

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

----- X

April 11, 2018  
Start: 1:38 p.m.  
Recess: 3:57 p.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: LETITIA JAMES  
Public Advocate

COREY D. JOHNSON  
Speaker for the Council

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Adrienne Adams
- Alan N. Maisel
- Alicka Ampry-Samuel
- Andrew Cohen
- Andy King
- Antonio Reynoso
- Barry S. Grodenchik
- Ben Kallos
- Bill Perkins
- Brad S. Lander
- Carlina Rivera
- Carlos Menchaca
- Chaim M. Deutsch
- Costa G. Constantinides
- Daniel Dromm

Deborah L. Rose  
Diana Ayala  
Donovan J. Richards  
Eric A. Ulrich  
Fernando Cabrera  
Francisco P. Moya  
Helen K. Rosenthal  
I. Daneek Miller  
Inez D. Barron  
James G. Van Bramer  
Joseph C. Borelli  
Jumaane D. Williams  
Justin L. Brannan  
Kalman Yeger  
Karen Koslowitz  
Keith Powers  
Laurie A. Cumbo  
Margaret S. Chin  
Mark Gjonaj  
Mark Levine  
Mark Treyger  
Mathieu Eugene  
Paul A. Vallone  
Peter A. Koo  
Rafael Espinal, Jr.  
Rafael Salamanca. Jr.  
Ritchie Torres  
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.  
Robert F. Holden  
Roy I. Lancman  
Ruben Diaz, Jr.  
Stephen T. Levin  
Steven Matteo  
Vanessa Gibson  
Ydanis A. Rodriguez

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

Invocation Delivered by: Rabbi Shmuel Butman  
Lubavitch Youth Organization  
770 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, New York 11213

2 [sound check]

3 SPEAKER JOHNSON: We're going to be  
4 commending--[interposing] [shushing for quiet] If  
5 folks could please, if you want to speak, just go  
6 outside. We'll start our ceremonials. Our first  
7 ceremonial is going to commemorate that 116 days of  
8 education and honors and commemorates the 116<sup>th</sup>  
9 birthday of the renowned and revered leader La Bubba  
10 Cher Ready. Oh, Hynina (sp?), good to see you Rabbi.  
11 I didn't see you there. Menachem Mendel Schneerson.  
12 If I said it correctly, Rabbi for his years of  
13 dedicated leadership throughout the world and  
14 Majority Leader Lori Cumbo is going to present this  
15 proclamation if you'd like to come up with us, all of  
16 you. Come on Hanina, it's good to see you. [pause]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: If my colleagues  
18 would join me, that would be wonderful.

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: You want me to start?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Yes.

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Okay. So, I'm going  
22 to—I'm going to—the Council is proud to honor the  
23 life and legacy of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson  
24 who was born 116 years ago and grew to become one of  
25 the world's most famous and influential rabbis and

2 religious leaders. Rabbi Schneerson pioneered the  
3 method of global Jewish outreach that is now  
4 associated with the Chabad-Lubavitch sect of Judaism.  
5 Post-Holocaust the Jewish world is reeling from the  
6 indescribable loss and pain that they had  
7 experienced, and Rabbi Schneerson was a leading  
8 figure guiding the Lubavitch sect through the turmoil  
9 of becoming a flourishing international network of  
10 communities. Lubavitch has rabbis doing outreach in  
11 the most far flung corners of the world from Armenia  
12 to Niger, from Singapore to Turkey, Rabbi  
13 Schneerson's commitment to education and to spreading  
14 the worlds of the Torah to even the most unaffiliated  
15 of the Jewish people is unmatched, and I want to hand  
16 it off to Majority Leader Cumbo to finish the  
17 remarks.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: In 1978, Congress  
19 recognized Rabbi Schneerson's birthday as a national  
20 education day, and in 1994 he was awarded the  
21 Congressional Medal of Honor. It is the great honor  
22 and privilege of the Council to declare Education Day  
23 here in New York City where the largest contingent of  
24 Lubavitch Jews reside. As a tribute to Rabbi  
25 Schneerson's 116<sup>th</sup> Birthday, we will honor 116 days

2 of education ending on July 21<sup>st</sup>. Representing  
3 Chabad-Lubavitch and here to accept the Proclamation  
4 is Rabbi Butman a spiritual giant in his own right.  
5 Rabbi Butman is the man behind the largest Menorah in  
6 the world that stands on Fifth Avenue during the  
7 holiday of Hanukkah. He directs the Lubavitch Youth  
8 Organization, and is a preeminent leader in Crown  
9 Heights and throughout the world, and it is an honor  
10 to recognize you and to have you here in the New York  
11 City Council on this most historic day. Thank you  
12 for your contributions to our community. Thank you  
13 for your contributions to Brooklyn, New York City and  
14 the world. Thank you.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: So, we're going to  
16 [applause]. Thank you. Congratulations, but before  
17 Rabbi you speak, we're going to ask the City Clerk to  
18 officially read the proclamation and then, of course,  
19 hand it off to make remarks. Thank you for being  
20 here.

21 CLERK: Council City of New York  
22 Proclamation. The Council of the City of New York is  
23 proud to commemorate the 116<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the  
24 renowned and revered leader the Lubavitch Rebe--Rabbi  
25 Menachem M. Schneerson; and

2           Whereas, serving over 44 years of  
3 dedicated leadership Rabbi Schneerson established  
4 thousands of Chabad Lubavitch centers helping people  
5 of all walks of life throughout the world from  
6 Australia to Africa, from Holland to Argentina, and  
7 from Moscow to Jerusalem; and

8           Whereas, Rabbi Schneerson's educational  
9 activities throughout the globe have enriched and  
10 strengthened the religious educational, cultural, and  
11 ethical fibers of all citizens of the world. He was  
12 a remarkable and holy man who inspired millions of  
13 Jews and non-Jews to greater dedication, loyalty and  
14 commitment in all matters between man and God and  
15 between man and man. He proclaimed that redemption  
16 was on its way, and he called upon all citizens of  
17 the world to prepare with a personal commitment to  
18 increase all activities of goodness and kindness; and

19           Whereas, today the Chabad Lubavitch  
20 movement has institutions in all 50 our United States  
21 and operates more than 5,000 centers in over 1,000  
22 cities and 102 countries around the world. We are  
23 proud that during the last 78 years since 1940 the  
24 Chabad Lubavitch Movement has their world  
25 headquarters in the city of New York.

2 Now, therefore, be it known that in honor  
3 of Lubavitch Rabbi Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, the  
4 Council of the City of New York is proud to recognize  
5 Tuesday, March 27, 2018 corresponding to 11 Nisan  
6 5778, the Rabbi's 116<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Saturday, July  
7 21<sup>st</sup> to 2018 corresponding to Ninah (sp?) 5777 as 116  
8 days of education in New York City. Corey Johnson,  
9 Speaker for Entire Council, Chaim M. Deutsch, Chair,  
10 Jewish Caucus, Laurie A. Cumbo, Majority Leader New  
11 York City Council and the other members of the New  
12 York City Council.

13 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Congratulations.

14 [cheers/applause]

15 RABBI SCHNEERSON: [coughs] Thank you  
16 very, very much, Mr. Speaker. I must tell you when  
17 you when you spoke I was listening how you're going  
18 to say Lubavitch, and you said it perfectly.

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Chabad Lubavitch.

20 RABBI SCHNEERSON: Lubavitch, Lubavitch

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Rabbi Mendel  
22 Schneerson.

23 RABBI SCHNEERSON: Mr. Speaker,  
24 wonderful.

25 SPEAKER JOHNSON: L'Chaim.



2 RABBI SCHNEERSON: L'Chaim, L'Chaim. I  
3 wanted tell you since we're talking about when I look  
4 around this looks like a shul. This looks like a-  
5 like a congregation. So, it's wonderful. It's  
6 wonderful. It's a-a spiritual place. So, I want to  
7 thank you so much. I want to thank Laurie our  
8 representative. She represents the people of Crown  
9 Heights. [cheers] I was told that you were-that  
10 speaking after you is always dangerous. [laughter]  
11 So--

12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: [interposing] That's  
13 one way to put it, Rabbi.

14 RABBI SCHNEERSON: [laughs] But I have  
15 no choice today. We thank you so much. We give you  
16 a mazel tov--

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [interposing]  
18 Thank you.

19 RABBI SCHNEERSON: --for the birth of a  
20 child. You have a lot of-a lot of-you know what  
21 naches is? Naches means a lot of joy and enjoyment  
22 and for many, many years to come.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

24 RABBI SCHNEERSON: And I want to thank  
25 the-the-the Chairman of the Jewish Caucus, Chaim

2 Deutsch [cheers/applause] for helping us all  
3 together. We're fine. Thank you so much. It's a  
4 pleasure, and you're talking about 5,000 cities,  
5 5,000 representatives. You're talking about 1,000  
6 cities in the world. You're talking about 102  
7 countries, but let me tell you: The one city that  
8 everyone, that every Lubavicher, and to enjoy is the  
9 city of New York, [cheers/applause] and for divine  
10 reasons the Lubavitch Movement has found its seat,  
11 its international seat in this—in this city. So,  
12 therefore, although we have many cities and many  
13 representatives, the—the heart of everyone is in the  
14 city of New York in 770 where all the spirt comes  
15 from, [applause] and we are so happy that you are  
16 giving us not only a day of education, you're giving  
17 us 160 days of education, which means that they  
18 always about the Rabbi always talk about education,  
19 and we always make sure, Mr. Speaker, that he's not  
20 talking about the education only of the Jewish child.  
21 He says he's talking about education of every child  
22 of the American child of the African child of the  
23 European child of the Middle Eastern child of the Far  
24 Eastern child. He always said I want the children to  
25 know that there is an eye that sees and an ear that

2 hears, and that the world is not a jungle, and that  
3 is an international message to everyone. He very  
4 nicely put in that Rabbi said that we live in the  
5 last generation of exile, and that we should do more  
6 goodness and kindness. A representative of the media  
7 believe it was from CNN Aster (sic) Rabbi and this is  
8 not fake news. [laughter] He asked Rabbi what is  
9 your

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: [interposing] are you  
11 sure.

12 RABBI SCHNEERSON: Yes, because he asked  
13 Rabbi to answer. That's what I mean. Rabbi answered  
14 and said, What is your message to the—to the world?  
15 And the Rabbi said, My message to the world is that  
16 the redemption is coming, and that everyone can bring  
17 it about even closer by doing more deeds of goodness  
18 and kindness. So, therefore, you're doing—doing  
19 wonderful, wonderful deeds of goodness and kindness  
20 of—of education and, therefore, we wish you that in  
21 return the Almighty God should bestow his blessing on  
22 all of you together for good. For long life, for  
23 good health, for happiness and fulfillment in all of  
24 your endeavors. Thank you ever so much.

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amen, amen. [applause]

3 Thank you, Rabbi. [applause/cheers] Thank you very

4 much. Did we—did we get a—we got a photo from the

5 gentleman here? Yes. Congratulations. Thank you

6 very much. A pleasure, a pleasure. Welcome.

7 Congratulations. Hynina it is fabulous to see you,

8 great to see you. How is Rabbi Cohen? Tell him I

9 said hello. Make sure he's behaving. [laughter]

10 Okay, next up we have Council Member Constantinides

11 who is right here and we are going to—okay.

12 [shushing for quiet] We're going to have—for the

13 next ceremonial we're going to be presenting to

14 AKTINA Productions to honor 25 years of outstanding

15 service and achievements and contributions to the

16 Greek and Cypriot residents throughout all five

17 boroughs. Council Member Constantinides.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Thank

19 you, Speaker Johnson. So, today we have the great

20 honor of [cheering/background comments]

21 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down, please.

22 Keep it down.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: So,

24 today, we have the great honor of--

25

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Quiet  
3 it, please. Keep it down, please, keep it down.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: There we  
5 go. We have the whole AKTINA family with us today,  
6 Mr. Speaker and colleagues. So, this is—AKTINA means  
7 illuminating ray, and today we have an illuminating  
8 ray both outside. It looks like Spring is finally  
9 springing hopefully, and we have here in the Chamber  
10 we have an illuminating ray in AKTINA Productions,  
11 which is celebrating the 25-year anniversary of  
12 really tremendous service of Greek Radio and Greek TV  
13 for our communities. Yeah, they began in 1993 with  
14 the first broadcast of AKTINA FM. It was the first  
15 and only Greek-American radio production and has  
16 thousands of listeners worldwide. Soon after, they  
17 began AKTINA TV and about 600,000 viewers in the Tri-  
18 State area. Every Sunday at 6:00 turn on the TV and  
19 watch AKTINA. I remember growing up, you know, my  
20 yaya, which is for those who don't know the Greek  
21 word for grandmother would—would be listening to  
22 AKTINA, and if you tried to talk to her, if you tried  
23 to change the dial during AKTINA, I was in a lot of  
24 trouble. I'd have to say [Speaking Greek] which is,  
25 Yaya, I'm a good boy. I'm not going to touch—I'm not

2 going to change it. So, this is, you know, the Greek  
3 radio, the Greek TV. We want to thank Alana  
4 Maroulleti whose vision started this and the AKTINA  
5 team. Really in the Greek community we appreciate  
6 your doing-being our voice, making sure that in a  
7 diverse community and diverse city that the Greek  
8 community has a voice. So, thank you for that.

9 SPEAKER JOHNSON: And before we hand it  
10 over to you, we're going to ask our fabulous City  
11 Clerk to call the roll. I mean, not to call the  
12 roll, to read the proclamation. [laughter]

13 CLERK: Council City of New York  
14 Proclamation. New York City is the most diverse city  
15 in the world, home to people of many different  
16 backgrounds. We are also the proud home of the  
17 largest concentration of Greek-Americans and Cypriot-  
18 Americans in the nation. These citizens have  
19 enriched every aspect of our society from the arts  
20 and sciences to business and medial the Council of  
21 the City of New York is proud to honor AKTINA  
22 Productions, Inc. for 25 years of outstanding service  
23 and contributions to the Greek and Cypriot residents  
24 throughout the five boroughs and beyond; and

2           Whereas, AKTINA Productions, Inc. was  
3 founded as a 501(c)(e) not-for-profit organization,  
4 established to provide the Greek and Cypriot  
5 communities with quality public service radio and  
6 television broadcasting. AKTINA Productions include  
7 live musical performances, shows promoting rich  
8 heritage of Cyprus and Greece and helps provide  
9 Hellenic culture for generations Greek-Americans and  
10 Cypriot Americans; and

11           Whereas, AKTINA FM started broadcasting  
12 in 1993 as the first and only true bilingual Green-  
13 American radio program in the United States. Airing  
14 over the weekend on WNYE 91.5 FM in the New York  
15 Metro Area, the radio shows have developed a  
16 listening base of more than half a million people.  
17 As technology has improved in recent years, AKTINA FM  
18 has expanded to provide 24/7 Internet streaming of  
19 its programming, which is enjoyed by thousands of  
20 loyal listeners worldwide; and

21           Whereas, AKTINA TV soon followed  
22 beginning as a public service news and culture  
23 magazine show, which is the only English language  
24 Greek-American television production in the county.  
25 AKTINA TV is broadcast on WNYE every Sunday, and has

2 established and impressive viewership of 600,000 in  
3 the Tri-State area. Like its radio counterpart AKTINA  
4 TV has also grown with technological advances  
5 utilizing You Tube to distribute original content and  
6 act as an archive for past shows. To date, the page  
7 has been viewed by over 1.7 million around the globe;  
8 and

9           Whereas, AKTINA hosts a live music series  
10 called Greek Music Journey, GMJ. Launched in 1997,  
11 GMJ promotes and preserves different aspects of the  
12 representative music of Greece such as the  
13 traditional folk, popular folk, and Rembetiks genres,  
14 which comprise the basis of Greek music. This  
15 program started with local New York based Greek-  
16 American performers with small venues in Queens, and  
17 has since grown to hosting some of the most  
18 prestigious musicians from Greece housed in large  
19 venues such as Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center and  
20 the Town Hall. In 2013, GMJ became a bi-annual event  
21 which spring and fall concerts hosted at the Kaye  
22 Playhouse at Hunter College; and

23           Whereas. AKTINA Productions, Inc. was  
24 founded by Elena Maroulleti, who continues to serve  
25 as the President of the not-for-profit today. She is



2 also Executive Producer and host of AKTINA FM and  
3 AKTINA-AKTINA TV programming. A native of the  
4 beautiful coastal town of Famagusta, Cypress, Mrs.  
5 Marouletti was forced out of her home country  
6 following its occupation by Turkey. She began a new  
7 life in another coastal town, New York City, and has  
8 been a resident of Astoria, Queens since 1975. It is  
9 from there that the story of AKTINA soon began.

10 Now, therefore, be it known that the New  
11 York City Council proudly honors AKTINA Productions,  
12 Inc. in celebration of its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Corey  
13 Johnson, Speaker for the Entire Council and Costa  
14 Constantinides, Council Member 22<sup>nd</sup> District, Queens.  
15 [cheers/applause]

16 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Before I hand it over  
17 to you, I want to point out that our amazing City  
18 Clerk can go from talking about Rabbi Menachem  
19 Schneerson to AKTINA and the Greek town that you grew  
20 up in pronouncing it all correctly. So, thank you,  
21 Mr. City Clerk, congrats [cheers/applause]  
22 Congratulations.

23 ELENA MAROULETTI: Oh, yeah.

24 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Congratulations.

2                   ELENA MAROULETTI: Thank you, thank you,  
3 thank you. Mr. Speaker, Council Member  
4 Constantinides, Council Member Vallone. I-I am so  
5 touched. Look, I have tears in my eyes because when  
6 he took me back 25 years ago when I had this vision  
7 of promoting the rich heritage and culture of Greece  
8 and Cyprus on an FM dial-on the FM dial, and then 25  
9 years later to be honored here with my good friend  
10 Costa Constantinides, and Paul Vallone, great  
11 supporters of AKTINA. I think you and not maybe  
12 without you and, of course, with you Mr. Speaker and  
13 the rest of the Council Members, thank you so, so  
14 much. I just want to tell you that we're all  
15 volunteers, and because of my wonderful volunteers.  
16 They've been with me for years, Michael Tribunella.  
17 [cheers/applause] Glasa Anastasia (sic), Theresa  
18 Adelphi, too (sic) George Adelphi, too, and I hope  
19 Aldis Logan, and these are all dedicated people who  
20 work for absolutely nothing. They have a dream and  
21 this city, this diverse city allows us to promote our  
22 dream and please continue to support our dream  
23 because this New York City and just like New York  
24 City AKTINA FM is diverse because we have a very side  
25 and diverse audience from all ethnic groups, and

2 because the show is bilingual and because AKTINA TV  
3 is in English. So, we love New York. We love you  
4 all. Costa, Paul, Mr. Speaker thank you. Letitia,  
5 thank you. Thank you so, so much. God bless you all  
6 and, of course, I forgot to thank my other half.  
7 He's working, always working. Tom Soros and  
8 [cheers/applause] our reporter and photographer for  
9 this Vega Menaz (sp?) Without him, I would not be  
10 here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you so much.

11 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Congratulations. We're  
12 so grateful for your service to [cheers/applause]  
13 New York City and to the whole Tri-State area.  
14 Congratulations. Keep hanging around this guy.  
15 You're in good hands. Okay, congratulations. Next  
16 up we have from the Rock Debi Rose from Shall Live,  
17 Debi Rose. Council Member Debi Rose we're honoring.  
18 [cheers] Curtis High School, come on up.  
19 [cheers/applause] [background comments, cheers]  
20 Yeah, that's okay. Everyone come in. [background  
21 comments, pause] You can come on this side, too.  
22 We're going to—we're going to make it even. How many  
23 are on the team? How many people?

24 MALE SPEAKER: 50 on the team.

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: 50 on the team.

3 [cheers/applause] [background comments] I'm getting—  
4 I'm getting lost in the huddle here.

5 MALE SPEAKER: That's alright.

6 SPEAKER JOHNSON: That's okay.

7 [background comments] Congratulations.

8 MALE SPEAKER: Thank you.

9 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Congratulations,  
10 Congratulations. Congratulations.

11 MALE SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Congratulations,  
13 congratulations. Okay. So, before I hand it off to  
14 our amazing colleague, and you all are lucky to have  
15 her as your Council Member, I want to say that we're  
16 very, very honored and pleased and congratulate  
17 Curtis High School on being the PSL Champions, but  
18 also not just for—not just—back-to-back. Not just  
19 for their athletic excellence, but also their  
20 academic excellence. So, we are very, very, very  
21 proud of them. [cheers/applause] I was Captain of my  
22 high school football team. I played middle line  
23 backer. I know I was a little small compared to you  
24 guys. There's a lot of defensive ends here today I

2 can see, and I want to hand it off to Council Member  
3 Debi Rose.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you.

5 [cheers/applause] Thank you. I'm really excited to  
6 welcome to City Hall a team that's not only large in  
7 size and stature, but also academic prowess, a team  
8 of dedicated players and coaches from Curtis High  
9 School in Saint George. [cheers/applause] They not  
10 only had a perfect season this year, but they carried  
11 on a tradition of warrior greatness, a perfect  
12 season, and they—their victory at Yankee Stadium in  
13 December was a remarkable second championship in a  
14 row, which marked the seventh time that the school  
15 has won the PSAL Championship, more than any other  
16 school in New York City. [cheers/applause] The  
17 students who are here today have been challenged to  
18 set high goals, and they have met and exceeded those  
19 goals. We want to thank Principal Gregory Jaenicke  
20 (sp?) and the head coach Peter Gambardella, and I  
21 know that they've done an excellent job emphasizing  
22 success not only on the field, but also in the  
23 classroom and in the community and you've done an  
24 excellent job of leading this talented group. I

2 wanted to name the 14 captains here today. Quincy  
3 Barnes.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Would you raise your  
5 hand?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Alright.

7 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Quincy.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Tyson Lawton.

9 MALE SPEAKER: Tyson Lawton. [background  
10 comments]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Isaiah Ortiz and  
12 Amad Anderson, all of whom have been inducted in the  
13 Staten Island All-Star's Hall of Fame. [cheers/  
14 applause] and I'm proud to announce that two of the  
15 captains have finished early, graduated early, and  
16 are now in college, one at SUNY Stony Brook and one  
17 at Purdue. [cheers/applause] Yeah. Indeed, all of  
18 the team members are superstars, and I'm proud to say  
19 that among the players here today is a Participatory  
20 Budgeting Youth Volunteer, and that all the players  
21 are volunteer with a local non-profit help for youth  
22 to beautify the Saint George neighborhood. You are  
23 all amazing talented and dedicated, and in pursuit of  
24 this record breaking championship, I'm sure you've  
25 all learned some important lessons on the field that

2 whether you realize yet or not, you will—they will  
3 serve you well in whatever field you pursue, higher  
4 education, careers of life goals, and that gives me  
5 great pleasure to thank you and to welcome you to  
6 City Hall. [cheers/applause]

7 SPEAKER JOHNSON: So, before we hand it  
8 over to the Principal and the Coach, I want to ask  
9 the clerk to not call the roll but to read the  
10 proclamation.

11 CLERK: Council City of New York  
12 Proclamation. The New York City Council is proud to  
13 honor the Curtis High School Warriors Football Team  
14 for their outstanding teamwork that led to their  
15 victorious 2017 season; and

16 Whereas, each year the Curtis High School  
17 Football program sees talented leadership from  
18 individual players. Many of its players go on to  
19 play for college teams, winning scholarships that  
20 make furthering their education possible. Some seek  
21 professional football careers. Dominick Easley--  
22 Dominique Easley because a first round draft pick and  
23 is currently a player in the National Football  
24 Leagues. His performance during the 2007  
25 championship season brought national attention to

2 this school. That same year the Curtis High School  
3 field was named in honor of baseball star Bobby  
4 Thompson who scored a 3-run homerun that won the 1951  
5 World Series for the then New York Cheyennes; and

6           Whereas, since Curtis High School, the  
7 first high school on Staten Island opened in Saint  
8 George in 1904, it has upheld the tradition of both  
9 academic and athletic excellence that continues  
10 today. On December 5, 2017, the Curtis High School  
11 Warriors won their 7<sup>th</sup> PSAL City Championship, the  
12 most garnered by any New York City high school. This  
13 win follows the championship in the undefeated season  
14 of 2016; and

15           Whereas, led by Coach Peter Gambardella,  
16 once a player for Curtis Football Team, the Warriors  
17 have become an exceptional high school team with the  
18 tireless support of 14 captains Amad Anderson, Jr.,  
19 Isaiah Ortiz, Sr., Quincy Barnes, and Tyson Lawton  
20 all current Curtis High School seniors. The more  
21 than 40 players worked together throughout the season  
22 to overcome very challenging opponents and win the  
23 championship.

24           Now, therefore, be it known that the New  
25 York City Council is proud to honor everyone on the



2 Curtis High School Warrior's Football team and  
3 congratulates them on becoming the 2017 PSAL  
4 champions and we wish them continued success both on  
5 an off the field in the years ahead. Corey Johnson,  
6 Speaker for the Entire Council and Deborah Rose,  
7 Council Member, 49<sup>th</sup> District, Staten Island.

8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Congratulations.

9 [cheers/applause]

10 PETER GAMBARDELLA: Thank you, Speaker  
11 Johnson. Councilwoman Rose, we are proud to—that you  
12 represent us on the North Shore of Staten Island. As  
13 a North Shore resident it's, you know, to see the  
14 work that's been done on the North Shore, and just a  
15 testament to these guys, that when you take 50  
16 gentlemen form all different sizes, shapes, from  
17 neighborhoods bring them together with one like mind,  
18 and what can be accomplished when they have goals  
19 together, and they have a brotherhood and pact  
20 together. It's also a great example of the  
21 investment in education that needs to keep coming,  
22 and shows us and especially the extracurricular  
23 activities that keeps these guys motivated and  
24 focused. We've got guys already in Purdue, Stony  
25 Brook. Gentlemen got accepted to Sophie Davis

2 Medical School [cheers/applause] Kutztown, Western  
3 Connecticut all over, [cheers/applause] and it's a  
4 great opportunity that they'll go onto college and be  
5 very successful. Thank you very much for having us  
6 today.

7 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you, thank you.

8 [cheers/applause] Congratulations to all of you.

9 We're very, very, very proud of you.

10 Congratulations. Let's get a photo. Of course. Who

11 wants to speak? Which captain. Q-Quincy. Here we

12 go. Come on. [cheers/applause] Mr. Captain.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Alright.

14 QUINCY BARNES: First off, I just want to

15 say thank you for being here today. It's just been

16 amazing. I've never been here before and I'm sure a

17 lot or team mates haven't. So, it's amazing to be

18 here. It's just truly an honor. To the guys, it's

19 just been truly amazing. Me being a senior, I've

20 played with these guys for three years, and it's

21 something special, something I don't forget. The

22 best memories you have ever, you know, and I know

23 they're going to win it again next year. So, invite

24 us back again because we're going again, and just

25 want to say thank you.

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: What position do you  
3 play?

4 QUINCY BARNES: I play quarterback.

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Quarterback, the same  
6 one. [cheers/applause] Congratulations. Let's get  
7 a photo. [pause] Congratulations, everyone.  
8 [background comments] Congratulations.

9 MALE SPEAKER: He coached me and my whole  
10 family.

11 SPEAKER JOHNSON: He coached you.

12 MALE SPEAKER: [laughter] Before he went  
13 to the dark side. [background comments] You have  
14 him—you have him south to north. You have him South  
15 Shore to North Shore. Congratulations, guys.  
16 Congratulations, congratulations. [background  
17 comments] Okay, we're going to ask folks to [shushing  
18 for quiet] We're going to ask folks to quiet down.  
19 We have one more.

20 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down, please.  
21 Keep it down.

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I want to call up  
23 Council Member Daneek Miller. He's here.  
24 [cheers/applause] and this final ceremonial today  
25 we're going to want to call up the amazing Arthur

2 Cheliotas if he could make his way up.

3 [cheers/applause] So, we are leaving one of the best  
4 for last because we are honoring the outstanding  
5 leadership of Arthur Cheliotas President of  
6 Administrative Employees Local 1180 [cheers/applause]  
7 of the Communication Workers of America

8 [cheers/applause] for four decades of service, and I  
9 still hope that even though Arthur is retired, he's  
10 still working, but I want to say [shushing for quiet]  
11 I still expect that on a hot day in June, he'll be on  
12 the steps of City Hall screaming at us about the  
13 Murphy Institute, and making sure that it gets the  
14 funding that it needs. I want to hand it over to our  
15 amazing Chair of the Labor and Civil Service  
16 Committee, Council Member and Chair Daneek Miller.  
17 [cheers/applause]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you,  
19 Speaker Johnson, colleagues, family, friends, this is  
20 a-a-a really a special moment in our city's history.  
21 It is a moment in time where we get to honor one of  
22 our New York City's true heroes, someone who has  
23 vision—has been a visionary and really carried, been  
24 a big part of the labor movement for—for more than  
25 four decades and—and—and for me, a person, a friend,

2 a—a mentor, a guide. So, many things. I've known  
3 Arthur—for quite—for quite—for quite—for quite a  
4 while, and yes and more, almost 30 years, and he's  
5 been instrumental in—in my path and my journey, but  
6 not just me so many things. Arthur has been—one of  
7 the things that he's pounded—pounded again always the  
8 value of the civil service merit based system and  
9 what that meant for people like us in this room,  
10 right, that it created opportunities for—for minority  
11 women, for—for folks—New Yorkers of color, and many  
12 opportunities that I myself was a 30-year civil  
13 servant. So, along with that, groundbreaking pay  
14 equity. [cheers/applause] You know, there are many  
15 folks that are bearing the fruits of Arthur's labor  
16 right now, and we continue to talk about that, right,  
17 and—and so he's done that, and—and was just  
18 mentioned, the Murphy School of Labor and Urban  
19 Studies. [cheers/applause] Right, and there are so  
20 many other accomplishments that—that I'm sure that  
21 the clerk is going to read, but it's just an honor  
22 to—to salute my friend and mentor Arthur Cheliotis,  
23 and let me just say while—I looked over and I saw  
24 Council Member Barron, another Erasmus alumni.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: That's right.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Right. Erasmus  
3 Halls for the third year, the second time in three  
4 years running we are a bridesmaid [laughter] in this  
5 PAS-PSAL Football Championship, right? So, we'll be  
6 back next year as well, Curtis, okay. We'll get you  
7 guys next year, right. So, Arthur, it is-it's really  
8 giving me great pride, and I look forward to-to your  
9 continued wisdom and guidance to all of us here and  
10 to the labor movement, and it gives us great  
11 pleasures to present you with this proclamation.

12 [cheers/applause]

13 SPEAKER JOHNSON: We're going to ask the-  
14 the clerk to read the Proclamation, but not obituary  
15 of Arthur Cheliotis.

16 ARTHUR CHELIOTIS: [groans]

17 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I said but not  
18 obituary. He has a lot of life left in him--

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: He does.

20 SPEAKER JOHNSON: --and he's still  
21 working hard.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Right.

23 CLERK: Council City of New York  
24 Proclamation. The New York City Council is very  
25 proud to honor Arthur Cheliotis upon his retirement

2 after four decades of outstanding leadership of  
3 President of Administrative Employees Local 1180 of  
4 the Communication Workers of America, the CWA; and

5           Whereas, today Local 1180 is one of the  
6 largest public sector locals of CWA representing more  
7 than 8,500 workers, and 6,200 retirees. Most work in  
8 one of dozens of New York City Mayoral agencies  
9 others at the New York City Health and Hospitals, the  
10 Department of Education, NYCHA, the Transit  
11 Authority, the School Construction Authority, and the  
12 State's Unified Court system. Local 1180 also  
13 represents workers at private companies such as the  
14 Jacob Javitz Convention Center, and at not-for-profit  
15 organizations including Planned Parenthood of New  
16 York City, the ASPCA, Human Rights First and Human  
17 Rights Watch. Championing—champion—championing,  
18 securing and protecting the rights and benefits of  
19 such diverse employees requires a leader of  
20 extraordinary vision, energy and integrity. Arthur  
21 Cheliotis has been such an esteemed leader for nearly  
22 40 years; and

23           Whereas, Mr. Cheliotis was born in  
24 Jamaica, Queens [cheers/applause] and understood the  
25 importance of [laughter] of collective action at a

2 very early age. His mother Julia survived the Nazi  
3 Occupation of Greece and emigrated to New York after  
4 World War II. His father Nick arrived in America as  
5 a stowaway in 1926 and served during World War II as  
6 a sergeant in the 100<sup>th</sup> Division of the United States  
7 Army. His father was a member of Local 325 of Cooks,  
8 Countermen and Bartenders Union, AFLCIO and continued  
9 his membership when he opened his own diner; and

10           Whereas, after Arthur Cheliotis graduated  
11 from Jamaica High School [applauses] and earned his  
12 BA from Queens College, he began working for Local  
13 1180 in 1973 when he was elected shop steward at the  
14 Prospect Income Maintenance Center. In 1975, during  
15 the city's fiscal crisis, the Local hired him as a  
16 full-time staff representative analyzing agency  
17 budgets and certifying productivity programs. He  
18 then served on the Executive Board until his election  
19 to President in 1979. Over the course of his  
20 distinguished tenure, Local 1180 members rewarded him  
21 for his outstanding leadership and re-elected him ten  
22 times. [cheers/applause]; and

23           Whereas, thanks to Mr. Cheliotis'  
24 leadership, CWA Local 1180 has made great progress in  
25 worker education, pay equity and the enforcement of



2 Civil Service Laws. While fighting for these rights,  
3 he also helped in the promotion of the largest number  
4 of women and persons of color to managerial positions  
5 through competitive exams in city history [cheers/  
6 applause] and was instrumental in expanding extensive  
7 education and training programs for workers; and

8           Whereas, in addition to his work with CWA  
9 Local 1180, Mr. Cheliotis has provided great support  
10 as a board member for many community organizations  
11 and committees including, but not limited to the New  
12 York City Municipal Labor Committee, the New York  
13 City Central Labor Council, the Labor Advisory Board  
14 of the Murphy Institute and the CWA's Defense Fund  
15 Oversight Committee. He is the major supporter of  
16 the Joseph Murphy Institute at the new CUNY School of  
17 Labor and Urban Studies. [applause] He is also the  
18 founding president of the Greek-American Labor  
19 Council and Vice President for the Hellenic-Hellenic-  
20 American Neighborhood Action Committee, which  
21 provides affordable senior housing, healthcare,  
22 counseling and community services to families and  
23 seniors in Queens and Brooklyn; and

2                   Whereas, Mr. Cheliotis has truly exceled  
3 throughout his career and is worthy of the esteemed  
4 and gratitude of all New Yorkers.

5                   Now, therefore, be it known that the New  
6 York City Council gratefully honors Arthur Cheliotis  
7 for his stellar leadership and contributions to the  
8 Communication Workers of America, Local 1180, Corey  
9 Johnson, Speaker for the Entire Council, I. Daneek  
10 Miller, Council Member 27<sup>th</sup> District, Queens; Karen  
11 Koslowitz, Chair of the Queens Delegation and Inez D.  
12 Barron, Chair, Committee on Higher Education.

13 [cheers/applause]

14                   SPEAKER JOHNSON: I want to say hoorary,  
15 hooray, hooray. So, I want to hand it over to  
16 Arthur, but I really want to say with a level of  
17 seriousness, Arthur is a giant in New York City, and  
18 Arthur has left and indelible mark. I was exhausted  
19 in a good way from hearing about everything that he  
20 has done, the lives he has touched, how he has  
21 changed the course of history in our city, and we are  
22 all of us—you see the number of Council Members that  
23 are standing up here surrounding you. We are so  
24 proud of you, and we are also proud that over the  
25 course of your tenure in leading this incredibly

2 important union, that you were able to groom a  
3 wonderful success at Gloria Middleton. [cheers/  
4 applause] So, so, so we are just tremendously  
5 grateful, and we know you're not going far, and we  
6 can still call upon for your activism and expertise  
7 moving forward. Our friend, a great New Yorker Arthur  
8 Cheliotis. [cheers/applause]

9 ARTHUR CHELIOTIS: Thank you. Thank you,  
10 Speaker. I'm going to hand this over to Gloria  
11 Middleton because this wasn't done by me. It was  
12 done by a team at Local 1180 working together to make  
13 a difference in the lives of all working people in  
14 this city. But this Council is very important to me.  
15 In fact, I went to the City Council many years ago.  
16 [background comments] But more importantly, the city  
17 is very important to me, and the Rabbi spoke about it  
18 earlier the our community seeks to come to New York  
19 City. My father sought to come here. When we had  
20 immigration laws in this country, it said Southern  
21 European—Europeans and Eastern Europeans and Jews  
22 were an inferior race that should never be given the  
23 opportunity to come to this country. Sadly, we—we  
24 hear that again today, just different groups. It's  
25 the same issue, and what's important for us to know

2 is that this city opened its arms to an undocumented  
3 alien, my father to a refugees from the Nazis, my  
4 mother and gave them the opportunity to get a job, a  
5 good union job to work and have a family, and my  
6 sister and are the product of that, and I had a great  
7 public education. I went to a free city university.  
8 [applause] The first in my family to get a college  
9 degree. I then had the opportunity to take a Civil  
10 Service Test, and get a job working at the Department  
11 of Social Services based on my merit, based on how  
12 well I could do on the exam, and taking further exams  
13 to become eventually the Administrator of that, and  
14 to have a union that understood that it had duty to  
15 its members to advance their careers, but also to  
16 provide public services. Just like all of you here  
17 in this Council Chamber, and it is those public  
18 workers that day in and day out make sure that this  
19 city works for all New Yorkers, and they need to be  
20 treated fairly. They need to get compensation for  
21 the work that they do, and they need to make sure  
22 that the—the field is level that they all have equal  
23 opportunity be they minorities or women or people  
24 with disabilities [cheers/applause] to advance their  
25 careers, and I have had the honor of being elected

2 and re-elected by my members, and I have done so much  
3 like you do so making sure that you carry out their  
4 will, their desire, their aspiration for a better  
5 life. And one aspect of that has been making sure  
6 that they get the education they need that was denied  
7 them when they were younger because of their gender,  
8 because of their race, because of their economic  
9 circumstance. And that's what the Murphy Institute  
10 and soon to be the School of Labor and Urban Studies  
11 is all about to give working people the opportunity  
12 to go back to school to do what? To be better at  
13 their jobs, to get opportunities to promote to higher  
14 level positions to take those Civil Service tests to  
15 better serve the people of the City of New York, and  
16 we under-understand that in that larger context, I  
17 know I-I that this award will have meaning for me  
18 because it is that that drives me, it keeps me going.  
19 It drives my wife crazy at times, too, and I thank  
20 her for being patient with me. [applause]

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: And his wife Linda.

22 ARTHUR CHELIOTIS: Yeah, Linda. [cheers/  
23 applause]

24 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Linda.

2 ARTHUR CHELIOTIS: But I thank all of you  
3 for this honor. You can count on me just being—being  
4 a pain in the ass at times-- [laughter]

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: We wouldn't want to  
6 irritate you.

7 ARTHUR CHELIOTIS: --and--and more  
8 importantly to see that this city works for all New  
9 Yorkers, and I thank you for that.

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Congratulations.  
11 [cheers/applause] One big, last big round of  
12 applause for Arthur Cheliotis. [cheers/applause]

13 ARTHUR CHELIOTIS: [off mic] Thank you  
14 very much. [background comments]

15 CLERK: That was it.

16 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Okay, we're going to  
17 Stated. [cheers] [background comments, pause]

18 CLERK: Ladies and gentlemen, can I have  
19 your attention, please. Quiet on the floor, please.  
20 Quiet on the floor. Could we clear the main aisle,  
21 please? [gavel]

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Okay, we're going to  
23 get started.

24 CLERK: Sergeants, please clear that main  
25 aisle.

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: If Council Members  
3 could please take their seats. They're supposed to  
4 take their seats, and if you're not staying for the  
5 Stated Meeting, if you could exit out into the  
6 Rotunda, we are going to get started.

7 CLERK: At this time, please place all  
8 electronic devices, all electronic devices to  
9 vibrate, vibrate. Will all non-Council employees  
10 please leave the main floor of the Chambers. Madam,  
11 Public Advocate.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [gavel] Members,  
13 please take your seats. Visitors, if you're exiting,  
14 please exit now. Members, please take your seats.  
15 Members, please take your seats, and if we could  
16 close the door in the back, it would be greatly  
17 appreciated. All rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

18 CLERK: All rise.

19 [Pledge of Allegiance]

20 CLERK: Adams.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]

22 Quiet in the chambers. [shushing for quiet]

23 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down, please.  
24 Quiet.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Present.

2 CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Present.

4 CLERK: Ayala.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Present.

6 CLERK: Barron.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

8 CLERK: Borelli.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: [off mic] Here.

10 CLERK: Brannan.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Here.

12 CLERK: Cabrera.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

14 CLERK: Chin.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

16 CLERK: Cohen.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.

18 CLERK: Constantinides.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Present.

20 CLERK: Cornegy.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Present.

22 CLERK: Deutsch.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.

24 CLERK: Diaz.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Presente.



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2 CLERK: Dromm.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

4 CLERK: Espinal.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Here.

6 CLERK: Eugene.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Present.

8 CLERK: Gibson.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Present.

10 CLERK: Gjonaj.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Present.

12 CLERK: Grodenchik.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Here.

14 CLERK: Holden.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here.

16 CLERK: Kallos.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.

18 CLERK: King. King.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Present.

20 CLERK: Koo.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

22 CLERK: Koslowitz.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

24 CLERK: Lancman.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Here.

2 CLERK: Lander. Levin.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

4 CLERK: Levine.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

6 CLERK: Maisel.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Here.

8 CLERK: Menchaca.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.

10 CLERK: Miller.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Present.

12 CLERK: Moya.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Present.

14 CLERK: Perkins.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Present.

16 CLERK: Powers.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Here.

18 CLERK: Reynoso.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Here.

20 CLERK: Richards.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

22 CLERK: Rivera.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Present.

24 CLERK: Rodriguez. Rose.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

2 CLERK: Rosenthal.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

4 CLERK: Salamanca.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.

6 CLERK: Torres. Treyger.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

8 CLERK: Ulrich. Vallone.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

10 CLERK: Van Bramer.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

12 CLERK: Torres.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Here.

14 CLERK: Williams.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

16 CLERK: Yeger.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here.

18 CLERK: Matteo.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.

20 CLERK: Cumbo.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Present.

22 CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

23 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Here.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Quiet

25 in the Chambers. All rise for the invocation.

2 CLERK: All rise.

3 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: The Invocation  
4 will be delivered by Rabbi Shmuel Butman, the  
5 Director of the Lubavitch Youth Organization Located  
6 at the Worldwide Headquarters of the Lubavitch  
7 Community at 770 Eastern Parkway. Quiet in the  
8 Chambers, please.

9 RABBI SHMUEL BUTMAN: [Speaking Yiddish]  
10 Our heavenly father please bestow your blessings upon  
11 all the members of the New York City Council. Bless  
12 them with good health, long life, prosperity and  
13 happiness in all of their endeavors. Bless them for  
14 proclaiming 116 days of education in honor or the  
15 116<sup>th</sup> day of the Rabbi of Lubavitch of Rabbi Menachem  
16 Mendel Schneerson. When the Rabbi spoke about  
17 education, the Rabbi speaks about education of all  
18 Children, the American child, the African child, the  
19 European Child, the Mid Eastern child, the Far  
20 Eastern Child, all the children of the world. The  
21 Rabbi always said that he wants the children to know  
22 that there is an eyes that sees, there's an ear that  
23 hears, and that the world is not a jungle. You were  
24 elected by divine providence to represent all the  
25 people of the city of New York in all matters of

2 peace, of justice, of freedom and democracy. This is  
3 an election that Almighty God gave because Almighty  
4 God felt that you have the—whatever it takes you have  
5 the responsibility to make sure that all of those  
6 laws are going to be instituted. As New York City is  
7 the leading city in the United States, your influence  
8 goes beyond the city, and it reaches every part of  
9 the United States of America, and as the United  
10 States of America is a super power, your influence  
11 reaches all four corners of the world. It is known  
12 among all four corners of the world that the leading  
13 city in the world is the great city, the city of New  
14 York, and parallel, of course, we have to say that  
15 with Jerusalem. The Lubavitch Movement of the last  
16 68 years has found a seat in this great, and  
17 Lubavitch it's sitting, and we number, thank God  
18 close to a half a million. All over, all over the  
19 world have a special affinity for this great city,  
20 the city of New York and for the last 68 years the  
21 seat of the Movement is right here in Brooklyn part  
22 of the city of New York. In 1991, I was invited to  
23 open the United States Senate in Washington. Before  
24 that, I went to Rabbi, and the Rabbi said to me:  
25 Take a pushke with you. A pushke is a charity box,

2 and let everybody see what you are going to do, and  
3 let them know what—what money should be used for. It  
4 is my honor and my privilege to do what the Rabbi  
5 asked me to put in a dollar bill on which it says:  
6 IN God we trust in pushke. We would like to invite  
7 you, dear members after that to participate with the  
8 one dollar, but I don't want to get scared. This is  
9 not a fundraising effort. [laughter] If it would be  
10 we would ask you for much than a dollar. This is an  
11 effort to do more goodness and kindness, and we hope  
12 that you will participate with a dollar or less.  
13 Thank you so much. I want to tell you that in our  
14 shuls in our synagogues, every Sabbath morning, we  
15 offer a prayer for you. We save [Speaking Yiddish]  
16 All those who serve the public faithfully as you do  
17 we offer a special prayer for you, for your health,  
18 for your happiness, for your contentment, that you  
19 should be blessed with everything with all the  
20 blessings in your communal lives as well as in your  
21 private lives, and let us say amen.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Amen. Please be  
23 seated. [background comments] Motion to spread the  
24 invocation. Council Member Laurie Cumbo.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you Public  
3 Advocate Letitia James. Rabbi Shmuel Butman is the  
4 director of the Lubavitch Youth organization, which  
5 directs Lubavitch outreach activities in the New York  
6 Metropolitan area--

7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Keep it  
8 down. Keep it down, please.

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

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: --with over 65  
12 Chabad houses. Rabbi Butman is also responsible for  
13 the world's largest Menorah, which stands on Fifth  
14 Avenue during Hanukkah and he delivers a very popular  
15 weekly lecture in both Hebrew and English every  
16 Shabbat evening. I want to thank you for being here  
17 today, for being a shining light in our community for  
18 continuing to encourage us to do good deeds, and that  
19 every bit counts. We thank you for being here. I  
20 also want to acknowledge Rabbi Hanina Furley (sp?)  
21 who is also here of the Crown Heights JCC, and it is  
22 a pleasure to have so many of my residents here in  
23 City Hall with me today. Thank you, Madam Public  
24 Advocate. I would like to thank Rabbi Butman for  
25 being here today, and make a motion that the

2 invocation be spread in full upon this record, and I  
3 think you for a most inspirational day.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: So moved. Thank  
5 you, Rabbi. Thank you so much.

6 RABBI SHMUEL BUTMAN: It's a pleasure.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Adoption of  
8 Minutes. Council Member Adams.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Madam, Public  
10 Advocate, I move that the minutes of the Stated  
11 Meeting of February 15, 2018 be adopted as printed.

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

14 CLERK: M—excuse me. M32, Executive  
15 Order 32 of 2018.

16 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Received, ordered,  
17 printed and filed.

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

20 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Receive—oh, go ahead.

21 CLERK: M33, Public Advocate progress  
22 Report.

23 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Received, ordered,  
24 printed and filed.

25 CLERK: M34, District Resource Statement.



2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Received, ordered,  
3 printed and filed.

4 CLERK: M35, Submitting Alfred C.  
5 Cerullo, III for reappointment to the Planning  
6 Commission.

7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Keep it  
8 down, please.

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

11 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I love Fred Cerullo,  
12 and we are referring that to the Committee on Rules,  
13 Privileges and Elections.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Petitions and  
15 Communications.

16 CLERK: None.

17 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Land Use Call-Ups.

18 CLERK: M36 through M38, various  
19 applications.

20 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on a call-up  
21 vote, and I'd like to ask for a roll call vote on  
22 today's Land Use Call-Up Calendar.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: May we have quiet  
24 in the Chambers for a Land Use Vote. Please, quiet  
25 in the Chambers.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Aye.

3 CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Aye.

5 CLERK: Ayala.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye on all. Well,  
7 where was I?

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

10 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye on all.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

12 CLERK: Barron.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye.

14 CLERK: Borelli.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: [off mic] Aye.

16 CLERK: Brannan.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Yes.

18 CLERK: Cabrera.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Yes.

20 CLERK: Chin.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

22 CLERK: Cohen.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

24 CLERK: Constantinides.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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2 CLERK: Cornegy.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

4 CLERK: Deutsch.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

6 CLERK: Diaz.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Si.

8 CLERK: Dromm.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for  
10 quiet]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Can I have  
12 permission to vote on General Orders as well?

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you. I vote  
15 aye on all.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

17 CLERK: Espinal.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.

19 CLERK: Eugene.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

21 CLERK: Gibson.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Aye.

23 CLERK: Gjonaj.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Aye.

25 CLERK: Grodenchik.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye.

3 CLERK: Holden.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye.

5 CLERK: Kallos.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

7 CLERK: King. King.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye.

9 CLERK: Koo.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

11 CLERK: Koslowitz.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

13 CLERK: Lancman.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

15 CLERK: Lander. Levin.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

17 CLERK: Levine.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

19 CLERK: Maisel.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Aye.

21 CLERK: Menchaca.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.

23 CLERK: Miller.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I vote aye.

25 CLERK: Moya.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Aye.

3 CLERK: Perkins.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Aye.

5 CLERK: Powers.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye.

7 CLERK: Reynoso.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.

9 CLERK: Richards.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.

11 CLERK: Rivera.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye.

13 CLERK: Rose.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

15 CLERK: Rosenthal.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.

17 CLERK: Salamanca.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: I vote aye on

19 all Land Use Call-Ups, and with permission, I would

20 like to vote on all items on the General Order

21 Calendar Resolutions.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Thank you.

24 CLERK: Torres.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I vote aye.

2 Clerk: Treyger.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.

4 CLERK: Ulrich.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

6 CLERK: Vallone.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

8 CLERK: Van Bramer.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

10 CLERK: Williams.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

12 CLERK: Yeger.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye.

14 CLERK: Matteo.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Aye.

16 CLERK: Cumbo.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

19 CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

20 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Aye. [pause]

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Today's Land Use

22 Call-Ups are adopted by a vote of 50 in the

23 affirmative, 0 in the negative. Quiet in the

24 Chambers, please as we now hear from the Speaker.

25 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down, please.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Speaker Corey  
3 Johnson.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Good afternoon. Thank  
5 you, Madam Public Advocate. I'd like to begin as  
6 always by remembering some brave individuals we  
7 recently lost who made an impact on our city, our  
8 nation and our world. Late last month our nation  
9 lost a true heroine Linda Brown. Linda Brown was at  
10 the center of the landmark case *Brown v. The Board of*  
11 *Education*, which ruled the end of racial segregation  
12 in American schools. Linda Brown's advocacy changed  
13 race relations forever, and her legacy lives on  
14 though we still know we have a lot of work to do on  
15 segregations in our school still. In addition, the  
16 world lost a great leader in Winnie Mandela, the wife  
17 of Nelson Mandela for 38 years. She was known as the  
18 mother of the nation due to her independent role in  
19 the fight against apartheid in South Africa. She  
20 tragically died on April 2<sup>nd</sup> in Johannesburg at the  
21 age of 81. Her life is being celebrated today in a  
22 memorial service in Soweto and around the world, and  
23 she will be deeply missed. Tragedy struck us at home  
24 as well. Last week George Stab a DOT worker was  
25 struck and killed by a car along the Hutchinson River

2 Parkway, and we send our thoughts and prayers to  
3 George's family, friends and everyone at DOT, and we  
4 thank him for his service to our city. We also mourn  
5 the passing of Steven Livecchi an MTA Bus helper who  
6 was killed in the line of duty. Steven devoted his  
7 career to the MTA and the millions of New Yorkers who  
8 rely on public transit each day. Our condolences are  
9 with Steven's family and friends, the MTA and  
10 Transport Workers Union Local 100, and last, but  
11 absolutely not least we honor the 9/11 first  
12 responders we recently lost and it seems like we do  
13 this at every Stated Meeting reading the names of  
14 people that we're losing because of 9/11 related  
15 illnesses. Lieutenant William Wanser; Detective  
16 Pedro Esponda; and Retired Firefighter George  
17 Furlick. These heroes succumbed to 9/11 related  
18 illnesses in late March and our thoughts and prayers  
19 are with their families, friends, the NYPD and the  
20 FDNY. Let us take a moment of silence in their  
21 honor. If folks could please rise.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All rise. [moment  
23 of silence observed]

24 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you. So, before  
25 we begin with today's agenda, I would like to



2 acknowledge a few members of our fabulous central  
3 staff here at the City Council who are leaving us.  
4 Last week we bid farewell to our Communications  
5 Director, Robin Levine, a long-time fixture in the  
6 Press Office here at City Hall. Robin rose through  
7 the ranks from Press Officer, to Press Sec--to Deputy  
8 Press Secretary to Press Secretary, to Communications  
9 Director and she worked under three Speakers:  
10 Speakers Quinn, Mark-Viverito and myself. Now, she  
11 is the Chief Communications Officer at the New York  
12 City Housing Authority and we're confident that her  
13 communications prowess that is marked her tenure here  
14 at the Council will be put to great use at NYCHA.  
15 Today we are bidding farewell to two of our great  
16 attorneys in the Legislative Division, Annie Decker  
17 and Deepa Ambekar. Annie has headed up the bill  
18 drafting unit since its inception in 2014. Since  
19 that time she has made enormous progress in improving  
20 the Council's training and professional development  
21 curriculum. We thank her for her service, and we  
22 wish her well on her move to Chicago. Deepa Ambekar  
23 came to the Council after working for over two years  
24 at a private firm and before that seven years serving  
25 as a public defender at the Legal Aid Society.

2 [cheers] We congratulate Deepa on the birth of her  
3 daughter Uma this January and we wish her luck as she  
4 moves on to serve as an interim civil court judge  
5 appointed by Mayor de Blasio this spring.

6 Congratulations to Robin, Deepa, Annie on the next  
7 chapters of their career. We wish them well, and we  
8 thank them for their service to the city. The  
9 amazing women of the New York City Council we really  
10 want to congratulate you and give you a big round of  
11 applause for all. If they could stand up.

12 [applause] There's Annie in the back. Where's Deepa?  
13 Is Deepa here? Annie. Do you know how hard it is to  
14 be the head of the bill drafting unit? How annoying  
15 we are to Annie Decker on a regular basis, and she  
16 did it with a level of calmness and professionalism  
17 and thoughtfulness, and she did a tremendous job for  
18 us. So, Annie, we're really, really grateful to your  
19 service to this Council. So, I want to jump into our  
20 docket for today. Today. The Council will be voting  
21 on two budget modifications, the Expense Budget  
22 Modification MN6 is going to transfer \$970.3 million  
23 between various units of appropriation in the current  
24 fiscal year, fiscal year 2018 with a zero net effect  
25 on the Budget. The Revenue Budget modification MN7

2 is going to recognize \$783.8 million in new revenues  
3 in the current fiscal year, fiscal year 2018. These  
4 new revenues combined with other funds for a total of  
5 \$2.58 billion will be added to the budget  
6 stabilization account to pre-pay debt service for  
7 Fiscal Year 2019, which begins on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The  
8 Council will also vote on a number of Land Use items  
9 today and here are some of the highlights. Gowanus  
10 Canal CSO facility. The Council will vote to approve  
11 an application by DEP to construct combined sewer  
12 overflow facilities to reduce the volume of untreated  
13 wastewater entering the Gowanus Canal. This project  
14 is located in Council Member Steve Levin's district.  
15 West 127<sup>th</sup> Street supportive housing. The Council  
16 will vote to approve a set of applications to build  
17 117 units of affordable and supportive housing with  
18 on-site supportive services. I'm really, really,  
19 really happy we're doing this. We need more  
20 supportive housing in the City of New York. That is  
21 how we're going to get out of this homelessness  
22 crisis. The project is located in Council Member  
23 bill Perkin's district. Taxi and Limousine  
24 Commission Office lease. The Council will vote on a  
25 motion to file the application to remove it from the

2 Council's calendar after it was withdrawn. This is  
3 in Council Member Fernando Cabrera's district.  
4 Moving on, the Council will vote on a number of  
5 critical pieces of legislation today. First, the  
6 Council will vote Introduction 754, sponsored by  
7 Council Member Rafael Espinal, which adds to  
8 additional members to the Nightlife Advisory Board  
9 increasing the total number of members from 12 to 14.  
10 I want to thank the staff who worked on this. I want  
11 to thank Balgees and I apologize if I don't get your  
12 last name correctly. I will get it eventually.  
13 Miharig. Kind of? Yes? Leah Skurpiac (sp?), and  
14 Andrew Wilbur. I want to thank the staff who worked  
15 on that bill. Next, the Council will vote on  
16 introduction 241-B sponsored by Public Advocate  
17 Letitia James, Manhattan Borough President Gale  
18 Brewer and myself, which this is a big deal. It's  
19 going to establish a new Charter Revision Commission  
20 to draft a new or revised Charter. The Commission  
21 would have appointees from wide array of city elected  
22 officials including the Mayor, all five borough  
23 presidents, the Public Advocate and the Comptroller  
24 as well as, of course, appointees from the Council.  
25 The commission created by this bill would not have a

2 predetermined set of issues to consider, but instead,  
3 would be empowered to examine broader questions of  
4 the structure of New York City government. I want to  
5 thank—I want to thank David Seitzer, Kelly Taylor,  
6 Brad Reed, Elizabeth Cronk, and Zachary Harris all  
7 here on the staff in the Legislative Division. And  
8 lastly, the Council is taking a major step today in  
9 protecting all especially women in the workplace with  
10 the Stop Sexual Harassment in New York City Act.  
11 With the Me Too and Time's Up Movements, we have seen  
12 that women are forces to be reckoned with and they  
13 have made their voices loud and clear on this issue  
14 demanding that enough is enough. The beginning, and  
15 this is the beginning hopefully of the end starts  
16 here in New York City with this comprehensive forward  
17 thinking package of bills. All New Yorkers are  
18 entitled to safe, respectful workplaces, and this  
19 package of legislation sends a strong message to the  
20 public, to public, to the—to the city government and  
21 private employers that there is no place for sexual  
22 harassment in our city. I want to thank my Council  
23 colleagues for their support in pushing this package  
24 of bill forward and leading the charge here in New  
25 York City. I am going to run through these bills

2 quickly. Before I do that I again want to thank  
3 Chair of the Committee on Women, Council Member Helen  
4 Rosenthal for her tremendous leadership on this  
5 package of bills not just the last three months, but  
6 over her four plus years in the body. She was a pit  
7 bull on negotiating these bills, strengthening them,  
8 amending them, and making sure they were the best  
9 they could be. Two of her bills are in here, but I  
10 really want to give her a tremendous amount of thanks  
11 for her leadership on this. [applause] Okay. So,  
12 we're going to run through these. My bill  
13 Introduction 612-A would require city agencies as  
14 well as the offices of the Borough Presidents,  
15 Comptroller and Public Advocate to conduct annual  
16 anti-sexual harassment training of all employees.

17 Introduction 613-A sponsored by Council  
18 Member Adrienne Adams would require city agencies as  
19 well again as the Office of the Borough Presidents,  
20 Comptroller and Public Advocate to conduct ongoing  
21 assessments of risk factors associated with sexual  
22 harassment at such agency in order to help provide a  
23 fair and safe work environment for city workers.

24 Introduction 614-A sponsored by Council  
25 Member Alicka Ampry-Samuel would require the New York

2 City Commission on Human Rights to conspicuously post  
3 on its website resources about sexual harassment  
4 including an explanation that sexual harassment is a  
5 form of unlawful discrimination under Local Law.

6 Introduction 630-A sponsored by Council  
7 Members Robert Cornegy and Majority Leader Lori Cumbo  
8 would require all employers in the city to  
9 conspicuously display an anti-sexual harassment  
10 rights and responsibility poster designed by the  
11 Commission on Human Rights. This poster would be  
12 designed to use in simple and understandable terms.

13 Introduction 632-A sponsored by Council  
14 Member and Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo and Public  
15 Advocate Letitia James would require all private  
16 employers in the city and this is—this is a big one.  
17 It would require all private employers in the city  
18 with 15 or more employees to conduct annual anti-  
19 sexual harassment interactive training for all  
20 employees of that employer including interns, and  
21 supervisory and managerial personnel after 90 days of  
22 being hired. Employers may use computer online  
23 training programs to satisfy the requirements of this  
24 bill. Introduction 653-A sponsored by member—Council  
25 Member Mark Levine, Jumaane Williams, Ritchie Torres,

2 and Fernando Cabrera would require city agencies as  
3 well again as the Offices of the Borough Presidents,  
4 Comptroller and the Public Advocate to annually  
5 report on incidences of workplace sexual harassment  
6 within city agencies to DCAS, the Department of  
7 Citywide Administrative Services.

8 Introduction 657-A sponsored by Council  
9 Member Keith Powers would amend the New York City  
10 Human Rights Law to apply provisions related to  
11 gender based discrimination to all employers  
12 regardless of the size, regardless of the number of  
13 employees that that employer provides jobs to.

14 Introduction 660-A, sponsored by Council  
15 Member Carlina Rivera, would amend the policy  
16 statement for the New York City Human Rights Law to  
17 expressly include sexual harassment as a form of  
18 discrimination that the New York City Human Right  
19 Commission would have the power to eliminate and  
20 prevent. Again, Chair Helen Rosenthal our Chair of  
21 the Committee on Women has two bills up for vote  
22 today: Introduction 663-A would amend the New York  
23 City Human Rights Law to increase the statute of  
24 limitations for filing harassment claims based on  
25 unwelcomed conduct that intimidates, interferes with,



2 oppresses, threatens, humiliates or degrades a person  
3 based on such a person's gender from one year to  
4 three years from the time the alleged harassment  
5 occurred. Let me say that again. In the past,  
6 people only had one year to file a claim. This is a  
7 big deal. It moves it from one year to three years  
8 so that victims of sexual harassment can file a claim  
9 and get the justice that they seek. Council Member  
10 Rosenthal also has a bill Introduction 664-A. It  
11 would require city agencies again as well as the  
12 Office of the Borough Presidents, Comptroller, and  
13 the Public Advocate to conduct climate surveys to  
14 assess the general awareness and knowledge--[coughs]  
15 excuse me--of the City's Equal Employment Opportunity  
16 policy including, but not limited to sexual  
17 harassment policies and prevention at all city  
18 agencies.

19 Introduction 693 sponsored by Council  
20 Member Jimmy Van Bramer, which this is a very  
21 creative, thoughtful, smart bill. All of them are,  
22 but this was--I'm really glad that he thought of this.  
23 It would require that contractors and subcontractors  
24 that apply for city contracts include the employment  
25 practices, policies and procedures as they relate to

2 preventing and addressing sexual harassment in the  
3 employment report required of proposed contractors  
4 and subcontractors. We are going to get a lot of  
5 information from all the folks that contract and  
6 subcontract with the city of New York. And finally,  
7 Resolution 222, sponsored by Council Member Daneek  
8 Miller calls upon Congress and the President to sign  
9 Senate Bill 2203 and House Resolution 2734 known as  
10 the Ending Force Arbitration of Sexual Harassment Act  
11 of 2017, which prohibits a pre-dispute arbitration  
12 agreement from being valid or enforceable if it  
13 requires arbitration of sex discrimination dispute  
14 related to sexual harassment or any type of other  
15 discrimination with the sex or gender. A lot of  
16 people worked on these bills. I want to thank the  
17 staff Aminta Kilawan, Malcolm Buhorn, Brenda  
18 McKinney, Daniel Kroop, Balquees Mohrig, Sheila  
19 Johnson, Andrea Vasquez, and Terza Nasser. I also  
20 want to thank Jeff Baker for his tremendous work.  
21 Laura Popa for her work, Rob Newman for his work, and  
22 the entire division who worked very, very hard on  
23 this, and here in the Council in the Committee of  
24 Rules, Privileges and Elections, chaired by Council  
25 Member and Chair Karen Koslowitz, this morning we

2 voted to amend the rules of this City Council. This  
3 resolution again would amend the Council's policies  
4 and practices to align with the slate of anti-sexual  
5 harassment bills that we are passing today. If we're  
6 going to pass this and require it for agencies or the  
7 public advocate or the Comptroller, or the borough  
8 presidents, we ourselves here at the Council will  
9 abide by all the same laws that we are passing here  
10 today. I want to thank the Counsel to the Rules  
11 Committee Elizabeth Guzman for her work in this rules  
12 change in the Council, and with that, that completes  
13 the highlights of our docket, and I look forward to  
14 proceeding with today's votes. I just want to  
15 finally say I'm really, really, really proud that the  
16 first major package of bills, eleven bills that we're  
17 passing here today, and a resolution and a rules  
18 change is related to sexual harassment. We have seen  
19 this in the media on almost a daily basis. We've  
20 seen and heard of the toll that it takes on victims  
21 predominantly women all across this country, and as  
22 some council member said at the pre-stated press  
23 conference: We know that this happens in city  
24 government. We know it happens at agencies across  
25 the city, and we have to take a real stark look in

2 the mirror to get the data to understand how  
3 invidious it is across city government, and also  
4 mandate new requirements of private employers as  
5 well. So, I am tremendously grateful to again Chair  
6 Rosenthal, and to all the women in the Council for  
7 their leadership on this and the men of the Council  
8 who have stood up as well, and I look forward to us  
9 passing this today, and with that, I turn it back to  
10 the Public Advocate. Thank you very much.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Congratulations  
12 Mr. Speaker. Discussion of General Orders beginning  
13 with Council Member Barron.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Madam  
15 Public Advocate. I just wanted to say that I want to  
16 thank this body for the work that we're doing and in  
17 that packet of M30 and Reso 297 this is a very  
18 important piece that's there, and you may have heard  
19 that when the decision down for the criminal trial  
20 that was being held in the case of the person accused  
21 of the attempted murder of Mikayla Capers and, in  
22 fact, the murder of Prince Joshua Avita, and the  
23 family received a favor—a favorable verdict. He was  
24 found guilty, but that's a bittersweet piece to this  
25 whole case, but I want to thank the Council working

2 with the Mayor's side to come up with the ability to  
3 resolve getting that money in place because we will  
4 now have a Prince Joshua Avita Community Center.  
5 It's done. It's completed. It's beautiful. It's  
6 got all kinds of—I've been told it has a college  
7 gymnasium space, which is different from other kinds  
8 of space. There are computer rooms there. There are  
9 social rooms, there are computer rooms. There's a  
10 sound room that's going to be there. It's a  
11 beautiful space, and it's dedicated to Prince Joshua  
12 Avito. So, I want to just thank this body. I want  
13 to thank the Speaker, and the staff that worked on  
14 making this a reality because it was very, very  
15 important to me, and to the community. So, we'll let  
16 you know when they're going to have the grand  
17 opening, and we'll invite all of you to be there.  
18 Thank you so much.

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

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you Madam  
22 Public Speaker. I'd like to congratulate the Speaker  
23 and my colleagues on the budget response they issued  
24 yesterday. There are a number of important issues  
25 highlighted in this year's response, and I'd like to

2 highlight two that I think are particularly relevant.  
3 One is the need for the city to invest in additional  
4 capital funds to reduce combined sewage overflows in  
5 our water. Additionally, we need to examine  
6 alternative means to treat CSO. While they are  
7 culmination—correlating our water bodies, they are  
8 asking to examine the methods such as outer water  
9 (sic) filtration. Thank you to and Environmental  
10 Chair Costa Constantinides for helping to advocate  
11 for these measures. Secondly, on the technology  
12 front, I'm grateful that we were able to advocate for  
13 the need to bridge the digital literacy gap. This  
14 would inject funding to computers at our senior  
15 centers including larger developments and computer  
16 literacy programs for families and children. I look  
17 forward to working with you all to make sure this  
18 year's budget is a win for all New Yorkers.

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

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you. I rise  
22 today to show my support for the tremendous package  
23 of bills that were generated by both the City Council  
24 and the Administration to put appropriate members in  
25 place to prevent and educate employees and employers,

2 which is now included in the Stop Sexual Harassment  
3 in New York City Act. This is what women in  
4 leadership looks like. The month of April marks our  
5 annual nationwide campaign on sexual assault  
6 awareness, a time when survivors and advocacy groups  
7 work to raise awareness surrounding the pervasive  
8 issues of sexual violence and educate the public  
9 about ways to prevent it. I want to congratulate  
10 Speaker Corey Johnson and Women's Committee Chair  
11 Helen Rosenthal after only serving in this position  
12 for four months has created groundbreaking herstory  
13 that is vibrating all throughout New York City, this  
14 nation and this worlds. You have answered a battle  
15 cry that women all over this world and men have  
16 booted and suited and taken to the streets to raise  
17 this very important issue that has impacted  
18 predominantly women for too long. The voices  
19 resonated through the Me Too and Time's Up Movements,  
20 which struck a cord in all of us. Stop sexual  
21 harassment in New York City Act marks only the  
22 beginning of our efforts to strengthen anti-sexual  
23 harassment training and expand sexual harassment  
24 protection to all employees. The Stop sexual  
25 harassment in New York City Act is an opportunity to

2 refine and introduce new practices that will foster a  
3 safer work environment for all New Yorkers in order  
4 to protect the workforce by enforcing human rights  
5 laws. As an advocate for women's right and gender  
6 equality, I am proud to have worked closely on  
7 several bills within the Stop Sex Harassment Act in  
8 New York City, and again, I can't thank Council  
9 Member Helen Rosenthal as well as Council Members  
10 Chin and Rivera for remarkable leadership after only  
11 a short time serving in their prospective positions.  
12 We have created herstory today [bell] and something  
13 we can all be proud of.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
15 Seeing none other, Report of Special Committees.

16 CLERK: None.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reports of  
18 Standing Committees.

19 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Civil  
20 and Human Rights, Intros 614-A, 657-A, 660-A and 663-  
21 A Anti-Sexual Harassment package.

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on  
23 General Orders.

24

25



2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Report of the  
3 Committee on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing,  
4 Preconsidered Intro 754 and Nightlife Advisory Board.

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
6 Orders.

7 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
8 Finance, Preconsidered Reso 271, organization  
9 funding.

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
11 Orders.

12 CLERK: M30 and Reso 297, Transfer of  
13 City Funds.

14 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
15 Orders.

16 CLERK: M31 and Reso 298, Appropriation  
17 of New Revenues.

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
19 Orders.

20 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
21 Governmental Operations, Intro 241-B establishing a  
22 Charter Revision Commission.

23 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on  
24 General Orders.

2 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land  
3 Use, LU36 Parking Garage.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Approved with  
5 modifications and referred to the City Planning  
6 Commission pursuant to Rule 11.7(b) of the Rules of  
7 the Council and Section 197-d of the New York City  
8 Charter.

9 CLERK: LU 37 and Reso 299 Zoning  
10 Amendment.

11 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
12 Orders.

13 CLERK: LU 38 and Reso 300 Sewer Overflow  
14 Control Facility.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
16 Orders.

17 CLERK: LU 41 and Reso 301 Tax Exemption.

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
19 Orders.

20 CLERK: LU 42 and Reso 302 UDAAP  
21 Manhattan.

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
23 Orders.

24 CLERK: LU-sorry. LU 43 and Reso 303  
25 Special Permit.

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2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
3 Orders.

4 CLERK: LU 44 and Reso 304 Sidewalk café.

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: A motion to disapprove.

6 CLERK: LU 50 and Reso 305 TLC Office  
7 Space,

8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled to be filed  
9 pursuant to a letter of withdrawal.

10 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Rules,  
11 Privileges and Elections Preconsidered Reso 272  
12 Amendment of the Council Rules.

13 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
14 Orders.

15 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Women  
16 Intros 612-A, 613-A, 630-A, 632-A, 653-A and 664-A  
17 Anti-Sexual Harassment package.

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended because of  
19 Helen Rosenthal and Coupled on General Orders.

20 CLERK: Intro 693 Division of Labor  
21 Services Reports.

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
23 Orders.

24 CLERK: On the General Order Calendar  
25 Intro 720 Site Safety Training.

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Laid over.

3 CLERK: LU 36 and Reso 306 Parking  
4 Garage.

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
6 Orders.

7 CLERK: Resolution appointing various  
8 person commissioner or deeds.

9 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
10 Orders, and I would ask for a roll call vote on all  
11 items on today's General Order Calendar.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the  
13 Chambers, please.

14 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down, please.

15 CLERK: Adams.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Permission to  
17 explain my vote?

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Thank you, Madam  
20 Public Advocate, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues of the  
21 New York City Council for the opportunity to say a  
22 few words about the historical, unprecedented package  
23 of legislation that we, the members of the New York  
24 City Council will vote on today. This vital  
25 legislation will place the mitigation of sexual

2 harassment in the workplace front and center for all  
3 New York City agencies, and I am very proud, very  
4 proud to have sponsored Intro 613-A, my first piece  
5 of legislation as part of this important packet.  
6 [cheers/applause] Under this bill, the Department of  
7 Citywide Administrative Services will be mandated to  
8 conduct an ongoing assessment of risk factors  
9 associated with workplace sexual harassment. The  
10 legislation will help provide a safe work environment  
11 for all city employees by identifying these  
12 predictors and by reviewing current agency policies,  
13 each agency will be able to develop and implement an  
14 action plan that will mitigate the risk of workplace  
15 sexual harassment. The Me Too Movement will not be  
16 forgotten, and every workplace should be free from  
17 sexual harassment. As a city—as a city, we must  
18 enact effective laws to combat sexual harassment and  
19 lead the way by guaranteeing a safe workplace, and I  
20 am so proud that this Council will indeed lead the  
21 way with implementation of this package. This  
22 legislation is just a first step. There is a lot  
23 more that need to be done, but this bill will benefit  
24 countless New Yorkers. I want to thank Speaker Corey  
25 Johnson for your insight and support, my courageous

2 colleagues who sponsored and co-sponsored parts of  
3 this vital legislation, and Council Member Helen  
4 Rosenthal for your tireless stalwart leadership of  
5 the women of this Council to bring groundbreaking  
6 legislation that will propel [bell] and fortify  
7 generations to come. Madam Public Advocate, I vote  
8 aye on all.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Madam Public Advocate,  
11 I'd like to, of course, congratulate Council Member  
12 Adams on her first piece of legislation as well as  
13 Council Members Rivera, Powers and Ampry-Samuel. All  
14 four are passing their first bills as Council  
15 Members, and I'd like to give them all a big round of  
16 applause. [cheers/applause]

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Continue with  
18 roll call.

19 CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Permission  
21 to explain my vote.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Oh, yes.

23 [laughs]

24 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Thank you  
25 for this opportunity. As a member of the Women's

2 Caucus, a mother, a daughter, a sister, a wife and  
3 yet another woman with her own Me Too story, I was  
4 proud to sponsor my first piece of legislation in  
5 Intro 614-A that will require the New York City  
6 Commission on Human Rights post information about  
7 sexual harassment policy and complaint procedure  
8 online for public access. This bill is quite simple  
9 and it just makes sense. It's also and almost  
10 intriguing that such a bill is necessary in this day  
11 and time. Sexual harassment is a serious and is  
12 prevalent within the workplace, and while doing your  
13 job in some cases hoping to just make ends meet or in  
14 other cases focusing on climbing the career ladder,  
15 one should not have to also worry about sexual  
16 harassment. Taking it a step further, one should not  
17 be subjected to the humiliating process of seeking  
18 out resources generally posted in open and public  
19 places, in the employee breakroom, over the water  
20 cooler, in the corner of a kitchenette, the typical  
21 places where we find these items, but thankfully now  
22 we live in a digital age where information is  
23 literally at our very own fingertips and available to  
24 people in an instant. This legislation affords  
25 victims the opportunity to speak privately and to an

2 expert who has compassion for their situation versus  
3 an HR representative who may not be familiar with  
4 their process, and helping to coach them along the  
5 way. It's an online 24/7 discrete process, discrete  
6 access. And so, I am just—just privileged and proud  
7 to be able to introduce this legislation because  
8 again, it just makes sense and I thank the Speaker  
9 for this opportunity as well as Council Member  
10 Rosenthal for all of your hard work and dedication as  
11 well as my co-sponsors on 614-A and I look forward to  
12 it passing and becoming law. Thank you.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Congratulations.  
14 How do you vote, Council Member.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: I vote aye  
16 on all.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

18 [laughs]

19 CLERK: Ayala.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye on all.

21 CLERK: Barron.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye on  
23 all.

24 CLERK: Borelli.



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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Congrats to the  
3 quartet. I vote aye on all except intro 632 and M30  
4 and accompanying Reso 297.

5 CLERK: Brannan.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye on all.

7 CLERK: Cabrera.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye on all.

9 CLERK: Chin.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Congratulations to  
11 all my colleagues on their important legislation. I  
12 proudly vote aye on all.

13 CLERK: Cohen.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

15 CLERK: Constantinides.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye on  
17 all.

18 CLERK: Cornegy.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I vote aye.

20 CLERK: Deutsch.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: I vote like  
22 Cornegy, aye. [laughter]

23 CLERK: Diaz.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Aye on all.

25 CLERK: Espinal.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye on all.

3 CLERK: Eugene.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.

5 CLERK: Gibson.

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

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you Madam  
10 Public Advocate. Good afternoon to all of my  
11 colleagues, and I want to join with all of you in  
12 expressing my sincere gratitude to our Speaker Corey  
13 Johnson, to our Chair of the Committee on Women,  
14 Council Member Helen Rosenthal and all of my dynamic  
15 sisters in the Women's Caucus, and all of my  
16 colleagues for really supporting a very comprehensive  
17 package to stop sexual harassment in New York City,  
18 and truly this act and this package of legislation  
19 that we're passing today, reaffirms this body's  
20 commitment. Not only are we going to talk the talk,  
21 but we are going to walk the walk, and we are going  
22 to be doers of the word, and hold ourselves  
23 accountable to higher standards of ensuring that all  
24 public servants are treated equally and fairly in  
25 safe workplace and a safe environment. And while

2 we've seen al of these movements and hashtags across  
3 the country and in society, certainly we never want  
4 to be reactionary, but we recognize the time and  
5 place as a purpose that we have as legislators and  
6 public servants, and so to all of the women and men  
7 out there that hear us that don't think anyone cares,  
8 don't think that we're not doing anything. We hear  
9 you and we see you, and today's package of  
10 legislation reaffirms that commitment that we are  
11 going to make sure that city agencies as well as this  
12 City Council holds itself a higher lever-level and  
13 standard of treatment, and making sure that everyone  
14 is treated fairly in this society. So, I am very  
15 proud of this City Council. We have started on a  
16 very ambitious agenda in this term and I look forward  
17 to much more legislation and budget priorities that  
18 will come out of this Council that relate to creating  
19 a safe workplace and environment for all public  
20 servants. So, congratulations to all of my  
21 colleagues, certainly to all of my colleagues who are  
22 passing their first bill. We all remember that time,  
23 and it's really a great honor and privilege and I am  
24 proud to vote [bell] aye on all Congratulations.

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

2 CLERK: Gjonaj.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Aye on all.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

5 CLERK: Grodenchik.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Permission to  
7 explain my vote---

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: --Madam  
10 Public Advocate. Thank you.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, sir.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: I want to  
13 congratulate all those people who worked so hard to  
14 pass this package of bills to promote sexual equality  
15 and to stamp out the problems that women face in the  
16 workplace. I have worked for five elected officials  
17 in my career. Four of them were women. My mentor is  
18 former Assemblywoman Nettie Mayersohn, Borough  
19 President Claire Shulman and the late great Helen  
20 Marshall, our former Borough President and the  
21 current Borough President Melinda Katz, and I never  
22 had to face that problem with any of them, and I hope  
23 that the people that work for the city of New York  
24 and the people that work in the city of New York  
25 especially the women they should never have to go

2 through that. On a lighter not, Madam Public  
3 Advocate, and I asked you this question before.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: You did.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Nine and one  
6 guys. [background comments] I want to congratulate  
7 you all. [laughter] For those going to Israel, have a  
8 safe trip and come back to us soon, and with that,  
9 Madam Public Advocate, I vote aye on all.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you so  
11 much.

12 CLERK: Holden.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye on all.

14 CLERK: Kallos.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Congratulations  
16 to my colleagues especially the freshmen for setting  
17 and perhaps shattering whatever records may have  
18 existed at 101 days to their first bills. I vote aye  
19 on all.

20 CLERK: King. King.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Congratulations to  
22 everyone on passing their pieces of legislation and  
23 improve the city of New York. I vote aye on all.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

25 CLERK: Koo.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote aye on all.

3 CLERK: Koslowitz.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Can I please  
5 explain my vote?

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I want to  
8 thank the people that passed this legislation. This  
9 legislation is long overdue, years and years and  
10 years and years. I want to thank the Speaker for  
11 allowing this legislation and supporting this  
12 legislation to happen today, and to Helen Rosenthal,  
13 you rock. I vote aye.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

15 CLERK: Lancman.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

17 CLERK: Levin.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: With  
19 congratulations to all of my colleagues in particular  
20 Council Member Chair Rosenthal on this very important  
21 set of bills, I proudly vote aye on all and  
22 congratulations.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

24 CLERK: Levine.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Madam Public  
3 Advocate, permission to very briefly explain my vote.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Well, I will be,  
6 of course, voting aye on all, and I just want to  
7 congratulate our Speaker and our wonder Women's Chair  
8 who have prioritized attacking the scourge of sexual  
9 harassment in our first major package of bills, and I  
10 want to say how pleased I am to be a lead sponsor of  
11 Intro-I actually know this number by how-653-A, which  
12 will bring to light the numbers that have alluded us  
13 as policy makers that alluded the press and the  
14 public. We don't know today how many incidents of  
15 sexual harassment occur in our vast municipal  
16 workforce. We need to know these numbers, and we  
17 will thanks to this bill that will require reporting  
18 on the number of complaints filed related to sexual  
19 harassment, those that are resolved, those that are  
20 substantiated, and other important details that will  
21 shin a light on the terrible epidemic that has  
22 inspired the Me Too Movement. Again, I will proudly  
23 be voting aye on all, and I am proud to be part of  
24 this incredible package today. Thank you.

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

2 CLERK: Maisel.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

4 CLERK: Menchaca.

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

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: I also want to  
9 thank all of the new members of the Council on their  
10 first pieces of legislation. I also just want to  
11 thank Council Member Helen Rosenthal she continues to  
12 I think not only lead with inspiration, but she leads  
13 with consistency and one of the things that she keeps  
14 on saying that I want to say over and over again how  
15 important it is to have women in this—on this body.  
16 And so, I join her, and want to say how important it  
17 is that today women-led and today not only do women  
18 lead, we need more women in the City Council. And  
19 so, I want to join her in making that happen. I vote  
20 aye on all.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

22 CLERK: Miller.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Permission to  
24 explain.

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.



2 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: First of all, I'd  
3 like to congratulate my colleagues on this  
4 comprehensive and unambiguous legislation that was  
5 passed—being passed today, and also I'd like to  
6 remind everyone in the Chambers here that 50 years  
7 ago today, the 1968 Civil Rights bill was signed in  
8 particular around fair housing, and thank God for  
9 President Johnson and those that were in power in  
10 1968. Certainly we need it now, and with that I vote  
11 aye on all.

12 CLERK: Moya.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Aye on all.

14 CLERK: Perkins.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Aye on all.

16 CLERK: Powers.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye on all, but  
18 permission to explain my vote.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: So, First of all,  
21 I—I want to congratulate my—my colleagues as well on  
22 their new and first bills, and I'm very excited to as  
23 well. I'll be joining them in passing a first, my  
24 first bill related to sexual harassment. I wanted to  
25 thank the Speaker, Council Member Rosenthal and all

2 of my colleagues for taking to make-making history  
3 today in the New York City Council to advance  
4 additional protections for all employers in the city-  
5 in the city, and also to take a step to make sure the  
6 City Council itself adheres to those same rules as  
7 well, which I think has been understated here, but  
8 important. So, congratulations. I'd be remiss to  
9 not mention just the concerns I stated earlier with  
10 the budget modification both from the school bus  
11 grants side, which I think I know a number of  
12 colleagues also share concerns about our continuation  
13 of that program, but also I wanted to say thank you  
14 to our chair of the Finance Committee, Danny Dromm  
15 and the Speaker for, you know, shedding light on the  
16 idea that our budget process. We can do better,  
17 getting a billion dollars handed to us with a-with a,  
18 you know, with a yes or no vote I think has real  
19 implications for how we spend money in the city, and  
20 I think that the Council has shown our willingness to  
21 look at budget process and to do it differently. I  
22 just want to express my concern for the individual  
23 items in there. Also the process and it sounds like  
24 we have a commitment to do things differently and I-I

2 appreciate that. I hope my colleagues will join me  
3 in those concerns. Thank you.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

5 CLERK: Reynoso.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I'd like to vote  
7 aye on all with the exception of Land Use No. 44 and  
8 Resolution No. 304 and congratulations to my  
9 colleagues.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

11 CLERK: Richards.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I vote aye.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

14 CLERK: Rivera.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Permission to  
16 explain my vote?

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes. It's great.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Okay. Thank you,

19 Speaker Johnson and my colleagues for this big  
20 historic moment. My first bill intro 660-A. Thank  
21 you. Thanks Barry. -will strengthen the law because  
22 we should be at the front of this movement. Our city  
23 should be at the front of this movement. I joined  
24 the Council because I know there are individuals who  
25 have remained in the shadow and survived experiences

2 of sexual misconduct. I became co-chair of the  
3 Women's Caucus to push on tough issues related to  
4 equality. We owe it to New Yorkers to codify  
5 protections and make it clear that harassment is not  
6 welcome here. Thank you all for your support. It's  
7 a big day, and with that, I vote aye on all.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
9 Congratulations.

10 CLERK: Rodriguez.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

13 CLERK: Rose.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye and  
15 congratulation to all my colleagues in the Women's  
16 Caucus for this groundbreaking legislation. Thank  
17 you.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

19 [background comments]

20 CLERK: Rosenthal.

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

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, Madam Chair.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: First of all,  
25 I want to say that I believe I've achieved my goal in

2 life. So, I'm not sure why I have to come to work  
3 any more. Karen Koslowitz has said that I rock.  
4 [laughter] Thank you for that. [background  
5 comments] I don't think she's ever said that to  
6 anyone. [laughter] But I'm aware of it [laughter]  
7 except for Corey. So, I just want to say—express my  
8 gratitude to all my colleagues for their enthusiasm,  
9 their willingness to dive in and get this done fast.  
10 Speaker Johnson's 11-bill package, the Stop Sexual  
11 Harassment in New York City Act reflects his  
12 unwavering commitment to those who have gravely come  
13 forward in the Me Too Movement. Let's be clear, this  
14 sweeping package of legislation with this we are not  
15 checking a box. Other localities, other states have  
16 been forced to pass some bills, and they have, but  
17 all they've done is check the box. We're not doing  
18 that here today. That's thanks to everyone's  
19 participation, but specifically I'd like to thank  
20 Terza Nasser (sp?) and her entire team who fought  
21 tirelessly to ensure that these bill were legal and  
22 they would be groundbreaking and they are, but be  
23 clear, this package of bills this is just the  
24 beginning. We've taken the first baby step to  
25 writing this historical wrong, but there is more to

2 do. [bell] There's more work to do for specific  
3 industries, and more work to do to make sure that  
4 women, people who are disadvantaged in some way,  
5 people who don't always have a voice. People in the  
6 LGBTQ community, trans women that they will be  
7 protected. That's what makes this so powerful, and  
8 I—as I said earlier, when I came to Speaker Johnson  
9 after he appointed me as Chair of the Committee on  
10 Women, the first thing out of my mouth was could we  
11 have our first hearing be about the sexual harassment  
12 in the workplace area issues and he said, yeah, I  
13 already thought about it. Done. The legal staff is  
14 working on it. People are submitting those left and  
15 right. You were a step in front of me, and I  
16 appreciate your commitment and your commitment to  
17 make sure these would be excellent bills and they  
18 are. So, thank so much for that.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Congratulations.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Oh, and I vote  
23 aye on all.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

25 CLERK: Torres.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Helen, you do  
3 rock and I vote aye. Thank you.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [laughs]

5 CLERK: Torres. Treyger.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: With  
7 congratulations to Council Members Rosenthal, Adams,  
8 Ampry-Samuel, Rivera, Powers and to Speaker Corey  
9 Johnson, I vote aye on all.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

11 CLERK: Ulrich.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye on all  
13 with the exception of M30 and accompanying Reso 297.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

15 CLERK: Vallone.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: I vote aye on  
17 all with the exception of M30 and accompanying  
18 Resolution 297, and congratulations to my colleague  
19 on your first bills.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

21 CLERK: Van Bramer.

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

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you  
3 very much. First of all, I want to thank the Speaker  
4 for his very kind words about all of the pieces of-of  
5 legislation here, and his-his very generous  
6 description of Intro 693, a bill I'm very proud to  
7 sponsor as part of this incredible package. I want to  
8 recognize the women who indeed have led us through  
9 this incredibly important package most especially, of  
10 course, Chair Rosenthal for her steadfast work on  
11 this, and I talked a little bit before at that Pre-  
12 Stated press conference about experiences that I had  
13 had as a young man in a non-profit organization where  
14 my boss started with inappropriate comments, which  
15 led to inappropriate touching and then even more  
16 inappropriate conduct, which led me to file a  
17 complaint at only 20 years of age. Of course, those  
18 experiences are far more common in women both in this  
19 body and in this room and throughout society have had  
20 to confront those issues sometimes on a daily basis  
21 for generations. It is a about time, way past time  
22 that we, all of us take a stand to eradicate sexual  
23 harassment and end a culture where this kind of  
24 behavior is encouraged, tolerated and even pushed  
25 aside and hidden when it is uncovered. So, it's



2 incredibly important that all of these pieces of  
3 legislation begin the process of reckoning here in  
4 the city of New York, and I'm proud to be a part of  
5 this package with all of my colleagues. Intro 693 in  
6 particular, as the Speaker said, amends the—the  
7 Charter and requires that the reporting to the  
8 Division of Labor, Service Employment include [bell]  
9 for all contractors, subcontractors, those receiving  
10 funding their practice, policies and procedures as  
11 they relate to preventing and addressing sexual  
12 harassment. Again, congratulations to all of my  
13 colleagues particularly those who are passing their  
14 first piece of legislation. But again, this is  
15 historic, and I'm proud to be a part of this body.  
16 Thank you.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. How do  
18 you vote?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I vote aye on  
20 all.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

22 CLERK: Williams.

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

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you.

3 Obviously, congratulations to all the first-timers,  
4 and I thank the Speaker for shipping these pieces so  
5 quickly and special shout-out, of course to the Chair  
6 Council Member Rosenthal who steadfastly moved  
7 everything through with the Me Too Movement and the  
8 No More Movement, as I mentioned downstairs as a male  
9 trying to figure out what I can do to assist, I  
10 realized the best thing to do was to do to listen, to  
11 hear contently, and to believe and try to be an ally  
12 wait-awating marching orders in what to do. It was  
13 also eye-opening as I spoke to the women around me to  
14 realize that the things we were hearing on the news  
15 were not one-off stories, but it was a culture that  
16 was allowed to fester for far too long just being  
17 there in plain-hiding in plain sight. One of the  
18 best ways to bring an ally was to do the best that I  
19 could to add to fixing that culture. So, I'm proud  
20 to be a co-prime sponsor to 653, which Council Member  
21 Levine is the prime sponsor. Providing that research  
22 I think will help bring some of these things to  
23 light. I just-maybe it could be part of a body that  
24 as the Chairwoman mentioned we would not just check  
25 the box. We'll fundamentally do all that we can to

2 change the structure, and my hope is that the lesson  
3 here is many—there were many signs that these things  
4 were going on, and people did not do what we're doing  
5 now, and there's probably many signs of other things  
6 that are culturally keeping people feeling oppressed  
7 and their voice not getting heard. Let's not wait  
8 for another few decades to change those as well.  
9 With that, I'm very proud to vote aye on all.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

11 CLERK: Yeger.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: [off mic] Can I  
13 explain [on mic] my vote?

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you, Madam  
16 President. We speak often about that we want this  
17 Council to be an equal branch of government and we,  
18 our colleagues here, my colleagues here, Council  
19 Members who came before us have spoke about that over  
20 the last 30 years. We've worked very hard, and those  
21 who came before me have worked very hard to make that  
22 happen, and on a day like today, when this Council  
23 passed a legendary I believe will be proven set of  
24 bills and congratulations on that. I'm also  
25 concerned that we're passing a bill that I think we

2 can be institutional with the Council. We're passing  
3 the bill today that will with Charter Revision  
4 Commission that will name 15 players to be named  
5 later, outsourcing the work that we were sent here to  
6 do, that I was sent here to do to write laws for the  
7 City of New York. Now, we're outsourcing this work  
8 to 15 people who we don't know who they are I don't  
9 know who they are, and I'm not prepared to offer my  
10 vote in support of a commission that outsources the  
11 work that I was sent here to do to an unelected and  
12 unrepresentative group. Now, to be very clear, this  
13 Council has the right to amend the Charter. In fact,  
14 we're doing so today. We voted on a bill. It's  
15 going to pass to amend the Charter. This Council  
16 since January has no fewer than 83 measures pending  
17 to ament the Charter sponsored by 30 members of this  
18 body including Mr. Speaker, the Public Advocate, so  
19 many of my colleagues who have very, very wise ideas  
20 about things that we should be doing within the  
21 Charter to make it a better document, and that's our  
22 job. That's what we were sent here to do. That's  
23 what I was sent here to do. My concern is that we're  
24 also taking \$2.3 million out of taxpayers' pockets to  
25 pay for this Charter Revision Commission; \$1.7

2 million in the budget that we voted on last week. I  
3 voted against it for many reasons including this one  
4 where we voted on an \$81 million budget for this  
5 Council, an increase of \$17 million or 27% above what  
6 this council had spent last year, which included  
7 [bell] \$1.7 million of-and a total of \$2.3 for the  
8 Charter Revision Commission. I think we can do a lot  
9 better with that money. I think there are people in  
10 the city who need food. I think there are people in  
11 the city who need housing. I think there are people  
12 in the city who need jobs, who need training. I  
13 think we've proven in this Council that NYCHA needs a  
14 lot of work. I think we've proven in this Council  
15 that the Police Department needs resources, that our  
16 Fire Departments need resources, that our schools and  
17 our libraries need resources, but instead, we've  
18 chosen to take \$2.3 million and put it into a Charter  
19 Revision Commission. That is \$1.2 million above what  
20 this Council has budgeted to spend on its own  
21 legislative drafting team. We will spend a little  
22 over a million dollars on our own legislative  
23 drafting team. We will take \$2.3 million and give it  
24 over to a Charter Revision Commission that will be  
25 doing the job that I was sent here to do. So, I will

2 be voting no, Madam President on Intro 241-B with  
3 great respect for my colleagues who have chosen to  
4 vote a different way, and I understand that  
5 tremendously, and I also vote no on LU 38 and  
6 accompanying Resolution 300. Thank you.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

8 CLERK: Matteo.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: I'm voting no on  
10 632 and no on M30 with accompanying Reso 297 and aye  
11 on the rest.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

13 CLERK: Cumbo.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I proudly vote  
15 aye.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

17 CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I again want to thank  
19 the staff here because the staff spent an enormous,  
20 enormous amount of time working on this package of  
21 bills. They looked at what was happening around the  
22 country. They engaged in real negotiations with the  
23 Administration on the other side of City Hall. They  
24 have done so much work on this as, Chair Rosenthal  
25 will tell you as she acknowledged them and thanked

2 them. So, I really just want to give another big  
3 round of applause to all the attorneys and policy  
4 analysts [cheers/applause] here who worked on this  
5 package of bills. If they could stand up all the  
6 folks who have been sitting in the back who worked on  
7 these bills that would be great to acknowledge all of  
8 them. Thank you very much. I want to thank Peter  
9 Koo for wearing a leather jacket and sneakers  
10 [laughter] at the City Hall here today. He is giving  
11 us all a new sense of style, and with that this  
12 meeting of the Council is now adjourned.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Oh, no, no, no,  
14 no, no, no, no.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: We've got general  
16 discussion?

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: We've got—we've  
18 got—we've go a--

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: [interposing] Reso.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: We've got our--

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: We've got a reso.

22 Okay.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: We have a  
24 resolution. We have general discussion and we also  
25 have to give--

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: [interposing] No one  
3 better want to talk, Barry.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing] And  
5 we also have to give the results.

6 FEMALE SPEAKER: Yes.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All items on  
8 today's General Order Calendar were adopted by a vote  
9 of 50 in the affirmative, 0 negative and 0  
10 abstentions with the exception of M30 and Resolution  
11 297, which was adopted by a vote a 46 in the  
12 affirmative, 4 negative and 0 abstentions, and Intro  
13 632-A, which was adopted by a vote of 48 in the  
14 affirmative, 2 negative and 0 abstentions, and LU 44,  
15 Resolution 303, which was adopted by a vote of 49 in  
16 the affirmative, 1 negative and 0 abstentions and  
17 Intro 241-B, which was adopted by a vote of 49 in the  
18 affirmative, 1 negative, 0 abstentions and LU 38 and  
19 accompanying Resolution 300, which was adopted by a  
20 vote of 49 in the affirmative, 1 negative and 0  
21 abstentions, and now, Mr. Speaker, Introduction and  
22 Reading of Bills.

23 SPEAKER JOHNSON: All bills are referred  
24 to committees as indicated on the agenda.



2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And now for  
3 discussion of resolution, Resolution 222, a  
4 resolution which reads—which reads as follows: A  
5 Resolution calling upon the Untied States Congress to  
6 pass and the President to sign Senate 2203 and HR4734  
7 known as the Ending Forced Arbitration of Sexual  
8 Harassment Act of 2017, which prohibits a pre-dispute  
9 arbitration agreement from being valid or enforceable  
10 if it requires arbitration of a sex discrimination  
11 dispute. I think about Story Daniels.(sic) All  
12 those in favor say aye.

13 COUNCIL MEMBERS: [in unison] Aye

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All of those  
15 opposed? Any abstentions? The ayes have it, and now  
16 the general discussion beginning with Council Member  
17 Barron.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Madam  
19 Public Advocate. I just want to talk briefly about  
20 Madikizela, as most of you know as Winnie Mandela.  
21 She's known as the mother of the nation of South  
22 Africa. She was an elegant woman, an elegant—an  
23 elegant woman, an eloquent speaker, and a fearless  
24 warrior. She's mainly known as the wife of Nelson  
25 Mandela, but in her own right she was quite

2 accomplished. She was trained as a social worker.  
3 She graduated at the top of her class, and was  
4 offered a scholarship to come and study in the United  
5 States, but she turned it down and stayed with her  
6 people because they were engaged in the Battle for  
7 the Liberation. The system of apartheid had  
8 oppressed and suppressed and murdered many people,  
9 and she became that spokesperson, the face and the  
10 voice of the ANC while he husband Nelson Mandela was  
11 incarcerated. At this Soweto Uprising, several  
12 hundred children gathered to protest the fact that  
13 they were being forced to learn their subjects in the  
14 language of the oppressor, and the 10-year-old Hector  
15 Peterson was killed at that time along with several  
16 hundred other children who were protesting. She was  
17 an outstanding member of the African National  
18 Congress, and she endured many oppressive acts by  
19 that regime. She was held under house arrest. Her  
20 husband was in prison, as we know for 27 years. She  
21 was separated from her children. She was banished to  
22 another county where they did not speak the same  
23 language. She imprisoned and yes she was tortured,  
24 but she was an advocate for the disposed, the  
25 dispossessed and the marginalized, and she was know

2 as the voice of the people. And in her final days  
3 that she said that they needed to continue the work  
4 of returning the land to the people, and she said  
5 that work must continue because there were many  
6 shortfalls in that. Additionally, I just want to  
7 call my colleagues' attention to Intro 742, which  
8 talks about access to bathrooms in those public  
9 facilities—non-public areas of an agency and also the  
10 justice system, which is a bill that says that those  
11 who are wrongly incarcerated and are vindicated  
12 should not have to pay any accumulated child support,  
13 but that, in fact that should be a responsibility of  
14 the local government. And I want to thank my  
15 colleagues Reynoso and Espinal for co-sponsoring that  
16 bill, and also call your attention to Reso 269 and  
17 27–270. Thank you.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: We want to thank  
19 Reverend Karen Daughtry for her event last night  
20 honoring Winnie Mandela and members of SASA. Council  
21 Member Gibson.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you, Madam  
23 Public Advocate and out colleagues. I want to call  
24 your attention to four bills I'm introducing today  
25 two bills that seek to address the overcrowding in

2 our city's public schools by improving the school  
3 siting process. Intro 759 would flat ULURP projects  
4 that meet certain requirements including the lot size  
5 for SCA as a possible school sites. Intro 757 would  
6 create a broad interagency task force on school  
7 siting including members from DOE, SCA, DCP, EDC, HPD  
8 and DCAS as well as a representative on behalf of the  
9 City Council. SCA does tremendously good work, but  
10 we certainly we certainly can agree on improvements  
11 when it comes to school siting. Many of our  
12 communities have a clear need for more schools and we  
13 must be creative in our approach to address  
14 overcrowding in our city. In addition, I'm  
15 introducing Intro 760, which increases the city's  
16 ability to track and monitor officers who are accused  
17 of wrongdoing. Currently the CCRB, the Law  
18 Department, NYPD, and the Comptroller all take  
19 complaints from the public regarding police officer  
20 misconduct. Without an information sharing system,  
21 we're missing a valuable step in our efforts to  
22 address early warning signs of troubling behavior and  
23 limiting our ability to get those problem officers  
24 and of our communities. By creating this online  
25 information system run by the NYPD, we can improve

2 public safety and do more to restore the public  
3 space. Finally, the last bill Intro 758 directs the  
4 Office of the Medical Examiner to check missing  
5 persons reports prior to a city burial for an  
6 unidentified person. This is really a common sense  
7 measure that has the potential to bring peace and  
8 closure to many families across our city. I believe  
9 it's important and necessary to direct the Medical  
10 Examiner's Office to follow this protocol and  
11 ultimately codify it in law and as I close on a  
12 personal note, I want to thank the Speaker and all of  
13 my colleagues and Madam Public Advocate for your  
14 thoughts, and your prayers of condolence for my  
15 family and I as we mourn the loss of my aunt that  
16 that passed a few days ago.. So, thank you so much  
17 for your love, your support, and ask you to continue  
18 to keep us in prayer. Thank you, Madam Public  
19 Advocate.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: She's in our  
21 thoughts and our prayers. Council Member Levine.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you, Madam  
23 Public Advocate. I'm pleased to be introducing a  
24 bill today that will require the Department of  
25 Education to report on foreign language education in

2 our schools. You know, this is the most multi-  
3 lingual Council in this body's history. We have  
4 colleagues who speak every language from Spanish to  
5 Russian to Creole to Yiddish to Albanian and many  
6 others, and you all know the power of being bilingual  
7 and how it can change a person's life. Far too few  
8 of our young people are receiving that gift, and in  
9 part it's because we teach foreign languages  
10 backwards in this city. Most children get no foreign  
11 language education until high school when it's too  
12 late to absorb it as a native speaker. Very, very,  
13 very few receive foreign language education in  
14 elementary school when it's easy to absorb a new  
15 language and achieve native speaker fluency. We need  
16 answers to just how many children are receiving this  
17 vital instruction as tool for pushing the DOE to do  
18 more. Thank you.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member  
20 Cabrera.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Than you so  
22 much, Madam Public Advocate. Today I'm introducing  
23 two bills. The first, Intro 747 will prohibit any  
24 candidate for public office who have been convicted  
25 of certain felonies related to public corruption and

2 fraud from receiving public matching funds. The  
3 second bill Intro 748 is of critical importance to  
4 the thousands of people who make a living and support  
5 their family as livery drivers. This legislation  
6 seeks to alleviate the administrative and financial  
7 burdens imposed on livery drivers subject to OATH  
8 hearings. Livery drivers are under extreme pressure  
9 from many sources. We have seen several suicides of  
10 livery drivers in recent months in certain  
11 communities. The growing tension among drivers from  
12 unfair administrative and financial burdens related  
13 to violation hearings threatens to reach a boiling  
14 point. The bill will impose certain procedural  
15 requirements on OATH related to hearings on  
16 violations of TLC laws and regulations. It would  
17 require petitioners to appear in person or through a  
18 representative of remotely or remotely at a hearing.  
19 Grant Oath Administrative judges and hearing officers  
20 discretion to reduce penalties in the interest of  
21 justice. Require judges and hearing officers to  
22 dismiss a double-duplicate notice of notice of  
23 violation, which is a huge issue nowadays where  
24 they're getting double tickets, one from TLC and  
25 another ticket from the NYPD. It's almost like

2 double jeopardy here. Require that a hearing begin  
3 within three hours and prohibit TLC involvement in  
4 the appeal of OATH penalty decision as set for  
5 respondents' petitions to lower TLC penalties. Thank  
6 you so much.

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

9 marijuana CUMBO: Thank you, Public  
10 Advocate. I extend my condolences as well to the  
11 people of South Africa and all people throughout the  
12 Diaspora as well as those who recognize that there  
13 existence should not depend on the oppression of  
14 others on the recent passing of freedom fighter  
15 Winnie Mandela. May call the attainment of freedom  
16 the hallmark of every great nation. So, it is in  
17 this spirit that I honor Winnie for her tireless  
18 efforts and deep devotion to ending one of the most  
19 brutal forms of government we have seen in Apartheid  
20 and inspiring thousands to stand up and to fight for  
21 freedom against an oppressive and racist regime. The  
22 end result being a unique identify, basic human  
23 rights for all, and above all, peace and harmony. I  
24 was truly inspired by her efforts. She showed what  
25 revolutionary leadership looked like, and to be a



2 woman inspired women all throughout the world. She  
3 endured brutality, torture, detainment, and so many  
4 other forms of brutality against her during her time,  
5 and never really quite receiving the credit for  
6 ending Apartheid in South Africa. On January 23,  
7 2018, we also last-lost Hugh Masekela, a huge giant  
8 in the Anti-Apartheid Movement, who also spent three  
9 decades in exile. They are giants that have  
10 expressed leadership that we do not know often. They  
11 were brutalized, tortured many of them spending years  
12 such as Nelson Mandela in prison for over 27 years.  
13 I also want to note in the Diaspora in just a few  
14 short days, 17 days approximately, 112 of our Chebat  
15 girls would have been at Boko Haram captivity for  
16 four years. It is important that we continue to  
17 remember them, and I also at this time want to bring  
18 attention and that we recognize--

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

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: --Sahid Bassel.  
22 Sahid Bassel was shot and killed unfortunately on the  
23 border of my district as well as Council Member  
24 Alicka Samuels and I want to thank her for her  
25 leadership because we have to continue to do more to

2 fight, to work together, to come up with greater  
3 solutions to challenge our entire system to make sure  
4 that we work together to protect those that have  
5 mental challenges within our community. We have to  
6 work together to make sure that we create safe  
7 environments so that we can protect those who have  
8 mental challenges in our community. My heart goes  
9 out to the Bassel community, and I hope that we as a  
10 Council continue to find solutions to make sure that  
11 the Sahids of our community are protected and safe  
12 and given all the resources that they can to lead  
13 productive and happy lives. Thank you.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
15 Council Member Powers, and thank you Council Member  
16 Cumbo.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: I will be quickly  
18 not to ruin a great picture ahead. I am introducing  
19 a resolution today to ask the federal government to  
20 eliminate the question around citizenship on the  
21 20/20 Census. I'd ask all my colleagues to join in  
22 supporting that. Second, I have introduced a package  
23 of legislation around the Campaign Finance program,  
24 and which would make everything a little bit easier  
25 for people to run for office, and similarly would ask

2 people to sign on. I want to thank Council Member  
3 Ayala, Kallos, Lander, Holden--and I think there's  
4 somebody I missed--for signing on as co-sponsors to  
5 our legislation as well. Thank you.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member  
7 Rose, do you want to use that microphone as well?  
8 [laughter]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you, the  
10 community mic. I want to ask my colleagues to  
11 support a bill today Preconsidered Intro 784. It  
12 requires beginning in January 2019 that the NYPD use  
13 evidence-based staffing for its SVD [cheers] Special  
14 Victims Division, and report SVD staffing levels to  
15 the Council and the Mayor with the number of cases  
16 officers and investigative hours disaggregated by  
17 borough and unit, and where applicable, disaggregated  
18 by the charged offense and severity of offense and  
19 rank of officers. In the advent of Me Too and women  
20 and men are coming forward to share stories of past  
21 incidents of sexual abuse, and with the new campaign  
22 by the NYPD encouraging people to report incidents of  
23 sexual abuse it is critically important that we have  
24 appropriate staffing levels. In a recently report  
25 released by the DOE-DOI on adult sex crimes, it was

2 revealed that while most crimes in New York City are  
3 reported to the police over 70% of the time, sexual  
4 assaults are reported only 5 to 20% of the time.  
5 There are many reasons why this happens one of which  
6 is—which may be that once reported, victims often see  
7 no results as cases languish without resolution  
8 because SVD units are understaffed and will  
9 reconsidered 784 will facilitate the process by which  
10 this Imbalance will be addressed in sure and swift  
11 and through investigations of these heinous crimes.  
12 And my other bill is 783, and it just requires  
13 reflective materials on garbage containers and things  
14 that obstruct the road to make it easier for drivers  
15 to see them in the street. Thank you.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
17 Council Member Williams. A mic. [laughter]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you. I  
19 want to associate myself with the comments around  
20 Winnie Mandela that Council Member Barron and Council  
21 Member Cumbo made. Of course, only in her own right  
22 without—with the leadership, we would not have what  
23 we—the stuff we have in Apartheid. Of course, add  
24 Linda Brown's name to the fact that black women have  
25 been leading these struggles and getting the respect

2 that they deserve, and I'm thankful it's happening.

3 Today, I introduced three pieces of legislation:

4 Intro 821, Intro 820, and Resolution 296-A co-

5 sponsored by myself Ampry-Samuel and the Council

6 Member Reynoso related to the over-strict penalties

7 that we impose related to marijuana use within

8 possession. The first prohibits the Taxi and

9 Limousine Commission from using low-level marijuana

10 offenses as the sole reason for license suspension or

11 denying the application for a license. The second

12 prohibits the Sanitation Commission for using those

13 low-level offenses as a sole reason to discipline a

14 member of the uniformed first. The third our

15 resolution calls on NYCHA to not use these low-level

16 offenses as a sole grounds to remove a tenant. I

17 want to thank again Council Members Ampry-Samuel, and

18 Reynoso for their co-prime sponsorship. Lives should

19 not be ruined because-based on the over

20 criminalization of these low-level offenses. We're

21 in the middle of a movement that rethinks the way

22 marijuana is characterized and marijuana offenses are

23 reacted to. In the midst of this moment, low-level

24 offenders are paying disproportionate prices. I also

25 want to add-just add to what Council Member Cumbo was

2 saying about Shahid Bassel, and thank her and Council  
3 Member Ampry-Samuel for their leadership, the  
4 question around it being a justified shooting I  
5 believe is the wrong question. That bar is very low.  
6 We probably passed several other questions, which is  
7 whether or not the shooting could have been  
8 prevented. I think there are a lot of issues there  
9 from what the officers were told based on the 911  
10 calls to the services that should have been provided  
11 well before. To that end, this body actually asked  
12 for a task force to be created or reconstituted.  
13 Dwayne Jew was shot in my district about seven months  
14 ago. The Progressive Caucus the Black, Latino and  
15 Asian Caucus and [bell] Council Member Andy Cohen who  
16 then led Mental Health Committee. After Say No, the  
17 Mayor said yes. We're still waiting for that  
18 committee. I want to thank the current chair of the  
19 Public Safety Committee, Council Member Richards for  
20 asking for it again. My hope is that we can finally  
21 get it. We should be able to look the families in  
22 the eye and honestly say we're doing everything we  
23 can. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to say  
24 that. Thank you.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. A  
3 great segue because mental illness should not be a  
4 crime Council Member Richards.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Sorry, I would  
6 be remiss if I didn't first acknowledge I just came  
7 from a funeral of 3-year-old Bella Edwards who  
8 unfortunately was murdered by her stepfather, and I  
9 want the family to know that we continue to pray for  
10 her and that this body is certainly thinking of them  
11 as well. I also want to call your attention to two  
12 bills I'm introducing today. Earlier this year the  
13 Department of Corrections announced its plans to  
14 increase the number of personnel equipped with TASERS  
15 from 24 to 154. We should be using every tool at our  
16 disposal to limit a tax on our corrections officers  
17 and emergency service workers, but at the same time  
18 we should be keeping a close eye on the use of  
19 electric shock devices in our jails to ensure this  
20 increased use doesn't result in increased abuse.  
21 Intro 779 would require the Department of Corrections  
22 to report on their officers' use of TASERS and  
23 provide the public with the necessary transparency  
24 that should come along with it and any use of force  
25 by law enforcement. I want to thank Keith Powers for

2 co-sponsoring as well, Chair Powers. My next piece  
3 of legislation is a response to a tragedy that  
4 occurred in the Rockaways in January when a fire  
5 broke out in the Ethel Davis Building. NYPD officers  
6 bravely responded to the call and attempted to  
7 evacuate the building. Unfortunately, this heroic  
8 act ended in tragedy. Ethel's building was fireproof  
9 and her apartment was the safest place for here.  
10 These officers had the best intentions, but they did  
11 not have the expertise to respond to this situation  
12 in the way the FDNI—the FDNY would. While we would  
13 never want the NYPD to take on the responsibilities  
14 and complete training of the Fire Department, we are  
15 also aware that they instinctively respond to  
16 emergencies in all situations. Intro 778 would  
17 require basic fire safety training for NYPD Officers,  
18 which would include when to engage in active fire  
19 incidents. I ask my colleagues to join in supporting  
20 these two pieces of legislation. Thank you.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Last, but not  
22 least Council Member Holden.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Last but not  
24 least, right. [laughter] Thank you. I, too, want  
25 to congratulate Councilman Keith Powers on the



2 Campaign Financing legislation, which made it easier  
3 to first time candidates and grassroots candidates to  
4 run for office. I know everyone of us who have taken  
5 on the machines, the big machines can attest to that  
6 the hardest part about running was the fundraising  
7 and the campaign filings. I want to congratulate  
8 Keith again for a great job. It's going to encourage  
9 more people to run for office, and thanks again.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you and the  
11 Speaker to close.

12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Does anybody else want  
13 to speak? [laughter] Well, Madam, Public Advocate,  
14 do you want to give a speech.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [off mic] I  
16 certainly don't.

17 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Any sergeant-at-arms  
18 want to speak? [laughter] Peter, do you want to  
19 close us out? No, we're done. This meeting is  
20 adjourned. Good-bye. [background comments]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date: May 4, 2018