 Herstory Month all the way into Women's Herstory  
19 Year. By continuing to make history, I'm making sure  
20 that all of our contractors are equal opportunity  
21 employers because when women are part of the  
22 conversation, part of the workforce and at the table,  
23 all communities do better. I also want to thank all  
24 of my colleagues on their legislation, and I'm so  
25 pleased today that as Co-Chair of the Women's Caucus



2 Council Members Helen Rosenthal and I were able to  
3 organize this fantastic and amazing day where the  
4 future of City Council Members and Presidents of the  
5 United States of America here today. And I'm so  
6 pleased to have with me today Zanasia Dominique  
7 Kearney (sp?) who attends Fashion Industry High  
8 School. She's in the 12th grade. She loves the arts,  
9 fashion, music, everything that I love. So we are  
10 ultimately fast friends. She also wants to start her  
11 own not-for-profit organization. She's also a member  
12 of my church, the Church of the Open Door, and you'll  
13 be hearing more from her later, but she's a dynamic  
14 young woman, and I'm so proud to have her in the  
15 Council today, and I proudly vote aye. Thank you.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

17 CLERK: Deutsch.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye on all.

19 CLERK: Dickens.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: I want to  
21 introduce my Junior Council Member for the Day.  
22 That's Markala Theos from the Harlem Village Academy  
23 High School. She's the President of Model U.N. (sic)  
24 and she's also a member of the Feminist Club at the  
25 school.

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: A feminist.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: That's--that's  
4 right--

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Oh, now I get it.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: --she's already  
7 rocking.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: They'll have some  
9 workflow. (sic)

10 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: And on Friday  
11 she volunteers and reads to the first graders at the  
12 Harlem Village Academy Elementary Schools. She comes  
13 from a large family. She's number 9 of a family of  
14 12 siblings, and yet she has mom that attends it and  
15 got her degree from Columbia University. And so I'm  
16 proud [applause] to have her here with me today, and  
17 I vote aye.

18 CLERK: Dromm.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: I vote aye.

20 CLERK: Espinal.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.

22 CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: I vote  
24 aye.

25 CLERK: Garodnick.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

3 CLERK: Gentile.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: May I explain my  
5 vote, please? Permission to explain my vote?

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Thank you. I'm  
8 proud to be the co-sponsor today of Intro 810-A, a  
9 bill introduced by our colleague Councilman Ben  
10 Kallos. Intro 810-A really helps prevent the abuse  
11 of the issuance of licenses, permits and  
12 registrations--

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

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: --by prohibiting  
16 bad actors from receiving or continuing to hold them,  
17 the licenses and the permits. This bill is important  
18 for example in the ever-increasing problem of illegal  
19 home conversions and the methods of responding to it  
20 because illegally converted homes are the sites of  
21 substandard conditions, strained city resources. So  
22 one of the key issues in stopping these illegal  
23 conversions is limiting the bad actors like the  
24 architects and engineers who obtain construction  
25 permits. Now, with Intro 810-A in place, it will be

2 there. It can help stop them from getting the  
3 permits and continuing their bad actions. So for  
4 this reasons and the reasons that Councilman Kallos  
5 gave earlier, I wholeheartedly support this bill,  
6 congratulate him, congratulate my other colleagues on  
7 the bills today, and I happily vote yes on all.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

9 CLERK: Gibson.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Permission to  
11 explain my vote.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you very  
14 much and certainly I, too, want to join my colleagues  
15 in recognizing our Junior Council Member for the day.  
16 Thank you to our co-chairs, Council Members Helen  
17 Rosenthal and Laurie Cumbo. I am proud to be  
18 introduce my fellow Junior Council Member Maniah  
19 Esponza (sp?). She is a junior at the Bronx  
20 Preparatory Charter School in District 16. She is a  
21 proud Bronx native born and raised. Her family is  
22 from Ghana in West Africa, and certainly District 16  
23 is proud to welcome a large concentration of  
24 residents and families from West Africa. She not  
25 only speaks English, but she speaks Sri (sp?). So I

2 will [foreign language] which is hello in Sir, and  
3 she wants to major in business. She's a member of  
4 her school' Womanhood Program, which focuses on young  
5 women and empowerment, and mentoring opportunities  
6 for our young girls. She previously used to  
7 volunteer for a nursing home, and we are just so  
8 thankful for all of the young girls who are here that  
9 are really getting a sense of what we do here at the  
10 City Council. And I'm thankful that Maniah is here  
11 with us today and I, too, want to thank all of our  
12 colleagues for introducing very important pieces of  
13 legislation, and to all the staff knowing the work  
14 that goes behind a lot of this legislation is really  
15 important. So we think you. I will be voting aye on  
16 all with the exception of Intro 1095-A, 1096-A. I  
17 will be abstaining as well as Intro 1109-B. I will  
18 be abstaining. Thank you very much Madam Public  
19 Advocate.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

21 CLERK: Greenfield.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Pass.

23 CLERK: Grodenchik.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: [off mic] Aye  
25 on all.

2 CLERK: Johnson.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye on all.

4 CLERK: Kallos.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye on all.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

7 CLERK: King.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Permission to  
9 explain my vote.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Just quickly. I  
12 am going to be voting no on Intro 1095-A, yes on  
13 everything else except for 1109-B. I want to first  
14 thank Garodnick and Corey Johnson for, you know,  
15 being a part of this conversation that I spearheaded  
16 about a year ago to figure how do we get to a place  
17 to make our pedestrian plaza safer, but I think we  
18 need to do more conversation and making sure that  
19 our--whoever is out there whether it's a costume  
20 character or the naked cowboy or Lady Gaga or whoever  
21 is out there, they're making sure that there is some  
22 rules and regulations that governs their interaction  
23 with the public. So with that, thank you.

24 CLERK: Koo.

25

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Excuse me.

3 Council Member King so you're voting on everything  
4 except those two items.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Yes.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: You're abstaining  
7 or you're voting no?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: I'm abstaining on  
9 1109-B and I'm voting no on 1095-A.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

11 CLERK: Koo.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye on all.

13 CLERK: Koslowitz.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: May I be  
15 excused to explain my vote? I'd like to introduce my  
16 Council Member for the day, my Junior Council Member,  
17 Angelina Geraduzzi, and she goes to Forest Hills High  
18 School and she is the granddaughter of Michael Cohen  
19 who is on our staff.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Welcome.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: And I vote aye  
22 on all.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you and  
24 welcome.

25 CLERK: Lancman.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

3 CLERK: Lander.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Request  
5 permission to explain my vote.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes. [shushing  
7 for quiet]

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you. I  
9 want to express my enthusiastic support for Intro  
10 1109-B to provide DOT the authority to regulate  
11 pedestrian plazas. My interest in this legislation  
12 is not about Times Square, but about our neighborhood  
13 plazas, which have become really in many cases just  
14 truly magical places of open spaces, civic gathering  
15 and celebration in New York City. I encourage people  
16 to go visit Diversity Plaza in Council Member Dromm's  
17 district or Corona Plaza or the new Plaza De Las  
18 Americus in Chair Rodriguez's district or Kensington  
19 Plaza in mine. Really something magical is happening  
20 in those places. We need some clear general rules to  
21 make it harder to dump garbage--

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

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: --or other kinds  
25 of behavior that can mar those plazas. The ability



2 to craft site specific rules when relevant, better  
3 provisions and procedures for events, all of the  
4 things that this legislation is doing. I'm very  
5 grateful to Council Members Johnsons and Garodnick  
6 that they worked closely to think about even as they  
7 were crafting legislation to address the issues in  
8 Time Square how o make it work for our neighborhood  
9 plazas. They specifically worked with the  
10 Neighborhood Plaza Partnership at the Horticulture  
11 Society. It's been a great partner, and the  
12 legislation specifically recognizes those partners  
13 who are also working with DOT to be able to provide  
14 more support where the isn't a BID that can provide  
15 the resources in a low-income community. So I  
16 appreciate all the thoughtfulness that went into the  
17 legislation. I'm also enthusiastic about the four  
18 nominees that we're approving today that we heard in  
19 the Rules Committee, Ramon Peguera and Marbre Stahly-  
20 Butts for the Civilian Complaint Review Board.  
21 Michelle de la Uz, Madam Public Advocate, your  
22 nominee to the City Planning Commission, and Michael  
23 Regan, our appointee to the Board of Corrections.  
24 Four really good nominees. We also had a fantastic  
25 participatory budgeting vote week and weekend. I

2 eagerly await hearing the results, and votes and vote  
3 counts, but I know in so many corners of the city we  
4 saw an incredible diversity of tens of thousands of  
5 New Yorkers coming out and taking part in this real  
6 grassroots democracy, and I want to thank everyone  
7 for those things. I vote aye on all.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

9 Council Member Barron for a revote.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yes, thank you

11 Madam Public Advocate. I vote no on 1096.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.

14 CLERK: Levin.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye on all.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

17 CLERK: Levine.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye on all.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

20 CLERK: Maisel.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: [off mic] Yes.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

23 CLERK: Mealy.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: May I explain my

25 vote.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I just want to  
4 take this opportunity to introduce my City Council  
5 Member of today, Francisca Small from Brooklyn High  
6 School for Law and Technology. She's an intern for a  
7 non-profit lit. Still to this--this day a Suit--  
8 suit--

9 FRANCISCA SMALL: [off mic] A  
10 Salutatorian.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: A Salutatorian.  
12 Also an honor student. She has been four years on  
13 student government, and she will be going to  
14 Spellman. So could you please introduce her. Thank  
15 you so much. [applause] And--and she still have a  
16 option to go four years to China--

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

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: --full grant. So,  
20 she's still thinking on that, and I just want to  
21 thank my colleague Elizabeth Crowley. I'm the co-  
22 sponsor of Intro 4--704-A in regards to the  
23 Department of Small Business Services to provide a  
24 survey for companies to do business with the City to  
25 obtain the demographics of who is on these boards.

2 These 500 companies need to have diversity on the  
3 board. So I'm looking for that going forward, and to  
4 make sure that these 500 companies know that they  
5 need women on those boards because we are really  
6 ruling the world. And I want to say I vote aye on  
7 all, and thank you.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

9 CLERK: Menchaca.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Permission to  
11 explain my vote.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you. I  
14 just want to--

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

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: point out that,  
18 you know, just listening to the bills today, many of  
19 the bills are actually affecting many of our newest  
20 New Yorkers, our immigrant communities and I want to  
21 point, too--and actually life the--the--the demand  
22 for PB results. I can't wait to hear what happens.  
23 We have the reso that really is asking for favorable  
24 support from the Supreme Court decision, which have  
25 passed our Immigration Committee this week to expand

2 to expand President Obama's DACA program and create  
3 DAPA for the parents of the DACA students. But the  
4 two--the two bills that I'll be pulling out really  
5 quick for TLC, the Universal License and DOT's Plaza-  
6 -Plaza bill I want to--I want to commend Garodnick  
7 and Johnson for their continued success in doing  
8 something--

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]  
10 [shushing for quiet]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: --that we need  
12 to do for so many of our pieces of legislation, which  
13 is really expand the opportunity for people to come  
14 to the table. Many of those folks affected by--by  
15 the Universal License and DOT Plaza legislation are  
16 immigrants. And until we finally remove the barriers  
17 of access and that's--I'm talking about our literacy  
18 opportunities in getting neighborhood classes to  
19 teach everyone who wants a class in English these  
20 bills might fall short. So I'm just calling on the  
21 rest of the City Council to kind of think about as we  
22 pass these legislation, these piece of legislation to  
23 support the--the 1.7 million people lacking in  
24 English proficiency in the city. These are people  
25 we're talking about when we talk about the plaza and

2 the costumed characters, our petty cab drivers, our  
3 TLC drivers. And so I want to thank this Council for  
4 continued support in our English adult education  
5 classes. I vote aye on all. Thank you.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for  
7 quiet] We're still in session.

8 CLERK: Mendez.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Permission to  
10 explain my vote.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: [coughs] I'd  
13 like to vote aye on all, and on Intro 1109-B, I will  
14 be abstaining. While I appreciate all the work  
15 that's been done on this bill, however--

16 JUNIOR COUNCIL MEMBER: Pedestrian plazas  
17 are important public spaces. Making rules for these  
18 areas must include the alliances, BIDs and community  
19 organizations that manage it and are ultimately  
20 liable for its issues. Enforcement and  
21 implementation are critical to ensure safety, and we  
22 must continue discussions with the various  
23 stakeholders and individuals that rely on these  
24 space.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Thank  
3 you.

4 CLERK: Reynoso.

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

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Thank you.

9 Giving full authority to the Department of  
10 Transportation to make rules changes on plazas is  
11 extremely concerning to me. Whether it is the  
12 Department of Education, Department of City Planning  
13 or the--

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

16 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: -Taxi and  
17 Limousine Commission, and a number of other agencies,  
18 we all seen community concerns fall to deaf ears at  
19 times as agencies move to unilaterally make decisions  
20 with limited, if any, input from New York City  
21 residents. Should the rulemaking lead to tension or  
22 should it lead to disputes and unintended  
23 consequences, we are giving DOT the authority to  
24 justify the complete removal of costumed characters  
25 from Times Square. We would be left with little

2 recourse outside of legislation to undo any action.  
3 And I just want to make sure that we are clear that  
4 we're giving DOT the opportunity to make these  
5 decisions. And I think what we're trying to do here  
6 in creating these spaces that I don't think are  
7 sufficient at the moment, the proposed spaces that I  
8 don't think are sufficient are going to lead to a lot  
9 of--it's going to lead to a lot of tension because of  
10 the competition. And peeping--keeping people  
11 corralled can lead to unintended consequence, and  
12 then justify DOT removing these characters  
13 altogether. And if that's an option that is out  
14 there, it's something I want to work, I want to play  
15 against or work against. So I want to just abstain  
16 from 1109-B and vote aye on all the rest. Thank you.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

18 CLERK: Richards.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I vote aye.

20 CLERK: Rodriguez.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: May I explain  
22 my vote?

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I--with al  
25 respect to my colleagues, really Council Member



2 Menchaca and--and Antonio, I believe that this bill  
3 especially in the Plaza, Times Square Plaza is the  
4 best thing that we can deliver to the men and women  
5 those who are our brothers and sisters who work there  
6 so hard. The great thing is that we have the  
7 commitment of the Times Square Alliance, the BID in  
8 the business community. First of all knowing that  
9 they will have enough space for them to work. Also  
10 that they will be having signs saying--encouraging  
11 tourists to give a donation. I believe now we have a  
12 great opportunity. The eighth site DOT has shown  
13 with us, shared with us that they are planning to  
14 introduce as a discussion with what will take place  
15 will be the same site with the bus. I think that yes  
16 we have opportunity to keep talking on how large, how  
17 much more. I believe it is important to bring the  
18 voice of the costumed characters also as part of this  
19 conversation, but I believe that, you know, at Times  
20 Square and the 42nd Street that the business  
21 community that benefits with billions of dollars of  
22 incentive by the city to be where they are. I just  
23 hope that Disney and other business community will be  
24 working with us to support those men and women that  
25 work so hard. But I believe that this has been the

2 best thing that we can deliver for the characters,  
3 the Disney characters there. With that, I vote aye.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

5 CLERK: Rose.

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

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Yes.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for  
11 quiet]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER Rose. Our colleagues, I  
13 want to say thank you. I'm so glad to be back, and I  
14 want to thank you. [cheers/applause] I want to  
15 thank you for the love, the support and good wishes  
16 that you extended me while I was out, and the  
17 chocolate kisses that you found on your desk is a  
18 token of my gratitude.

19 ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS: Oh.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: However.

21 [laughs/coughs]

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Kisses.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I'm sorry Madam  
24 Advocate, yours is here. However, a colleague--an  
25 overzealous colleague of ours with an extreme sweet

2 tooth removed or extricated some members' chocolate  
3 kisses. [laughter] However, however, he  
4 remorsefully repented and replaced the stolen booty.  
5 So anyone who didn't get chocolate kisses, please  
6 feel free to come and get some. And so [laughter] I  
7 want to say I am also proud today to welcome my  
8 Council Member for the Day, Rose Slocum. Together,  
9 we are Rose and Rose or Rose Squared. [laughter]  
10 Rose Slocum and her family migrated to the United  
11 States from Ghana when Rose was two years of age.  
12 She is a Sophomore at Curtis High School on the North  
13 Shore of Staten Island, my district, and Rose  
14 participates in a number of after school programs  
15 including the Global Kids Program, which encourages  
16 global awareness among teens, and the Teen Health  
17 Educators Club, which allows students to assist in  
18 peer health education of fellow high school students.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Oh.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Rose also  
21 volunteers at the African Refuge Center where she  
22 tutors elementary school children and helps them with  
23 their homework. After high school Rose intends to  
24 pursue higher education with a major in business. I  
25 thank my colleagues in the Women's Caucus for

2 organizing this day earlier, and we all had a chance  
3 to share with these you women [bell] our own paths to  
4 elected office. And I just say--I just want to  
5 finish up by saying it's important to expose young  
6 women to the inner workings of government and civic  
7 life. And it's so great to have young women like  
8 Rose be able to come to City Hall to see what it's  
9 like to be a City council woman, and be among the--in  
10 the midst of--

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing] How  
12 do you vote.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: --Council and our  
14 government. Thank you and I vote aye.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you.

17 CLERK: Rosenthal.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I vote aye on  
19 all, and permission to explain my vote.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you. I  
22 want to thank Chair Rodriguez for ushering through  
23 sensible regulation on for-hire vehicles. I look  
24 forward to supporting legislation for appropriate  
25 regulation of for-hire vehicles for people with

2 disabilities Now, I want to thank and Christina, if  
3 you could stand up, my Council Member for the day  
4 Christian Guzman Montes (sic). She's Venezuelan and  
5 Greek. I want you to get a good look at a woman who  
6 already has the maturity of a leader. She inspires  
7 people with disabilities. She tutors her peers, and  
8 as a senior--

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for  
10 quiet]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: --she is  
12 teaching D and A bar-coding at her school.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]  
14 Hmmm.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: She is a  
16 tireless advocate for increased science education in  
17 her school despite having the door shut on her a  
18 number of times. By the end of college, Christina  
19 will be a Monecular--Molecular Biologist Engineer.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]  
21 Wow.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: She will have  
23 invented a machine that preserves vaccines that are  
24 sent overseas so they don't become denature, which is  
25 a scientific word for spoiling. And, she will have

2 invented there--a way to sterilize vaccines in third  
3 world countries so they don't spread HIV. In doing  
4 so, Christina will earn enough money so she can go on  
5 to graduate school. I support her. I encourage her,  
6 her endeavors and I can't wait to see what the next  
7 five years and 30 years brings after that. Thank  
8 you. [cheers/applause]

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Smart girls rock.

10 CLERK: Salamanca.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: I vote no on  
12 1096-A and aye on all.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

14 CLERK: Torres.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye on all.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

17 CLERK: Treyger.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Permission to  
19 explain my vote.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: So, I--I  
22 actually first want to commend Councilman--

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]

24 [shushing for quiet]

2 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: --Andy King for  
3 initiating this very serious conversation. You know,  
4 and quite frankly it'--it's an issue that I--I know  
5 popped up in Times Square that quite frankly there  
6 are other areas of the City of New York that deal  
7 with similar issues such as the Coney Island  
8 Boardwalk as well. And I just want to remind my  
9 colleagues that there is already a precedent where  
10 city agencies do regulate activity of public places  
11 such as the Parks Department. They've created rules  
12 and regulations with regards to what can take place  
13 on the Boardwalk. But without sensible, reasonable  
14 enforcement of these types of rules, it just works.  
15 So I think that--I think that we need to continue  
16 having this conversation. I--I defer to the local  
17 members who represent the area of Times Square that  
18 we've heard you loud and clear about the need for  
19 some action to protect the safety of all--both  
20 customers and the people engaging in the--in the  
21 commercial activities. But I just want to say that  
22 we need to think of the city as five boroughs, and  
23 each area is as important as--as others. I want to  
24 commend Councilman King and commend the authors of--  
25 of the bill, and I hope that we see respect and

2 support seen across alls parts of the city, and with  
3 that I vote aye on all.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

5 CLERK: Williams.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: May I please  
7 explain my vote?

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you.  
10 Debbie Rose, did the Republicans take the kisses?  
11 [laughter] I was just wonder. [laughter] Oh, okay.  
12 Congratulations to all my colleagues that have bills  
13 today.

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

16 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I do want to  
17 take a second to explain my support for 1109. I am  
18 voting aye on all. I want to congratulate Council  
19 Members Johnson and Garodnick. I, too, also want to  
20 say thank you to Andy King for his suggestion that he  
21 put forward a few months back when this--or actually  
22 for years I guess when this was--came into the fray.  
23 I think it's a--a very important issue. It's a very  
24 hard issue that we have to discuss. I've been in  
25 Times Square. I've seen the best and worst of what



2 goes on there. I think paralysis is not the answer,  
3 and we have to find some way to move forward. I  
4 think it is sensible to move the discussion to an  
5 agency that can dedicate time and expertise into  
6 promulgating some rules. I do want to get behind  
7 some of the concerns that are there, and my hope is  
8 that this Council will look at those rules when  
9 they're promulgated, when they begin to go into  
10 effect, have some sort of oversight hearing on them  
11 to make sure they don't have any adverse effect. And  
12 if they do, I hope that this Council as a whole, and  
13 in particular the Progressive Caucus and the Black,  
14 Latino and Asian Caucus will make sure there is not  
15 too much heavy-handed oversight, too much law  
16 enforcement intervention where it need--needlessly  
17 needs to be. So this should not be the end of the  
18 conversation by any means.

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

21 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: It should be  
22 just moving the conversation forward because I think  
23 our constituents don't want us to be paralyzed in  
24 difficult situations. They want us to move the

2 conversation forward. And so for that reason, I vote  
3 aye on all. Congratulations again.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

5 CLERK: Ulrich.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: May I be excused  
7 to explain my vote?

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Madam Public  
10 Advocate, I have a confession to make.

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

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: The Chocolate  
14 Bandit was indeed I. [laughter] I did not attempt  
15 to consume all of the chocolate for myself, but  
16 merely to redistribute it more evenly and fairly--  
17 [laughter/applause]--to all of my Democratic  
18 colleagues and friends and members of the press.

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

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: However, I did  
22 make restitution and purchase a full bag of chocolate  
23 kisses, which makes--makes me exempt from having this  
24 on Conflicts of Interest Form--

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]  
3 [laughs]

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: --later this  
5 month, but I want to welcome back our good friend and  
6 colleague Debbie Rose. It's always good to see you,  
7 and we missed you dearly. I'm voting aye on all with  
8 the exception of Intros 1095 and 1096 and on M 380,  
9 and aye on the rest. Thank you very much.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: [off mic] Well,  
11 actually, I was ask him if he was the one. (sic)

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Confessions are  
13 good for the soul. [laughs]

14 CLERK: Greenfield.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you I  
16 vote aye on all with the exception of M 379 and Reso  
17 1032, and I congratulate all of my colleagues and  
18 especially want to congratulate Council Members King  
19 and Johnson and Garodnick for all of their work in  
20 what was clearly a challenging arena, but I think  
21 they came up with an excellent solution and I'm  
22 looking forward to those improvements. Thank you  
23 very much.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

25 CLERK: Matteo.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Let's be clear,  
3 Eric Ulrich speaks for himself--

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]  
5 [laughter]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: --in this. I am  
7 voting no on 1095-A and 1096-A, and for the reasons I  
8 stated at the Rules Committee today, no on M 321 and  
9 379 and 380 and the companion Resos 1031, 1032 and  
10 1033.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Thank  
12 you.

13 CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I vote aye on  
15 all.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. As we  
17 await the votes, I mentioned Spider Man in the  
18 balcony earlier, but I neglected to mention Bruce  
19 Wayne, a/k/a Batman please stand as well as the  
20 penguin. They are all in the balcony. We welcome  
21 you to the People's House. Thank you. Thank you,  
22 and I also would like to in the absence of Council  
23 Member Annabel Palma would like to introduce to you  
24 Julissa Gonzalez, who is a 12th Grader at the Woman's  
25 Academy of Excellence, and though she did not wan to

2 brag, she is the Valedictorian. [cheers/applause]  
3 [pause/background comments] And while we await again  
4 the results, let me ask my--urge my colleagues to  
5 sign onto Intro 1152, a bill that would limit the  
6 fees that would be changed to individuals sending  
7 money to family members and loved one in city jails.  
8 As most of you already know, money is considered  
9 contraband in city jails. As a result, the city has  
10 a system for the families and loved ones of those in  
11 city jails to send money that an inmate could use at  
12 the jails commence--commissary to buy everyday items.  
13 What you may not know is that the contractors who run  
14 the system are charging unfair and unreasonable rates  
15 for the service. For small transactions like a \$10  
16 deposit, these companies can charge almost a 50% fee.  
17 And one of the two companies with the city contract,  
18 Western Union has no cap on the fees it can charge.  
19 These contractors pay nothing to the City for the  
20 exclusive right to charge these fees. I feel  
21 strongly that this form of profiteering off of  
22 families in distress and often in need is an unjust  
23 practice that we should not allow in our city. I  
24 hope that my colleagues would sign on, and now the  
25 results. Thank you. All items on items on today's

2 General Order Calendar were adopted by a vote of 48  
3 in the affirmative, 0 negative and 0 abstentions with  
4 the exception of M 321 and Reso 1031, which was  
5 adopted by a vote of 46 in the affirmative 0--2  
6 negative and 0 abstentions; and M 379 and Res 1032,  
7 which was adopted by a vote of 45 in the affirmative,  
8 3 negative and 0 abstentions and M 380 and Res 1033,  
9 which was adopted by a vote of 45 in the affirmative,  
10 3 negative and 0 abstentions; and Intro 1109-B, which  
11 was adopted by a vote of 42 in the affirmative, 1  
12 negative, and 5 abstentions; and Intro 1095-A, which  
13 was adopted by a vote of 44 in the affirmative, 3 in  
14 the negative and 1 abstention; and Intro 1096-A,  
15 which was adopted by a vote of 43 in the affirmative,  
16 4 negative, 1 abstention, and the Revised Land Use  
17 Call-Ups vote is 48 in the affirmative and 0 in the  
18 negative. Introduction and Reading of bills.

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All bills are  
20 referred to the committees as indicated on the  
21 agenda.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you and now  
23 discussion of resolutions. Seeing none, we're going  
24 to now call for a vote of Resolution 928-A, an  
25 amended resolution calling on the United States

2 Supreme Court to issue a decision in the United  
3 States vs. Texas that overturns the Fifth Circuit's  
4 Ruling in Texas vs. The United States and upholds the  
5 implementation of President's--President Obama's  
6 Expanded DACA Program, which is the Deferred Action  
7 for Childhood Arrivals as well as DAPA, which stands  
8 for the Deferred Action for Parents of American  
9 Citizens and Lawful Permanent Residents Programs.  
10 All of those in favor say aye.

11 COUNCIL MEMBERS: (in unison) Aye.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All of those  
13 opposed? Any abstention? The ayes have it. And now  
14 to general discussion. I'll begin with- [off mic]  
15 Say Council Member Richards.

16 JUNIOR COUNCIL MEMBER: Council Member  
17 Richards. I did say it. (sic)

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Okay, Council  
19 Member Richards. [off mic] You can sit there.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: You really  
21 called me first. Okay, I am--dear colleagues, for  
22 years the residents of Southeast Queens within the  
23 105th Precinct have been advocating for an additional  
24 precinct to be built . The 105th Precinct

2 encompasses 12.7 square miles with 355 miles of  
3 roadways including seven--

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]  
5 [shushing for quiet] We're still in session. Excuse  
6 me, Council Member. We're still in session. Quiet  
7 in the Chambers, please.

8 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [off mic] Keep it  
9 down. Keep it down. We want to speak on both sides.  
10 (sic)

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: --making it  
13 geographically the fourth largest precinct in the  
14 city. In an effort to support this large area, NYPD  
15 opened a part-time precinct satellite to serve the  
16 area in 2007. The 105th Precinct satellite operated  
17 between the hours of 7:00 and 11:00 p.m. While  
18 calling for a full operating precinct, only recently  
19 has there been any progress to extend the operating  
20 hours of this satellite to 24 hours, and the addition  
21 of 18 offices. But we are still asking for a fully  
22 serviced precinct. We want the officers to be  
23 equipped with all of the tools they need to be  
24 effective in our communities. Our taxpaying  
25 residents deserve adequate resources, particularly



2 around public safety, better response times, safer  
3 streets, and a fully equipped precinct facility. I  
4 thank our local council member and State  
5 representatives who have been advocating for this  
6 issue even before I came into office. I'd like to  
7 thank my partner Council Member Grodenchik--

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: [off mic]

9 Thank you.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: --who put forth  
11 this resolution and for Public Safety Chair Vanessa  
12 Gibson for her support on this issue as well. This  
13 is the right administration and this is the right  
14 time to get this done, and I'm asking as long as--  
15 with my colleague Council Member Grodenchik to please  
16 sign on--for our colleagues to please sign onto  
17 Resolution 1030 in support of this push. Thank you.  
18 Grodenchik.

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [interposing]  
20 Madam Public Advocate, I forgot. I--I recognize a  
21 former colleague here, Tom Dwayne (sp?) is on the  
22 floor and nice to see you. [cheers/applause] Thank  
23 you for joining us here in the Chambers today.

24 JUNIOR COUNCIL MEMBER: Council Member  
25 Grodenchik.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Thank you  
3 very much. [laughter] Thank you. I want to add my  
4 voice to my colleague to my left here, literally,  
5 figuratively in everyway [laughter] Donovan Richards.  
6 For 40 years or more the people of Eastern Queens,  
7 Southeastern Queens have been advocating that the  
8 105th Precinct, which currently sits in my district  
9 be split in two. There are very few major  
10 north/south roads in that district and if you have a  
11 problem down Rosedale, you're better off calling the  
12 Nassau County Police Department because that's how  
13 long sometimes it takes even in an emergency. So I  
14 stand today with my colleague Donovan Richards and  
15 all the people of our districts in demanding that the  
16 City of New York finally after four decades come to  
17 the conclusion that we need a new 116th Precinct in  
18 Southeast Queens. I want to thank Donovan who has  
19 pushed this stone way up hill further than anybody  
20 else has ever done in the past 40 years for getting  
21 that satellite open 24 hours 7 days a week. But  
22 frankly, it is not enough. We need a new precinct.  
23 Now is the time. The City has the money, and we call  
24 upon the Mayor and the Police Commissioner to listen  
25 to us, and I ask all my colleagues to sign onto Reso

2 1030. So that we--we may finally get this done.  
3 Thank you Madam Public Advocate.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
5 Correction on the vote. On Intro 1095-A, it was  
6 adopted by a vote of 43 in the affirmative, 4  
7 negative and 1 abstention. Also, a correction on  
8 Intro 1096-A, which was adopted by a vote of 42 in  
9 the affirmative, 5 negative and 1 abstention.

10 JUNIOR COUNCIL MEMBER: Council Member  
11 Treyger.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you Public  
13 Advocate. Colleagues, I ask for your support for two  
14 important pieces of legislation, which will in the  
15 event of an emergency or natural disaster help New  
16 Yorkers evacuate safely and efficiently. The first  
17 Intro 1154 would require New York City Emergency  
18 Management to maintain a voluntary registry of people  
19 with disabilities who may need assistance evacuating.  
20 Emergencies and evacuations present a myriad of  
21 challenges for vulnerable populations. The limited  
22 accessibility of public transit makes it difficult  
23 for those with mobility issues to leave their homes,  
24 and those dependent on life sustaining medical  
25 devices such as ventilators can find the logistics of

2 evacuation to be insurmountable. In the wake of  
3 Hurricane Sanny--Sandy we saw the devastating impact  
4 the Mayor Bloomberg's failure to order the evacuation  
5 of coastal nursing homes and adult homes wrecked,  
6 5,500 seniors waited without power for three days to  
7 be evacuated. The emergency shelters they were  
8 evacuated to were often ill-equipped to handle their  
9 needs. Emergency workers struggled to provide care  
10 in the absence of proper medical records, and their  
11 loved ones struggled to track them down. For a  
12 person without advanced medical needs an emergency--  
13 emergency evacuation can be traumatic for senior  
14 citizens and people with disabilities.  
15 Disproportionately an evacuation can be fatal.  
16 Nearly two-thirds of all Hurricane Katrina casualties  
17 in Louisiana were the--were people over the age of  
18 65. Particularly given the increased preference of  
19 seniors to age in place, it is imperative that New  
20 York City have a plan to aid those who need  
21 evacuation assistance.

22           The second Intro 1155 takes steps to make  
23 it easier for people to reconnect following  
24 emergencies, evacuations or failures of communication  
25 infrastructure. It would create a city-run website

2 where displaced people could register to let loved  
3 ones know their current status and location. The  
4 system would be password protected so as to avoid  
5 security concerns. An emergency evacuation is a  
6 fraught logistically complicated event. However,  
7 with sensible empathetic planning that takes into  
8 account the full spectrum of human needs we can avoid  
9 past mistakes, alleviate some of the distress in  
10 evacuating and prevent unnecessary death. I  
11 respectfully urge you to sign onto Intros 1154 and  
12 1155. Thank you.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [off mic] Say  
14 Council Member Barron.

15 JUNIOR COUNCIL MEMBER: Council Member  
16 Barron.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. I jus  
18 wanted to add that Sahai has--is a senior and she's  
19 been already accepted at several colleges including  
20 Chaney, Delaware State University, Fredonia, Howling,  
21 LIU and TCU. So I wanted to make sure added that to  
22 the record. [applause] And then in terms of--I  
23 think this is our first meeting since the State  
24 Budget was passed, and I want to commend this body.  
25 I want to commend the Speaker and the staff for

2 having a response to the Executive Budget that talks  
3 about keeping New York City protected. I think we  
4 did a great job. I also-- [applause] Yes, I think  
5 we really need to applaud ourselves for what we were  
6 able to accomplish, and I want to commend the BLAC  
7 because they sent a letter to the Governor, and to  
8 the Assembly and to the Senate, and in that letter  
9 they called for a rejection of the Governor's request  
10 to push \$485 million onto the city to operate CUNY,  
11 and we fought that back as well as well as getting  
12 freeze on tuition. There will be no tuition increase  
13 this year. [cheers/applause] The State--yes, that's  
14 very important. The State--the Board of Trustees  
15 here have implemented that for community colleges.  
16 But now that is applied as well to all of our CUNY  
17 colleges. And finally, I want to stand to ask for  
18 your support on Intro 1130-A, which directly relates  
19 to the tuition. And 1130-A calls for a CUNY Free  
20 Tuition Task Force--

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

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: --and it would  
24 examine the feasibility of eliminating tuition at  
25 CUNY schools, and as I often say had it not been the

2 fact that there was free tuition during the time that  
3 I was going to college, I probably would not have  
4 been able to go because my parents were both working,  
5 but could not afford to pay tuition. So this bill  
6 will call for the establishment of a task force, and  
7 it will have 13 members. It will have the [bell]  
8 Public Advocate, the Speaker or their designees, a  
9 representative for OMB, six representatives from the  
10 Mayor and four from the Speaker as well. And it calls  
11 for a report to be issued within six months after  
12 that time. So, I do encourage you to all sign onto  
13 1130-A. Thank you.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

15 JUNIOR COUNCIL MEMBER: Council Member  
16 Dickens.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [off mic]

18 JUNIOR COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: I would like  
19 to thank the Speaker Mark-Viverito and the New York  
20 City Council especially my Council Member Inez E.  
21 Dickens for allowing me to be a part of this  
22 extraordinary experience. I am Junior Council  
23 Makayla Diaz from Harlem Village Academy's High  
24 School. Through the Women's Caucus I have been given  
25 the privilege to stand here today and experience a

2 day in the life of a Council Member. Thank you for  
3 encouraging young women to be involved in a political  
4 process. This was an enriching experience that has  
5 opened my eyes and given me the confidence to achieve  
6 something greater. I encourage all students  
7 especially young women to work hard and climb higher  
8 on the leadership ladder. Let's be the generation  
9 that brings a tidal wave of young women whose voices  
10 are heard at the table, and be a part of the hallowed  
11 halls of broad--of power, Girl Power. Madam Speaker,  
12 fellow Council Member today, I rise in recognition of  
13 World Health Day. Global Health Awareness Day is  
14 celebrated every year on April 7th, and is sponsored  
15 under the World Health Organization. This year,  
16 World Health Day is focusing on Diabetes with theme  
17 Halt to Rise: Beat Diabetes. Thanks to the World  
18 Health Organization's World Health Day we have the  
19 opportunity to draw worldwide attention to a vital  
20 subject that is our health. Many times Citizens are  
21 so busy with their daily lives they forget about  
22 their health and forego doctor visits. I urge my  
23 constituency and all residents of our great city,  
24 young and old, to get diabetes testing and/or  
25 encourage their family members to do so. Let them



2 know that simple lifestyle measures have been shown to  
3 be effective in diabetes prevention such as physical  
4 activity, normal body weight and health--and a  
5 healthy diet. Let's get healthy New York.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [off mic] Thank  
7 you.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Go ahead.

9 JUNIOR COUNCIL MEMBER: Council Member  
10 Levine.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you, Madam  
12 Public Advocate. Colleagues, I want to call your  
13 attention to Intro 1151, which I'm pleased to be  
14 introducing today, which will strengthen our City's  
15 process for approval of private events in public  
16 parks. There is increasing demand for such events,  
17 often outdoor festivals with tens of thousands or  
18 even hundreds of thousands of people attending, and  
19 while those clearly offer a great economic and  
20 cultural benefits for neighborhoods and for the city,  
21 there is also a challenging impact for park users in  
22 neighborhoods to say the least for events of that  
23 scale. You would think that the community board,  
24 therefore, had a say in approval of such events, and  
25 they don't today. So our bill would require that

2 community boards have input on major events, those  
3 expected to attract 500 participants or more. And  
4 secondly, our bill would create criteria for  
5 selecting among multiple applicants. This is  
6 happening more often where two different entities  
7 apply to use the same park at the same time.  
8 Currently, we just pick based on first come, first  
9 served. But our bill establishes criteria including  
10 related to the scale and scope of the event, and the  
11 track record of the applicant so that we can pick the  
12 best of public parks in every case. Again, Intro  
13 1151, and I encourage my colleagues to support.  
14 Thank you.

15 JUNIOR COUNCIL MEMBER: Council Member  
16 Menchaca.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you so  
18 much and I want to thank all the council members that  
19 were--were present and those who sent their hearts  
20 and minds to the rally today, the big Adult Education  
21 Rally where hundreds of our New Yorkers from all over  
22 the city came out, and made it very clear that the  
23 way that we unlock the potential of every New Yorker  
24 in this city is to give access to literacy classes.  
25 When we think about how much we have put into

2 programs like UPK and IDNYC, we continue to  
3 understand that there is a real block to fully create  
4 the potential, and that's in our adults who need  
5 education. These are the same adults that are  
6 picking up our UPK children and bringing them home  
7 and can't help them with their homework or can't  
8 advocate for them in the PTAs. And so, this is what  
9 today was about. You're going to hear a lot from all  
10 over the City Council and members who are supporting  
11 this, and I want to just from the bottom of my heart  
12 thank all the members that were there. Thank you so  
13 much, and that's it for my--for my comments.

14 JUNIOR COUNCIL MEMBER: Council Member  
15 Cumbo.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you. I just  
17 want to urge and support my colleagues to support  
18 several bills that I'm introducing today and would so  
19 love their support. The first one an Intro by  
20 Council Member Crowley and myself, a local law to  
21 amend the Administrative Code of the City of New York  
22 in relation to requiring the use of trauma-informed  
23 care in city correctional facilities. I'd also like  
24 to bring your attention to another Intro, a local law  
25 to amend the New York City Charter in relation to

2 creating a gender equity board. This bill would  
3 establish a gender equity advisory board. The  
4 advisory board would study the nature and extent of  
5 discrimination that women and girls face in the city  
6 as well as such discrimination's impact on the  
7 economic civic and social wellbeing of women and  
8 girls. I also want to bring your attention to an  
9 intro by Council Member Gibson and myself, a local  
10 law to amend the New York City Charter in relation to  
11 establishing an office of crime victim services. As  
12 well as another--an additional intro by Council  
13 Members Levine and myself to amend the Administrative  
14 Code of the City of New York in relation to the  
15 preparation of a park safety report as well as in  
16 relation to the installment of emergency call boxes  
17 within our city parks. But I would also like to  
18 reserve my additional time for my Junior Council  
19 Member for the Day to give some remarks so that you  
20 have an opportunity to hear her voice today. Thank  
21 you.

22 JUNIOR COUNCIL MEMBER: Council Member  
23 Williams. Oh, I'm sorry.

24 JUNIOR COUNCIL MEMBER: Hi, my name is  
25 Zanasia Kearney (sic). I am a senior at Fashion

2 Industries High School. I have like a little concern  
3 about where I am in the committee. I go to the  
4 Church of the Open. I am a member with Laurie  
5 Cumber. My pastor Taylor, Martin B.C. Taylor, and  
6 what I would like to do in the future, I would like  
7 to start a non-profit organization for young people  
8 also my age and younger to see where their concerns--  
9 concerns are in their community, and where their  
10 struggles are at concerning where they live at, and  
11 how they can overcome in the future for the future.  
12 So, yes.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you.

14 [applause]

15 JUNIOR COUNCIL MEMBER: Council Member  
16 Williams.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you very  
18 much. First, I just want to give a shout and rest in  
19 peace to Malik Izaak Taylor, also known and Phife  
20 Dawg. A Tribe Called Quest hip hop has been a huge  
21 part of my life and a Tribe Called Quest was a  
22 Seminole a Seminole group in hip hop bringing us to  
23 where we are today, very conscious in a way that  
24 everyone could understand. So just rest in peace to  
25 him. First, there was a horrible instance, another

2 horrible instance of gun violence in my district this  
3 past weekend that ended with two innocent bystanders.  
4 One was Loretta Pierre, Sedgewin Li Santel (sp?)  
5 including the mother of my--of a friend of mine Josh  
6 Pierre who is also one of the district leaders who  
7 happens to be the aunt of Assembly Member Rodneyse  
8 Bichotte. We must keep this issue on the forefront  
9 in order to protect every New York. She was shot  
10 with a stray bullet in her house. No matter what her  
11 background, ensure that we're doing everything we can  
12 from providing universal employment for our young  
13 people to ensuring that we fully fund the Crisis  
14 Management System again this year. As well as the  
15 opportunity with Council Member Cumbo's push to have  
16 an Office of Gun Violence Prevention to help end the  
17 senseless gun violence.

18 Also, I'm asking my colleagues to look at  
19 Intro No. 1157. I'm pleased to follow up on a recent  
20 Housing and Buildings Committee where I discussed  
21 codifying the Department of Buildings' Code of  
22 Conduct into law. After the Legislative Counsel read  
23 the Code of Conduct, counsel found that the vast  
24 majority of DOE's code has been codified into law  
25 often in varying places except for one provision, the

2 prohibition--prohibition against people doing  
3 business with the City from giving gifts to employees  
4 of department of this bill. It didn't target at any  
5 recent incident, but a recognition that it's  
6 important that the rules of the department as widely  
7 developed should be as permanent as possible. That  
8 beyond department rules or even guidance of statutes  
9 that's what the bill accomplished. I want to thank  
10 Legislative Counsel Nick Devali(sp?) a former Housing  
11 Committee Counsel for doing the legal research on  
12 this, narrowing down what could--what could be  
13 codified into law.

14 JUNIOR COUNCIL MEMBER: Council Member  
15 Chin.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [off mic] Okay.

17 JUNIOR COUNCIL MEMBER: Good afternoon.

18 I want to draw my colleagues' attention to a  
19 resolution I am sponsoring with Majority Leader Jimmy  
20 Van Bramer. Resolution 1028 urges the State  
21 Legislator to introduce and pass legislating--  
22 legislation amending Article 7-B of the Multiple  
23 Dwelling Law to expand the definition of an artist.  
24 With the Certified Art Designation from the  
25 Department of Cultural Affairs, artists can apply for

2 joint living work quarters for artists, or JLWQA.  
3 For those who do not remember what they are, JLWQAs  
4 are units of manufacturing zoned areas approved for  
5 residential use reserved specifically for certified  
6 artists. Unfortunately, the definition of an artist,  
7 which has not changed since 1968 only includes fine  
8 arts such as painting, sculpting, performance arts,  
9 choreography and still making. It does not include  
10 any artistic professions such as musicians,  
11 architecture and dancing. Expanding the definition  
12 of an artist will allow more artists to qualify for  
13 JLWQAs. Together with Intro 971, which requires the  
14 DCLA to maintain a database of JLWQAs and inform  
15 artists of availabilities, we can provide more  
16 certified artists with an easy process to look for  
17 much needed available living and work spaces. I want  
18 to thank Chloe Rivera for her work on this  
19 resolution, and I ask my fellow council--[laughs] my  
20 fellow council members to sign onto Reso 1028. Thank  
21 you.

22 JUNIOR COUNCIL MEMBER: Speaker Mark-  
23 Viverito to close.

24 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Well, again  
25 [coughs] to all the young women that are here thank



2 you for being here. I hope this has been a great  
3 experience for you. I know we did some engagement  
4 explaining a little bit about the roles that we have  
5 in play here in the City Council on behalf of the  
6 City of New York. I wish you the best in your  
7 studies, and all your future endeavors, and look  
8 forward to seeing you back in these chambers soon.  
9 So again, thank you to all my colleagues for the well  
10 wishes, for the cake. There is some cake in the room  
11 next door. May you come and share in that, and thank  
12 you all, and with that we will close the session.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Go ahead.

14 JUNIOR COUNCIL MEMBER: [gavel]

15 Adjourned.

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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 April 13, 2016