

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

----- X

September 26, 2018  
Start: 1:11 p.m.  
Recess: 3:46 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: Pastor Ann Tiemyer (Pastor Ann) Trinity Lower East Side Lutheran, 602 E. 9th Street. New York, N.Y. 10009.

2 [sound check] [background comments,  
3 pause]

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Alright, we are  
5 going to begin the ceremonials. [background  
6 comments] Thank you all. Hello. I am Majority  
7 Leader Laurie Cumbo, and I am proud to present  
8 today's ceremonials. We are going to begin with  
9 Council Member Grodenchik, and he's going to come  
10 over, and we're going to recognize his very, very  
11 prestigious guest today. It is an honor to have you  
12 here today, and as a member of the Women's Caucus we  
13 are super thrilled to have you here today as well.  
14 So, if all of the members that are here could  
15 currently join us. Today the New York City Council  
16 is honoring Diane B. Call for her service after 47  
17 years to Queensborough Community College. Give it up  
18 for that. [applause] Who does anything for 47 years  
19 nowadays, and this is so incredible and she's only 48  
20 years old, which is wonderful, and let me explain  
21 something to you. Eight of those years she served as  
22 the first female president. [applause] So, we are  
23 very proud of that distinction because you area  
24 trailblazer and you are making herstory ever single  
25 day. So, thank you for opening up those channels so

2 that more women can know that they can lead, and that  
3 women can hold all offices and all positions  
4 throughout this city and the world. She devoted her  
5 career making Queensborough Community College into a  
6 renowned and exemplary part of the CUNY system, and  
7 not only is she a trailblazer as the first female  
8 president, but she also created a student centered  
9 learning environment, which emphasized on  
10 collaboration making it a nationally renowned model  
11 for student success. Women leaders are all about  
12 collaboration. So, please gather around to help me  
13 wish Diane B. Call a big congratulations and huge  
14 thank you for her legacy of service, which has had an  
15 enormous impact not only to Queensborough, but to the  
16 students whose lives she's influenced.  
17 Congratulations and thank you so much for the  
18 extraordinary work that you have done for the city of  
19 New York and, of course, the Borough of Queens. I  
20 see you're well represented by many of your  
21 colleagues here today.

22 MALE SPEAKER: She's an honorary Queens  
23 member.

24

25

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Honorary Queens  
3 member, and now I will turn it over to Council Member  
4 Grodenchik who will make remarks.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Thank you,  
6 Majority Cumbo. Thank you to my colleagues and to  
7 everybody who is here today. I'm a numbers person. I  
8 am married to a math professor. She doesn't teach a  
9 Queensborough, but she does teach. She's a full  
10 professor with tenure at Nassau Community College.  
11 So, it's in our blood and, you know, when you think  
12 about 47 years at any school, but let alone one as  
13 prestigious as Queensborough where we have close to  
14 20,000 students. So, it's fair to say that Dr. Call  
15 through 47 years and various in the last eight years  
16 as Majority Leader Cumbo stated as the president of  
17 the school has impacted the lives of well over half a  
18 million people, and that is quite an achievement for  
19 an educator. Most educators have—you know, if  
20 you're—if you're a school teacher in the City of New  
21 York you might have 25 or 30 students a year, and  
22 over the course a career you might impact a thousand  
23 or two thousand, but when you impact a half a million  
24 to a million people's lives, it's really something  
25 special, and the programs that we have there are

2 magnificent. I'm always a little wistful when I go  
3 to school because it used to be golf course, but, you  
4 know, [laughter] progress and we move on. I have to  
5 throw that in as the Parks chair, but I really, Dr.  
6 Cole on behalf of my colleagues here, the 165,000  
7 people who I represent in the community, and really  
8 everybody in the city of New York today. We're so  
9 happy that you're here. We wish you well. We know  
10 that you're not going to disappear and I've got to  
11 say this: Since we all have institutions in our  
12 district, and as Council Members we all get  
13 complaints, and I can count on one hand the number  
14 that we've gotten about Queensborough in the three  
15 years I've been in the Council because they are  
16 concerned about the community, and they work with it  
17 and they're in the middle of the community. It's not  
18 like, you know, they're not a highway, they're not on  
19 a major mass transit route. So, it's not as easy to  
20 get to as say Queens College or CCNY or Baruch would  
21 be to get to. So, we're really happy that you're  
22 here today, and this is just a small token of  
23 affection that we have for you and for the work that  
24 you have done for almost a half a century for the  
25 kids, for the young people and the older people

2 because we have continuing education there as well,  
3 general education. So, thank you, and I guess now  
4 I'm going to turn it back to our mistress of  
5 ceremonies.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: And my two  
8 mentors are both women, Claire Schulman and Nettie  
9 Mare. (sic) So just for the record, okay, Madam  
10 Chair.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [laughs] And now  
12 we will turn it over to the clerk who will read the  
13 proclamation.

14 CLERK: Council City of New York  
15 Proclamation. The New York City Council is proud to  
16 honor Dr. Diane B. Call upon her retirement in  
17 recognition of her incredible 47 years of service to  
18 Queensborough Community College including 8 years as  
19 its first woman president; and

20 Whereas, with students with roots in 140  
21 countries and speaking 84 different languages, Queens  
22 Borough Community College of the City University of  
23 New York, CUNY, proudly reflects the local Queens  
24 community, and is among the most diverse campuses in  
25 the nation. It also takes great pride in its open



2 admissions policy and its role as a critical gateway  
3 into higher education for the many students who are  
4 first in their families to attend college. Guiding  
5 such an important institution requires a leader with  
6 unwavering dedication, vision and integrity. Dr.  
7 Call has been such a leader; and

8           Whereas, Dr. Call devoted here career to  
9 building Queensborough into an exemplary part of the  
10 CUNY system. Over the course of her remarkable  
11 tenure, she honed her expertise in virtually all  
12 major arenas of administration and academics of  
13 Queensborough, and blazed the trail not only as its  
14 first woman president and provost, but also as an  
15 innovator who launched a wide range of educational  
16 programs to increase student's success; and

17           Whereas, as the Provost, Dr. Call led the  
18 Academic Affairs Division in creating a student  
19 centered learning environment that emphasizes the  
20 value of collaboration. She worked with faculty and  
21 Student Affairs on curriculum and pedagogical  
22 innovations and enrichment activities including  
23 undergraduate research, instructional support and  
24 student services programs. Today, Queensborough is  
25 nationally recognized for the student-centered

2 learning environment as well as for its rigorous  
3 academic programs, strong faculty and community  
4 partnerships that led to internships and jobs for  
5 students; and

6           Whereas, Dr. Call also garnered a claim  
7 for developing the Queensborough Academies, which  
8 serve all full-time degree students from admission to  
9 graduation. This innovative program is a model for  
10 student success and has received national recognition  
11 for raising graduation and retention rates including  
12 college wide initiatives that integrate curriculum  
13 pedagogy advisement and co-curricular-co-curricular  
14 activities. This provides a cohesive undergraduate  
15 learning experience. Queensborough is one of the few  
16 community colleges in the country offering such a  
17 program on this scale; and

18           Whereas, under Dr. Call's leadership,  
19 Queensborough has also implemented high impact  
20 practices which made it possible to effectively  
21 assess students' cumulative learning. The college  
22 has received numerous grants including a historic  
23 \$11.5 million grant from Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's  
24 New York CUNY 2020 geared toward connecting academic  
25 excellence with entrepreneurship, and local economic

2 development. Dr. Call also spearheaded and effort to  
3 increase the number of full-time faculty. Today,  
4 there are—there are more than 400 full-time faculty  
5 and 83% of the college's faculty hold terminal  
6 degrees three times the national average for  
7 community colleges; and

8           Whereas, upon her retirement, Dr. Call  
9 can be proud and know that her great legacy of  
10 service will continue to resonate not only within the  
11 walls of a prestigious institution, but also within  
12 the minds of countless students, alumni and  
13 colleagues throughout our city and beyond.

14           Now, therefore, be it known that the New  
15 York City Council gratefully honors Dr. Diane B. Call  
16 for her extraordinary career of service to and  
17 leadership to Queensborough Community College.

18           Corey Johnson, Speaker for the Entire  
19 Council; Laurie A. Cumbo, Majority Leader; Barry S.  
20 Grodenchik, Council Member 23<sup>rd</sup> District Queens.

21 [applause]

22           MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Wow. Now that's  
23 a proclamation. Sometimes you have to beef up a  
24 proclamation, but I'm sure they had to edit yours

2 down. [laughter] We would love to have remarks from  
3 you. Forty-seven years. We have to hear from you.

4 CHAIRPERSON GRODENCHIK: One second per  
5 year.

6 DR. DIANE CALL: One second per year. I  
7 want to thank the City Council—New York City Council  
8 and especially the Queens Delegation because in all  
9 my 47 years they were there right beside us, helping  
10 us and I think Queensborough gives a great  
11 opportunity to students from all over the world  
12 especially New York City to gain access to a better  
13 life through education, and this is a team effort. We  
14 see many of the members right here, and I'm so very  
15 proud to have served the City University of New York  
16 at Queensborough Community College, and to have  
17 worked with so many amazing legislators. So, I thank  
18 you, and I really from the bottom of my heart  
19 appreciate this. [cheers/applause]

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. It's  
21 an honor to have you here today. Let's take a group  
22 photo. [pause for photo] [background comments]  
23 Alright, thank you so much Council Member Grodenchik,  
24 and now we're going to bring forward Council Member  
25 Chin. Can everyone from the Washington Square Music

2 Festival please join us. [cheers/applause] As they  
3 say on the TV show, come on down. Tish James is in  
4 the house. I felt some power behind me. I was  
5 feeling a bit overwhelmed for some reason, I was kind  
6 of struggling to keep my shoulders arched back the  
7 correct way. Please come and join us. We are so  
8 honored to have everyone from the Washington Square  
9 Music Festival. Council Member Chin is very excited  
10 to have you all come to City Hall today. What an  
11 honor to have you here today. Even us out a little  
12 bit. [background comments, pause] Thank you. Today  
13 the New York City Council is proud to recognize the  
14 Washington Square Music Festival for the past six  
15 decades, wow of just stellar performances. Give it up  
16 for that. Six decades [applause] of stellar  
17 performances outdoors in historic Washington Square  
18 in its 60<sup>th</sup> season of free concerts and they've kept  
19 them free. They are continuing its mission providing  
20 free concerts and has helped elevate emerging music  
21 stars. Now, I want to recognize some of the members  
22 of this great organization who are accepting this  
23 proclamation to day. Peggy Friedman, the Executive  
24 Director; Lutz Rath, the Music Director, Jean Lyman  
25 Goetz, the Festival Manager; Laima Hood the Board

2 Chair; Sugarberry Board Member; Lois Rakoff, Board  
3 Member; and George Vellonakis, Washington Square  
4 Administrator. I want to thank you all for your  
5 incredible service to New York City and increasing  
6 the cultural vitality of New York City by providing  
7 free concerts are accessible to all. I will now turn  
8 it over to Council Member Chin who will also bring  
9 greetings to this phenomenal organization. Thank you  
10 for bringing them to the New York City Council.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. Thank  
12 you, Majority Leader Cumbo.

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: What an honor for  
15 me. I waited, I waited. [laughs] Because when I  
16 first started in the City Council, I think it was  
17 your 51<sup>st</sup> season. So, I'm glad I'm still here to  
18 celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup>. [cheers/applause]

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: You've grown up  
20 with them.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yes, and they're in  
22 District 1 and one of the pleasures of being the City  
23 Council Member that represent the district oh, I get  
24 to go to the festival every year.

25 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Oh, that's right.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: And I enjoy myself.  
3 Of course, I stay as much as I can because I get to  
4 hear wonderful music and its amazing space that you  
5 sit outdoors with the trees, with the wind blowing,  
6 and you have beautiful music. This—you can only get  
7 that in New York City and in District 1 and in the  
8 Village. So, It's my honor to be able to present you  
9 the proclamation to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Season and  
10 many, many more to come right.

11 PEGGY FRIEDMAN: You know it's yes.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yes and in the  
13 beautiful park.

14 PEGGY FRIEDMAN: Yes.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: And thank you to  
16 all the board members, all the volunteer. It's just  
17 wonderful to see you all today to celebrate this  
18 wonderful anniversary, and I am going to ask to read  
19 the proclamation.

20 CLERK: Council City of New York  
21 Proclamation. The New York City Council is proud to  
22 honor and recognize the Washington Square Music  
23 Festival for 60 years of stellar performances; and

24 Whereas, founded in 1953 by a civic  
25 organization the Washington Square Association. The

2 Washington Square Music Festival is the second oldest  
3 free outdoor concert series in New York city.  
4 Greenwich Village and Washington Square have long  
5 been recognize as major hubs of artistic expression  
6 of all kinds. The Washington Square Festival has  
7 helped cement that reputation with excellent  
8 performances for a diverse audience that transcends  
9 geographic and cultural boundaries. It's programming  
10 ranges from classical and Baroque to new music, free  
11 from jazz and everything in between offer—often  
12 featuring world premiers of works especially composed  
13 for the occasion; and

14           Whereas, now in its 60<sup>th</sup> season of free  
15 concert the Washington Square Music Festival is  
16 continuing its mission to provide free evening  
17 concerns of high artistic quality with adventurous  
18 programming and unique instrumentation performed by  
19 critically acclaimed instrumentalists, and singers  
20 outdoors in Washington Square and nearby indoor  
21 spaces. The festival began in front of the Holly  
22 Statue and now performs on the main stage in  
23 Garibaldi Plaza; and

24           Whereas, the Washington Square Music  
25 Festival has established a reputation as venerable



2 cultural icon providing generations of loyal  
3 supporters an opportunity to be outdoors in historic  
4 Washington Square on summers evening and experience  
5 unforgettable musical performances by often  
6 highlighting young artists to go onto international  
7 fame such as trumpeter Wynton Marsalis and soprano  
8 Marilyn Horne. This event has helped elevate  
9 emerging musical stars while continuing to entertain,  
10 enlighten and educate the public.

11 Now, therefore, be it known that the New  
12 York City Council is proud to honor the Washington  
13 Square Music Festival in celebration of its 60<sup>th</sup>  
14 Anniversary Season for fostering greater harmony in  
15 New York City. Corey Johnson, Speake for the Entire  
16 Council; Laurie A. Cumbo, Majority Leader; Margaret  
17 S. Chin Council Member First District Manhattan;  
18 Carlina Rivera, Council Member Second District  
19 Manhattan.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Wow.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you.

22 [applause]

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. Wow.

24 That's phenomenal. Who would like to speak on behalf  
25 of the organization?

2 PEGGY FRIEDMAN: Hi. I'm Peggy Friedman,  
3 the Executive Director. I'm be brief. I just wanted  
4 to thank the City of New York first for helping us  
5 reach the 60<sup>th</sup> milestone to the City Council, and  
6 especially to Margaret Chin for this wonderful  
7 proclamation and to all the members of our team that  
8 are here because it really takes a village to put on  
9 musical festival, and I hope everybody who would like  
10 will come Tuesdays in June this summer. God willing,  
11 we should have some great music for you. Thank you  
12 so much.

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. Thank  
14 you so very much and so now we will all be in  
15 District 1 for these incredible free performances.  
16 Thank you again so much for your service. Sixty  
17 years is an incredible accomplishment and we are so  
18 happy to have you here in the City Council today.  
19 Oh, I'll call you for sure. Thank you. Thank you  
20 all so much. Thank you Ellen and Joy. Thank you.  
21 Let's take a group photo. [background comments,  
22 pause] Thank you all. Thank you so very much. Thank  
23 you all for being here. Thank you.

24 PEGGY FRIEDMAN: A pleasure.

25 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

2 MALE SPEAKER: I have to make sure I  
3 start going there on Tuesday in June.

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Tuesdays in June.

5 MALE SPEAKER: Yeah. [background  
6 comments, pause]

7 MALE SPEAKER: Willis will get me there.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Danny, you've got  
9 a date, Danny. [laughter] Thank you all so much for  
10 coming. Thank you all so much for coming. Thank  
11 you.

12 MALE SPEAKER: Okay, and I think the name  
13 is—I think one—your mother is saying it's the Bronx  
14 Southwest.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Yes, yes, that's  
16 my mom.

17 MALE SPEAKER: You can go over there.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Yes, that's my  
19 mom.

20 MALE SPEAKER: I'm—I'm the President or  
21 happen to be the President of the board of the Bronx  
22 Southwest--

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [interposing] Oh,  
24 my goodness.

2 MALE SPEAKER: --aside from being a  
3 friend of Peggy--

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [interposing] Oh,  
5 wow.

6 MALE SPEAKER: --for many years, but-but  
7 I heard that there was this connection there.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [interposing] Oh,  
9 her and Michael go way back.

10 MALE SPEAKER: Yeah.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: And so, it's she-  
12 they're reconnecting and so now they're reconnecting  
13 me as well.

14 MALE SPEAKER: It's a small world  
15 basically.

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Such a small  
17 world. Oh, that's phenomenal.

18 MALE SPEAKER: There's another  
19 organization that's managed to stay-stay afloat,  
20 which is nice to know they'll be there.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [interposing] For  
22 60 years, right, to go through all of the  
23 administrations, all the ups and down, the  
24 challenges, and I know that doing outdoor concerts  
25 the weather [laughs].

2 MALE SPEAKER: Yes.

3 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [laughter]

4 You're like nail biting every summer.

5 MALE SPEAKER: Right.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: What's going to  
7 happen this day and who's the best reader of the  
8 weather?

9 MALE SPEAKER: Well, we've been—we've  
10 been occasionally slow down for those, but it's not  
11 important with out that that language [background  
12 comments]

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: It's something we  
14 look forward to in the summer right?

15 FEMALE SPEAKER: oh, you're wonderful.  
16 You're wonderful--

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Oh, thank you.

18 FEMALE SPEAKER: --at your job.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Oh, thank you.

20 FEMALE SPEAKER: You're so wise.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I love my job.

22 FEMALE SPEAKER: It's clear.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

24 FEMALE SPEAKER: Maybe we'll see you on  
25 TV one day.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Oh, I hope so.

3 FEMALE SPEAKER: You can use some it  
4 within these days.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [laughs] Thank  
6 you. Thank you so much. Thank you. Yes. [background  
7 comments]

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member  
9 Cornegy I don't see you. Come on down. Where are  
10 you? [background comments, laughter] Will everybody  
11 that is here for the ceremonial with Council Member  
12 Robert Cornegy please come forward. We are honoring  
13 Bob Beamon an incredible Olympian champion, legend in  
14 our time. For all that are here today please come on  
15 down. [applause] [background comments, pause]

16 FEMALE SPEAKER: Hello.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Hi. How are you?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: She's the  
19 Majority Leader.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Nice to meet you.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Laurie Cumbo.  
22 [background comments, pause] Representing the Bronx.

23 MALE SPEAKER: Alright, that's good.  
24 Yes.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Margaret Chin  
3 represents where you're standing. [laughter,  
4 background comments, pause] She won't let us forget  
5 it.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Wow, it's a--it's  
7 a royal processing coming on down.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Oh, yeah, oh,  
9 year. We don't play no games. Not playing no games.  
10 We're going to be--

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [interposing]  
12 Wow, what an honor. Royalty has arrived.  
13 [background comments, laughter]

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Oh, thank you.  
15 Oh, thank you. I enjoyed that. I enjoyed that. I  
16 enjoyed that. [background comments, pause]  
17 [laughter] I wish I was bold enough to say that, you  
18 know, but I'm not quite bold enough to say that.

19 FEMALE SPEAKER: Or tall enough.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: That's--that's  
21 what I mean. [laughter] That's what I mean.

22 MALE SPEAKER: As long as you all stand  
23 behind me, you're alright.

24

25

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Wow, this might  
3 be one of the largest ceremonials we might have had.  
4 [laughter]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: And one of the  
6 largest that we've had. Come on family. Let's go  
7 now.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: It looks like the  
9 whole Council came. [background comments, pause]  
10 Congressman, Congressman Towns please come forward,  
11 Congressman Towns.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: That's got  
13 Southeast Queens right there. [background comments,  
14 pause]

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Well, I'm just  
16 going to have to move forward a little bit right  
17 here. Yes. Rob, you stay where you're at because you  
18 can be seen—

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I'm good.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: and I'll pull you  
21 forward at the right time.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Alright.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Okay.

24 MALE SPEAKER: Alright, pull him forward.



2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Alright.

3 [background comments, pause] I'll just kind of stay  
4 up forward right here. Are we all positioned. Wow.  
5 I can just feel the energy right here. Today, the  
6 New York City Council. Today, the New York City  
7 Council is proud to honor an Olympian who has set the  
8 record 50 years ago on the long jump, Bob Beamon,  
9 right. [cheers/applause] [background comments,  
10 pause] A native resident of Brooklyn, New York. No,  
11 I can't claim him. [laughter] He saw me trying to  
12 bring him back to Brooklyn, right? A native resident  
13 of Jamaica, Queens. He's out playing today. A  
14 native resident of Jamaica, Queens. Always felt he  
15 had a knack for track and field, which he discovered  
16 in high school, and honed those skills, which led him  
17 to the 1968 Olympic games in Mexico City at 22 years  
18 of age. [cheers/applause] At just 22 years old he  
19 landed a 29-foot and 2-1/2 inches jump breaking the  
20 Olympic record, which remains unbroken even today in  
21 2018. [cheers/applause] When we hear about the 1968  
22 Olympics I think everybody in this room wishes they  
23 were there because history was made at that 1968  
24 Olympics. Shortly after the Olympics, Bob was  
25 dedicated to various roles to promote youth athletic

2 programs. So following the Olympics he took his  
3 skillset back to the community and continued to feed  
4 and inspire a generation of young people that are  
5 continuing to play and to do the work that was set  
6 forward. So, join me in celebrating Bob Beacon and  
7 this amazing achievement [cheers/applause] here at  
8 the New York City Council. Give it up.  
9 [cheers/applause] Wow. I am now going to bring  
10 forward Council Member Rob Cornegy who is responsible  
11 for making today possible. [cheers/applause] He is  
12 a great athlete in his own right who has done many  
13 incredible things following his athletic career. So,  
14 Council Member Cornegy, please bring us greeting.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: So, part-part of  
16 what she said is true, and the part that is-it has to  
17 be mentioned is the person really responsible for  
18 today is Congress Member Ed Towns. [cheers/applause]  
19 This is Congress Member Towns. [cheers/applause]

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Now, come on up.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: So, while I can  
22 talk about Bob Beamon in a way that's a little bit  
23 visceral, somebody in here, the Congress Member has a  
24 real intimate relationship and a long-term

2 relationship. So, I'm going to relinquish my time on  
3 the floor to Congress Member Towns.

4 CONGRESS MEMBER TOWNS: Thank you.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

6 CONGRESS MEMBER TOWNS: [applause] Thank  
7 you very much. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

8 What a great day, you know, and we have to celebrate  
9 this because this is a positive thing that happened  
10 50 years ago that still stands.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: That's right.

12 [cheers/applause]

13 CONGRESS MEMBER TOWNS: And I think the  
14 other thing that we want to talk about aside from him  
15 setting that record in 1968 in Mexico, is that the  
16 life that he's lived, and the things that he's done  
17 on behalf of young people since that day is something  
18 that we should never, never forget. Bob Beamon has  
19 been a role model. I mean he has been there with  
20 young people provide support in every way. He's done  
21 it in Florida, he's done it in Vegas. He's done it  
22 in New York City. He just—everywhere he's gone he  
23 has done that. He has raised funds for young people  
24 to able to get them into schools throughout this  
25 nation. Bob Beamon did not set a record and then go

2 home and go to bed. He got up and start doing things  
3 on behalf of other people. So, we want to thank him  
4 and his wife Rhonda for all, and his family that's  
5 here, and to day to the world: Bob Beamon has made a  
6 difference, and as I said outside, that I think that  
7 if we look at his life and the things that he's  
8 doing, and we yelled his name big enough and long  
9 enough that maybe our young people will be pulling  
10 their pants back up. Who knows. I think they will.  
11 [laughter] Let's see if we do it. [applause]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: So, the only—the  
13 only thing I'd like add to that is what you don't  
14 know is the number of athletes who have transitioned  
15 to normal life, and made a difference, that list is  
16 very small. So, while his accomplishments like the  
17 Congress Member mentioned are vast as it relates to  
18 athletics, what he's done since then quadruples what  
19 he did on track and field, and there are very few of  
20 us who have been able to have the support systems  
21 necessary to transfer from a life in the hot—in the—  
22 in the limelight of athletics to serving, and that's  
23 exactly what he's done, and he, therefore is a mentor  
24 to me and to athletes like me who—who are—who want to  
25 do big thing within their communities. He came back

2 home, and then spread himself abroad and has gone  
3 throughout this country making a difference for young  
4 people, and for that, I applaud you, Mr. Beamon.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Yes.

6 [cheers/applause]. Every time we think we are big  
7 and bad as legislators Congressman Towns comes in and  
8 gives one of those fiery speeches. [laughter] Thank  
9 you. We are now going to turn it over to the Clerk  
10 to read this very prestigious proclamation.

11 CLERK: Council City of New York  
12 Proclamation. The New York City Council is proud to  
13 honor Bob Beamon on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his  
14 Olympic record setting long jump; and

15 Whereas, Bob Beamon grew up in South  
16 Jamaica, Queens, New York. While attending Jamaica  
17 High School he discovered his aptitude for track and  
18 field, the catalyst for him to achieve his full  
19 potential. In 1965, he won National High School  
20 Triple Jump and High Jump Awards. Two years later he  
21 won the Indoor AAU Long Jump Championship as well as  
22 the Silver Medal at the Pan American Games Outdoor  
23 Long Jump Championships. These early feats put him  
24 on the path to the Olympics; and

2           Whereas, at the 1968 Olympic Games in  
3 Mexico City Mr. Beamon competed in 23 events and won  
4 22. At just 22 years old he landed a jump of 29  
5 feet, 2-1/2 inches breaking the existing Olympic  
6 record and world record by 1.8 feet. [cheers/  
7 applause] This incredible Olympic record remains  
8 unbroken even today; and

9           Whereas, after the Olympic games, Mr.  
10 Beamon graduated from Adelphi University in 1972. He  
11 was Associate Commissioner of Parks in Miami, Dade  
12 County along with Arnold Schwarzenegger, and  
13 organized the South Florida Intercity Games. He was  
14 also Chair of the Bob Beamon United Way Golf Classic  
15 to benefit youth related programs and develop the  
16 motivation program, The Champion in You. His life  
17 story continues to inspire generations of athletes of  
18 athletic youth from South Jamaica, Queens for he is  
19 living proof of what can be achieved through hard  
20 work and perseverance.

21           Now, therefore, be it know that the New  
22 York City proudly honors and congratulates Bob Beamon  
23 for 50 years of inspiration to others through his  
24 athletic excellence and community service. Corey  
25 Johnson, Speaker for the Entire Council; Robert

2 Cornegy, Council Member 36<sup>th</sup> District Brooklyn; I.  
3 Daneek Miller, Council Member 27<sup>th</sup> District, Queens;  
4 Adrienne Adams, Council Member 28<sup>th</sup> District, Queens;  
5 Laurie A. Cumbo, Majority Leader and the entire  
6 membership of the Black, Latino and Asian Caucus of  
7 the New York City Council. [cheers/applause]

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Yes. Whoo, I'm  
9 feeling very prestigious today. So they say--and  
10 we'll change it up--beside every dynamic man is an  
11 incredible, awesome and powerful woman, and so we're  
12 going to switch it up today because we know that so  
13 much of this work happens through the spot--the  
14 support of an incredible woman. So, we're going to  
15 turn it over first to Mrs. Beamon who is then going  
16 to turn it over to her husband who is going to give  
17 us closing words. [cheers/applause]

18 MRS. BEAMON: Hi, everybody. I'm so  
19 happy to be here. I'm so proud of Bob as I know all  
20 of the help--all of Jamaica, Queens all over the world  
21 is so proud of our guy. He's just as humble and  
22 sweet as you see him here. He's like that all the  
23 time. I love him forever from the bottom of my  
24 heart. We were high school sweethearts. [background

2 comments] We lost touch for 36 years. He found me,  
3 and now we've been married for 15 years.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Okay.

5 [cheers/applause]

6 MRS. BEAMON: So, this is a real love  
7 story.

8 BOB BEAMON: Yes, yes. [cheers/applause]

9 Well, first, I want to thank all of you for coming  
10 out and celebrating my 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary—my 50<sup>th</sup>  
11 Anniversary. [background comments] My 50<sup>th</sup>  
12 Anniversary of holding the oldest Olympic record in  
13 the history of the Olympics. So, I'm just trying to  
14 represent New York, you know. [laughter]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: You got that  
16 right.

17 BOB BEAMON: But I—I'd like to say that  
18 just before I put the mic down, is that, you know, I  
19 have a lot of family here, and my sister, my  
20 daughter, and her husband, but also the people that  
21 grew up with me in the projects. I'm talking about  
22 Diane. [laughter] Wait a minute, wait a minute. Just  
23 one interesting thing about being in the projects is  
24 it's a, you know, we used to borrow things. Well, we  
25 come over to Diane's house: "I want to borrow some



2 sugar until this Friday coming up [laughter] two  
3 eggs and I'll give them back to you on Friday."  
4 [laughter] But as I say, you know, this has been a  
5 wonderful spiritual journey, and I—I tell you it is—  
6 it is an incredible opportunity to stand before you.  
7 But I also want to recognize my first cousin here.  
8 This is my first cousin who really put it in my mind,  
9 and put it in our family mind that hopefully there  
10 will be that street named Bob Beamon Street where I  
11 grew up. So, I'm looking forward to that because—  
12 Secondly--[applause]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: [interposing] I  
14 just got—I just got a thumbs up from your Council  
15 Member over there. Adrienne—Adrienne Adams gave the  
16 thumbs up so looking for that. [applause]

17 BOB BEAMON: And I—I'd like to recognize  
18 a wonderful gentleman and he—he is family, but also  
19 he—I can call him at 3:00 in the morning, and—and  
20 just say, you know, I need something or did you—did  
21 you get the message and the email? We got to go over  
22 to Europe somewhere, and so he's the guy that keeps  
23 me alive, and—and makes the biggest deals for Bob  
24 Beamon. I'd like to just say I love you, Mr. Frank  
25 Weedon. Love you. [cheers/applause] What's so

2 interesting about Frank is that he represented Strom  
3 Thurmond's African-American daughter. The most  
4 interesting experience that you could ever hear on  
5 radio or TV. It was almost six months that they  
6 couldn't believe the Strom Thurmond had an African-  
7 American daughter that he's the one that made it  
8 happen. So, I take my hat off to you, my brother  
9 again [applause] And in ending, I'd just like to-to  
10 say to you my strength my love and all the wonderful  
11 things I always remember where I came from.

12 [background comments] I tried to give back ad much  
13 as possible. I can't play basketball any more, but I  
14 can [laughs] I control--[background comments,  
15 laughter] But anyway, anyway, I'm-I'm going to put  
16 this down in a minute here, but I'd like to recognize  
17 my baby sister here, and my daughter and my cousins  
18 back there Yolanda and Al who Janice-Janice Gibson  
19 lived in the projects with us, too, and I used to-I  
20 used to have a crush on Janice. [laughter] I used to  
21 come over there, you know, and then my nieces and my  
22 cousins, my other cousins, and I mean it's just been-  
23 this is-this-this is unbelievable. Allen Cox and  
24 there is June Montero who is the original choice.  
25 The original choice who went to school and sang. We

2 sand do doobop on-on the step, you know, playing  
3 there. So, anyway, anyway and then finally, I'd just  
4 like to say to Congressman Towns just a moment just  
5 to tell you saved me. Thank you for driving me  
6 [laughter] 500 miles. I've never been out of New  
7 York and he took me. [laughter] He took me down and  
8 he said, "You getting out of New York. You're all  
9 American and we got to protect you, and he gave me my  
10 second life." So thank you, and I love it.  
11 [cheers/applause]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: So, this is--this  
13 is the--this is the part where we hand over this  
14 proclamation?

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Well, we--we  
16 should do this in two ways. We should do one with  
17 you and your family, and then every elected official  
18 in this room is dying to take a photo with you. So,  
19 we'll let you do it with your family first, and then  
20 we'll jump into the second one.

21 BOB BEAMON: Well, I'd just like to make  
22 mention I have one more comment. In 1968--in 1968, I  
23 had my team mate from college who represented the  
24 Dominican Republic in the 1968 Olympics, Jose  
25 L'Oficial. Where's Jose.

2 JOSE L'OFICIAL: [off mic] I'm here.

3 BOB BEAMON: Well, Jose, stand please.

4 [cheers/applause] He represented the Dominican  
5 Republic yes.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Yes as a  
7 reminder that we come in all flavors.

8 BOB BEAMON: And then my tag buddy here  
9 Dewitt Clinton boy in the Bronx, Kenny Anderson.

10 [cheers/applause] I got so many. Jose.

11 JOSE L'OFICIAL: What was the question?

12 BOB BEAMON: Jose and I took a stand and  
13 we protested in 1968, and we lost our scholarships at  
14 the University of Texas, El Paso.

15 JOSE L'OFICIAL: Right,

16 BOB BEAMON: But what happened was it  
17 made it an awareness in the conference of Texas and  
18 everyone followed suit to follow us and so it was a  
19 big, big, big, big day and so [applause] but I just  
20 want you to know that, thank you my brother.

21 JOSE L'OFICIAL: Than you, my brother.

22 [cheers/applause]

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: So, what a  
24 history lesson we've gotten today. We could go on

25

2 and on and learn so much. So, let's you and your  
3 family-

4 BOB BEAMON: Yes, what you said.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: --and Mrs. Beamon  
6 come together, and everybody surround it, and then  
7 we'll jump--and then we'll jump in the next one.

8 [background comments]

9 FEMALE SPEAKER: It would make a fight  
10 with one of us amazing. [background comments]

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I'm going to go  
12 jump in the next one. Alright, everybody, the  
13 Council photographer is right here. Come Mr. Towns.  
14 [background comments] Public Advocate come on down.  
15 We're going to jump in the next one. [background  
16 comments]

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Okay, now all of  
18 the Council Members the family everybody stay right  
19 where you are. Council Members come up front now,  
20 and we're going to take a photo. I just didn't want  
21 you to compete with us because we have fought  
22 aggressively for five years to get our position here.  
23 Our elbows are very sharp, very sharp, very sharp.  
24 Vanessa, Vanessa come on up, Council Member Barron,  
25 Council Member--[background comments] Congress

2 Member Towns, please come over here by Council Member  
3 Cabrera. Public Advocate Letitia James. [background  
4 comments, laughter] Come in front of me. Tom. We  
5 going—we gonna get close. We gonna get real family  
6 going on. [background comments] Council Member  
7 Adrienne Adams very good. Where's Council Member  
8 Daneek Miller. We got to have Queens represented  
9 well.

10 FEMALE SPEAKER: That's right.

11 [background comments]

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [background  
13 comments] Alright, thank you. Thank you. Can we  
14 get—can you get a photo with Tish James. Tish, Tish.  
15 [background comments] The staff photographer. Hi,  
16 Love. [background comment] Public Advocate. Tish.  
17 Tish, Attorney General.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: We want you in—in  
20 a photo. Okay, okay, okay, okay. You could have  
21 told me that. [laughter] [background comments]

22 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Okay, we have our  
23 next ceremonial coming forward. [background comments]

24 FEMALE SPEAKER: I'm sorry.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Oh, I'm sorry.  
3 Thank you.

4 FEMALE SPEAKER: You know, I like you  
5 immensely.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Corey, you should  
7 be in one. [background comments] Alright, everyone  
8 please clear the floor for the next ceremonial. We  
9 have one more. We have another ceremonial. Council  
10 Member Moya, will you please come forward?  
11 [background comments] Council Member Moya is going  
12 to get ready for the next ceremonial. Council Member  
13 Cornegy. [background comments] That's right. Oh,  
14 that was great right. That was wonderful.  
15 Everybody. We have another ceremonial. [background  
16 comments]

17 FEMALE SPEAKER: Please clear the front  
18 area for the next ceremonial. Please clear the area  
19 for the next ceremonial.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Everybody that's  
21 here please follow Council Member Cornegy outside in  
22 the lobby.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: We're going  
24 downstairs, everybody. That why I told-

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I'm doing the  
3 best I can.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I'm sorry.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Alright,  
6 everybody. Thank you. We are going to begin our  
7 final ceremonial. [background comments] [shushing  
8 for quiet] Everyone that is here for the  
9 Proclamation for Jorge Ramos, please come forward.  
10 Everyone that's here for Mr. Jorge Ramos, please come  
11 forward. Council Member Cornegy, please continue to  
12 move forward. Council Member Cornegy, please move  
13 forward.

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

16 JORGE RAMOS: How are you, sir. Welcome.  
17 It's a pleasure and thank you so much.

18 MALE SPEAKER: With the Speaker. Thank  
19 you so much.

20 JORGE RAMOS: thank you.

21 MALE SPEAKER: Thank you.

22 JORGE RAMOS: Than you. Thank you for  
23 being here. No.

24 MALE SPEAKER: Absolutely. Thank you so  
25 much.



2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Okay, one last time.  
3 If folks could please exit. If everyone could please  
4 exit. We need to get on with the next ceremonial.  
5 If people could shuffle out quietly, we would really,  
6 really appreciate it. If folks could please exit  
7 out, and the sergeant you need to check the door on  
8 the outside, and put everyone out in the rotunda so  
9 we can start this. Okay, great. So we are very,  
10 very excited, of course, for all of our ceremonials  
11 that we are really honored today because Council  
12 Member Moya and the City Council we are proud to  
13 honor a TV news icon, a legend [cheers/applause] in  
14 the Latino community, a gift to our country, an  
15 important, important person Jorge Ramos, the long  
16 time [cheers/applause] anchor of Telemundo 47. He is  
17 celebrating his retirement after 50 years of service  
18 [cheers/applause] Who is your dermatologist?  
19 [laughter] Jorge Ramos' career in journalism started  
20 as a radio reporter in Puerto Rico before becoming a  
21 reporter at Telemundo in 1972 and eventually becoming  
22 an anchor. He has earned seven Emmy Awards. [  
23 [cheers/applause] along with special recognition from  
24 the NYPD for reporting and assisting and resolving a  
25 10-year-old cold case in broadcast segment crimes,

2 and in addition to his work in journalism he has  
3 provided a public service to the Latino community,  
4 but not just the Latino community. Really to  
5 everyone working with several non-profits. As a  
6 father for a former Marine he advocates for Hispanic  
7 veterans supporting their return to civilian life.  
8 So, we are so honored by everything that you've done  
9 and we are so honored you are here today, and before  
10 I turn it over to Council Member Moya and then you, I  
11 want to ask our City Clerk to please read the  
12 Proclamation in honor of Jorge Ramos. [shushing for  
13 quiet]

14 CLERK: Council City of New York  
15 Proclamation. The New York City Council is proud to  
16 honor Jorge Ramos in recognition of his nearly 50  
17 years of service to the Tri-State Spanish speaking  
18 community as the senior anchor of Telemundo 47 for  
19 his invaluable contributions to the public discourse;  
20 and

21 Whereas, Jorge Ramos is a native of  
22 Puerto Rico and graduate of the University of Puerto  
23 Rico. He earned his status as a staple of the Tri-  
24 State's Latino community by providing news and  
25 analysis of local and world events for nearly half a

2 century educating the public so that residents could  
3 make informed decisions about the issues affecting  
4 their lives and meaningfully participate in the  
5 practices of this Democratic republic; and

6           Whereas, Mr. Ramos was an original  
7 founding member of Telemundo 47's news operations, is  
8 a member of the Silver Circle of the National Academy  
9 of Television Arts and Sciences New York Chapter and  
10 is a member of the National Association of Hispanic  
11 journalists; and

12           Whereas, Jorge Ramos earned seven Emmy  
13 Awards along with a collection of local honors over  
14 the course of his distinguished career. His voice  
15 was critical in establishing Telemundo 47 as New York  
16 market area's most watched network in either Spanish  
17 or English; and

18           Whereas, Mr. Ramos' reporting career  
19 began at radio station WKVN in San Dorsett (sp?)  
20 Puerto Rico in 1972 before becoming Telemundo 47's  
21 first field reporter in 1979. Since 1992 his  
22 {speaking Spanish} broadcast segments have led to the  
23 arrest of several suspects wanted in various criminal  
24 acts. In 2003, his reporting and assistance helped  
25 resolve a 10-year-old cold case and earned him—earned

2 him official recognition from the New York City  
3 Police Department and its Crime Stoppers Program.  
4 Former NYPD Commissioner Raymond Kelly also awarded  
5 Mr. Ramos with a plaque in recognition of his  
6 contributions as a journalist; and

7           Whereas, in addition to his stellar work  
8 as a reporter and news anchor, Jorge Ramos has  
9 provided great public service within the Tri-State's  
10 Hispanic community for more than 35 years working  
11 with several not-for-profit organizations and  
12 charities. Over the years he has served as the Grand  
13 Marshal and Godfather of several—several parades  
14 throughout the area. A proud father of a former  
15 Marine, Mr. Ramos also advocates for—advocates for  
16 Hispanic veterans and supports their return to  
17 civilian life; and

18           Whereas, Jorge Ramos' unparalleled career  
19 and public service has made him an internationally  
20 known, respected and trusted source for news that can  
21 go unreported or under-reported by other media  
22 organizations, yet, is critical to Spanish speaking  
23 communities.

24           Now, therefore, be it known the New York  
25 City Council is proud to honor Jorge Ramos for his

2 outstanding career and contributions to New York City  
3 and beyond. Corey Johnson, Speaker for the Entire  
4 Council, Francisco P. Moya, Council Member 21<sup>st</sup>  
5 District Queens.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [cheers/applause]

7 SPEAKER JOHNSON: And I want to—I want to  
8 hand it over Council Member Moya, and then we want to  
9 hear from the honoree himself.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Thank you. Thank  
11 you, Mr. Speaker. I had some notes there, but I'm  
12 going to speak more from the heart than I will from—  
13 from my notes. [speaking Spanish] A number one show  
14 in all of the country this man has been able to  
15 really come into our homes. New York City is  
16 grateful for everything that you have done for the  
17 Latino community to build your career here, and it  
18 makes us feel proud of what you've been able to do.  
19 That young Latinos who are trying to get into  
20 journalism right now will look to you as that icon  
21 who broke down those barriers so that people can  
22 succeed here in this country. And for that on behalf  
23 of myself, the Speaker and all of my colleagues here,  
24 we are a grateful city, and we lucky and fortunate to

2 have had you this long in our homes.

3 [cheers/applause] Thank you.

4 JORGE RAMOS: Thank you, sir. [speaking  
5 Spanish] Thank you so much, Speaker Johnson. First,  
6 I would like to say some words in Spanish if you will  
7 allow me. [speaking Spanish] Thank you, Speaker  
8 Corey Johnson and Council Member Francisco Moya. It  
9 is an honor to be here today, and I thank you for  
10 this very moving recognition. As my years as Senior  
11 News Anchor at Telemundo 47 comes to a close, I am  
12 overwhelmed with feelings of gratitude. While my job  
13 on television has always required that I remain  
14 composed, through difficult stories, those who know  
15 me best they know that once the cameras roll, I am  
16 easily overcome with emotion. In these past couple  
17 of weeks, I have reflected on my decades of work, and  
18 I look to the changes ahead have been particularly  
19 emotional. For nearly 40 years I had my dream job.  
20 It's a role that afforded me incredible opportunities  
21 to witness and take part in historic moments here in  
22 the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean.  
23 I attended parades like the national Puerto Rican Day  
24 Parade every year, inaugurations and celebrations  
25 both big and small. I was able to meet and interview

2 remarkable people from all walks of life including  
3 world leaders, musicians, athletes and every day men  
4 and woman who are inspiriting stories to tell free.  
5 (sic) I was able to work side-by-side with some of  
6 the most talented and committed journalists and  
7 broadcasters in the industry, my colleagues at  
8 Telemundo 47, and our sister station NBC 4 New York,  
9 but beyond the accolades and opportunities the thing  
10 that I am now and I have always been truly the most  
11 grateful for has been the privilege of serving the  
12 Latino community here in the city of New York. When  
13 I came here from Puerto Rico as a young man in 1976,  
14 the Latinos who call New York their home were the  
15 first ones to welcome me with open arms. Though I  
16 was here on my own far from island and my family,  
17 this community became like an extended family, ready  
18 at a moment's notice to offer love and support. As  
19 my career grew, they cheered on me. They treated me  
20 like a brother, a son, a cousin, a father, maybe a  
21 grandfather. [laughter] Though I chose to make my  
22 life away from the land of birth, I have never lacked  
23 for the want of home. Over the years, I have watched  
24 as our Latino community has fought and grown and  
25 thrived in this great city, and it has been my honor

2 to share their stories of survival and joy. It  
3 happens that we are in the middle of Hispanic  
4 Heritage Month, the time of year when we honor the  
5 history and contributions of Hispanics here in the  
6 United States. This time in it fitting to me because  
7 I am aware that my success would not have been  
8 possible without the support of the rich and diverse  
9 New York Hispanic community. I have treasured the  
10 years I have spent on the air at Telemundo 47, and I  
11 will forever be grateful to the viewers who welcomed  
12 me into their homes and their hearts. I can honestly  
13 say that I have been blessed by God not only with  
14 having the best job in the world, but by granting me  
15 a lovely family, my beautiful wife that I'm--  
16 [cheers/applause] Yolanda has given me--[laughter]

17 FEMALE SPEAKER: No wrinkles.

18 JORGE RAMOS: Okay. Yolanda has given me  
19 her unconditional love and support, always with a  
20 sound and wise advice, and two treasures, my children  
21 Alejandra whose here [cheers/applause] and my son  
22 Gabriel. He couldn't be here, but Gabriel is the  
23 former Marine that I am proud of. Both of them  
24 brought happiness to our home, and made me feel a  
25 proud, proud father. So, once again, Mr. Speaker,



2 thank you for this honor. [applause] Thank you so  
3 much. [cheers/applause]

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Can we hear it for  
5 Jorge Ramos [cheers/applause] and his beautiful wife  
6 and daughter for being here. Congratulations. Let's  
7 get a photo together. [background comments, applause]

8 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Okay, can we clear the  
9 floor, please? Can we please clear the floor,  
10 please? Can we clear the floor, please? [pause]  
11 Ladies and gentlemen, can I have your attention  
12 please. Can I please have your attention? At this  
13 time, please place all electronic devices—all  
14 electronic devices to vibrate. Will all non-Council  
15 employees, non-Council employees please leave the  
16 main floor of the chambers. There is additional  
17 seating upstairs in the Chambers. Madam Public  
18 Advocate.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the  
20 Chambers please. Please close the doors. Everyone  
21 please be seated. Those in the Rostrum please have a  
22 seat. Please find a seat. All rise for the Pledge  
23 of Allegiance.

24 CLERK: All rise,  
25 [Pledge of Allegiance]

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [off mic] Please  
3 be seated. Roll call.

4 CLERK: Adams.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: To the next  
6 Attorney-General of the State of New York, I say  
7 congratulations, I told you so and aye

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: And I am here.

10 [laughter]

11 CLERK: Thank you. Ampry-Samuel.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Present.

13 CLERK: Ayala.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Present.

15 CLERK: Barron.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

17 CLERK: Borelli.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Here.

19 CLERK: Brannan.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Here.

21 CLERK: Cabrera.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

23 CLERK: Chin.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

25 CLERK: Cohen.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.

3 CLERK: Constantinides.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Present.

5 CLERK: Cornegy, Deutsch. Diaz.

6 CLERK: Diaz.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Present.

8 CLERK: Dromm.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

10 CLERK: Espinal.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Here.

12 CLERK: Eugene.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Present.

14 CLERK: Gibson.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I'm here.

16 CLERK: Gjonaj.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Present.

18 CLERK: Grodenchik. Holden.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here.

20 CLERK: Kallos. King. Koo.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

22 CLERK: Koslowitz.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

24 CLERK: Lancman. Lander.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

2 CLERK: Levin.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

4 CLERK: Levine.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

6 CLERK: Maisel. Menchaca.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.

8 CLERK: Miller. Moya. Perkins.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: May I be excused  
10 to explain my vote?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER: Not right now. That's  
12 not--

13 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Oh, present.

14 CLERK: Thank you. [laughter] Powers.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Here.

16 CLERK: Reynoso.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.

18 CLERK: Richards.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

20 CLERK: Grodenchik.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Here.

22 CLERK: Rivera.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Here.

24 CLERK: Rodriguez.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I'm here.

2 CLERK: Rose.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

4 CLERK: Rosenthal.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I don't think  
6 she's here.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.

8 CLERK: Torres. Treyger.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

10 CLERK: Ulrich.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Still here.

12 CLERK: Vallone.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

14 CLERK: Van Bramer.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

16 CLERK: Maisel.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Here.

18 CLERK: Williams.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Sadly, still  
20 here. [applause]

21 CLERK: [laughs] Yeger.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here.

23 CLERK: Matteo.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.

25 CLERK: Cumbo.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Present.

3 CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I'm here.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quite in the  
6 Chambers, please. All rise for the invocation.

7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: All rise.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: The Invocation  
9 will be delivered by Pastor Ann Tiemyer. Pastor Ann  
10 is the Pastor of Trinity Lower East Side Lutheran  
11 Church located at 602 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street in the Borough  
12 of Manhattan. Quiet in the Chambers.

13 PASTOR ANN TIEMYER: This invocation is  
14 inspired by one of my favorite writer Annie Lamotte  
15 who says his favorite prayer is help me, help me,  
16 help me and thank you, thank you, thank you. Let is  
17 pray. We take—we pray today saying help me, help me,  
18 help me, help us, help these elected officials who  
19 gather in this place to take on the awesome  
20 responsibility of governance. Help them to govern  
21 with justice, peace, joy and open hearts, Help me,  
22 help me, help me, help us to have open eyes to always  
23 see those in need in our city, the homeless, the  
24 hungry. Those who struggle with physical or mental  
25 illness. Help us to seek systems of support that

2 honor people's integrity and recognize their strength  
3 in the face life's challenges. Help me, help me,  
4 help me, help us to listen with open ears to all  
5 survivors of sexual harassment and assault. Help me,  
6 help me, help me, help us to seek answers that lift  
7 up all people in our city regardless of race, age,  
8 sexual orientation, identity or gender, physical  
9 ability, immigration or economic status. Help us  
10 empower all people in our city, honoring the great  
11 diversity of this community, recognizing the value of  
12 difference to enhance the whole community. Help me,  
13 help me, help me, help us to follow your ways,  
14 respect our life, and all creation. Thank you, thank  
15 you, thank you, God for those who stepped forward and  
16 ran for office, for those who voted and called forth  
17 leaders, for those who work beside our elected  
18 leaders to support their service. Thank you, thank  
19 you, thank you, God for all in this place that they  
20 will be—that they will call upon your goodness, call  
21 for your help, value all in the city that we may be a  
22 shining light on a hill showing forth justice and  
23 love to all the world. Help me, help me, help me,  
24 help us. Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you.  
25 Amen.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Amen. Please be  
3 seated. A motion to spread the invocation. Council  
4 Member Rivera.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you, Madam  
6 Public Advocate for the opportunity to spread this  
7 invocation upon the record and before I do—

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]  
9 Excuse me, Council Member. May we have quiet in the  
10 Chambers here.

11 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down please.  
12 Keep it down, please.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]  
14 [shushing for quiet] Council Member Rivera has the  
15 floor.

16 CLERK: Thank you, Madam Public Advocate.  
17 I want to thank Pastor Ann for that beautiful  
18 invocation and in the Trinity Lower East Side  
19 Lutheran Parish epitomize the selfless, dedication  
20 and activism that the Lower East Side is proudly  
21 known for. Pastor Ann has been a dedicated leader in  
22 New York City for years serving as a specialized  
23 minister in disaster response in our city following  
24 the September 11th Attacks and in a number of  
25 churches and religious organizations throughout the



2 five boroughs in the years since. She has used her  
3 position in the community to highlight important  
4 issues including mass incarceration, domestic  
5 violence, human trafficking, poverty and language  
6 inclusivity. Ann and the staff of Trinity Lower East  
7 Side Lutheran Parish have worked for 175 years on the  
8 Lower East Side to provide a community for those who  
9 face persecution and to fight for those less  
10 fortunate whether it is our brothers and sisters in  
11 the LGBT community or the poor and the hungry.  
12 Trinity services and Food for the Homeless Program is  
13 a pioneering food program that serves up to 300  
14 people every single day, and highlights the struggle  
15 that so many New Yorkers face today with rapidly  
16 increasing gentrification and the cost of living.  
17 They are always there for the people of this city,  
18 and one of—were one of the first houses of worship  
19 that I noticed in this troubling political climate to  
20 proudly hang a banner outside their parish that said:  
21 *Immigrants are Welcomed Here*. So thank you, Pastor  
22 again, and with that, thank you for your words and  
23 service and I motion to spread the invocation in full  
24 upon the record.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

58

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: So moved. Thank  
3 you. Adoption of minutes. Council Member Cabrera.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Motion that the  
5 Minutes of the Stated Meeting of August 8, 2018 be  
6 adopted.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
8 Messages and papers from the Mayor.

9 CLERK: Preconsidered M100, submitting  
10 Sarah Carroll for appointment to the Landmarks  
11 Preservation Commission.

12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Rules, Privileges and  
13 Elections.

14 CLERK: M-excuse me. M101, the Mayor's  
15 Management Report.

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

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Communication  
19 from city, county and borough offices.

20 CLERK: None.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Petitions and  
22 communications.

23 CLERK: None.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Land Use Call-  
25 ups.

2 CLERK: M102 and M103.

3 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on a call-up  
4 vote. At this time I would ask for a roll call vote  
5 on all of today's Land Use Call-ups.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the  
7 Chambers. \*

8 CLERK: Adams.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Aye on all.

10 CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Aye on all.

12 CLERK: Ayala.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye on all.

14 CLERK: Barron.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

16 CLERK: Borelli.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye.

18 CLERK: Brannan.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye .

20 CLERK: Cabrera.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

22 CLERK: Chin.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye on all.

24 CLERK: Cohen.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

2 CLERK: Constantinides.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye on  
4 all.

5 CLERK: Cornegy, Deutsch

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: [off mic] Aye on  
7 all.

8 CLERK: Diaz.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Present. Permission  
10 to explain my vote. After listening to the Pastor's  
11 invocation, Pastor Ann here, I would like to join  
12 that invocation by stating that this is a progressive  
13 city, even though I'm not progressive, but the  
14 majority of my colleagues are progressive, and when  
15 we vote for Introduction 959-A, and 969-A, that is  
16 not progressive, and we should listen to the words of  
17 Pastor Ann Tiemyer: Help me, help me, help me help  
18 others. So, that's why I'm voting no on this. Yes  
19 on all except those two. Thank you.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And Council  
21 Member on the Land Use Call-ups, how do you vote? On  
22 the two Land Use Call-ups?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Yes on all.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

25 CLERK: Dromm.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

3 CLERK: Espinal. Eugene.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I would like to  
5 ask permission to vote on the Land Use Call-Ups and  
6 all that are on today's agenda.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: And I want to  
9 vote aye on all.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

11 CLERK: Gibson.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I vote aye

13 CLERK: Gjonaj.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I also request to  
15 vote on the Land Use and all General Orders and I  
16 vote aye on all.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Thank you.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

20 CLERK: Grodenchik.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: [off mic] Aye.

22 CLERK: Holden.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye.

24 CLERK: Kallos.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

2 CLERK: King. Koo.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

4 CLERK: Koslowitz.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

6 CLERK: Lancman.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye

8 Lander.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

10 CLERK: Levin.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

12 CLERK: Levine.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

14 CLERK: Maisel.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

16 CLERK: Menchaca.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye on all. .

18 CLERK: Miller.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye on all except  
20 for 151. We abstain.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member,

22 are you voting on the Land Call-Ups. We're at the

23 Land Use-Call-Ups to vote strictly the Land Use Call-

24 Ups.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

3 CLERK: Cornegy.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

6 CLERK: Moya.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Aye.

8 CLERK: Perkins.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Aye.

10 CLERK: Perkins/

11 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Aye.

12 CLERK: Powers.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye.

14 CLERK: Reynoso.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I vote aye on

16 all.

17 CLERK: Richards.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.

19 CLERK: Rivera.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye.

21 CLERK: Rodriguez.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Rodriguez.

23 CLERK: Rose.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

25 CLERK: Rosenthal.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

64

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye on all.

3 CLERK: Salamanca

4 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: I vote aye on  
5 all Land Use Call-Ups and with permission I would  
6 like to vote aye on all items on the General Order  
7 Calendar and all resolutions.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Thank you.

10 CLERK: Torres. Treyger.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye

12 CLERK: Ulrich.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Yes.

14 CLERK: Vallone.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [off mic] Aye on  
16 all.

17 CLERK: Van Bramer.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye on all.

19 CLERK: Williams.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Williams.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

22 CLERK: Maisel.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Here.

24 CLERK: Williams.

25



2 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Sadly, still  
3 here. [applause]

4 CLERK: Yeger.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye.

6 CLERK: Matteo.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Aye.

8 CLERK: Cumbo.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.

10 CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

11 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Aye.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Today's Land Use  
13 Call-Ups are adopted by a vote of 47 in the  
14 affirmative, 0 in the negative-negative. Quiet in  
15 the Chambers as we now hear from the Speaker, Speaker  
16 Corey Johnson.

17 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Good afternoon. Before  
18 I get to my prepared remarks today, Madam Public  
19 Advocate.

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

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Madam Public Advocate  
23 and Councilman Williams, today is not a political  
24 occasion. It's a governmental occasion, but I want  
25 to just really let you both know that I think I speak

2 on behalf of all of the members here and the staff  
3 and people who have had the opportunity to work with  
4 you in the City Council and in the Public Advocate's  
5 Office. We are also incredibly proud by the history  
6 that you all achieved a couple of weeks ago, and I  
7 wanted to really tell you how grateful we are for  
8 your service and for your courage and for everything  
9 that you will have done, and we look forward to  
10 supporting you, and continuing to watch you in the  
11 spirit [coughs] of advocacy and service of how you've  
12 served our great city and state, and so I want to  
13 thank both of you for everything that you all have  
14 done.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you, Mr.  
16 Speaker. Thank you. [cheers/applause] So, first, I  
17 want to extend-[pause]-I want to extend my best  
18 wishes to my Jewish colleagues and to all Jewish New  
19 Yorkers on a wonderful holiday season. I hope each  
20 and every one of you had a safe and blessed Yom  
21 Kippur and are having a safe and blesse Sukkot.  
22 [coughs] Now, I would like to remember John Elges, a  
23 retired FDNY firefighter who succumbed to 9/11  
24 related cancer. He was only 60 years old. John was  
25 cited three times for bravery throughout his career

2 and a loving family man who leaves behind his wife,  
3 four children and six grandchildren with another  
4 grandchild on the way. Our thoughts and prayers are  
5 with John's wife Nola, their children and  
6 grandchildren and John's FDNY family. Let us take a  
7 moment of silence in John's honor. If everyone could  
8 please rise.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All rise.

10 [background comments] [moment of silence observed]

11 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

13 SPEAKER JOHNSON: We are also losing a  
14 dear member of the Council staff this week, Tiffany  
15 Townsend. Tiffany is a rock star and has become a  
16 vital member of our team here at the Council.

17 Tiffany's next step in her career will be at the  
18 Brooklyn Nave Yard where she will serve—she will  
19 serve a Vice President of External Affairs at the  
20 Navy Yard. We wish Tiffany the best of luck in her  
21 endeavors, and we will miss her. If we could please  
22 give Tiffany a big round of applause.

23 [cheers/applause] She's in the back of the room. So  
24 jumping into our docket for the day, the Council will  
25 vote on one Article XI property tax exemption at the

2 following location: Lakeview Apartments, which is in  
3 the borough of Manhattan. The purpose of this  
4 exemption located in Council Member Bill Perkins'  
5 district. This is to preserve 446 units of  
6 affordable housing. I want to thank Rebecca Chasan  
7 from the Finance Division for her work on that. The  
8 Council will vote on the following land use items:  
9 The Central Harlem Historic District in Manhattan.  
10 The Council will vote to affirm the designation of  
11 the Central Harlem West 103<sup>rd</sup> Street to 132<sup>nd</sup> Street  
12 Historic District in Council Member Perkins'  
13 district, which consist of approximately 164  
14 properties primarily row houses with a handful of  
15 apartment institutional buildings located on the mid-  
16 blocks West 130<sup>th</sup>, West 131<sup>st</sup> and West 132<sup>nd</sup> Streets  
17 between Lenox and Seventh Avenue. We're going to  
18 voting on a rezoning or a modification in Council  
19 Member Menchaca's district. It's the NYPD Evidence  
20 Storage in Erie Basin. The Council will vote with  
21 modifications to approve the site selection of Erie  
22 Basin on the Red Hook Waterfront in Council Member  
23 Menchaca's district to enable the NYPD vehicle  
24 storage facility to continue to locate on the site  
25 for a maximum of ten more years. I know that the

2 Council Member worked very hard to make sure that the  
3 NYPD could carry out its critical work while  
4 simultaneously creating a process for finding it a  
5 long-term in the future and I want to thank him for  
6 his very hard work, and really honest work with the  
7 NYPD in getting through this process. I know that it  
8 wasn't easy. We're going to be voting on 640 and 644  
9 Riverside Drive in Manhattan. These are two Article  
10 XI property tax exemptions in Council Member Levine's  
11 district to facilitate the preservation of 226 units  
12 of affordable housing. We are voting on 80 Flatbush  
13 Avenue in Brooklyn. The Council will vote to approve  
14 with modifications the 80 Flatbush Avenue project in  
15 Council Member Steven Levin's district. Council  
16 Member Levin successfully pushed for reductions in  
17 height and density, the proposal and important  
18 changes to the design. These modifications will be  
19 made while maintaining the promised two schools, two  
20 new schools and approximately 200 units of affordable  
21 housing. I know this was a difficult, contentious,  
22 arduous process for Steve. So, I want to thank him,  
23 and congratulate him on getting this done at the  
24 finish line. I know it was very complicated. So,  
25 congratulations Steve. We'll be voting on 205 Park

2 Avenue in Brooklyn. The Council will vote to approve  
3 with modifications the 205 Park Avenue rezoning in  
4 Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo's district. The  
5 rezoning will facilitate the development of an 8-  
6 story mixed-use building with 79 units including up  
7 to 20 affordable units pursuant to Mandatory  
8 Inclusionary Housing Option 1 and the deep  
9 affordability option. We'll be voting on a rezoning  
10 at 57 Caton Place in Brooklyn. The Council will be  
11 voting to approve an application to facilitate the  
12 development [coughs] of a nine-story mixed-use  
13 building with 107 residential units including 27  
14 affordable units at 57 Caton Place in Council Member  
15 Brad Lander's district. We'll be voting on 1881 and  
16 1883 McDonald Avenue in Brooklyn. This is to approve  
17 the McDonald Avenue Rezoning facilitating the  
18 development of an eight-story mixed-use building with  
19 35 units including 11 affordable units in Council  
20 Member Kalman Yeger's District. We'll be voting on  
21 an application at 27 East Fourth Street. On this  
22 application we'll be voting to approve-disapprove the  
23 27 East Fourth Street application in Council Member  
24 Carlina Rivera's district. The applicant was seeking  
25 the zoning text amendment for a special permit under

2 74-712 of the Zoning Code to make the site eligible  
3 for a special permit and seeking two additional  
4 special permits allowing a transient hotel and retail  
5 use and to modify bulk regulations. Our view is that  
6 the text amendment and the special permits are not  
7 appropriate for reasons that were articulated in  
8 detail at the subcommittee and at the Committee vote.  
9 I know that the Council Member looks forward to  
10 continuing to work with her local community, and the  
11 development team to see if an alternative is  
12 possible. We'll be voting on the Victory Boulevard  
13 Rezoning on Staten Island. We'll vote to approve  
14 with modifications the Victory Boulevard rezoning in  
15 Minority Leader Steve Matteo's district. The  
16 rezoning would allow for the applicant to expand its  
17 existing automotive repair facility. Our  
18 modification at the Council will ensure that the  
19 neighboring residences are not adversely affected by  
20 the non-residential uses including illuminated  
21 advertising signs. I know this was a complicated and  
22 not an easy negotiation. So, congratulations Steve  
23 on getting it done. We'll be voting on the O'Neill's  
24 Rezoning in Queens. The Council will vote to approve  
25 the O'Neill's rezoning to allow for a second floor

2 enlargement to a neighborhood establishment in  
3 Council Member Bob Holden's district. We'll be  
4 voting on HK Kitchen on Staten-HK Kitchen in the  
5 Bronx. This is a sidewalk café in Council Member  
6 Mark Gjonaj's district. The applicant has agreed to  
7 reduce the number of tables and chairs. That is a  
8 lot of land use, and a lot of the staff of the  
9 Council were very hard on this. I want to thank  
10 Brian Paul, Jeff Hume and John Douglas, Chelsea  
11 Kelly, Amy Levitan, Julie Lubin and the Director of  
12 Land Use Raju Mann as well as my Chief of staff Jason  
13 Bulbin (sp?) for all this help on all these items.  
14 Moving on, the Council will vote on the following  
15 pieces of legislation. Introduction 713-A sponsored  
16 by Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer will require that  
17 prominent signage within all Runaway and Homeless  
18 Youth services funded by the Department of Youth and  
19 Community Development will [coughs] have a 24-hour  
20 call-in line for questions and comments or complaints  
21 regarding RHY services. I want to thank the staff  
22 that worked on this, Paul Senegal, Kevin Katowski,  
23 Smita Deshmukh and Andrea Vasquez. We'll also vote  
24 on two education bills sponsored by our Education  
25 Committee Chair Mark Treyger. Introduction 561-A



2 will require the Department of Education to submit  
3 annual reports to the City Council regarding the  
4 income and expenditures for parent and parent-teacher  
5 associations. The data will be disaggregated by  
6 school district and by school and the report will be  
7 posted on the Department of Education's website.  
8 Introduction 762-A will require the Department of  
9 Citywide Administrative Services, DCAS to annually  
10 provide the Department of Education with materials  
11 related to civil service examinations and require DOE  
12 to provide such materials to graduating seniors. I  
13 want to thank the staff who worked on this: Beth  
14 Golub, Kalima Johnson, Jan Atwell, Smita Deshmukh and  
15 Andrea Vazquez. Next in recognition of climate week  
16 this week we will vote on several Environment  
17 Protection Bills sponsored by Environmental  
18 Protection Committee Chair Costa Constantinides.  
19 Introduction 628-A would require the City to create a  
20 map of areas in the city that are most vulnerable to  
21 flooding due to the anticipated impacts of climate  
22 change and sea level rise. Introduction 749-A will  
23 require the development of a pilot program in  
24 Southeast Queens to use dewatering discharge as a  
25 means of heating and cooling buildings and lastly

2 Introduction 750-A would require that the New York  
3 City Jamaica Bay taskforce to provide advice and  
4 recommendations to the city regarding the cleanup of  
5 Jamaica Bay and Jamaica Bay resiliency. I want to  
6 thank the staff who worked on this package of bills:  
7 Samara Swanston, Nadia Johnson, Jonathan Seltzer,  
8 Megan Chin, and Terzah Nasser. We'll also be voting  
9 on Introduction 735-A, sponsored by Standards and  
10 Ethic Committee Chair and Minority Leader Steven  
11 Matteo. The bill would require the Conflict of  
12 Interest Board to report on and initiate rule making  
13 for advisory opinions that have interpretive value  
14 in construing the provisions of the Conflict of  
15 Interest Law, and that meet certain criteria. That  
16 also requires the inclusion of certain informative  
17 statements in future advisory opinions. I want to  
18 thank the staff that worked on this bill Brad Reed,  
19 Elizabeth Kronk, Rob Newman, Kenneth Grace and Serina  
20 Longley. Next, the Council will vote on legislation  
21 regulating vending zones. Introduction 959-A is  
22 sponsored by Council Member Margaret Chin would  
23 extend the Vending Exclusion Zone around the World  
24 Trade Center to encapsulate security points.  
25 Margaret, I want to thank you. I think you have done

2 an incredible job on this. You have spent an  
3 enormous amount of time. You have been thoughtful.  
4 You have been pragmatic. You have been sensitive to  
5 concerns that were raised to you. You did not allow  
6 a full expansion of the perimeter zone, and so, I am  
7 extraordinary grateful for the hard work that you  
8 have put on this, and I wholeheartedly support this  
9 bill before us today. I—I also—we also are going to  
10 be hearing Introduction and voting on Introduction  
11 969-A sponsored by Council Member Peter Koo, which  
12 would extend the restricted hours that food vendors  
13 can vend on certain streets within Flushing. Peter  
14 similarly I want to thank you for your approach to  
15 this. You've worked on this for a very, very long  
16 time, and I'm grateful that we go to today, and I  
17 just want to say that you and Margaret are people who  
18 are immigrants yourself to this country and people  
19 that have always stood for immigrants in this  
20 country, and I know that you are doing this for the  
21 right reasons, and I look forward to supporting both  
22 of you today. I want to thank the staff that worked  
23 on these bills: Leah Skrzypiec. I apologize if I  
24 mispronounce your name, Leah; Balqees Murig, and  
25 Rachel Cordero. Finally, we'll vote on two bills

2 strengthening regulations of the sightseeing bus  
3 industry. My bill Introduction 723-A would authorize  
4 the Department of Transportation to approve pickup  
5 and drop-off spots before a company receives or  
6 renews their license to operate. DOT will consider  
7 issues related to congestion, public safety and  
8 community input when approving stops for these  
9 tourist buses. Introduction 727-A sponsored by our  
10 Consumer Affairs and Business' Licensing Committee  
11 Chair Rafael Espinal would expand licensing  
12 requirement for sightseeing bus companies.  
13 Sightseeing bus drivers must meet basic requirements  
14 such as not having accumulated nine or more points on  
15 their driving record within an 18-month period, not  
16 having their license suspended or revoked, and not  
17 being convicted of an alcohol or drug related offense  
18 over the past three years. I want to thank the  
19 staff, Leah Balgees (sp?) and Rachel for their work  
20 on that package of bills. That concludes our agenda  
21 for today's Stated meeting and I look forward to  
22 proceeding with today's votes. Thank you very much,  
23 Madam Public Advocate.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

25 Discussion of general orders. General Orders.

2 Council Member Menchaca. Thank you, Public Advocate  
3 and I also want to extend my congratulations from us  
4 to you and your incredible win. I'm speaking today  
5 on General Orders on Intro 959 and 969. These are  
6 the two vendor bills that were discussed in the  
7 General Orders. These are not and I want to make it  
8 very clear. These are not Land Use items. Land Use  
9 items are things that we have a-kind of a kind of  
10 general understanding that local Council Members kind  
11 of move forward, and we kind of go with them. These  
12 are not Land Use Items. I have some issues with  
13 these bills, and I'll be voting no those two during  
14 my voting no on those two during my voting, but  
15 street vendors are a vital part of the city. They  
16 feed us and bring products to us, and with culture  
17 and so much vibrancy, and both of these bills I think  
18 fall short of the real opportunity for us to build  
19 relationships with an immigrant community that is  
20 being often attacked. I think that we have more time  
21 to be—we—we need more time to be able to build a  
22 better set of bills, and that the concepts around  
23 public safety and congestion just do not meet the  
24 standard of protecting the economic viability of the  
25 street vendors. They were outside. We spoke to

2 them, and so, we can do we both public safety  
3 congestion issues, and protecting the viability. I  
4 don't know if there are any plans, and I'm hoping to  
5 hear from the Council Members today about those plans  
6 with those street vendors that today you will be  
7 voting to evict them from the spaces that some of  
8 them have been there for 30 years. This is not easy,  
9 colleagues. And so, I ask for more times, but no on  
10 these bills that can go back to committee so we can  
11 get a better opportunity for everyone. These are  
12 vulnerable communities that we are impacting today,  
13 and so with those concerns and those--this  
14 opportunity that we have today to keep working on  
15 them and this is not a land use item that has  
16 tradition. I ask you to vote no on both 959, 969 or  
17 abstain on the vote because you are going to be  
18 impacting the livelihoods of Martha of Nicholas and  
19 Motar today. Thank you so much.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

21 Council Member Constantinides.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Thank  
23 you. Madam Public Advocate. I rise today to ask my  
24 colleagues to support a package of bills that will  
25 help secure the future of Jamaica Bay and the

2 surrounding waterways and communities. These bills  
3 will help set Southeast Queens and other areas on a  
4 more sustainable course. The first bill Intro 4-749,  
5 will direct the city to study the groundwater pumping  
6 facilities used across Southeast Queens such as the  
7 systems used at York College or that pumps out a  
8 100,000 gallons per day, or Junior High School 8 in  
9 Jamaica--that pumps 24 hours a day--to see if the  
10 water can be used for heating and cooling in  
11 geothermal exchange system. As the groundwater table  
12 seeps ever upward, these city facilities must spend  
13 more and more on pumping out water from their  
14 basements, and into sewers, and less on educating the  
15 next generation of New Yorkers. This study will  
16 determine if the water can instead be put to our  
17 beneficial use that allows these buildings to  
18 transition away from boilers that that burn dirty  
19 fuel oil and other fossil fuels to renewable energy.  
20 The second bill will help re-establish a fiscal task  
21 force for the cleanup and maintenance of Jamaica Bay.  
22 Until 2013, when it was abolished by Mayor Bloomberg  
23 the Jamaica Bay Task Force worked with stakeholders  
24 around the city, state and federal agencies and  
25 experts from a number of different fields determined

2 the best outcome for this bay's ecosystem. Many of  
3 these of these great activists are still meeting  
4 today. Today we are just going to help re-establish  
5 that committee in order to help fight climate change,  
6 loss of marshland, pollution from JFK, wait for  
7 plants, and other challenges. The third bill applies  
8 more generally to the city as a whole, but it will  
9 also look at climate change in a way of our flooding.  
10 We know sea level is going to rise. We know climate  
11 change is affecting New York City. We have to be  
12 proactive rather than reactive. Areas that were once  
13 thought of as hundreds or thousand-year flood zones  
14 are now flooding with regularity. [bell] I will—I  
15 will wrap up. I want to thank my colleagues, Council  
16 Member Donovan Richards, Daneek Miller, Adrienne  
17 Adams for their great support on these bills and  
18 helping me tour York College and Junior High School  
19 8. Nadia—Samara Swanston, Nadia Johnson on the  
20 Committee staff. The Mundy family for all of their  
21 great work and advocacy around Jamaica Bay. [bell]  
22 Manny Kaufman and Archie Spigner as well and, of  
23 course, our Speaker Corey John for his strong  
24 environmental leadership not only during Climate Week  
25 but throughout our entire year. Thank you.



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

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you Madam  
5 Public Advocate. It's great to see you there again.  
6 [laughs] Today we are voting on Intro 959-A, a bill  
7 that would help ensure safety for the growing number  
8 of residents, pedestrians in and around the World  
9 Trade Center site. There's no question that the  
10 streetscape around the World Trade Center is unique  
11 with the area becoming more heavily utilized,  
12 important security infrastructure including bollards,  
13 security, credentialing, kiosks and vehicle  
14 checkpoints have been installed to adjust for the  
15 reality of a newly revitalized site. By pursuing a  
16 limited expansion of the no vending zone to include  
17 these security points, this legislation would created  
18 a buffer to prevent crowds and any other obstructions  
19 from blocking the site line. This bill achieves two  
20 goals: Ensuring safety for a growing number of  
21 resident workers and visitors while minimizing impact  
22 on surrounding street vendors. Before and after the  
23 hearing, I'm proud to have successfully advocated to  
24 keep places like the Bacardi Park ad many more areas  
25 open for vending. I also want to thank all the World

2 Trade Center street vendors who have met with my  
3 office and promised to work with us as we advocate  
4 for opportunities for them to continue to make a  
5 living and build their customer base here. I want to  
6 thank our Speaker for his support and the Council's  
7 staff and especially Rachel Cordero and Leah  
8 Skrypiec and my office for their hard work to create  
9 a balanced bill that increase safety for those who  
10 live, work and visit the World Trade Center area as  
11 well acknowledging street vendors' vital roll in our  
12 downtown community. And I urge my join me in voting  
13 yes on this bill. Thank you.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member  
15 Koo.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you, Madam  
17 Public Advocate. Today I am asking my colleagues to  
18 support my bill 969-A. As one of the most busy  
19 transportation hubs in New York City, the Downtown  
20 Flushing area bears a unique burden that separates it  
21 from other commute-communities. Every day thousands  
22 of people compete for these 101 bus lines, the 7  
23 Train, commuter van and Long Island Railroad. All of  
24 this space has recently become overrun with sidewalk  
25 obstructions. Last year, we widened the sidewalks in

2 hopes of providing more spaces for commuters and  
3 residents. Unfortunately, our widened sidewalks has  
4 given rise to a massive increase in street vending of  
5 all kinds. This legislation looks to return the  
6 sidewalks of one of the city's busiest transportation  
7 hubs back to the people. I have no objection to  
8 vendors being innovative in order to conduct their  
9 business, but I wholeheartedly object to those who do  
10 so at the expense of their community. So, this bill  
11 prohibits vending around downtown area in the day  
12 time and evening hours. We left some streets open so  
13 food vendors can still conduct business, and I'm open  
14 to discuss the creation of designated vending zones  
15 in our community in the future. We first need to  
16 address the problem of congestion that exists today.  
17 Thank you, Speaker Johnson, Chief of Staff Jason  
18 Goldman, Rob Newman, Rachel Cordero, James Dejurani  
19 (sp?) Balqees Murig (sp?) Diane Yu Pier (sic) Angel  
20 Wilbur, and Committee Chair Espinal [bell] and my  
21 staff. Thank you.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

23 Council Member Van Bramer.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you

25 very much. I want to thank the speaker and Chair and

2 my neighbor Debi Rose for helping to shepherd this  
3 piece of legislation. Through that hopefully  
4 everyone will vote for it today. We all know that  
5 Runaway and Homeless Youth are particularly  
6 vulnerable and LGBTQ youth who are or have run away  
7 and have experienced homelessness are—are  
8 particularly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse  
9 even at the facilities that are designed to help  
10 them, the Department of Youth and Community  
11 Development issue millions and millions of dollars in  
12 contracts both at shelters and at other service  
13 providers, but it's important for all of the Runaway  
14 and Homeless Youth to know that if they are  
15 experiencing abuse, if they are being exploited or if  
16 any of the services or programs including shelters  
17 are not serving them well, they must have a place to  
18 turn to. So, this will establish a clear and very  
19 visible signage alerting them to a 24-hour hotline  
20 that they can call to report any problems, any abuse.  
21 They must be heard and they must get the help and the  
22 services that they require. It is incredibly  
23 important because so much of the work is  
24 subcontracted out, and not actually performed by a  
25 city agency, but instead by private providers. So,

2 I'm really proud of this piece of legislation to make  
3 sure that we're reaching all of these young people  
4 particularly those who are most vulnerable, and to  
5 make sure that all of the service providers are doing  
6 the service and helping all of these young people in  
7 ways that truly reach them and if they are not, they  
8 know that someone is watching, someone is listening,  
9 and if they make a quick phone call, they will get  
10 what they need. So, with that, I want to thank  
11 everyone for helping to make this possible, including  
12 my colleagues, and also my Chief of Staff Matt  
13 Wallace. Thank you.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member  
15 Treyger.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you,  
17 Public Advocate. It's no secret that our PTAs are not  
18 as equitable as they should be, and we must do more  
19 to make sure all of our students have equal  
20 opportunities. There are some schools that have  
21 raised more than \$1 million, but other schools have  
22 to start a God Fund Me page just to raise for basic  
23 resources. Your zip code should not determine your  
24 number of opportunities, and to be clear, fundraising  
25 totals do not equate to engagement, but they do

2 equate to the number of opportunities students may  
3 receive in that school. My bill will require the DOE  
4 to report annually regarding the total income and  
5 expenditure of parent associations, and  
6 parent/teacher associations at each school in the  
7 prior school year. The bill will create transparency  
8 furthering from the conversation we're having about  
9 inequity in our school system, and help shape  
10 policies going forward to ensure all of our city's  
11 students are getting the same opportunities for the—a  
12 quality education they deserve. I'm proud of my bill  
13 Intro 561-A and I ask all of my colleagues for their  
14 support. In addition to I have another bill Intro  
15 672-A that would require the DOE to provide—I'm sorry  
16 DCAS to provide information to students in our high  
17 schools about the Civil Service exams, and—and all  
18 the information that goes with it. It's a common  
19 sense no-brainer bill to better inform our students  
20 about future opportunities right here in New York  
21 City. I'd like to thank Speaker Corey Johnson,  
22 Education Committee staff Beth Golub, Jan Atwell,  
23 Colima Johnson, Caitlin O'Hagan, Elizabeth Hoffman,  
24 Laura Popa, Robe Newman, Jeff Baker, Jason Goldman.  
25 I thank my—my staff and my office Anna Scafe, Vanessa

2 Ogle and Eric Feinberg. I ask my colleagues to  
3 support both bills. Thank you.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
5 Council Member Miller.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you, Madam  
7 Public Advocate. I simply want to congratulate my  
8 colleague and thank my colleague Council Member  
9 Constantinides for the work that he's done in the  
10 Environmental Protection Community particularly  
11 around those vulnerable areas or flooding areas  
12 throughout our city, and the work that's done on the  
13 pilot program in Southeast Queens, a community that  
14 has suffered for decades. The work that we have seen  
15 working with myself and Council Member Adams already  
16 and I know that these bill will make a significant  
17 difference in particular as well as Council Member  
18 Richards will make a difference in Southeast Queens.  
19 I look forward its passage, and working with the  
20 Council Member and the committee on those issues.  
21 Thank you. As well—I'm sorry, and I'd like to shout  
22 out School Construction team that is in the balcony  
23 there working very hard. Thank you so much.

24

25

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

3 Seeing no one else on General Orders, Report of  
4 Special Committees.

5 CLERK: None.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reports of  
7 Standing Committees.

8 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
9 Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing Intros 723-A  
10 and 727-A, Sightseeing Buses.

11 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on  
12 General Orders.

13 CLERK: Intros 959-A and 969-A Street  
14 Vendor bills.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on  
16 General Orders.

17 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
18 Education, Intro 561-A Parent-Teacher Associations.

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on  
20 General Orders.

21 CLERK: Intro 672-A Civil Service Exams  
22 in Schools.

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

25



2 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
3 Environmental Protection, Intro 628-A, 749-A, 750-A,  
4 Flooding, Dewatering Discharge in Jamaica Bay.

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on  
6 General Orders.

7 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
8 Finance, Preconsidered Reso 537, Organization  
9 Funding.

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
11 Orders.

12 CLERK: Preconsidered LU 230 and Reso  
13 541, Lakeview Apartments.

14 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
15 Orders.

16 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land  
17 Use, LU 151 and Reso 542 Landmark Designation.

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
19 Orders.

20 CLERK: LU 175 NYPD Storage.

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Approved with  
22 modifications and referred to the City Planning  
23 Commission pursuant to Rule 11.70 (b) of the Rules of  
24 the Council and Section 197-D of the New York City  
25 Charter.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 90

2 CLERK: [coughs] Excuse me. LU 184 and  
3 Reso 543 and LU 185 and Reso 544, Tax Exemptions.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
5 Orders.

6 CLERK: LU 192 through LU 194, 80  
7 Flatbush Avenue Rezoning.

8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Approved with  
9 modifications and referred to the City Planning  
10 Commission pursuant to Rule 11.70(b) of the Rules of  
11 the Council, and Section 197-D of the New York City  
12 Charter.

13 CLERK: LU 199 and Reso 545 and LU 200  
14 and Reso 546, 57 Caton Place Rezoning.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
16 Orders.

17 CLERK: LU 201 and Reso 547 and LU 202  
18 and Reso 548, McDonald Avenue Rezoning.

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
20 Orders.

21 CLERK: LU 203 and Reso 549 through LU  
22 205 and Reso 551, 27 East Fourth Street.

23 SPEAKER JOHNSON: A motion to disapprove

24 CLERK: LU 206, Victory Boulevard  
25 Rezoning.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

91

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Approved with  
3 modifications, and referred to the City Planning  
4 Commission pursuant to Rule 11.70(b) of the Rules of  
5 the Council and Section 197-D of the New York City  
6 Charter.

7 CLERK: LUs—LU 207 and Reso 552,  
8 O'Neill's Rezoning.

9 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
10 Orders.

11 CLERK: LU 217 and Reso 553, Sidewalk  
12 Café.

13 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
14 Orders.

15 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Rules,  
16 Privileges and Elections, Preconsidered M-100 and  
17 Reso 554 approving the appointment of Sarah Carroll  
18 as a member of the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
20 Orders.

21 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
22 Standards and Ethics, Intro 735-A, Conflict of  
23 Interest Board.

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

2 CLERK: Repot of the Committee on Youth  
3 Services Intro 713-A Runaway and Homeless Youth.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on  
5 General Orders.

6 CLERK: On the General Order Calendar,  
7 Intro 720 Site Safety Training.

8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Laid over.

9 CLERK: LU 175 and Reso 555 through LU  
10 206 and Reso 560 various rezonings.

11 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
12 Orders.

13 CLERK: Resolution appoint various  
14 persons commissioner of deeds.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
16 Orders, and at this time I would ask for a roll call  
17 vote on all of the items on the today's General Order  
18 Calendar.

19 CLERK: Adams.

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

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: With regard to LU  
24 151, as was stated earlier today, I just want to  
25 acknowledge the hard work of my Subcommittee on

2 Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime Uses for your  
3 very, very hard work in working on the—the Harlem  
4 designation, which was very interesting say the  
5 least. Once again, I'd like to personally  
6 acknowledge and credit the hard work of numerous  
7 stakeholders in Harlem for making their voices heard  
8 over many, many years and the residing community of  
9 the Ninth District of Manhattan I say thank you once  
10 again for your passionate perseverance in this  
11 matter. My colleagues and I welcome the opportunity  
12 to get it right, and I will proudly aye to support  
13 your efforts to maintain the boundaries of the entire  
14 Central Harlem Historic District. I vote aye.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

16 CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Aye on all.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

19 CLERK: Ayala.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER AYLA: Aye on all.

21 CLERK: Barron.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Permission to  
23 explain my vote.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. I  
3 want to also acknowledge Celeste Morris the  
4 instructor of the Program in conjunction with t  
5 School Construction Authority, who is here with her  
6 students, in the Advanced Mental Program and Public  
7 Policy Module. Regarding the legislation, I also  
8 want to add my comments to the great work that was  
9 done by the community of Harlem to say that the  
10 action that had been taken by the Subcommittee was  
11 not in keeping with what most of that community  
12 wanted, and I want to commend them for making sure  
13 that they were engaged in this process to have it  
14 done in its entirety. I am voting aye on all with the  
15 exception of LU 190 through 194 and LU 199 through  
16 202, and it's the same speech that I generally make  
17 when I vote no on these land use items. I don't  
18 think that as we are approving projects that have 25  
19 and 30% of what's designed for people at 60 and 80%  
20 leaving 70 to 80% at market rate is addressing the  
21 issue of providing housing for those in the greatest  
22 need. So, for that reason I'm voting no against those  
23 bills that I've cited as well as Intro 959-A and 969-  
24 A. I do believe that vendors, if this bill passes  
25 will be greatly harmed, and I understand from one of

2 the sponsors that there ill be efforts made to lift  
3 the cap. I think perhaps if we have lifted the cap  
4 first there might have been a better opportunity to  
5 be able vendors around. Thank you.

6 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Mr. Clerk, before you  
7 move on, I was remiss. I wanted to acknowledge that  
8 joined with us in the audience today is Assembly  
9 Member Michael Blake who is here, and I want to  
10 welcome him to the Chambers of the City Council.  
11 Thank you for being here, Assemblymember. [applause]

12 CLERK: Borelli.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye

14 CLERK: Brannan.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: I vote aye on  
16 all with the exception of 959-A and 969-A.

17 CLERK: Cabrera.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye on all.

19 CLERK: Chin.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye on all.

21 CLERK: Cohen.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Madam, Public  
23 Advocate, permission to explain my vote.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

25

2 CLERK: Thank you. I just want to  
3 address. I would not have voted for 959-A and 969-A  
4 except for my-my deep belief that we will as a body  
5 ultimately take up more comprehensive street vendor  
6 reform. I represent two BIDs and I know that there  
7 are challenging issues with street vending, but I  
8 also know that some of the regulations particularly  
9 problems with permitting really need to be addressed,  
10 and so I look forward to addressing those, and I also  
11 want to thank my colleague Mark Treyger for taking  
12 the time on 561-A because I also-I'm concerned that  
13 information will be used for good, but I think  
14 pulling this one strand out of a complicated formula  
15 on school budgets could have the potential of being  
16 divisive, but the bill is neutral on its face, and I  
17 share his deep concern about inequity in terms of  
18 resources and schools. So, despite those reservation  
19 and-and my deep belief that we are going to  
20 ultimately get to a good place on street vending, I'm  
21 going to vote aye on all.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

23 CLERK: Constantinides.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye on  
25 all.



1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

97

2 CLERK: Cornegy.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye on all  
4 except 959-A.

5 CLERK: Deutsch.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye on all.

7 CLERK: Dromm.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

9 CLERK: Diaz.

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

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Madam Chairlady, I  
14 was in support—I was—I was going to explain my vote,  
15 but after listening to my colleague Menchaca, I'm  
16 going to leave it like that. I think that he  
17 explained it so well I saw clear that whoever have  
18 ears should listen to him, and I'm voting yes on all  
19 except 959-A and 969-A. Thank you very much, and  
20 thank you Council Member Menchaca for that wonderful  
21 explanation.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

23 CLERK: Espinal

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Espinal.

25 CLERK: Gibson.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I vote aye on  
3 all.

4 CLERK: Grodenchik.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye.

6 CLERK: Holden.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye on all.

8 CLERK: Kallos.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye on all.

10 CLERK: Koo.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye on all.

12 CLERK: Koslowitz.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off mic] Aye  
14 on all.

15 CLERK: Lancman.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: [off mic] Aye

17 CLERK: Lander.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Request  
19 permission to explain.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you Madam

22 Public Advocate and congratulations to you. For many  
23 of the same reasons that my colleagues are—feel  
24 ambivalent about 959 and 969-A, there is room for us  
25 to move forward on vending in a way that does provide

2 some places where restrict—restrict it, but I really  
3 believe it will be best done as part of comprehensive  
4 legislation that also eases some of the burdens that  
5 we have, sets clear standards. I do not think we'll  
6 be—we, excuse me, will be well served if every effort  
7 to restrict vending is a piece of legislation on the  
8 floor of this Council. So, I'm going to—but I also  
9 have real respect for Council Members Koo and Chin.  
10 I know they have worked hard here. Obviously, they  
11 are champions of immigrants, and I respect their  
12 work. I'm going to vote no on 969-A, and I'm going  
13 to abstain on 959-A where I appreciate the work that  
14 Council Member Chin has done to pull back the  
15 boundaries and the work that Jason Goldman has done,  
16 and commits to continue doing to make sure those 16  
17 vendors that are being displaced find good places in  
18 Lower Manhattan where they can continue to do  
19 business or we can all be proud of what we're doing  
20 here today. I also want to give prompts to Steven  
21 Levin on his work at 80 Flatbush. He is up against  
22 it on a lot of projects, and he is working hard to  
23 find solutions that work for the broader goals of the  
24 city as well as of his district, and I want to thank  
25 my colleagues for voting in favor of the application

2 at 57 Caton Place where we're getting a couple of  
3 dozen new affordable units in the Kensington  
4 Community, which has never had any affordable housing  
5 before, and also taking significant steps forward to  
6 preserve Kensington Stables the home of the horses  
7 that are the last riding in Prospect Park and in  
8 Brooklyn. I won't go into details about what we're  
9 getting done there, but good things are happening,  
10 and I appreciate your vote in favor. I vote aye on  
11 all except no on 969-A and abstain on 959-A. Thank  
12 you.

13 CLERK: Espinal.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I vote aye.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

16 CLERK: Levin.

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

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you very  
21 much, Madam Public Advocate. I just wanted to thank  
22 my colleagues for their support on-on the 80 Flatbush  
23 project and for those that are voting no I understand  
24 and respect their-their-their vote and opinions.  
25 This was a long process, and we went through a

2 rigorous process to get to an outcome that I think  
3 was in the best interest of the community. What-  
4 where we landed was now the project is going to be  
5 reduced from an 18 FAR building or set of buildings  
6 to a 15.75 FAR building. This translates to roughly  
7 about 137,000 square feet. So, it's a significant  
8 reduction while maintaining all of the benefits that  
9 were initially committed. So, roughly or  
10 approximately 200 units of affordable housing, a new  
11 school for Khalil Gibran International Academy, and a  
12 new elementary school that will serve approximately  
13 350 students. It was our preference to try to get  
14 the building to under 15 FAR, but unfortunately, that  
15 wasn't possible, but we do believe that it was-it  
16 was-we negotiated about as far as we could go while  
17 still maintaining a viable project, and so I want to  
18 thank the applicant Alloy, the Education Construct-  
19 Educational Construction firm, Maldonado, our Land  
20 Use staff, our Chief of Staff Jason Goldman, Raju  
21 Mann, Brian Paul, Amy Levitan, Julie Lubin who worked  
22 very hard on this, and I want to especially thank as  
23 well as the Administration and especially Deputy  
24 Mayor Alicia Glen who worked personally on this. And  
25 I want to thank the community who really had their

2 voice in this process, and made their voices heard  
3 and had a significant impact. If it wasn't for the  
4 community, the Boerum Hill Association, but a lot of  
5 other individuals and groups that made their voices  
6 heard, this project would not have improved the way  
7 that it was. So, I want to give [bell] them the—the  
8 shout-out that they deserve, and—and I do want to  
9 vote aye on all with the exception of—sorry—two  
10 pieces of legislation. Sorry, with the exception of  
11 Intros 959-A and 969-A with great respect to my  
12 colleagues Margaret Chin and Peter who I know who  
13 worked hard on this, but respectfully I vote no on  
14 those two items. Thank you.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

16 CLERK: Matteo.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Aye on all.

18 CLERK: Levine.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: I'm voting aye on  
20 all with the exception of Intro 969-A. Thank you.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

22 CLERK: Maisel.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

24 CLERK: Menchaca.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Madam Public  
3 Advocate, permission to explain my vote.

4 CLERK: Yes.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you. I  
6 am going to talking about the Erie Basin NYPD  
7 Evidence Storage Facility, Land Use Item 170-175.  
8 I'm-I'm voting yes on this, and we worked really hard  
9 to address some of the concerns of the community with  
10 the NYPD. This facility is critical to NYPD's  
11 ability to store evidence and investigate criminal  
12 cases, but this facility also sits on one of the most  
13 vulnerable sites in our city, a sit the as devastated  
14 during Sandy resulting in the significant and costly  
15 damage to investigatory evidence. As we know, more  
16 storms and foods are coming, and I felt it was  
17 irresponsible to allow the city to continue this site  
18 and continue not just for the ten-year permit, but an  
19 indefinite amount of ability for them to renew their  
20 lease. We said no, and we worked back down to ten  
21 years only, and with that we are establishing a  
22 Relocation Working Group that will ensure that the  
23 facility that is so critical to this justice system  
24 that we hold so dear find a safe home in the next ten  
25 years, and so that I'm hoping that this becomes a

2 citywide conversation and we'll be looking towards  
3 you to join this effort by really coming out to  
4 Sunset Park and Red Hook in my district. The  
5 original agreement had some maintenance contract with  
6 Valentino Pier Park that you should visit. It's  
7 beautiful, enhancing the public access to the  
8 Columbia Street Esplande and supporting  
9 neighborhoodwide planning so that Red Hook can get  
10 the attention it needs to further think about its  
11 Integrated Flood Protection Plan, its growth in  
12 manufacturing and residential. Thank you for  
13 everyone, NYPD, DCAS, Parks, the Mayor's Office,  
14 everyone in the Speaker's staff for joining in this  
15 effort. We found a solution. We've worked together.  
16 I will be voting yes on all except for Intro 5-Sorry.  
17 Intro 969 and 959-A. Thank you so much.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

19 CLERK: Miller.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye on all.

21 CLERK: Moya.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Permission to  
23 explain my vote?

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

25



2 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Thank you, Madam  
3 Public Advocate. While I will be voting aye on all,  
4 I just wanted to say that I believe that street  
5 vendors play an important role in our community, and  
6 provide a service that should not be taken for  
7 granted. At the same time, we need to find a balance  
8 between street vending like all industries and the  
9 public safety, and I appreciate that this is a  
10 reflection of my colleagues' districts, and I look  
11 forward to working with the Council Member Chin and  
12 the rest of my colleagues going forward. Thank you.  
13 I will be voting aye on all.

14 CLERK: Perkins.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: I want to—I want  
16 to vote aye on all except 959-A and 969. I very much  
17 support the comprehensive street vending reforms and  
18 regulations and look forward to being able to be a  
19 part of the efforts of bringing that about. Aye on  
20 all otherwise.

21 CLERK: Powers.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you.  
23 Permission to explain my vote.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. I  
3 want to echo comments made both by my colleagues  
4 Francisco Moya and Andy Cohen. We I think in this  
5 body have a great appreciation for the many vendors  
6 in this city that provide not only just the character  
7 and good food, but also it's an important job, and a  
8 a path to the middle-class and higher from any  
9 Americans and new Americans. After a lot of  
10 conversations with my colleagues and—and folks here,  
11 I have a better appreciation for their issues in  
12 their districts, and for that reason I will be voting  
13 aye on—on the bills. But understanding what Council  
14 Member Lander said as well is true, which is that we  
15 need to have I think a stronger—a stronger framework  
16 for how we view all these rather than doing them sort  
17 of spot by spot. So, I support that—that framework,  
18 and building a framework around that as well.  
19 Second, I just wanted to say thank you to the  
20 Speaker. Thank you to Council Member King for a  
21 resolution on Raise the Age that we're passing today  
22 that I introduced to ensure that as we move forward,  
23 we also do a review of existing individuals that were  
24 previously convicted as 16 and 17-year-olds in  
25 Criminal Court, and examining their cars to make sure

2 that we have equitable treatment for those who are  
3 going through our system that we now deem to be  
4 inappropriate and, of course, a lot of work to do  
5 around Raise the Age before implementation here  
6 period. Last, I just wanted to congratulate Council  
7 Member Levin. I know that was a hard fought  
8 rezoning, and he came to a--I think a good place on  
9 it. So congratulations to him as well. With that--  
10 with that being said, I vote aye on all. Thanks.

11 CLERK: Reynoso.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Permission to  
13 explain my vote. Congratulations, Tish. I want to  
14 just also state I think it's very clear here that the  
15 City Council is asking for more comp-comprehensive  
16 planning and reform when it comes to the street  
17 vendor issue. (sic) And we--we all think that there is  
18 a better solution to this in a more thoughtful way,  
19 but I also do think that the work that Margaret Chin  
20 and Peter Koo have done related to street vendors in  
21 their district is--is second to none. They've been  
22 very open minded. They've been listening to all of  
23 our concerns. This is their district. They  
24 understand those districts very well. So, I am going  
25 to vote aye on all including the two bills by Koo and

2 Chin, but hope that in the future the City Council  
3 could hear a more comprehensive plan for street  
4 vending. So, again, I vote aye on all.

5 CLERK: Richards.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye on all.

7 CLERK: Rivera.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye on all.

9 CLERK: Rodriguez.

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

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: First of all,  
14 congratulations Public Advocate.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: So and my  
17 daughter Ebony (sic) so she said that going around  
18 saying that she has good friend who is going to A.G.  
19 (sic) [laughter] So, that's a role model that I know  
20 especially all women, but especially women of color  
21 they need as they grow and to see that there are role  
22 models that they can follow. No one here in this  
23 body has more moral authority than saying that she's  
24 been fighting for immigrants and street vendors and  
25 everyone than my great colleague Margaret Chin. It's

2 difficult to be here where we are because we have the  
3 responsibility to balancing the opinion and the  
4 interest of everyone. I know and I've been working  
5 with a Street Vendor Coalition for years, and I know  
6 that we need to do a reform now. I know that Council  
7 Member Chin is leading that effort. As someone that  
8 allowed me to carry on the bill the Small Business  
9 Survival Act, something that she did also for the  
10 last couple of years. I trust in her leadership to  
11 be able to sure that with the Speaker Corey Johnson,  
12 we will be able to have a hearing to move a bill to  
13 bring the reform that we need to protect the local  
14 small businesses, but also understanding a street  
15 vendor is part of our city. So, with that in mind  
16 knowing that both Council Member Koo and Chin they  
17 are great leaders that it's time for everyone  
18 including those men and women that are the street  
19 vendors on our streets, I'm very proud to be voting  
20 aye knowing that we will be working together to bring  
21 street vendor reform in our city.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Okay.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: With that, I  
24 vote aye.

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

110

2 CLERK: Rose.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye

4 CLERK: Rosenthal.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: With  
6 particular appreciation for Council Member Chin, I  
7 vote aye on all.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

9 CLERK: Torres.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I vote aye on  
11 all.

12 CLERK: Treyger.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I'm going to  
14 abstain on 969- and 959 and aye on the rest.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

16 CLERK: Ulrich.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye on all.

18 CLERK: Vallone.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Congratulations,  
20 Madam Advocate. It will be no on 561 and aye on all  
21 the rest.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

23 CLERK: Van Bramer.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Permission to  
25 briefly explain my vote.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you. I  
4 just want to say I have served with Margaret Chin and  
5 Peter Koo for nearly nine years, and I really greatly  
6 respect both of them, and know in their hearts that  
7 they are always trying to do what is best for the  
8 districts and the people they serve, and I know how  
9 deeply both of them care about all immigrants and all  
10 workers. So, I, too, have great appreciation for the  
11 role of street vendors in the city, and I know we'll  
12 have more to do in the Council, but I have great  
13 respect and admiration for my colleagues and it is  
14 with that respect for who they are and what they  
15 represent, and all that they've done that I vote aye  
16 on all.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

18 CLERK: Williams.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: May I be  
20 excused to explain my vote.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you.

23 First, I want to make sure I mention this because I  
24 know folks might leave, but honest congratulations  
25 to—to the Public Advocate and thank you for all the

2 support I received from my colleagues both before and  
3 after the election. I genuinely appreciate it.  
4 Thank you. On these votes I'm going to be abstaining  
5 on Land Use 192 to 194. I want to lend my—combine my  
6 comments with that of Council Member Barron. My hope  
7 is that at some point this body will re-open MIH. I  
8 do support the ones that do have an Option, although  
9 I think that is still not enough. My hope is that  
10 we—we open. On the bills, aye on all with the  
11 exception of Intro 959-A and 969-A. I do want to  
12 make sure I mention that I believe having worked with  
13 Council Member Chin that she deeply cares about these  
14 workers and the people that most folks are speaking  
15 about when we talk about these licenses. I just  
16 happen to disagree with the assumption that this  
17 somehow is going to assist in—in the safety. So, I'm  
18 going to have to vote no on Intro 959-A. I hope we  
19 do more comprehensive discussion around the licenses  
20 and the vendors. With Council Member Koo having  
21 worked with him I know that he is deeply concerned  
22 about that particular area, and district, but again,  
23 I'm very concerned about the vendors and doing this  
24 in piecemeal, but just as a nod to show that I know  
25 that congestion is an issue that we have to address.



2 I'm going to abstain on that one, and hope that we  
3 have a more-more full conversation on these issues,  
4 and not to move forward piecemeal because there are  
5 real people's lives who are depending on us doing  
6 this in a better way. With that, I vote aye on the  
7 rest.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Thank  
9 you, sir.

10 CLERK: Yeger.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye on all with  
12 the exception of LU 201, LU 202, Resolution 547 and  
13 Resolution 548.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member  
15 Williams. Council Member Williams, can you please  
16 repeat your vote, please for the record?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [coughs] Aye on  
18 all with-aye on all with the exception of LU 192 and  
19 194 which I vote against, and I vote against Intro  
20 949-A and I abstain on 969-A.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. [bell]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Madam President,  
23 may I-may I clarify my vote? The four items that I  
24 mentioned I'm abstaining on them, not voting no.

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you.

3 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council member

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Council Member

5 Maisel, corrects m that the Prospect Park's Stables  
6 is not the sole stables in Brooklyn. There actually  
7 is the Jamaica Bay Stables as well, and I felt bad  
8 for--

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: You stand  
10 corrected.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you.

12 CLERK: Cumbo.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I vote aye. Thank  
14 you.

15 CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

16 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I vote aye on all.

17 [pause] While we're tallying the votes, I want to  
18 let it be know that we've been joined by a very  
19 special guest today, one of the greats, as I think  
20 Council Member Perkins would agree with us. His  
21 amazing partner in life and wife the wonderful Pam  
22 Perkins is here, and I wanted to welcome her to the  
23 Chambers today. [applause]

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [laughs]

25 [background comments]

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All items on  
3 today's General Order Calendar were adopted by a vote  
4 50 in the affirmative, 0 negative, and 0 abstentions  
5 with the exception 959-A, which was adopted by a  
6 vote of 40 in the affirmative, 8 negative and 2  
7 abstentions, and Intro 969-A, which was adopted by a  
8 vote of 40 in the affirmative, 8 negative and 2  
9 abstentions, and Land Use 192, 193 and 194 with  
10 accompanying resolutions, which was adopted by a vote  
11 of 48 in the affirmative, 2 negative and 0  
12 abstentions, and Land Use 199 and 200 with  
13 accompanying resolutions, which was adopted by a vote  
14 of 49 in the affirmative, 1 negative and 0  
15 abstentions; and Land Use 201 and 202 with  
16 accompanying resolutions, which was adopted by a vote  
17 of 48 in the affirmative, 1 negative, 1 abstention;  
18 and Land Use 190 and 191 with accompanying  
19 resolutions, which is adopted by a vote of 49 in the  
20 affirmative, 1 negative and 0 abstentions; and Intro  
21 561-A, which was adopted by a vote of 49 in the  
22 affirmative, 1 negative and 0 abstentions. And there  
23 is one correction, which the Revised Land Use Call-Up  
24 vote is 50 in the affirmative, 0 negative.  
25 Introduction and reading of bills.

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: All bills have been  
3 referred to committees as indicated on the agenda.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And now  
5 Resolution 283, a resolution calling upon the  
6 governor-[shushing for quiet] Quiet in the Chambers,  
7 we're-

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

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: We're still in  
11 session. A resolution calling upon the Governor to  
12 coordinate a review of cases involving persons  
13 convicted of a crime at the age of 16 or 17 years of  
14 age before Raise the Age legislation went into effect  
15 who are currently incarcerated or are sentenced in  
16 criminal court to ensure those sentences are  
17 equitable and just. We will hear from the sponsor of  
18 that resolution Council Member Keith Powers.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. I  
20 mentioned I quickly--so I'll just keep it short.  
21 It's a resolution just to ensure that as we move into  
22 Raise the Age implementation on October 1<sup>st</sup> that we  
23 ask the governor and the state to look at those who  
24 have already been convicted as 16 and 17-year-olds  
25 and review their cases because they were--we are now

2 deeming this to be an inappropriate way to treat 16  
3 and 17-year-olds, get them off the Riker's Island,  
4 but also don't treat them in Criminal Court. So,  
5 we're asking for a review of those cases of those who  
6 were tried as 16 and 17-year-olds to ensure that they  
7 also get fair treatment as well, and I thank you for  
8 the consideration of it.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thanks

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Any other  
12 speakers on the resolution? Seeing none, all of  
13 those in favor say aye.

14 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All those  
16 opposed? Any abstention? The ayes have it, and now  
17 to general discussion beginning with Council Member  
18 Barron.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Madam  
20 Public Advocate. Yesterday I stood on the steps of  
21 City Hall with those who are calling for justice-\

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

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: --for the family  
25 of Mohamed Bah. He was killed by the police, New

2 York City Police, September 25<sup>th</sup>. Yesterday marked  
3 the sixth anniversary. The judge—there was a jury  
4 trial and the jury came to a settlement in that  
5 regard. The Administration has decided that they are  
6 going to file an appeal against the settlement that  
7 has been awarded by the courts. We are calling on  
8 the Mayor to withdraw that appeal, and let the family  
9 move forward so that they can get on with the healing  
10 process. And, I want to call my colleagues'  
11 attention to Intro 1114, which I am introducing with  
12 Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer. It's a bill to  
13 create a task force to examine the monument, statues,  
14 public art and historical markers in our city-owned  
15 property placing special emphasis on those that are  
16 subject to sustained negative attention and may be  
17 viewed as inconsistent with the values of diversity,  
18 equity, and inclusion. This task force would be  
19 Chaired by the Commissioner of Cultural Affairs, the  
20 Commissioner of the City Planning, Parks and  
21 Recreation and Transportation. It would also have  
22 seats on this task force as well as the Executive  
23 Director of the Landmarks Preservation Commission.  
24 The remaining members would be representatives from  
25 each of the five boroughs respectively and have

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 119

2 expertise in one or more of the following areas: Art  
3 history, antiquities, public art, public space,  
4 preservation, cultural heritage, diversity and  
5 inclusion and education. I want to acknowledge the  
6 following people worked on drafting this legislation:  
7 Alex Washington, Legislative Attorney; Kelly Taylor;  
8 Deputy Counsel to the Speaker; Wesley Jones, Deputy  
9 Director; my Legislative Director N'Digo Washington  
10 and [bell] and my Chief of Staff Joy Simmons. Thank  
11 you.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Than you.  
13 Council Member Levin.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you very  
15 much, Madam Public Advocate. I want to for a moment  
16 here acknowledge the loss of somebody very important  
17 to the 33<sup>rd</sup> District and to the New York City  
18 Council, Marian Wood Meyer passed away last week.  
19 Marian Served the New York City as part of the office  
20 in the 33<sup>rd</sup> District starting with former Council  
21 Member Ken Fisher, and then throughout the entire  
22 tenure of Council Member David Yassky, and then with  
23 my office for several years as well. Marian was born  
24 in Texas. She married her husband Sid Meyer when she  
25 was Psychiatric Social Worker at Kingsborough

2 Psychiatric Center formerly known as Brooklyn Safe  
3 Hospital. Sid was the person personnel officer  
4 there. Marian was born in Galveston, Texas on July  
5 18, 1944. Her--her father Donald A Wood was stationed  
6 there with the United States Army. Her mother Betty  
7 Jo also worked--

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

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: --for the Army as  
11 a nurse, but was discharged when she became pregnant  
12 with Marian. Marian's father was a veterinarian in  
13 Fredonia, New York where Marian grew up. Her  
14 maternal grandparents were pioneers who came to  
15 Lawton in a covered wagon. She received her  
16 undergraduate degree from Cornell University and  
17 earned her Masters Degree in social work from--Cor--  
18 sorry. Her undergraduate from Cornell and her  
19 masters in social work from Columbia. Marian is  
20 survived by her husband Sidney Meyer, her husband of  
21 42 years. For some Michael Wood Meyer and her five  
22 grandchildren Ryan, Alexander, Jackson, Nate and Leo.  
23 I want to thank you, Public Advocate for attending  
24 the services for Marian. She was a--an institution in



2 the 33<sup>rd</sup> District and she'll be missed by many.  
3 Thank you.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: May she rest in  
5 peace. Council Member Chin.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. Today  
7 we're introducing Intro 1116, legislation that would  
8 expand the opportunity for street vendors in our  
9 city. Many of these vendors are immigrant  
10 entrepreneurs looking for a pathway to the middle-  
11 class and to achieve the American Dream. However,  
12 for years they have been subject to a broken system  
13 that does not work for vendors or reflect their vital  
14 role in our local economy. Enforcement has been  
15 spotty and inconsistent. Now is the time that we  
16 create their rules for everyone to follow. I am  
17 proud to sponsor legislation that takes an important  
18 step in building a city where street vendors, brick  
19 and mortar small businesses and residents can co-  
20 exist. This legislation will finally raise the  
21 longstanding cap on vendor license--food vendor  
22 license, create and Independent Vending Enforcement  
23 Unit to enforce the rules--

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

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: --consistently and  
3 fairly and create a Street Vending Advisory Board  
4 where vendors, small businesses, community groups and  
5 other stakeholders can all be at the table to assess  
6 the impact of street vending every year. We need  
7 more opportunities for immigrant workers not less.  
8 Under a federal administration intent on breeding  
9 fear and violence within immigrant communities, this  
10 legislation creates a real chance for the city to be  
11 a leader for inclusion and opportunity for  
12 immigrants. I'm proud to have been a champion for  
13 street vendors since before being elected to the  
14 Council and I thank former Speaker Melissa Mark-  
15 Viverito for entrusting me and Council Member  
16 Menchaca to renew these efforts. I hope my  
17 colleagues will join us to help more New Yorkers  
18 achieve the dream of owning their own businesses,  
19 lift their families out of poverty and shape a new  
20 narrative for street vendors in our city, and I urge  
21 my colleagues to sign on. Thank you.

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

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I would like  
25 to invite everyone here and everyone in government,

2 community board, presidents and everyone to the city  
3 to join Speaker Johnson and the Committee of  
4 Transportation as we go—and also Public Advocates and  
5 many other elected officials as we will be holding  
6 our 24-hours Riders Respond Transit tour. That tour  
7 will take place next week the October 4 from 7:00 in  
8 the morning to 7:00 p.m. It's going to be in the  
9 subway stations listening to the riders and using  
10 those information to continue conversation with the  
11 MTA to bring the improvement that is needed to take  
12 our transportation system to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Thank  
13 you.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
15 Council Member Williams.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you.  
17 First to the clerk, I don't know if it's possible but  
18 I would like to immediately sign onto Council Member  
19 Barron's bill with the Monuments Commission. I also  
20 want to align myself with her comments on Mohamed  
21 Bah. I generally try my best to speak up on the  
22 reforms that have happened, but there are some  
23 unenforced errors that are inexplicable. This is one  
24 of them. The Administration did not have to have  
25 courage to stand up to fight for justice as we've

2 been asking and they haven't been. They simply had  
3 to be still. For them to go out of their way to not  
4 only not fight for justice, but to block a jury who  
5 did their job for them is appalling, and we ask that  
6 they drop it immediately. I also want to bring my  
7 colleague's attention to Intro 1136. It's a body-  
8 worn camera reporting bill. It's been introduced to  
9 Council Member Lancman and will require reporting on  
10 body camera usage and the footage captured  
11 disaggregated by many qualifiers and categories. As  
12 I said before, having the footage is one thing. It  
13 not leading to accountability that means that it's  
14 not doing its best use, and I feel like the  
15 Administration, NYPD are releasing it ad hoc usually  
16 when it benefits them. We have to have a bigger  
17 discussion very quickly on how we use this footage.  
18 Also, in July I was arrested while protesting Bret  
19 Kavanaugh's nomination. On Monday, I was in court  
20 for that arrest as more allegations came out against  
21 him. I just want to align myself with those who are  
22 saying this man cannot be confirmed. Christine  
23 Blasey-Ford did admit (sic) and to date Julie  
24 Swetnick. Peter remember Anita Hill back in the  
25 1990s. To survivors of sexual assault, we see you,

2 we hear you, we believe you, and I thank you for your  
3 bravery. As a straight cisgendered male, I await my  
4 marching orders from my sisters and want to be the  
5 best ally that I can be. With that [speaking foreign  
6 language] to all those who are celebrating Sukkot.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council member  
8 Lander.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you, Madam  
10 Public advocate. I join Council Members Barron and  
11 Williams in their getting the Administration to drop  
12 the appeal in the case of Mohamed Bah. It really is  
13 galling, and I thank Council Member Williams and so  
14 many others including the just extraordinary Audie  
15 Barkan and being men who are standing with women at  
16 this time saying, Enough. I also would like to call  
17 my colleagues' attention to the Community School  
18 District 15 Middle School Integration Plan. Council  
19 Member Menchaca and I have been pushing for this for  
20 several years and we could not have gotten there  
21 without the support of this body, your support in  
22 moving forward, the School Diversity Accountability  
23 Act. Council Member Dromm when you chaired the  
24 Education Committee doing a couple of hearings on  
25 this issue. Chair Treyger's support. It's a really

2 significant step. We are eliminating screens in all  
3 of the middle schools of District 15, and having a  
4 set-aside 52% of the middle school students in our  
5 district or low-income or English Language Learners,  
6 and there will be a set-aside in all of those schools  
7 for 52% of the kids. It's a significant and very  
8 real step forward in our work to desegregate our  
9 schools. We have a long way to go, but this is the  
10 kind of bold action we have been pushing for. The  
11 current system presents itself as a system of choice  
12 and meritocracy, but we've got to be honest, it  
13 functions as a system for hoarding privilege and I'm  
14 proud that our district is leaning in together in a  
15 plan that was truly developed by Community School  
16 District 15 stakeholders, students, teachers,  
17 parents, educators, principals and advocates to make  
18 it happen. Thank you.

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

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you, thank  
22 you. Madam Chair. My colleagues, I hope you will  
23 join me in supporting two bills that are being  
24 introduced today. Intro 1131, which is in regards to  
25 the Waterfront Management Advisory Board, which the

2 former Waterfront Committee worked really hard to  
3 establish and—and proudly, you know, I announced that  
4 they convened their first meeting this week. 1131  
5 will amend the law which in respect to appointment of  
6 members to the Waterfront Management Advisory Board,  
7 so that service on the community board will no longer  
8 preclude a New York City resident from also serving  
9 on the Waterfront Management Advisory Board. And  
10 Intro 1132 will require the installation of  
11 reflective material on ballards—bollards, curbs,  
12 posts and roundabouts and anything that sort of  
13 intrudes into the road bed. My hope is that by  
14 adding visual cues, we'll prevent accidents at night,  
15 which these obstacles are harder to see. All of  
16 these bills in different ways impact the quality of  
17 life and how we engage in the city's civic life, and  
18 I hope that you will receive these bills in the  
19 spirit that they are put forth. Thank you.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you, and  
21 lastly Council Member Menchaca.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: [coughs] Thank  
23 you, Madam Public Advocate. I want to just echo all  
24 the sentiments that Council Member Lander raised  
25 about CC15, an extraordinary moment for our

2 community, and one of the things I want to lay out  
3 about that process was that it was a really important  
4 process that was driven by the community. So many  
5 members that were non-English speakers were invited  
6 and brought in with real resources to engage them  
7 directly. I want to put your—bring your attention to  
8 a bill that Council Member Chin spoke to 1116--

9 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Please  
10 keep it down.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: This is known  
12 as the Comprehensive Street Vendor Bill. I'm really  
13 excited to be a co-prime sponsor with Chin, joined by  
14 Lander and Rose to really bring that comprehensive  
15 conversation that's so many of you in this Chamber  
16 spoke to. I—I look forward to working with you as  
17 colleagues, but also bringing all the stakeholders.  
18 This is a continuation of a long-term discussion here  
19 in the city, and so much has to be—is to be gained  
20 from this opportunity that we have in front of us,  
21 and I know that shift—winds are shifting in support  
22 of this, and so I want to thank everyone who is  
23 making that possible. And finally, public charge has  
24 come down. Trump's proposed rules for the federal  
25 government target vulnerable immigrant families by



2 penalizing them for being poor and hungry and sick.  
3 This is not a drill, ladies and gentlemen. This is  
4 another face of the deportation machine that will  
5 separate more families. Many families impacted are  
6 mixed status families with American born children.  
7 By significantly expanding the list of public  
8 benefits that are grounds for denying Green Cards,  
9 this proposal rule forces many families to choose  
10 between health and wellbeing and the ability for them  
11 to legally be here in the United States. This is  
12 wrong and we have to stand up. I as the chair of the  
13 Immigration Committee and joining with all of you and  
14 the Speaker will be bringing more information so that  
15 you can be ready to answer questions, and join us in  
16 this effort to combat this incredibly cruel rule in  
17 front of us. Thank you so much.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you, and  
19 the Speaker now to close.

20 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Today's Stated Meeting  
21 of September 26, 2018 is hereby adjourned. [gavel]

22

23

24

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date October 17, 2018