

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

----- X

Recessed Meeting of May 25, 2016
Held on June 14, 2016
Start: 1:56 p.m.
Recess: 3:56 p.m.

HELD AT: City Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: LETITIA JAMES
Public Advocate

MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO
Speaker for the Entire Council

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Inez D. Barron
Joseph C. Borelli
Fernando Cabrera
Margaret S. Chin
Andrew Cohen
Costa G. Constantinides
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
Elizabeth S. Crowley
Laurie A. Cumbo
Chaim M. Deutsch
Inez E. Dickens
Daniel Dromm
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.
Mathieu Eugene
Julissa Ferreras-Copeland
Daniel R. Garodnick
Vincent J. Gentile

Vanessa L. Gibson
David G. Greenfield
Barry S. 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
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.
Ritchie J. Torres
Mark Treyger
Eric A. Ulrich
James Vacca
Paul A. Vallone
James G. Van Bramer
Jumaane D. Williams
Ruben Wills

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

Reverend Antionettea Etienne
Love Alive International Sanctuary of Praise
1157 Lexington Avenue
Borough of Manhattan

2 [sound check, pause]

3 [gavel]

4 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [off mic] Quiet,
5 please.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [off mic] Quiet
7 in the Chambers. [on mic] Quiet in the Chambers. I
8 now call the Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito.

9 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Madam
10 Public Advocate and obviously we're staring today--
11 before we get into the agenda of today, we're staring
12 with heavy hearts, and I definitely want to ask my
13 colleagues to--and everyone that is here to please
14 stand as we begin today.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All rise.

16 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: All rise.

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: As we all know, a
18 horrific act of terrorism was committed this past
19 weekend in Orlando, Florida. People across the
20 country and across the world have come together to
21 mourn, and to condemn this un--unimaginably vicious
22 act. While people all across America are struck with
23 grief, I feel the need to mention that the Latino and
24 Puerto Rican LGBT community in Orlando has been hit
25 particularly hard by this tragedy. As we recognize

2 Pride Month this June, this is a somber reminder of
3 how much is at stake for us as a society. The Pride
4 celebrations in the upcoming weeks will all take
5 place in the shadow of this atrocity. In moments
6 such as these, we must resolve to condemn this type
7 of violence and hatred, but we also must honor the 49
8 people whose lives were lost by remembering not just
9 the vicious act of hate that claimed their lives, but
10 also the love that defined how they lived. Prior to
11 today, our Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer reached
12 out and said that he wanted to find an appropriate
13 way that we could really recognize and honor the
14 lives that were lost due to this hate crime, this
15 horrific act of violence, the worst that this nation
16 has seen. This mass killing that happened at the
17 Pulse Club, and I'm going to hand it off to Jimmy,
18 who will lead us in the act that we will take here in
19 this Council.

20 MAJORITY LEADER VAN BRAMER: Thank you
21 very much, Madam Speaker, and our colleagues, and I
22 am very proud to be a member of this, the most
23 diverse City Council ever, and today we are all
24 united in support of our brothers and sisters in
25 Orlando, and we will honor their memory by reading

2 aloud the names and the ages of the fallen. After
3 reading the name and age of each person killed,
4 we will light our candles and walk them up to the
5 front of the Chambers, and place them on the City
6 Clerk's desk. And we will do this in order so that
7 after I go Council Member Rose will go, and we'll go
8 front to back on this side, back to front on the
9 other side ending with the Minority Leaders, the
10 Public Advocate and the Speaker. So with much love
11 and hope for a safer and better world for all of us,
12 I begin by reading the names: Alejandro Barrios
13 Martinez, 21 years old and Joel Rayon Paniagua, 32
14 years old.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Deonka Deidra
16 Drayton, 32 years old.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Jean Carlos
18 Mendez Perez, 35 years old.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Tevin Eugene
20 Crosby, 25 years old.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER: Juan Ramon Guerrero, 22
22 years old.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Franky Jimmy
24 Dejesus Valazquez, 50 years old. God bless.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 7

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Stanley
3 Almodovar, III, 23 years old.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Mercedes Marisol
5 Flores, 26 years old.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Kimberly Morris,
7 37 years old.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Luis Daniel
9 Wilson-Leon, 37 years old.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Martin Benitez
11 Torres, 33 years old.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND:
13 Anthony Luis Laureano Disla, 25 years old.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER: Peter O. Gonzalez Cruz,
15 22 years old.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER: Xavier Emmanuel Serrano
17 Rosado, 35 years old.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Akyra Monet
19 Murray only 18 years old.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Eric Ivan Ortiz-
21 Rivera, 36 years old.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Paul Terrell
23 Henry, 41 years old.

24

25

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 8

2 COUNCIL MEMBER: Luis Omar Ocasio-Capo,
3 20 years old. He was a dander and an actor, and he
4 had an audition scheduled for today.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Enrique L. Rios,
6 Jr., Marcy Houses, Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, 27
7 years old.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER: Leroy Valentin Fernandez
9 only 25 years old.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER: Rodolfo Ayala-Ayala, 33
11 years olds.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Christopher
13 Joseph San Feliz.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Javier, Jorge
15 Reyes, 40 years old. God rest his soul.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Cory James
17 Connell, 21 years old and Juan Guerra Valazquez, 37
18 years old.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Christopher
20 Andrew Leinonen, 32 years old.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER: Luis Daniel Conde, 39
22 years old.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Juan Cheven
24 Martinez, 25 years old.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER: Shane Evan Tomlinson.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Angel L.
3 Candelario-Pad--Padro, 28 years old.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Jean C. Nieves
5 Rodriguez, 27 years old.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Simon Adrian
7 Carrillo Fernandez, 31 years old.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Yilmary Rodriguez
9 Solivan, 24 years old.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Oscar A.
11 Aracena-Montero, 26 years.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Miguel Angel
13 Honorato, 30 years old.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Geraldo A. Ortiz-
15 Jimenez, 25 years old.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Edward Sotomayor,
17 Jr., 34 years old.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Gilberto Ramon
19 Silva Mendez, 25 years old; Frank Hernandez 27 years
20 old.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Antonio Davon Brown,
22 29 years old.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Jonathan Antonio
24 Camuy Vega, 24 years old.

25

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 10

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off mic]

3 Jerald Arthur Wright, [on mic] 31 years old.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Jason Benjamin

5 Josaphat, my son's age, 19 years old.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Luis S. Vielma,

7 22 years old.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Brenda Lee Marquez

9 McCool, 49 years old.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Eddie Jamoldroy

11 Justice, 30 years old.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER: Darryl Roman Burt, II,

13 29 years old.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: And Amanda

15 Alvear, 25 years old. Presente. (sic) [pause]

16 Thank you to all my colleagues. Thank you to the

17 Majority Leader for asking that we honor the memory

18 of these individuals. All, as you could tell from

19 the reading of the names, extremely young, but every

20 life is precious at any age. This was just again an

21 actor of terrorism, and let's do something about our

22 gun laws in this country. We're going to leave the

23 lights there, and we'll continue with the agenda.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please be seated.

25 I now call the recessed meeting of April 25th--May

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

11

2 25th, 2016 to order. Roll Call. [background
3 comments]

4 CLERK: Barron.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

6 CLERK: Borelli.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BORRELLI: Present.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]

9 [shushing for quiet] Quiet in the Chambers.

10 CLERK: Cabrera.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

12 CLERK: Chin.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

14 CLERK: Cohen. Constantinides.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Here.

16 CLERK: Cornegy.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Presente.

18 CLERK: Crowley.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [off mic] here.

20 CLERK: Cumbo.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Present.

22 CLERK: Deutsch.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.

24 CLERK: Dickens.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [off mic] Here.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

12

2 CLERK: Dromm.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: [off mic] Here.

4 CLERK: Espinal.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Here.

6 CLERK: Eugene.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

8 CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: [off
10 mic] Here.

11 CLERK: Garodnick.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

13 CLERK: Gentile.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

15 CLERK: Gibson.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]

17 [shushing for quiet]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Here.

19 CLERK: Greenfield. Grodenchik.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCNIK: Here.

21 CLERK: Johnson.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Here.

23 CLERK: Kallos.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.

25 CLERK: King. Koo.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

3 CLERK: Koslowitz. Lancman.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Here.

5 CLERK: Lander.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Presente.

7 CLERK: Levin.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

9 CLERK: Levine.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

11 CLERK: Maisel.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: here.

13 CLERK: Mealy. [pause]

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Mealy.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Yes.

16 CLERK: Menchaca.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.

18 CLERK: Mendez.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Presente.

20 CLERK: Miller.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Present.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]

23 [shushing for quiet]

24 CLERK: Palma.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: [off mic] Here.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

14

2 CLERK: Reynoso.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Presente.

4 CLERK: Richards.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

6 CLERK: Rodriguez.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: [off mic]

8 Present.

9 CLERK: Rose.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: [off mic] Here.

11 CLERK: Rosenthal.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [off mic]

13 Here.

14 CLERK: Salamanca.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.

16 CLERK: Torres.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Here.

18 CLERK: Treyger.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

20 CLERK: Ulrich. Vacca.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

22 CLERK: Vallone.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

24 CLERK: Williams.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [off mic] Here.

2 CLERK: Wills. Matteo.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: [off mic]

4 Present.

5 CLERK: Van Bramer.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

7 CLERK: Speaker Mark Viverito.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Here.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. We
10 will now adjourn the recessed meeting of May 25th,
11 and we will call to order the meeting of June 14th.

12 Roll call.

13 CLERK: Barron.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

15 CLERK: Borelli.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Present.

17 CLERK: Cabrera.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

19 CLERK: Chin.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

21 CLERK: Cohen. Constantinides.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Here.

23 CLERK: Cornegy.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Here.

25 CLERK: Crowley.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

16

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [off mic] Here.

3 CLERK: Cumbo.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Here.

5 CLERK: Deutsch.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.

7 CLERK: Dickens.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [off mic] Here.

9 CLERK: Dromm.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: [off mic] Here.

11 CLERK: Espinal.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Here.

13 CLERK: Eugene.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

15 CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: Here.

17 CLERK: Garodnick.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

19 CLERK: Gentile.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

21 CLERK: Gibson.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Here.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for

24 quiet]

25 CLERK: Greenfield. Grodenchik.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCIK: Here.

3 CLERK: Johnson.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Here.

5 CLERK: Kallos.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.

7 CLERK: King.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: [off mic] Here.

9 CLERK: Koo.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

11 CLERK: Koslowitz.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

13 CLERK: Lancman.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Here.

15 CLERK: Lander.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

17 CLERK: Levin.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

19 CLERK: Levine.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

21 CLERK: Maisel.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: here.

23 CLERK: Mealy.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.

25 CLERK: Menchaca.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

18

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.

3 CLERK: Mendez.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Present.

5 CLERK: Miller.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Present.

7 CLERK: Palma.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Present.

9 CLERK: Reynoso.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Presente.

11 CLERK: Richards.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

13 CLERK: Rodriguez.

14 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Rodriguez, Rodriguez.

15 CLERK: Rose.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: [off mic] Here.

17 CLERK: Rosenthal.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [off mic]

19 Here.

20 CLERK: Salamanca.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.

22 CLERK: Torres.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Here.

24 CLERK: Treyger.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

2 CLERK: Ulrich. Vacca.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

4 CLERK: Vallone.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

6 CLERK: Williams.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [off mic] Here.

8 CLERK: Wills. Matteo.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: [off mic]

10 Present.

11 CLERK: Van Bramer.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

13 CLERK: Speaker Mark Viverito.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Here.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. All

16 rise.

17 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: All rise.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the

19 Chambers. We hear the invocation delivered by

20 Reverend Anti--Antionettea Etienne from the Love

21 Alive International Sanctuary of Praise, 1157

22 Lexington Avenue in the Borough of Manhattan. All

23 quiet in the Chambers.

24 REVEREND ANTIONETTEA ETIENNE: Father

25 God, Father God I ask that you erase the hate that is

2 circulating within our communities nationwide.

3 Father God I ask for extra prayer for each and every
4 parent that lost a child in Orlando. Each and every
5 husband, wife, niece, nephew that was lost in this
6 senseless act. Father God I'm asking you that you
7 keep our hearts and minds open and get a lot--I can't
8 speak. Oh, my Father God. I'm so sorry. [pause]
9 Father God, [crying] our children--we continue to
10 destroy our future. They are our future, and I'm
11 asking you Father God. I said I wouldn't cry. I'm
12 asking you Father God to bless and guide each and
13 every person in the City Council. I'm asking Father
14 God that this month of June that they respect our
15 sexual orientation as we celebrate in the truth of
16 who we are. I'm asking Father God for us to become
17 unified for we are the greatest city in the world,
18 and we must lead by example. So Father God, I beg of
19 thee to let us all join in solidarity for each
20 parent. Each life that was lost was a precious gift
21 that is no longer here, and I just want to thank you
22 Father God for the breath of life for each and every
23 person in this room for you see we woke this morning
24 and someone did not. Thank you, Lord for being who
25 you are, and I apologize sincerely for breaking down

2 to day to each and every member here. I honor
3 Letitia James. I hone Speaker (cough) Melissa and I
4 honor Mr. Dromm, and I honor each and every person
5 that's here and I ask that your God touch you from
6 the top of your head to the soles of your feet as you
7 go along your daily routine, and to never forget the
8 horrors that we are experiencing today, and try to
9 change this as we continue to be the best that we can
10 be in New York City. Amen.

11 COUNCIL MEMBERS: (in unison) Amen.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [off mic] You may
13 be seated. [on mic] Council Member Kallos, the
14 Motion to Spread the Invocation.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I make motion to
16 spread the Invocation in full upon the record. I
17 want to just say thank you for your passionate plea
18 to the Lord. It is said that the Lord hears those
19 prayers with the most passion--

20 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Please
21 keep it down.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: --and there is
23 certainly no need for apology. Minister Antionette
24 Etienne is Director of Health and Wellness for Love
25 Alive International Sanctuary of Praise Church. She

2 has been a leader in faith and pioneering efforts to
3 educate and prevent against HIV and AIDS. We are so
4 glad to have had her here before and here again on
5 this occasion, and we echo her plea that we should
6 find solidarity in these moments. Thank you.

7 [pause]

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Adoption of
9 Minutes.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Motion that
11 the Minutes of the Stated Meeting of May 5th, 2016 be
12 adopted as printed.

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

15 CLERK: M 420, City Debt and Receivers.

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Received Order,
17 printed and filed.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Communication
19 from City, County and Borough Offices.

20 M 415 Recommendation for Rosanna Vargas
21 for appointment to the Board of Elections.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Rules, Privileges
23 and Elections.

24 CLERK: Preconsidered M416, Chancellor's
25 Five-Year Capital Plan.

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Finance.

3 CLERK: Preconsidered M417 Expense
4 Budget.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Finance.

6 CLERK: Preconsidered M418 Revenue
7 Budget.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Finance.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Petitions and
10 communications.

11 CLERK: None.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Land Use Call-
13 Ups.

14 CLERK: None.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
16 Chamber, please as we now hear from the Speaker
17 Melissa Mark-Viverito.

18 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Madam
19 Public Advocate and again buenos tardes to my
20 colleagues. Today, we're going to be voting on the
21 Fiscal Year 2017 City Budget. First, I'd like to
22 begin with a big thank to our Finance Chair Julissa
23 Ferreras-Copeland, our amazing budget negotiation
24 team, my counsel law--colleagues and, of course, our
25

2 incredible finance team. I'm going to name them all
3 so hold on. Director Latonia McKinney--

4 COUNCIL MEMBERS: [cheers]

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: --Deputy

6 Director--yes, we'll [cheers/applause]. Long nights,
7 long nights. Deputy Director and Chief Economist Ray
8 Majewski. [cheers/applause] Deputy Director Regina
9 Poreda Ryan. [cheers/applause] Deputy Director
10 Nathan Toth. [cheers/applause] Deputy Director Paul
11 Samone. [cheers/applause] Assistant Director Emre
12 Edev. [cheers/applause] Committee Counsel Rebecca
13 Chasan. [cheers/applause] The Unit heads Aisha
14 Wright. [cheers/applause] Chima Obechere
15 [cheers/applause]. John Russell Stern, [applause]
16 Dohini Sompura [cheers/applause] and Crilhien
17 Francisco [cheers/applause]. The Finance Analyst
18 Jessica Ackerman, [cheers/applause] Alia Alli, Maria
19 Anache [cheers/applause], Ellen Eng, Sarah, Gastelum,
20 Kenny Grace, Elizabeth Hoffman, Sheila Johnson
21 [cheers/applause]. I hope I get it right, William
22 Kiara Matang. [cheers/applause] Prince Mensa,
23 Janette Merrill, Brittany Morrissey, Namira Nuzet,
24 Jimmy Reyes, Steve Riester, John Seltzer, Kendall
25 Stephenson, James Subudhi [cheers/applause], Brandon

2 West and Davis Winslow [cheers/applause] and let us
3 not forget the Finance support staff, Nicole
4 Anderson, Roberta Cantarano and Maria Pagan.
5 [cheers/applause] and thanks to all of them, and
6 obviously with all of you we are here today with a
7 smart, responsible fiscally prudent, not to mention
8 early Budget for Fiscal Year 2017. [applause] With
9 this Budget Agreement once again this City Council
10 has proven itself to be a champion for all New
11 Yorkers in all five boroughs. This a budget for
12 everyone. We're investing in jobs. We are investing
13 in youth. Above all else, we are investing in New
14 Yorkers, and we are investing in our future. This
15 budget reflects months of heart hard negotiations
16 between the City Council and the Mayor, and is a
17 Budget New Yorkers can and should be proud of. This
18 has been an efficient, honest, open and public
19 process and I'm incredibly proud of the work the
20 entire City Council has done on behalf of the City.
21 Our Budget Agreement is the culmination of
22 negotiations not just between the Mayor, the Speaker
23 and the Finance Chair but of thoughtful substantive
24 conversations with each and every member of the City
25 Council who represent diverse constituencies across

2 the city. Today, we are sending a clear message to
3 New York City's next generation that we care about
4 our city's youth, and that we are dedicated to
5 assuring they have the resources they need to become
6 educated, engaged and well rounded citizens. Thanks
7 to this City Council, we're making an unprecedented
8 permanent investment in our city's youth. A \$100
9 million commitment isn't just going towards tens of
10 thousands of youth jobs. These funds will also make
11 sure young women and at-risk youth have access to
12 structured positive programs including summer
13 programs for 26,000 middle-school students, through
14 the--through the Schools Out New York City or SONYC
15 program as well as 6,000 year-round jobs. While we
16 invest in young people, we are investing in our
17 future. Providing youth especially those who are
18 disenfranchised with their first paid job experience
19 can be a life changing experience. That's why not
20 only are we security 60,000 summer youth employment
21 jobs, and 6,000 year-round jobs going forward, we'll
22 also be prioritizing our most high-need young people,
23 by launching a joint task force to assess the needs
24 and effectiveness of our Youth Job Readiness programs
25 where the ultimate goal of fully meeting the need for

2 summer youth jobs, and this is a really important
3 element that I don't want us to miss. We know the
4 SYEP program has been in place for decades, and we
5 have not really had a thorough evaluation of the
6 effectiveness. So this task force is going to do just
7 that, making sure we really get to revisit and relook
8 at this program, and make sure it's really meeting
9 the full needs, and figuring out how do scale up and
10 get to a point where we can provide opportunities for
11 all those youth in need. But that's not all.

12 Working with our Minority Leader Matteo and the
13 Staten Island designee--Delegation, we're making that
14 New Yorkers in every single borough including Staten
15 Island have quality access to healthcare services by
16 investing \$13.5 million to build a new Emergency
17 Department on Staten Island at the Richmond
18 University Medical Center. [cheers/applause]
19 [laughs] We should be rooting for that and, you
20 know, this isn't just about designating funds. There
21 was a lot of work behind this, and I'll leave it
22 there, but it took a lot of work. I'm very, very
23 proud that we could do this. We're also increasing
24 funding for cultural organizations by \$10 million,
25 something which is important to the entire Council.

2 And not only are we increasing our investments in New
3 York City's Public Libraries, working with the
4 Administration and Majority Leader Van Bramer, a
5 fierce advocate for our city's libraries, we secured
6 a total of \$43 million in baseline funding
7 [cheers/applause] to permanently maintain six-day
8 service. So that we don't have to start from scratch
9 and go back to the drawing board next year. This is
10 a smart, responsible budget agreement, and not only
11 are we expanding vital city programs, some of which
12 I've discussed, and some of which you'll be hearing
13 more about in just a moment from our exemplary
14 Finance Chair Julissa Ferreras-Copeland. We're also
15 strengthening reserves, and safeguarding the city's
16 future. As part of this, we are putting in an
17 additional \$250 million into our reserves. So again,
18 thank you so much to the Finance staff. Really it is
19 a--we cannot do our work effectively without your
20 support. Thank you so much, and with that I'll pass
21 it on to our Finance Chair Julissa Ferreras-Copeland.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank
23 you, Madam Speaker. As we adopted the FY 17 Budget
24 I'd like to thank Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito for
25 her stewardship of this body throughout the budget

2 negotiating process. The Speaker is a true leader.
3 She listened to the voices of the council members and
4 the public and approached the negotiations with
5 tenacity, vision and purpose. I would also to say--
6 take a big--give a big thank you to the Finance
7 Division staff who eat, sleep and breathe this
8 process. They give us the expertise and support that
9 we needed to make the right decisions every day. So
10 I'd like to thank you. In particular, our Director
11 Latonia McKinney, who through her vision--this is
12 her third budget--has been able to help us make the
13 decisions that you have seen reflected in this
14 budget. So I'd like to now and I won't go through
15 the names again, not because we don't love you, but
16 because we love you we won't say the names all over
17 again. [laughter] But I'd like for every member of
18 the Finance Division team to please stand.

19 [cheers/applause] [background comments]

20 [cheers/applause, laughter] Thank you very much.

21 This year we are seeing commitments we made during
22 the FY15 Budget come to fruition. We were--

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for
24 quiet]-

2 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: We
3 were committed--we are committed to more transparency
4 and this is the most transparent budget yet. We are
5 committed to equity for all Council Members and this
6 is the most equitable budget yet. And we are
7 committed to making the Council a force in
8 establishing priorities and shaping the process, and
9 this is the most engaged budget yet. This year, the
10 Council's response advocated for \$748 million in new
11 priorities to address inequality. We knew the City
12 needed to do more for young people for education, for
13 immigrants, for working families, all while preparing
14 for the future. We have been relentless in our
15 advocacy. When the Executive Budget was released and
16 so few of the Council's priorities were included.
17 There were many who were uncertain about how much
18 influence the Council would have in this year's
19 Adopted Budget. However, after very successful
20 negotiations with well more than half of the
21 Council's Budget Response now included, it is
22 absolutely clear that the Budget adopted--the adopted
23 budget reflects the Council's great impact and an
24 emphasis on addressing inequality through responsible
25 budgeting. This is a testament to the dedication and

2 influence of this body and all of you. Thank you for
3 your efforts and your part--and your partnership.
4 Together we have achieved unprecedented investment in
5 youth, immigrant seniors and other areas. This
6 budget also includes hundreds of millions of dollars
7 in new savings to balance out the new spending needs.
8 We're establishing new terms and provisions with the
9 Administration to increase transparency throughout
10 this budget. Lastly, we are voting on a capital plan
11 to strengthen our infrastructure and develop it for
12 the next generation with new precincts, firehouses
13 and schools. On the Council side we have
14 consolidated and streamlined our initiatives. We
15 have combined overlapping programs and eliminated
16 ones that do not align with our priorities. The
17 total result of the budget that will address
18 inequality and improve the lives of New Yorkers from
19 all walks of life. Thank you and congratulations to
20 my Council colleagues. The FY15 (sic) Budget is one
21 that we can be proud of. I also wanted to
22 acknowledge the Office of the General Counsel, which
23 also play an important role led by Kathleen Ahn,
24 Charles--Charles Davis, Chuck. [cheers/applause]
25 Chuck, Jason Otano (sp?), Patrick--Jason Otano and

2 Patrick Bradford. You know, a little birdie told
3 Madam Speaker--

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for
5 quiet]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: --that
7 they often don't get acknowledged, but they run
8 around making sure that we are all in compliance.
9 So, Chuck, here's a shout out to you, and all the
10 attorneys in the Office of the General Counsel and
11 for all the vetting work so that we are brought here
12 today. Again, I am very proud to stand here as your
13 Finance Chair and to be able to adopt this budget
14 with all of my Council colleagues. Gracias.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you.
16 [cheers/applause] So again, thanks to all the staff
17 and I know we will all be celebrating jointly later
18 on. So before--just we move on, we will be again in
19 recess today just in case, right, we--I know that
20 that the State Legislative Session is--is finishing
21 shortly in case we have to come back. So we will be
22 standing in recess today, and then before we move on
23 just to quickly recognize that today is Flag Day, and
24 today we commemorate the adoption of the American
25 Flag, which happened on June 14, 1777. So happy Flag

2 Day to all, and with that, I end the communication
3 from the Speaker.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And discussion of
5 General Orders beginning with Council Member Palma
6 for a vote.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: I vote aye on
8 today's General Order.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you and
10 Council Member Maisel for a vote.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: I would like to
12 vote aye with permission on all Coupled General
13 Orders.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: I vote aye.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
17 Council Member Mealy for a vote.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I would like to
19 vote and with permission on all Coupled General
20 Orders.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you and now
24 to General Order Discussion, Council Member
25 Garodnick.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank you very
3 much--

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for
5 quiet]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: --madam Public
7 Advocate. I want to congratulate my colleagues on
8 making it through another budget process. As we move
9 forward toward passage today I wanted to take a
10 moment, however, to raise some concerns about the
11 rate of spending--

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for
13 quiet]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: --in this
15 year's budget. The Mayor has included \$2 billion in
16 new spending this year with a proposed increase in
17 the head count of 6,700. Employees of New York City
18 have now grown by 25,000 since 2014. This is, in my
19 view, too big a leap too fast and without sufficient
20 reason. Many of us in the Council asked the Mayor to
21 identify savings in the budget by asking him to
22 identify his lower priority spending items. That we
23 argued would have allowed us to reallocate and
24 reprioritize our spending. Unfortunately, no
25 identified potential cuts were made. Rather a \$2

2 billion spending increase was introduced, and while
3 it was important that we're putting more money away
4 into our reserves, it is not nearly enough. In order
5 to withstand an economic downturn we are supposed to
6 have 12 to 15% of our total budget in reserves.
7 Instead, we have 10.24% or even as low as 5.68% if
8 you don't count the funds put aside for known
9 healthcare costs of City workers. Even today, we are
10 looking at a \$3.8 billion deficit in Fiscal Year
11 2019. Let us at least acknowledge where we are
12 headed. We are all thankful that New York's economy
13 is currently strong, but the reality is no economy
14 stays that way forever. As a City, we must take
15 steps now in good time just to prepare for the
16 inevitable bad times ahead. Progressive, honest and
17 responsible budgeting protects people not only when
18 revenues are strong, but when they are weak. We
19 should better protect ourselves from having to lay
20 people off and cutting core services when that
21 happens. That says the budget--that said, the budget
22 preserves basic services. For now, it will allow the
23 City to function. It will provide for trash to be
24 picked up. It will provide to protect our most
25 vulnerable for public health and safety. So I'm

2 going to be voting yes, but we need to slow down
3 [bell]. It's the last--the last line, Madam Public
4 Advocate. We need to slow down to protect ourselves
5 a bit here. In my view, we are spending too much,
6 and not setting aside nearly enough money to do that.
7 Thank you.

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

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Thank you, Madam
11 Public Advocate. I want to thank our Speaker, the
12 Finance Chair and my colleagues and staff, who have
13 helped us make this budget possible particularly I am
14 proud to see the baselining for libraries and for the
15 district attorneys' offices. The permanent base
16 level of funding for libraries allow them to claim,
17 to meet the needs of the future, and for our district
18 attorneys--

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for
20 quiet]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: --that will
22 allow them to have the resources to be on the cutting
23 edge of law enforcement, and New Yorkers deserve no
24 less. Additionally, I'm--I'm very pleased to see the
25 increase made to this Summer Youth Employment Program

2 and certainly for seniors. I'm very happy to see
3 that the much needed funding for our NORCs or
4 Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities. The
5 funding will assure that they will continue to be
6 established in growing numbers, and remains in our
7 budget. All in all this is a positive and impactful
8 budget for citizens of the five boroughs of our city,
9 and I plant to vote aye at the appropriate time.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
11 Eugene.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you very
13 much Madam Public Advocate. I would like to thank
14 all my fellow colleagues for their support to also
15 restoring the funding for our Summer Youth Employment
16 Program and Summer Youth Jobs. Our budget reflects
17 the needs of all New Yorkers, but especially the need
18 of our young people. And this investment in youth is
19 going to positively impact our city for decades to
20 come. I would like to--I would like to thank Speaker
21 Melissa Mark-Viverito for her leadership, and also
22 our Finance Chair Julissa-Ferreras Copeland for their
23 effort to make sure that the Administration restored
24 the funding designed to help our young people, and I
25 would like also to thank all my colleagues for their

2 support, and all those who signed the letters, the
3 many letters that I sent to the Administration to
4 ensure that Administration restored the funding.
5 This budget is a victory. The funding for the young
6 people is a victory for the parents, a victory also
7 for New York City, and this is going to be very
8 important for not only the children, the parents, but
9 for all of us in New York City because every time
10 that we keep the young people on the positive path,
11 everything--every time that we give to the young
12 people to be engaged in positive things, this is good
13 for New York City, and we make New York City safer.
14 Again, thank you very much to all my colleagues, and
15 I would be remiss if I didn't take the opportunity
16 also to thank all the wonderful members of the staff,
17 of the Speaker, the silent staff. Thank you so very
18 much for a job well done, and I think that our young
19 people, they are going to be happy. They are going to
20 enjoy the summer, and also we are doing what we have
21 to do to make sure that they become the future of
22 this good city. Thank you very much.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

24 Council Member Van Bramer.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you
3 very much. First of all, I want to thank the Speaker
4 for allowing all of us to engage in the moments of
5 remembrance that preceded this meeting. I've been a
6 member here for 6-1/2 years, and that was one of the
7 most moving moments that I think was very meaningful
8 to--to every single person in this body. So I thank
9 the Speaker for allowing us to do that together. I
10 also want to celebrate the Budget, and thank the
11 Speaker. I have worked for or on behalf of Libraries
12 for nearly 20 years, and for nearly 20 years we have
13 sought not only to have six-day service, but to
14 baseline six-day service. And for the last two years
15 we have been fighting so hard, and successfully to
16 not only add \$43 million to the budget or our public
17 libraries, but this year to baseline all \$43 million
18 of those dollars. That is a remarkable achievement
19 that this Council was able to achieve by I believe
20 pushing and forcefully advocating with this
21 Administration. There are also significant capital
22 investments in libraries, additions to the additions
23 that we made last year that are putting our libraries
24 in a better place every single day. I also want to
25 celebrate our cultural victories. For the first time

2 12 years there is new expense operating money for the
3 Department of Cultural Affairs and all cultural
4 organizations in the city of New York. With our City
5 Council cultural initiatives, we will add nearly \$20
6 million in new money, new money that is brand new
7 this year for our culturals citywide.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for
9 quiet]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: That is a
11 significant investment in our cultural organizations
12 across the city of new York, and that nearly \$20
13 million in expense money goes together with the
14 nearly \$130 million in cultural capital that is in
15 this budget we are voting on today. Significant
16 victors for the city of New York. Thank you very
17 much.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
19 Council Member Chin.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you, Madam
21 Public Advocate. Good afternoon. Today we are
22 voting on an equitable responsible and early budget
23 that gives consideration to New Yorkers from all
24 walks of life. I first want to thank Speaker Melissa
25 Mark-Viverito, and our Finance Chair Julissa

2 Ferreras-Copeland for their leadership and openness
3 throughout the process. I also want to thank my
4 colleagues on the Budget Negotiation Team. I wanted
5 to thank the Mayor for working with us to ensure that
6 everyone from youth to seniors, immigrants, the
7 patrons of our great cultural institutions can
8 receive the vital services they need. It wasn't
9 always easy. We fought hard to re--to restore the
10 key SONYC's Middle-School Summer Program so that our
11 children will have something to do when school is
12 out. We also advocated for SYEP, and finally 60,000
13 young people are going to have work experience, and
14 we're moving towards universal SYEP. We told the
15 Administration that no senior should be on waiting
16 lists. So they put \$4.8 million for case management
17 to reach pay equity, and another \$1.8 million to
18 address the 1,400 seniors waitlists for case
19 management. I was very surprised to hear last night
20 that they've put in another \$2 million to take care
21 of seniors who are waiting for home care. So I'm
22 glad that Dean Fuleihan heard what I had to say.
23 [laughs] Well, I'm encouraged by the funding
24 commitment for seniors this year. We still have a
25 way to go before the Department for the Aging's core

2 funding fully reflects the needs of all seniors. The
3 City Council, which will contribute over \$21 million
4 this Fiscal Year still makes up a significant portion
5 of the aging budget. In the coming months, I look
6 forward to continuing working with the Administration
7 and my Council colleagues to have a budget with
8 consistent and stable funding to address the needs of
9 the growing numbers of seniors in our city. I also
10 want to thank all the Council's Finance staff,
11 particularly Finance Director Latonia McKinney;
12 Finance Division Union Head Dohini Sompura and
13 Finance Analyst Brittany Morrissey. Of course, Ramon
14 Martinez, but I also want to congratulate my Budget
15 and Legislative Director Vincent Fang on revising his
16 first budget, and doing a job well done. Thank you.
17 [applause]

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
19 Seeing on one else--seeing no one else? Council
20 Member Johnson.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: [coughs] Thank
22 you, Madam Public Advocate. I wanted to--

23 [shushing for quiet]

24 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: --thank the
25 Speaker and the Finance Chair adopting what I think

2 is a responsible budget, though I do share
3 Garodnick's concerns about the level of reserves that
4 we have. But I'm happy that the Council was able to
5 negotiate an additional \$250 million in the Retiree
6 Health Benefit Trust. I wanted to rise today to say
7 that the Mayor made a significant commitment for New
8 York City Health and Hospitals. Many hundreds of
9 millions of dollars were put in the Preliminary
10 Budget in the Executive Budget, and that's a good
11 thing. But I am still not sure that we have a
12 sustainable plan between now and 2020 to close a \$1.9
13 billion gap that threatens our public hospital system
14 in New York City. Relying upon State and Federal
15 action to come up with these funds is I think a
16 pretty risky strategy. Now, I am not saying that the
17 Mayor shouldn't have put the money in. I'm glad he
18 put the money in, but we have to ensure that if we
19 want our hospital system to survive, both our public
20 hospital system, and we're seeing threatening
21 closures of Beth Israel downsizing in some ways. We
22 really have to get this under control in a meaningful
23 way. And so, I look forward to having the having the
24 Council engage with the Administration over the next
25 year to understand what a real plan will be to get

2 our public hospital system on firm financial footing
3 before next year's budget. We had to put the money
4 in, but we need some changes in Albany. We need some
5 Medicaid waiver dollars from the federal government,
6 from the Department of Health and Human Services and
7 the City Council. I look forward hopefully taking a
8 lead in that. At the appropriate time, I will vote
9 aye on this budget. Thank you.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

11 Seeing no one else, Report of Special Committees.

12 CLERK: None.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reports of
14 Standing Committees.

15 CLERK: Report on the Committee on
16 Finance Preconsidered Reso 1115 and 1116 Base
17 Percentage.

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

20 CLERK: Preconsidered Reso 1117
21 Organization Funding.

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

24 CLERK: Preconsidered M 417 and Reso
25 1118, Expense Budget.

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2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
3 General Orders.
4 CLERK: Preconsidered M 418 and Reso
5 1119, Revenue Budget.
6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
7 General Orders.
8 CLERK: M 397 and Reso 1120 and 1121
9 Expense Revenue Contract Budget.
10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
11 General Orders.
12 CLERK: M 398 and Resos 1122 and 1123,
13 Capital Budget.
14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
15 General Orders.
16 CLERK: M 399 and Reso 1124, CD Budget.
17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
18 General Orders.
19 CLERK: Preconsidered M 416 and Reso 1125
20 Chancellor Five-Year Plan.
21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
22 General Orders.
23 CLERK: Preconsidered M 419 and Reso
24 1126, Fixing the Tax Rate.
25

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

4 CLERK: LU 389 and Reso 1127 through LU
5 395 and Reso 1133, Various Applications.

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

8 CLERK: Preconsidered LU 401 and Reso
9 1134, Clarkson and Winthrop Gardens.

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

12 CLERK: M 368 through M 404 on page 11,
13 various budget items.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled to be
15 filed.

16 CLERK: On the General Order Calendar,
17 Resolution Appointing Various Persons Commissioner of
18 Deeds.

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

23 CLERK: Barron.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Permission to
25 explain my vote.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Madam
4 Public Advocate. I, too, want to add my voice to all
5 of us who have expressed our gratitude for the hard
6 work that Finance staff has done to bring us to this
7 point. I want to thank my colleagues also for
8 continuing to put money into the Council Merit Based
9 Scholarship Program at CUNY. So that this will be
10 the third year that students will be able to get that
11 \$800 towards their college expenses. I'm pleased to
12 see that we have made a significant increase in the
13 number of children who have summer youth jobs and
14 year-round jobs. I think that's important, and I'm
15 also pleased that there will be a task force
16 established that will see how we can continue to
17 increase the number of youth who will be able to work
18 here in our city. I think that all of the increases
19 and the programs that address the needs in our
20 community are very important, and with that I vote
21 aye.

22 CLERK: Borelli.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye on all
24 except Preconsidered Reso 1115, 1116, 1126 and 416,
25 and I'm disclosing on the record the Council

2 proceedings that CUNY has funded in the budget we are
3 adopting, that I'm associated with this entity. And
4 P.S. 55-R is funded in the budget that we are
5 adopting, and my wife is associated with that entity.
6 Thank you.

7 CLERK: Cabrera.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Permission to
9 explain my vote?

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: First, I want to
12 congratulate all my colleagues for a job well done.
13 Also to all the staff. Indeed did a fabulous,
14 fabulous job in putting this thing together in a
15 record time. Also, I am disclosing--

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for
17 quiet]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: --on the record
19 of the Council proceeding that Kips Bay Boys and
20 Girls Club is funded in the budget--

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for
22 quiet]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: --we are
24 adopting and my church is associated with this
25 entity, and with that I vote aye on all.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

3 CLERK: Chin.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Permission to
5 explain my vote.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I'm just--I'm
8 disclosing on the record at a Council proceeding that
9 P.S. 3 is funded in the budget we are adopting, and
10 my husband is a teacher at P.S. 3, and vote aye on
11 all, and thank you to Council Member Johnson for the
12 funding.

13 CLERK: Borelli.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Excuse me, to
15 clarify, I vote no on 419 and not 416.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

17 CLERK: Cohen. Constantinides.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Can I be
19 excused to explain my vote?

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Thank. I
22 want to congratulate our Speaker and--

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for
24 quiet]

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES. --our
3 Finance Chair.

4 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Quiet,
5 please, Julissa Ferreras Copeland, of course of the
6 Finance staff. I also want to disclose on the record
7 that the CUNY Law Foundation is--is funded at P.S. 85
8 in the budget we are adopting. In addition, I--I
9 provide funding for all the public schools in my
10 district in--in capital technology upgrades of which
11 P.S. 85 is included, and my son is a student at P.S.
12 85, too. Thank you.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

14 CLERK: Cornegy.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Congratulate--
16 congratulations on the great work on Finance. Aye on
17 all.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

19 CLERK: Crowley.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Can I have
21 permission to explain my vote?

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I want to thank
24 your Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Finance Chair
25 Julissa Ferreras-Copeland, the entire Finance Staff

2 for their dedication to the city in passing a timely,
3 responsible and efficient budget. I strongly support
4 this budget's increased investment in our schools
5 especially enhancing our physical education programs.
6 Healthy lifestyle habits are created at a young age,
7 and can make a significant difference in improving a
8 child's health, focus and discipline. This budget
9 will ensure that every single elementary school has a
10 certified physical education teacher. The budget
11 also includes over \$12 million for Teachers' Choice
12 and funding for community schools and restorative
13 justice program, all programs that greatly benefit
14 educators as well as students. I am grateful for the
15 Council's \$5 million allocation to fund the key
16 recommendations of the Young Woman's Initiative so
17 she can be all that she should be by enabling better
18 access to job training, education and healthcare for
19 our young women throughout the city of New York. And
20 in keeping with the Council's objecting of reducing
21 the jail population, the Council has increased the
22 Alternative to Incarceration Initiative by \$1.2
23 million. This funding will provide judges with more
24 options to help eligible--

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for
3 quiet]

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: --individuals to
5 turn their lives around. This ATI Initiative--
6 Initiative coupled with the recently passed Criminal
7 Justice Reform Act and the establishment of a bail
8 fund are all measures that bring about greater
9 justice within the Criminal Justice System, bring
10 about better outcomes for offenders, and bring about
11 measurable savings for this city. I vote aye and for
12 the record, I must disclose that New York City
13 Department of Education is funded in this budget that
14 we are adopting and I have two sisters who are New
15 York City Public School teachers. CUNY is also in
16 this budget, and the funding of CUNY includes--and in
17 that funding my son Owen is a--a student at the City
18 University of New York, and New York Public Library
19 and Carnegie Hall--

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for
21 quiet]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: --are funded in
23 this budget that we are adopting, and my domestic
24 partner is affiliate--affiliated with those entities.
25 Thank you.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

3 CLERK: Cumbo.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you. I'll
5 begin by disclosing on the record of the Council
6 proceedings that New York City Department of
7 Education--

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for
9 quiet]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: --is funded in the
11 Budget we are adopting, and my two sisters are
12 employed as teachers with the Department of
13 Education. I also want to thank Speaker Melissa
14 Mark-Viverito. I'd like to thank your Finance Chair
15 Julissa Ferreras-Copeland, as well as Latonia
16 McKinney who has done a phenomenal job, and as Chair
17 of the Women's Issues Committee, and Co-Chair of the
18 Women's Caucus, I'm proud to see so many dynamic
19 women lead the city of New York into greatness. I
20 also want to say that I'm very proud of all of my
21 colleagues for coming together to increase DOVE
22 funding and the initiative. This is so critical
23 because we've seen time and time again that with
24 shootings throughout New York City as well as this
25 nation that it has so often been rooted in cases of

2 domestic violence. And so it's so very critical that
3 we support those sorts of initiatives that will
4 people the opportunity to end this cycle of violence
5 throughout country. I'm also very proud of the fact
6 that we were able to increase the opportunities for
7 young people to have Summer Youth Employment as well
8 as through the COMPASS and SONYC programs for young
9 people to have after school programming and camp
10 opportunities, which is so critical to their
11 viability, but also making sure that they have
12 productive options throughout the City of New York.
13 I also want to applaud Majority Leader Jimmy Van
14 Bramer as well as the entire Council for their
15 incredible work in seeing one of the largest
16 increases that we've seen to the Department of
17 Cultural Affairs' budget, which continues to be an
18 economic generator and driver to the city of New
19 York, and I'm very proud to support this budget and I
20 vote aye. Thank you.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES:

22 CLERK: Deutsch.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: I vote aye. I'm
24 also disclosing on the record and of the Council for
25 seeing that Masores Bais Yaakov is funded in the

2 budget we are adopting and my child is a student at
3 this school and that Kings Borough Community College
4 is also funded in this budget we are adopted, and my
5 children are students at this school. Thank you.

6 CLERK: Dickens.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Congratulations
8 to our Speaker and our Finance Chair Julissa
9 Ferreras-Copeland. Of course to the phenomenal
10 Latonia McKinney with the Finance Staff. I want to
11 thank my--my budget staff Zamila and Everton, the
12 Manhattan Delegation Co-Chairs Corey Johnson, and
13 Margaret Chin and, of course, I want to thank Ramon
14 Martinez for putting away decisions in this
15 phenomenal budget, and I vote aye.

16 CLERK: Dromm.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: With thanks to our
18 Speaker, Chair Ferreras-Copeland, to my staff,
19 Sebastian McGuire and Sharon Stanley, I proudly vote
20 aye as well.

21 CLERK: Espinal.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: With many thanks
23 to the Finance staff to the Speaker and Ramon and to
24 my own staff, I vote aye.

25 CLERK: Eugene.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: [coughs] I vote
3 aye.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

5 CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: May I
7 be excused to explain my vote?

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: I just
10 wanted to also acknowledge the Speaker's staff, who
11 were an integral part in many meetings that we had in
12 her office led by Ramon Martinez, Julie Presley and
13 Jill Toronto. Thank you for all your support, and
14 also our delegation chair in Queens Karen Koslowitz,
15 who made sure that we were one of the delegations
16 that always ended early. We were orderly and it was
17 great. So thank you very much. I proudly vote aye.

18 CLERK: Garodnick.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: I have--excuse
20 me, Council Member, we have a disclosure?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank-
22 -I sure do. My--my two-year-old--I am disclosing on
23 the record of the Council proceedings that Asphalt
24 Green, Inc. is funded in the budget we are adopting
25 and my son attends swim classes there. Thank you.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All right.

3 CLERK: Garodnick.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank you.

5 I'd like to make a few disclosures. I'm disclosing
6 on the record of the Council proceedings that the
7 Stuyvesant Town Peter Cooper Village Tenants
8 Association Foundation, Inc. is funded in the budget
9 we're adopting and I am a dues paying member of that
10 association. That Planned Parenthood New York City
11 is funded in the budget we're adopting, and while my
12 wife is not associated with that organization, she is
13 the Senior Associate General Counsel of the National
14 Parent Organization, Planned Parenthood Federation of
15 America and the Peter Stuyvesant Little League is
16 funded in the budget that we're adopting, and my son
17 is a slugger on the general's T-Ball team--

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]

19 [laughs]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: --and I vote
21 aye. Thank you.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: That's worthy of
23 some discretionary.

24 CLERK: Gentile.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Thank you. I am
3 disclosing on the record of the Council proceedings
4 that William McKinley Intermediate School 259 is
5 funded in the budget that we are adopting, and my
6 sister is associated with this entity, and with that,
7 I vote aye.

8 CLERK: Gibson.

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

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you Madam
13 Public Advocate, and good afternoon colleagues. I'm
14 grateful to be here, and thank you to our Speaker
15 Melissa Mark-Viverito, our Finance Chair Council
16 Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland, to the entire
17 Finance Division than you so much. I am very proud
18 of this budget. It really enhances and makes
19 significant investments in youth, public safety, our
20 cultural arts, literacy, seniors, hunger,
21 homelessness and educational services across the
22 city. As Chair of public safety I'm especially
23 grateful for the \$21.9 million investment in our five
24 district attorneys. Thank you to our Speaker for her
25 leadership, to Minority Leader Matteo and all of my

2 colleagues for their support of our five district
3 attorneys especially Bronx D.A. Darcel Clark, and
4 Richmond County D.A. Mike McMahan. Thank you very
5 much. I'm truly proud of the investments we're
6 making in our youth, and SYEP and all year-round
7 Youth Employment Program, COMPASS and SONYC as well
8 as summer camp for our young people. Emergency food
9 assistance. There are too many New Yorkers going to
10 bed hungry at night. I am grateful for the
11 investment in the Crisis Management System and anti-
12 gun violence, and some of the initiatives that have,
13 alternatives to incarceration, our DOVE program and
14 my personal persona favorite CUNY Citizenship Now.
15 Thank you for the investments. I want to thank my
16 delegation chair, Council Member Palma. While we did
17 not finish on time, we were certainly diligent in
18 making sure that the Bronx was always represented,
19 and I want to recognize the Bronx Community College,
20 the first ever Bronx Children's Museum, which is
21 coming, and the Bronx Museum of the Arts. And
22 certainly, Osborne Association who was transforming
23 the old folks in jail into a plan and an economic
24 development reentry center in our district. I'm
25 very, very proud of the efforts we're making to keep

2 young people out of the Pipeline to Prison. And I
3 want to thank all of my colleagues, and certainly my
4 Budget Director for completing her first Budget
5 Kaitlyn O'Hagan, Dana Wax, and thank you all. [bell]
6 I proudly vote aye on all.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

8 CLERK: Greenfield.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you.

10 May I explain my vote.

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

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you,
14 Madam Public Advocate. I, too, want to thank so many
15 people. I'm just going to highlight on a few. This
16 is my fifth year on the Budget Negotiating Team, and
17 under the leadership of the Speaker and the Finance
18 Chair and the Finance Director Latonia McKinney, this
19 has, in fact, been the most collaborative and open
20 budget process that I've been a part of. So I want
21 to thank them for all their hard work. We have an
22 amazing Finance staff. I don't have time to name
23 them all, but just to tell you that they're all
24 super. I get very nervous when I thank them because
25 then the next day people try to hire them away. So

2 please don't try to hire them away because we love
3 them here, and they've done phenomenal--phenomenal
4 work. I do also want to thank the co-chairs of the
5 Brooklyn Delegation, Council Members Treyger and
6 Mealy. We were always the last delegation to finish
7 up our work, and that is, of course, a result of the
8 fact that we are a very conscientious delegation that
9 takes our responsibilities very seriously when it
10 comes to the budget process. I want to thank our two
11 co-chairs and--and beg you that whatever staffers
12 were assigned to Brooklyn this year, please rotate
13 them to Queens next year so they have an easier time.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [laughs]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Because God
16 knows you can't do that two years in a row.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Brooklyn.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I do--I do
19 want to thank [laughter] the Council as well. I'm
20 very excited that the NYC Cleanup Initiative that I
21 founded--

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

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: --in fact,
25 will--the budget will be increased by 50%. So we're

2 going to have cleaner streets, and we're going to
3 give a hand up to those who are out of to work. I'm
4 very excited that we've increased the funding by \$2
5 million for the Autism Initiative. I'm grateful to
6 my colleague Council Member Espinal for leading the
7 fight and increasing the Holocaust Initiative by a
8 million dollars, and once again just really want to
9 thanks all around, and I--I recognize the concerns.
10 The reality is that the--the Mayor does have a slight
11 imbalance in terms of budget and setting budget
12 priorities, and considering the Council's Charter
13 mandated role, I know we did a heck of a job. So
14 thank you all very much, and I vote aye on all.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

16 CLERK: Grodenchik.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCNIK: [off mic]

18 Permission to explain my vote.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: [on mic]

21 First--

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]

23 Howe did Queens do? Was Queens late?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: What? I'm
25 sorry.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Queens?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: I'm Queens.

4 I'm not going to be fast, though.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [laughs]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: First, I want
7 to disclose that I have been associated for the past
8 eight years with TSQE, formally--less formally known
9 as Tomchei Shabbos of Queens, which is funded in this
10 budget. I want to thank the Speaker, Chair Levin and
11 all 48 members who signed on to provide \$4.9 million
12 in additional emergency funding for food in this
13 great city of ours. Millions of meals will not be
14 missed this year because of the work that we did here
15 today, and I want to thank you all from the bottom of
16 my heart. I also want to thank my colleague to my
17 left, Donovan Richards for spearheading a fight that
18 has gone on for four decades, but has finally been
19 won this year with the creation of a new 116 Precinct
20 in Southeast and Eastern Queens. We call go like
21 that for that. I want to thank the Mayor for
22 providing \$70 million in capital funding for that,
23 and we've already had our first meeting on that. So
24 thank you, and finally, I want to thank my dear
25 friend and Queens Leader Karen Koslowitz, who

2 exemplifies expeditiousness in keeping meetings to a
3 minimum. Thank you very much my leader.

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

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Thank you,
7 Madam Public Advocate.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Team
9 Cause. [laughs]

10 CLERK: Johnson.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Permission to
12 explain my vote?

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: I want to again
15 thank the Speaker and the Finance Chair. I want to
16 thank Latonia McKinney. I want to thank Crilhien
17 Francisco and Janette Merrill, who are Finance
18 Analysts for the Health Committee, their hard work
19 and help. I want to thank my co-chair of the
20 Manhattan Delegation, Margaret Chin, who always keep
21 us in line, and I also want to thank my Legislative
22 and Budget Director Louis Cholden-Brown, and I want
23 to thank--again, there's too many Finance I have to
24 thank but I--I do want to thank Nathan and Kenny from
25 the Capital Division who have always been incredibly

2 helpful and generous with their time. I'm grateful
3 that this budget season increase in funding for
4 ending the epidemic we can end the epidemic. The
5 scourge of HIV and AIDS in New York City, and I'm
6 grateful for this Council's support and leadership on
7 that. I'm grateful that there's \$2 million for the
8 Nurse-Family Partnership to support women and
9 families that really need the help, and I am grateful
10 that we have increased Autism funding by \$2 million
11 to families and people that rely upon this. And
12 lastly, I just want to say that for the third year in
13 a row, there were health and mental health RFPs money
14 that we baselined, the Council over a many months
15 long process stepped up and ensured that groups that
16 may not have qualified for those RFPs or somehow
17 didn't win awards for those RFPs that we kept them
18 whole. And it came out to be I think somewhere
19 around 400 community-based health and mental health
20 organizations that provide these services in our
21 districts all across the city. Poor people, people
22 without health insurance really rely upon these
23 organizations, and the Council is stepping up for the
24 third year in a row is a really big deal. So I want

2 to thank the Speaker and the Finance Chair for their
3 support on that, and with that I vote aye on all.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

5 CLERK: Kallos.

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

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: This budget is a
10 responsible budget, and progressive budget that
11 includes a billion dollars of reserves, \$500 million
12 for capital budget stabilization and \$430 million in
13 saving on planned budget spending on the Judgment and
14 Claims Budget over the next five years. These are
15 funds that can now go, and did go to Direct Services
16 for our city. I do want to note that we do need to
17 continue to significantly start saving for rainy days
18 as economic indicators continue to show that it's
19 coming sooner than later. Additionally, we do need
20 to curtail some of the borrowing that is quickly
21 approaching our Constitutional debt limit for our
22 city, which means once we're done borrowing, there
23 won't be anything left for us to borrow. That being
24 said I do vote in favor of this budget, which will
25 help all New Yorkers. I also have some disclosures.

2 Since prior to becoming a Council Member, my family
3 was lucky to have the support--

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for
5 quiet]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: --in caring for
7 my mother from organizations in the budget that we
8 are adopting with whom my mother remains associated,
9 Derault's (sic) Kosher Home Delivered Meals along
10 with assistance from Met Council and Lenox Hill
11 Neighborhood House where I continue to join my mother
12 on occasion. Not as often as she would like, but on
13 occasion for lunch. In the Budget we're adopting I'm
14 also associated with Asphalt's Green where I pay for
15 membership classes or per diem to train for
16 triathlons conservancies to care for our parks in
17 which I sit as an ex officio member including Friends
18 of the East River Esplanade. Sutton Place Park
19 Conservancy, I serve as an ex officio voting member
20 of the East 86th Street BID Steering Committee whose
21 formation is supported by the Doe Fund. In order to
22 clean up my district, I have received and distributed
23 more 500 free reusable bags to residents from the
24 Citizens Committee for New York City whose
25 Neighborhood Grants Program will benefit the recently

2 formed East 72nd Street Neighborhood Association that
3 I helped found. I fund the Kabab, Lou Babbage (sic)
4 of the Upper East Side, which works with special
5 needs children--

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for
7 quiet]

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: --in the
9 community and join them for religious services for my
10 prayer to become a Council Member was once answered.
11 I am a Free and Open Source Software developer that
12 uses CDCR software also used by the State Senate, the
13 Public Advocate and non-profits throughout the City
14 and planet whose code will be improved by the
15 Regressive Technology Project for all of us?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER: [laughing] Is that all?
17 [laughter, background comments]

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Darn. Wow.

19 CLERK: Council Member Johnson.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Well, I--

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for
22 quiet]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: --I forgot to
24 mention I am legally just required to disclose, but I
25 did want to disclose that my boyfriend works at an

2 organization called the Crime Victims Treatment
3 Center, which receives initiative funding from the
4 Initiative to Combat Sexual Assault. They've
5 received it many years in a row, but for transparency
6 reasons I want to disclose that they received that
7 funding. We are not married not yet anyway. Thank
8 you.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [laughs]

10 CLERK: King.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for
12 quiet]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Permission to
14 explain my vote.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: First, I just want
17 to congratulate everyone--everyone that wears City
18 Council ID whether you're in City Hall or 250, I just
19 want to say thank you because you help us get the job
20 done--

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

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: --throughout the
24 year. The Finance team you helped grow in there, and
25 we've had a very responsible conversation. Whether

2 we had some yays or some nays with that, at the end
3 of the day we've go on a early budget today. So
4 congratulations to each and every one of us, and for
5 full disclosure I want to say that I'm disclosing for
6 the record the Council proceeding that 1199 the
7 National Benefit for Education Fund is funded in the
8 budget, which we are adopting and my wife is
9 associated with this entity, and again
10 congratulations to my Budget Director, Michael, who
11 this is his first--first budget. He jumped in in the
12 middle of it. We threw him in the ocean, and he came
13 up swimming. He didn't drown. So thank you brother
14 Mike for helping me get through this budget season.
15 Congratulations to us all, and let's have a
16 wonderful, wonderful summer. Thank you.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

18 CLERK: Koo.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Madam, Public
20 Advocate may I explain my vote?

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I want to say thank
23 you to the speaker and her wonderful staff, and also
24 Ramon and, of course, our Delegation Chair--

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

4 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: --Karen Koslowitz
5 for her like speedy meetings. I also want to thank
6 Finance Chair Ferreras--Ferreras-Copeland and her
7 really capable staff, and I also Ms. McKinney and her
8 dedicated staff, and also my Chief of Staff, Lyn
9 Chong, and I vote yes on all. Thank you.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

11 CLERK: Koslowitz.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: May I be
13 excused to explain my vote?

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, ma'am.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I want to
16 thank the Speaker, our Finance Chair and Latonia as
17 usual you did a great job, and to all the Finance
18 staff my hat's off to you. Thank you for everything
19 you've done. I want to say that the reason we're
20 very fast in our delegation is because we all agree
21 we love Queens, and we do what's good for Queens and,
22 of course, the city of New York, and that's why we
23 are fast. We get along. We don't argue, and we get
24 to the point and, of course, [laughter] we have the
25 Finance Chair who's part of our delegation. So thank

2 you very much, and I also want to thank my Budget
3 Director Amanda Mancini. Is she here? She has done
4 a fabulous, fabulous job. I vote aye on the Budget,
5 a great budget. Thank you.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: What happens in
7 Queens stays in Queens. Uh-huh. [laughter]

8 CLERK: Lancman.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Lancman.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: I hear you.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [laughs]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: I'm disclosing on
13 the record that the Unusual (sic) of Hillcrest is
14 funded in this budget that we are adopting, and I am
15 associated with this entity, and I vote aye.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

17 CLERK: Lander.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Request
19 permission to explain my vote.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you.

22 Thanks, of course to the Speaker, Julissa, Latonia,
23 Regina Nathan, Chuck, Ramon and the entire rest of
24 the staff. We are lucky to have you. We really are.
25 I'm proud that Brooklyn is the most contentious of

2 the delegations. So I'll thank Mark and Darlene for
3 facilitating our meetings. People are just talking
4 about all--so many things that are in the budget that
5 are good. I do want to call attention even though
6 this wasn't something we added at the end to the \$868
7 million that are added here for 11,800 new school
8 seats on top of the 32,692 for a total of 44,000 new
9 school seats over the next three years. The city is
10 growing. Our neighborhoods are seeing more and more
11 kids. Our schools are crowded. We cannot do enough
12 to get them the seats that they need, but this budget
13 goes a long way to getting us there, and we'll have
14 more work to do in the Capital Plan. So thank you,
15 Chair Dromm and to the Speaker and Julissa for making
16 sure that it's happening. I also have some
17 disclosures. The Center for Anti-Violence Education
18 is funded in this budget, and thank God they are, and
19 my daughter is a fee paying participant in--in that
20 program, not where the money that we're supporting
21 them goes. She's also a student at M.S. 51 with a
22 thousand other kids, and that's school like every
23 other school in my district is funded in this budget.
24 The 78th Precinct Youth Sports and Prospect Park
25 Baseball Association are in the budget and were

2 adopted, and--and my kids are participants in those
3 entities. And finally, Planned Parenthood New York
4 City and Women for Afghan Women are funded in this
5 budget and could not be prouder that my wife is
6 associated with both of those organizations. I
7 proudly vote aye.

8 CLERK: Levin.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Permission to
10 explain my vote?

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I would like to
13 thank Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Chair Julissa
14 Ferreras-Copeland, our Budget Director Latonia
15 McKinney, Ramon Martinez, Regina Poreda Ryan, Nathan
16 Toth, Kenneth Grace, Paul Samone (sp?), James Reyes,
17 Ray Majewski, the Office of the General Counsel, with
18 a special shout-out to Chuck Davis.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER: [off mic] And me.

20 [laughter]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: And a very big--

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for
23 quiet]

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: --a very big
25 special thanks to the General Welfare Committee

2 staff, our Unit Head Dohini Sompura, who's the best,
3 Brittany Morrissey and Numara Newshaut (sp?). I want
4 to acknowledge my new staff. This is their first
5 budget, Legislative Director Julie Bero; Chief of
6 Staff Jonathan Boucher, and my new Budget Director,
7 Edward Paulino. He's done a wonderful, wonderful
8 job. I want to thank our Brooklyn Delegation Chairs,
9 Mark Treyger and Darlene Mealy. We have the most
10 thorough delegation meetings. I want to give a
11 special acknowledgement to my colleague Barry
12 Grodenchik for his amazing advocacy in--in increasing
13 the EFAP Food Pantry budget, which was a great
14 success and we are all very, very proud of the work
15 that Barry has done since joining the Council. And
16 also, I want to thank all the advocates, many of whom
17 are here today in the balcony. You know, they work
18 so hard to make sure that the issues that they're
19 seeing in the communities that we represent are
20 coming to our attention, and--and that are addressed
21 in our budgets, and I feel confident that maybe not
22 all, but the--the majority of the issues that they
23 bring to us and advocate for are addressed in the
24 budget. And those issues that are not addressed in
25 this budget will be addressed in future budgets.

2 Thanks. I vote aye on all. Oh, and sorry, lastly I
3 am disclosing on the record of the Council
4 proceedings that CUNY is funded in this budget we are
5 adopting and my wife is a student at CUNY Grad
6 Center. Thank you. I vote aye on all.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

8 CLERK: Levine.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you.

10 Permission to briefly explain my vote.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Okay.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]

14 [shushing for quiet]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: I want to
16 congratulate our Speaker and our Finance Chair on
17 passing such an outstanding budget, and I want to
18 thank the amazing Latonia McKinney as well as the
19 indemonstrable Ramon Martinez and the always helpful
20 Joe Toronto for their work to pass this budget, and I
21 want to give a special acknowledgement to the
22 wonderful Finance staff of the Parks Committee, Chima
23 Obechere and Steve Riester, who helped score some big
24 wins for Parks in this budget. Thanks to Nathan Toth
25 for going way above and beyond for us this year, and

2 a few disclosures. I want to disclose for the record
3 of the Council proceedings that Columbia Secondary
4 School, a/k/a M.S. 362 is funded in the budget as are
5 nearly all schools in my district, the budget we are
6 adopting, and my child is a student at Columbia
7 Secondary School. And I also want to disclose that
8 Friends of New York County Courts is funded in the
9 budget we are adopting, and I am a voluntary counsel
10 representative with this organization. Thank you.

11 CLERK: Menchaca.

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

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you. I
16 want to add my thank yous to the Speaker, the Finance
17 Chair, Ramon, Latonia, Crilhien, Ardiana (sp?), and
18 the rest of the Immigration. Ardiana. who's on my
19 staff, this is her first budget. You rocked it.
20 Thank you for always bringing us back to the values
21 of our district. The immigrant and LGBT community
22 were alive and well in this budget, and I want to
23 highlight a couple things. As we move through it,
24 notice that the day laborers continue to be a
25 commitment as well as our immigrant community as well

2 as our youth. The fact that we raised these values
3 in the response, and were able to deliver through the
4 leadership of the Speaker and the Finance Chair is
5 how we get things done in our communities and in this
6 budget. This is how we do it. We lift our values.
7 We make them said, and then we get to them. To do
8 that, we also have to go back to our districts and
9 bring our people in, and so I want to make sure that
10 we always say in this budget moment that the
11 participatory budgeting project is so--such an
12 important part of that where we actually open the
13 doors, and allow our local residents to be part of
14 this process. And so for every single dollar, and
15 this year it went higher, we dedicate this budget to
16 them, and hopefully one day we get to a point where
17 this is a true reflection of our communities' needs,
18 and I know that this is a step closer. In adult
19 literacy we've got to \$12 million this year, and that
20 was after almost I would say--Latonia, this is
21 absolutely true--a two-year process. This was a two-
22 year process, and this is an unprecedented amount of
23 money that's going to educate our people in our
24 community in literacy skills. This is going to
25 impact our workforce and our civic participation and-

2 -and--and just general immigrant activity for our
3 communities in our--in our city. The last thing I
4 want to say is that our legal services is at an
5 unprecedented--we're taxing our--our legal services,
6 and we also made a huge, huge leap in our legal
7 services. With that said, I vote aye on this budget.
8 Thank you.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

10 CLERK: Mendez.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Permission to
12 explain my vote.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Last week after
15 the Stated Meeting, I took a tumble down the steps
16 here leading to the Members Lounge. So I want to
17 thank Council Member Barron and Sergeant-at-Arms
18 Rafael Perez for helping me getting the ice, and
19 Ramon Martinez her getting the EMS to take me to the
20 hospital to take X-Rays. But while I was taking X-
21 Rays, I was surprised to hear that my colleagues were
22 on the Rotunda steps doing a handshake. This--this
23 may be a progressive and equitable budget, but in
24 borough delegations I think we only met for about 20
25 hours, and I didn't feel that it was very inclusive.

2 And I am having problems with the \$2 billion
3 inflation to the budget. Last year we rushed to a
4 budget as well, and there were still problems with
5 some of my allocations that we're still trying to
6 resolve. And so for all those reasons, I do not feel
7 comfortable voting in favor of this budget. I vote
8 no.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

10 CLERK: Miller.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Permission to
12 explain.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I'd first like to
15 thank our Speaker and leader Melissa Mark-Viverito.
16 I'd like to thank our Finance chair who was--drove us
17 in here everyday for the last five weeks. Thank you.
18 Thank you. Our family thanks you as well and the
19 Finance--and--and the Finance Committee for all of
20 the work that you have done. And certainly to my
21 Finance staff, Chief of Staff Candace Prince and Mr.
22 Joe Goldblum, for all the work that they've done on
23 this. This--this is a budget that I am proud to vote
24 yes on it. It is a budge that--

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

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: --addresses the
5 need of our youth certainly. It protects jobs and it
6 protects--and it enhances the lives of working
7 families. Most of all, it is a responsible budget
8 that addresses the future, and reserves and some of
9 that has been derived from good collective bargaining
10 and savings and--and smart work that has been done on
11 behalf of the people who provide the most critical
12 services to the city of New York. So I am proud to
13 vote yes on a budget that again holistically
14 addresses the needs of the entire city, and I am
15 proud to see that the Foreclosure Buy-Back Initiative
16 remains intact, and that we will be keeping people in
17 their homes in the city of New York, and with that, I
18 proudly vote aye.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

20 CLERK: Reynoso.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Permission to
22 explain my vote?

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes--

24 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: First--

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: --newlywed.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Thank you so
3 much. I just want to say as bi-borough council
4 member from both Brooklyn and Queens one--one borough
5 likes to get things, the other one likes to talk
6 about how to get things done. The other one likes to
7 talk about how to get things done, which is both
8 important.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [cheers]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I get it. By
11 the way, no one knows which one I'm talking about I
12 hope. [laughs] But I just want to say that several
13 Greenfield-Barron helped move the process along--

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

16 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: --in Brooklyn.
17 So I'm extremely grateful for those coalitions that
18 are being built in the city--in the--in Brooklyn.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [laughs]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Lacy Talber, my-
21 -my Budget Director, amongst other things, thank you
22 so much for the work that you've done for this
23 budget. City's First Readers, 6,000--60,000 new jobs
24 for SYEP, a six-fold increase to adult literacy, the
25 DOVE enhancement, the CASOs, (sic). There's so much

2 to be proud of here. I want to give a big shout-out
3 to the Progressive Caucus and all the work that they
4 did in prioritizing a lot of these issues, and I get
5 to now disclose that Opportunities for a Better
6 Tomorrow is funded in the budget that we are adopting
7 and my wife Iliana Reynoso is associated with this
8 entity. Thank you and I vote aye.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
10 Talking smack. (sic) [laughs]

11 CLERK: Richards.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARD: Thank you.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Here we go.

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

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: All righty, so
18 I want to first congratulate the Finance staff and
19 Latonia for all of their hard work. Alana Cuss--I'm
20 going to mess her last--last name up. Alana, our
21 Executive Director of the Progressive Caucus for all
22 of her hard work, our staff, Chief of Staff Mercedes
23 Buchanan, Jerrel Birney and Jordan Gibbons for all of
24 their work and, of course, to our Finance Chair
25 Julissa Ferreras-Copeland, and to Queens Delegation

2 Chair Karen Koslowitz. I want to thank you for all
3 your hard work and, of course, the Speaker. Today, I
4 am proud to vote yes on a budget that reflects the
5 expansion of Summer Youth Employment and a strong
6 investment in our libraries. Expanding jobs for our
7 youth is a crucial investment that will ensure that
8 our teens stay off the streets and learn life lessons
9 based around the value of holding a job and having
10 their own hard-earned money in their pocket, and I
11 want to commend Council Member Jumaane Williams and
12 both Mathieu Eugene for their advocacy on this. Now,
13 libraries are all--are--are a safe haven for all New
14 Yorkers that help to promote continued education
15 after school, and help in a variety of resources and
16 programming that will allow residents to learn all of
17 the tools they need to be successful. And most
18 importantly, they serve as safe haven for our young
19 people in our communities. So I want to thank
20 everyone and Jimmy Van Bramer in particular, our
21 Majority Leader for his hard work on that. Just some
22 other highlights. I'm very happy that the Greener
23 NYC Initiative is now a \$2 million initiative and I
24 want to acknowledge Councilman Costa Constantinides
25 for his hard work along with us and--our staffs for

2 making that happen. And--and also Barry Grodenchik
3 spoke of the \$70 million investment for a new
4 precinct. So I want to thank the Mayor in particular
5 for making sure Southeast Queens was--was not only a
6 priority there, but also millions of dollars,
7 hundreds of millions of dollars being invested for
8 infrastructure, which has long played our community
9 for a long time. So with that being said, I proudly
10 vote aye, and I just want to give some advice to
11 Brooklyn. If you want to get things done, I think in
12 your delegation leave it to your staffs, and I can
13 assure you that the budget will actually happen, and
14 things will move faster. Thank you all. I vote aye.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

16 CLERK: Rodriguez.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Permission to
18 explain my vote.

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

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: First, I would
22 like to thank Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito for--

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

2 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: --the
3 important legacy that she will leave in this body.
4 She's an effort to empower the addition of 50 council
5 members to be in a good place, to be informed, and to
6 make decisions for everyone. As someone that lived
7 the previous experience and now live in this
8 experience right now for me it's like a dream come
9 true, but we can say that members of the delegation--

10 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] [off
11 mic] Quiet, please.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: --that members
13 of EMT (sic)--

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

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: --we are able
17 to get information on top the table. We made our own
18 decision. At the same time I would like to thank the
19 Mayor de Blasio because I know the two progressive
20 leaders that we have, the Speaker and the Mayor, they
21 both engage all of us from both sides in this process
22 and negotiation. By opening the mechanism of
23 negotiation, we were able to say that Council can
24 take credit for many of those initiatives that we
25 were able to maintain. We were able to restore close

2 to \$1 billion of important needs that was not
3 included at the beginning. So it only happened
4 because we have a Speaker who is a strong negotiator.
5 It happened because we have Mayor also that is open
6 to the need that we identify to the 51 districts that
7 we represent. I also would like to--I need to
8 disclose that my daughter is also a member of the
9 association of Dominican Classical Artists and
10 Catholic Charities, and I'm proud to say that she's
11 also a member of the Aqua Swimming Team at Asphalt
12 Green, and my wife also works for the New York City
13 Department of Education. With that, I vote aye.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

15 CLERK: Rose.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Permission to
17 explain my vote.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Today I am
20 disclosing on the record of the Council proceedings
21 that the New York City Department of Sanitation is
22 funded in the budget that we are adopting and my son
23 is associated with this agency. I'd like to con--
24 congratulate Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Finance
25 Chair Julissa Ferreras-Copeland, the Speaker's staff,

2 Ramon, Amelia, Joe and Joey and the members of the
3 Budget Negotiating team for their thoughtful, their
4 very thoughtful deliberation on this budget. And all
5 of my City Council colleagues, the Finance Director
6 Latonia McKinney and our extraordinary Finance staff.
7 I'd like to thank my staff Edwina Eso (sp?), Lisa
8 Kris (sp?) and Vince for helping us to obtain a
9 historically early budget that has much to offer for
10 our constituents in our beloved city. For new
11 funding for our district attorneys, the investments
12 in libraries, cultural organizations, jobs for youth
13 and Richmond University Medical Center, which will be
14 an--which is an effort to make healthcare on Staten
15 Island equivalent to what other boroughs get. This
16 budget helps to strengthen our city by safeguarding
17 its treasures and making it the safest big city in
18 the world. And I want to thank the City Council and
19 my colleagues for recognizing the importance of
20 mental health funding, and especially important--this
21 is especially important in light of this week's
22 tragic events. We are the guardians of a glorious
23 city. It is our job to keep it safe, make it livable
24 and perpetuate all of the wonderful things that make
25 it such a magnet for people from all over the world.

2 I congratulate all of you for a job well done, and I
3 vote aye on all except Preconsidered Reso 1115, 1116
4 and Precon 419 and Reso 1126. Thank you.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

6 CLERK: Rosenthal.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I vote aye on
8 all and permission to explain my vote.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I want to
11 thank Melissa Mark-Viverito for continuing to follow
12 through on her promise upon becoming Speaker to make
13 the budget decision making and allocation process
14 democratic. It sounds simple and obvious, but she is
15 the first to achieve this democratic process, and I
16 would like to think that it is now routine. I echo
17 my colleagues' thanks to the Speaker, the Finance
18 Chair Julissa Ferreras-Copeland and the Finance staff
19 who provide a concrete information upon which we
20 could base our decisions. The city's commitment to
21 our human services sector is good, and with increases
22 to funding for the Departments of Aging, Health,
23 Mental Health, Youth and Human Resources that we all
24 supported. Our commitment to the providers of these
25 services, however, could be better. Government at

2 all levels must fully fund these providers for all
3 costs including overhead, administration, indirect
4 costs and before you fall asleep, I will say it is
5 not sexy, but it's critical. Otherwise, we're
6 setting these providers up to fail as was the case
7 for FECS and, in fact, 20% of these providers
8 annually. I look forward to working with my
9 colleagues in the city to do our part, and I call
10 upon the State and the Federal Government to do their
11 share as well.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

13 [pause] How do you vote?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I said it at
15 the beginning. Were you not listening. It was a big
16 eye on all.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Thank
18 you.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you so
20 much, Public Advocate.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: You're welcome.

22 CLERK: Salamanca.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: I vote aye on
24 all and I am disclosing on the record of the Council
25 proceedings that Saint Vince De Paul Residence is

2 funded in the budget that we are adopting, and my
3 father is associated with this entity. And New York
4 City Parks Department is funded in the budget is
5 adopting, and my wife is associated with this entity.
6 Thank you.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

8 CLERK: Torres.

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

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: First, a huge
13 debt is owed to the Speaker, to the Finance
14 Chairperson, to the Finance team for your steady
15 hands in guiding us toward the completion of an early
16 budget. I'm particularly pleased that the budget
17 puts a premium on youth employment. Not only are we
18 baselining and expanding funding for SYEP, but we're
19 also establishing a taskforce that signals a
20 continuing commitment toward achieving universal
21 youth employment, bridging the gap between the demand
22 for youth employment, and the supply. Every young
23 person who wants a job should be able to get one. On
24 the subject of Health and Hospitals, I support the
25 infusion of \$2 billion. Health and Hospitals is the

2 epitome of a safety net institution serving those in
3 greatest need, the uninsured, the undocumented, the
4 indigent, and the mentally ill. Without the Mayor's
5 and the Council's intervention, there is reason to
6 believe that the public hospital system would have
7 collapsed. All that being said, I am alarmed that
8 the city, particularly the Mayor has been late and
9 slow in addressing the impending collapse of Health
10 and Hospitals. A plan for stabilizing Health and
11 Hospitals should have been put in place three years
12 ago. The larger forces that have brought Health and
13 Hospitals to the brink were foreseeable, and the
14 Administration should have foreseen it. It might
15 have been a shock to City Hall, but it certainly was
16 not a shock to those paying attention to the rapidly
17 changing landscape in healthcare. And so the City's
18 late and lackadaisical approach hardly inspires
19 confidence about the future of Health and Hospitals.
20 I am concerned and low-income New Yorkers should be
21 as well. With that said, I vote aye.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

23 CLERK: Treyger.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Permission to
25 explain my vote.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: So I want to
4 begin by also thanking and commending the Speaker,
5 and I want to commend her for being very, very
6 accessible throughout this entire process. I cannot
7 say that enough that--that--that she, her staff, her
8 team, the Finance Chair, the Finance Division,
9 Latonia, everybody have--has been very accessible
10 getting answers back on a timely basis, and that is
11 very critical during the budget process. I want to
12 publicly thank them and commend them for their
13 leadership on that. With regard to the Brooklyn
14 Delegation, colleagues--

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [laughs]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: --many of the
17 initiatives that we see my colleagues posting
18 throughout the five boroughs in their districts, I
19 just want to point out were born in the Brooklyn
20 Delegation, and we will never apologize for having
21 fierce discussions and debate and examination of a
22 budget that must help our children, our seniors, our
23 working families on a daily basis. I am proud to co-
24 chair the Brooklyn Delegation with Darlene Mealy, and

2 we've done a hell of a job doing that. With that, I
3 vote aye on all.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

5 CLERK: Mendez.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I need to clarify
7 I am voting no on M 4--418, M 397, M 398, M 399, M
8 419 and the accompanying reso and aye on all the
9 rest. Thank you.

10 CLERK: Ulrich.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Permission not to
13 explain my vote.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes. [cheers]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye on all
16 with the exception of Preconsidered Reso 419 and
17 accompanying Reso 1126 and Preconsidered 1115 and
18 1116. Have a great summer. Great job. Thank you.
19 Let's get this show on the road. Thank you.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

21 [laughs]

22 CLERK: Vacca.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I do want to want
24 to explain my vote briefly.

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, sir. Yes.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I want to thank
3 the Speaker, Chair Ferreras and all the staff, and I
4 join in commending all their work and their
5 inclusiveness during this entire process. I must
6 identify that we did allocate money to City
7 University, and I am an Adjunct Professor at Queens
8 College. So I identify that for the record. I'm
9 voting aye on all except for 1115, 1116, 1126 and
10 419. I do that because I want to create an awareness
11 that we have to have further discussions and
12 hopefully action on doing something about property
13 tax relief for one and two-family homeowners in our
14 district, in our city. I'm thinking in my district
15 to be honest when I say it, but it's a citywide
16 issue. These homeowners for years have born the
17 brunt of increasing assessments and taxation, and I
18 want to create an awareness that we should be talking
19 about, a rebate program or a credit program for these
20 homeowners. Many of them are senior citizens.
21 They're struggling. Many are immigrants. Yet, for
22 many years they've seen their taxes go up. So by
23 doing--by voting as I do I hope I create a--an
24 awareness that this discussion has to be expedited,
25 and that it's important. But I can't overemphasize

2 enough that the Speaker and the staff did a fantastic
3 job. I'm very proud to vote for this budget, and
4 working together I know we will accomplish more.
5 Thank you.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

7 CLERK: Vallone.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Madam Advocate,
9 may I explain my vote?

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: I'm disclosing
12 on the record of the Council proceedings that Alley
13 Pond Environmental Center is funded in the budget,
14 and my child is a volunteer with this entity. Saint
15 Andrew Avellino's Athletic Association is funded in
16 the budget, and I am a proud soccer coach of my son's
17 amazing team. Sports, Arts and School Foundation,
18 Queens LGBT Health and Human Services, New York
19 Junior Tennis League and Citizens Schools are also
20 funded in the budget of which my father brother are
21 associated with these entities. And overall,
22 congratulations to the Speaker, the Finance Chair,
23 the Finance staff, our Queens Delegation Chair Karen
24 Koslowitz, and all that work so tirelessly on this
25 budget. A personal thank you and blessings to the

2 Speaker and our Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer for
3 today's wonderful and touching memorial for the
4 families of victims of massacre in Orlando. I think
5 it's important that the world sees us united in this.
6 There's a couple of minor things I'd like to say
7 here. That with \$21 million added for senior
8 services and Margaret Chin, thank you for your
9 tireless leadership on Aging. I'm proud to serve on
10 the Senior Center Subcommittee under you, and the \$21
11 million for out district attorneys is finally
12 baselined. Congratulations Vanessa, and all that
13 worked for that. Finally, seeing animal shelters
14 coming in the budget and, of course, for my dad
15 continuing the Peter A. Vallone CUNY Scholarship
16 program is a win for all of our students in the CUNY
17 system. With that, I vote aye on all except no on M
18 419 and the accompanying Reso 1126 and Resos 1115 and
19 1116. Thank you Madam Advocate.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

21 CLERK: Williams.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: May I be
23 excused to explain my vote.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you very
3 much. Just first, looking at the candles puts a lot
4 of things in perspective, a lot of small problems
5 that we had that perhaps we didn't need to. With
6 that said, I think and I'm pretty sure this is
7 probably the best budget I've been a part of. I want
8 to thank Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Finance Chair
9 Julissa Ferreras-Copeland, all the staff like
10 Latonia, Ramon and everyone that was mentioned
11 including my staff Nic Smith. This is a fantastic
12 budget that does everything from culturals to aging,
13 to housing, including things like anti-eviction and
14 Housing Court resources, Community on Housing
15 Preservation status strategies, and stabilizing NYC.
16 I'm going to give a shout-out to Sarah Gastelum and
17 the entire housing staff there. And Public Safety
18 where we increase the money going to the Crisis
19 Member system to address gun violence in a holistic
20 way of filling gaps that would have led some of those
21 entities to have closed. I'm most proud of the--the
22 youth budget and the emphasis we're putting on youth
23 particularly the youth jobs. You know, there's a lot
24 of emphasis on the 60,000 slots that were baselined,
25 which is important. Those 6,000 slots and almost

2 6,000 for universal, Council Member Ferreras'
3 initiative was exactly what advocates asked for this
4 first year. We go that, but the most important part
5 to me is-- [sneezing]

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Bless you.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: --we're looking
8 along with it. God bless you. I hope I get two
9 seconds back. With the most important part is the
10 task force that will look at this program with the aim
11 of increasing it hopefully to universality, and most
12 importantly the Administration's commitment to
13 funding the outcome and the findings of that tasking
14 before the Preliminary Budget. I think that's
15 exciting. I'm looking forward to what the results
16 are going to be, and for that I do want to thank the
17 Mayor. I also want to thank the Speaker and the
18 Finance Chair for their leadership and the Chair of
19 the Youth Committee, Mathieu Eugene, the Black,
20 Latino and Asian Caucus, Chaired by Council Members
21 Cornegy and Torres. The Progressive Caucus Chaired
22 by Council Member Reynoso and Richards. I'm going to
23 give a shout-out to my Brooklyn Delegation, my co-
24 chairs Mealy and Treyger, who all made this their
25 number one priority along with many of the council

2 members in this body, and I want to thank all the
3 advocates who helped push as well. I think this was
4 a great, great thing that the Council did in making
5 it a top priority, and we got it done. I just want
6 to say thank you for all of that. Let's hold all the
7 energy we have until January [bell] when their
8 findings come out. Thank you, and with that I vote
9 aye on all.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

11 CLERK: Matteo.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Can I be excused
13 to explain my vote?

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes. I want to
15 start off by thanking the Majority Leader for leading
16 such a touching tribute before the Stated. I want to
17 thank the Finance staff. I've been in this building
18 for a long working as a staffer, and now as an
19 elected official, I know first hand how hard all of
20 you have worked. So I want to thank you. I want to
21 thank my Budget Director Angela Son (sp?), and the
22 rest of my team for their great work on this budget.
23 Let's be honest, there's a lot of talk of expeditious
24 delegations. Come on, no one was more expeditious

2 than Staten Island. [laughter] Come on. I don't
3 want to hear about three members either.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [laughs]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: We were first
6 every time. We finished one day before all of you
7 anyway. [laughter]

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: A strong island.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: As for the
10 Budget, I don't think it's anybody's surprise that I
11 may not agree with the entire budget. I do think
12 we're spending too much. I agree and echo my
13 colleague, Jimmy Vacca--Jimmy Vacca's sentiments
14 about property tax rebate I would have liked to have
15 seen in this budget, and I look forward to having
16 discussions to get it in future budgets and agree. I
17 may not agree with the whole budget pie, but I do
18 want to thank the Speaker for working with me so
19 diligently on getting money for Rumsey and working
20 with Debbie Rose, and our colleagues for making
21 Rumsey a priority in this year's budget. We're
22 getting money for our DA. There's a lot of good
23 things for Staten Island and, you know, it's our job
24 as the Staten Island Delegation to make sure that
25 Staten Island is well represented. I think we were

2 on this budget. We have E-Waste pickup, money for E-
3 Waste pickup. We have more money for road
4 resurfacings. Our Clean Team Initiative led by David
5 Greenfield, my Beating Hearts Initiative, money for
6 Autism. So, you know, I think Staten Island was well
7 represented in this budget. I also have a few
8 disclosures. I have some active kids. So my son
9 goes to I.S. 51, which we are funding. My daughter
10 goes to Susan Wagner High School. Illuminate Art
11 Productions is in Susan Wagner High School where my
12 daughter attends. My daughter is also involved in
13 the summer--Summer Youth Employment Program. My son
14 attends the UAU Camp in the summer. My youngest son
15 attends P.S. 29. He will be attending P.S. 30 in
16 September and finally, my brother is a registered
17 nurse at Rumsey. As for my vote, I will be voting no
18 on Preconsidered 419, Reso 1126, Preconsidered 1115
19 and 1116 and yes on the rest. Thank you.

20 CLERK: Van Bramer.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Permission to
22 briefly explain my vote.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I--I want to
25 say thank you again to the Speaker, the Finance

2 Chair, all of my Council colleagues. I want to
3 especially shout-out to Minority Leader Steve Matteo
4 who helped champion the cause of culture and the arts
5 across the city along with the 46 colleagues who
6 signed on a letter. Just to build a finer point on
7 what I said earlier today, the budget we are voting
8 on right now includes approximately \$60 million, 6-0
9 new funding for culture and libraries. That's on the
10 expense side and \$200 million or just shy of \$200
11 million in new capital for cultural and libraries.
12 That is an enormous if not historic victory for
13 libraries and culture in the city of New York, and I
14 want to thank all of my colleagues for that. Tucked
15 within those numbers are record increases in SU-CASA
16 and CASA, the Cultural Immigrant Initiative, which
17 the Speaker has championed along with me. Each
18 member now with 11 separate CASA grants for schools--

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
20 Eleven?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: --in their
22 district, which is an enormous accomplish. The
23 Cultural Immigrant Initiative, which just two short
24 years ago the Speaker and I launched is now at over
25 \$5 million. That dedicated fund to small community-

2 based cultural organizations founded, run by and
3 serving immigrant communities. It's incredibly
4 impressive numbers, and I want to say thank you to
5 the Speaker. About 20 years ago a group of folks
6 came together and believed there should be a library
7 in Hunters Point in Long Island City, and with \$3
8 million that--the Speaker helped--we achieved today.
9 We finally finished funding that library, which is
10 already under construction, and now will be fully
11 outfitted. So I want to thank my Chief of Staff Matt
12 Wallace; my Deputy Chief of Staff, Andre Speeja (sp?)
13 our Finance Committee Staff Alia Alli, who always
14 roots for culture and our staff the Cultural Affairs
15 Committee; Aminta Kilawan and Chloe Rivera; and all
16 of our colleagues for making this a banner year for
17 culture and libraries. Thank you very much and with
18 that, I vote aye on all.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

20 CLERK: Speaker Mark Viverito.

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: So, yeah, I want
22 to thank all the colleagues and our Majority Leader
23 for the--for the vigil that we had earlier, and--and
24 remembering all the lives lost. I think it was a--
25 coming together in unity during these moments and

2 affirm what our values are, our values are of
3 inclusion and respecting everyone. So, I definitely
4 appreciate that. We've said, you know, I--I'm very,
5 very proud to lead this body, and I want to thank the
6 collaboration of all my colleagues and the
7 partnership in being able to put forward the budget
8 that we can be proud of, understanding some of the
9 concerns that have been raised, ones that we
10 definitely take into account as we proceed. And to
11 thank every single one of the staff. Obviously,
12 we've thanked the Finance Division, but every staff
13 and every division in some way is helping get the
14 information out there about the importance of this
15 budget. So again, I do want to thank all the
16 different divisions, and obviously a particular
17 shout-out to--to Chuck. A lot of vetting that goes
18 on in this process, and the organizations that are
19 funded. But also the sergeants-at-arms who have been
20 very helpful [cheers/applause] in the budget
21 hearings. Lots and lots of hours of hearings that
22 were held. So every single one of the staff please
23 know that you are valued, that I am deeply grateful
24 and appreciate for all of your contributions to
25 making this City Council what it is. If it was not

2 for you, we would not be able to get the work done,
3 and do it in such an effective way. So thank you for
4 that. Again, very proud of this day. I haven't
5 heard much yet. So that must be a good sign. Let's
6 keep it that way. But I know we will be celebrating.
7 Lastly, definitely on my staff side I want to thank
8 all of the colleagues, all of those staff in the
9 Speaker's Office with Ramon obviously and with Joe
10 and Joey and Amelia and everyone else that has helped
11 make--make this process smooth, and interacting with
12 all of the members. There's a lot to be weighed as we
13 discuss this. So thank you all very much. Deeply
14 appreciate it, and I guess have a great rest of the
15 day, and I vote aye on the budget. I vote aye on
16 all, and I will see you all a little later.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All items--all
18 items on today's General Order Calendar were adopted
19 by a vote of 49 in the affirmative, 0 negative and 0
20 abstentions with the exception of M 419 and Reso
21 1126, which was adopted by a vote of 42 in the
22 affirmative, 7 negative and 0 abstentions, and
23 Resolution 1115, which was adopted by a vote of
24 [shushing for quiet]--by a vote of 43 in the
25 affirmative, 6 negative and 0 abstentions, and

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2 Resolution 1116, which was adopted by a vote of 43 in
3 the affirmative, 6 negative and 0 abstentions, and M
4 418, M 397, M 398, M 399 and accompany--accompanying
5 Resolutions, which was adopted by a vote of 48 in the
6 affirmative, 1 negative, 0 abstentions. Introduction--
7 - I now formally declare the Executive Expense
8 Revenue Contract Budget the Executive Capital Budget
9 and Community Development Budget for Fiscal 2017 all
10 as modified in accordance with the relevant sections
11 of the New York City Charter are hereby adopted--

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [interposing]
13 [cheers]

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: --on this 14th
15 day of June. [cheers/applause] Oh, and I must state
16 for the record it was adopted at 3:45. [cheers]
17 Sorry. Introduction and Reading of Bills. [shushing
18 for quiet]

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All bills are
20 referred to committees, as indicated on the agenda,
21 and hopefully no general discussion guys. We can
22 head out of here. [laughs]

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: No, we're not--

24

25

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [interposing]
3 Just kidding. I know. I'm trying to encourage
4 people to reconsider, you know,

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [laughs] We
6 don't have any resolutions, but we do have two
7 individuals. One, two? Two individuals who wish to
8 speak, three individuals who wish to speak, or four
9 individuals.

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [interposing]
11 Not, this not an option. Come on, guys. This is not
12 a option. Let's be like that. [laughs]

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member--
14 beginning with Council Member Johnson.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam
16 Public Advocate. I--I think it's important as a gay
17 man to rise today in the aftermath of the horrific
18 events from this weekend to talk about what happened.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for
20 quiet]

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Keep it down.
22 Keep it down, please.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.
24
25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: I do not believe
3 that it was any coincidence that this terrorist
4 attack took place--

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
6 Excuse me, Council Member. We'll--we are still in
7 session. Please quiet in the Chambers.

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

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: If you are
11 exiting the building, please do so quietly. Thank
12 you. Council Member Johnson has the floor.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: I do not believe
14 that it was a coincidence in any way that this
15 terrorist incident took place inside of a gay night
16 club. The history of our movement where over 10,000
17 New Yorkers came out last night in front of the
18 Stonewall and in my district, has been one of
19 fighting for our ability to express ourselves, to
20 love how we want, to feel safe. And for many, many,
21 many decades one of the primary places where that has
22 happened has been inside of gay clubs, gay
23 restaurants, gay bars, and gay establishments. It
24 has been one of the few places where we could feel
25 safe. It's been said in the news over the past

2 couple of days that slaughtering 49 innocent LGBT
3 people and straight people who were there as well
4 inside of a gay club is like going inside of a church
5 for the gay community. Because gay clubs and bars
6 have been our sanctuaries. It's why the rebellion
7 happened at Stonewall in 1969. Inside and outside of
8 a gay bar, and so we are hearing the stories of the
9 victims, young gay couples, 25, 26 years old were
10 murdered together. Young lesbian couples, straight
11 men and women who went dancing on a Latin night to
12 celebrate their gay friends' birthdays. There are
13 really no words to describe the level of anguish and
14 grief that I know we all feel. And I know it's about
15 remember the victims, but I think it's important to
16 say that no human being in the United States should
17 have the ability to carry an assault rifle. It's
18 time to get rid of these weapons. We are losing too
19 many Americans, and this is not just about Gay
20 people. This was a targeted incident, but straight
21 people lost their lives, and I'm grateful this
22 Council took action in having I think a very somber
23 and meaningful moment. But there is still violence
24 in our city, and I ask you all to come out not this
25 Sunday but the following Sunday to celebrate pride in

2 New York City. I hope it's the biggest pride that we
3 ever see. Thank you very much.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you,
5 Council Member, and we will continue to dance.
6 Council member Williams.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I, too,
8 obviously want to continue to add my condolences and
9 prayers to the people in Orlando. Obviously, that's
10 not enough, and so we have to take action. I do hope
11 that they will stop repeating the name of the shooter
12 and spend more time talking about the victims who
13 were killed. We do have to continue to denounce the
14 hate whatever reason it is, whether it's anti-LGBTQ,
15 whether it is terrorism or anti-Islam, whether it's
16 good old fashion hate, the common denominator there
17 is guns. There is now way that anyone can act like
18 it isn't. All of these things look fundamentally
19 different without access to guns, without access to
20 assault rifles. On my way to the vigil, I began
21 getting texts about the third mass shooting I've had
22 in my district. Five young people were shot.
23 Thankfully, none of them died. Several years ago I
24 had nine people shot at one location. The unfettered
25 access to guns is one of the major problems. There

2 is no way about. Of the almost 24,000 incidents of
3 gun violence to date, just for this year, only 3% of
4 them were for self-defense. So my hope is that we
5 can begin to be honest about what the problem is.
6 Also I want to wish all the fathers a--a happy
7 Father's Day coming up. It has two meanings for me.
8 I always make sure I--I wish my mom a happy Father's
9 Day on that day as well. She took care of two
10 knucklehead kids on her own. And also three years
11 ago today, my--my father passed away. So I would
12 like to lift him up today and also I always thank God
13 that we had the ability to mend the issues that we
14 had, and I miss him dearly. Thank you very much.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: May he rest in
16 peace. Council Member Miller.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you, Madam
18 Public Advocate. I just would like to thank the
19 members of the Council and certainly the Speaker for
20 her leadership, and let's always stand together in
21 solidarity in--in the face of all the hate, hate that
22 we have endured as a city and a nation over the past
23 year, and for that I--I want to say thank you for all
24 of your support be it anti-Muslim, anti-gay or any
25 other form of hate that we've seen over the past year

2 that we've always been front and center standing
3 against it. So I thank you for your leadership. I
4 also was neglectful in mentioning Mr. Gregory Rose
5 and thanking him for the work on this year's budget.
6 So thank you so much.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
8 Mendez.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you, Madam
10 Public Advocate. I rise to speak today about the
11 Orlando nightclub. I refer to the killer as the
12 Orlando shooter because his background is not what's
13 important. He was a man full of rage and hate, and
14 he does not speak for everybody. So I refer to him
15 as the Orlando shooter, and it was an act of
16 terrorism not because he aligned himself or made
17 comments about being affiliated with ISIL, but
18 because he purposely planned to go a club and kill as
19 many LGBT people and as many Latinos as possible.
20 That in itself is an act of terrorism. Twenty-three
21 of those 49 individuals were Board Equas. We lost a
22 lot of people, and it is very hurtful, and we must
23 remember that this shooter does not speak for all
24 people. He had his own problems and his own hatred,

2 and we should move forward spreading love. Thank
3 you.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
5 Torres.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Thank you, Madam
7 Public Advocate. I also wish to speak about the
8 shooting in Orlando. The mass murder in Orlando was
9 not only an act of violence against 50 of our fellow
10 Americans, it was an act of violence against a free
11 and open society. The point of hate and terror is to
12 strip us of our dignity and freedom through fear.
13 But those of us in the LGBT community refused to be
14 terrorized. We refuse to live in fear, and we insist
15 on being free, free from violence, free from
16 discrimination, free from the sheer hatred that
17 inspires both. It's worth reminding ourselves that
18 ideas and words have consequences. You cannot
19 provoke (sic) hateful ideas and speak hateful
20 words, and then express condolences regarding victims
21 of violence inspired by those same ideas, and by
22 those same words. You cannot support the free flow
23 of guns in American life, and then express
24 condolences regarding victims of violence caused by
25 those very guns. A country that refuses to control

2 the flow guns in its midst is a country that has no
3 hope of controlling gun violence. Gun violence
4 should not only be seen as an act of a dangerous and
5 deranged man. It should be seen as a public policy
6 choice. It should be seen as a self-inflicted wound,
7 the kind of wound that never heals. Just ask the
8 mothers and fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers,
9 brothers and sisters who will never again feel the
10 warm embrace of their loved one. Those families will
11 have a permanent void in their lives because America
12 has a preventable void in its gun laws.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Madam
14 Speaker to close.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: And thank you to
16 all four for comments, and with that as we had
17 indicated, we are going to stand in recess, and
18 we'll--and hopefully, we won't have to call people,
19 but we stand in recess.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And I urge
21 everyone to join me today in Brooklyn at 7:30 as we
22 honor the victims and the two from Brooklyn who have
23 die. We stand in recess. [gavel]

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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 June 21, 2016