

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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May 6, 2009
Start: 1:44pm
Recess: 3:20pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
BETSY GOTBAUM
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Christine C. Quinn
Maria del Carmen Arroyo
Tony Avella
Maria Baez
Charles Barron
Gale A. Brewer
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Elizabeth Crowley
Bill de Blasio
Inez E. Dickens
Erik Martin Dilan
Mathieu Eugene
Simcha Felder
Julissa Ferrares
Lewis A. Fidler
Helen D. Foster
Daniel R. Garodnick
James F. Gennero
Vincent J. Gentile

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Alan J. Gerson
Eric N. Gioia
Sara M. Gonzalez
Vincent Ignizio
Robert Jackson
Letitia James
Melinda R. Katz
G. Oliver Koppell
Jessica S. Lappin
John C. Liu
Melissa Mark-Viverito
Miguel Martinez
Darlene Mealy
Rosie Mendez
Kenneth Mitchell
Michael C. Nelson
James S. Oddo
Annabel Palma
Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.
Diana Reyna
Joel Rivera
James Sanders, Jr.
Larry B. Seabrook
Helen Sears
Kendall Stewart
Eric Ulrich
James Vacca
Peter F. Vallone, Jr.
Albert Vann
David I. Weprin
Thomas White, Jr.
David Yassky

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

Jen Waldman

Shelly Williams

Deana Pisari

Gloria Steinem

Phil Terra

Port Richmond Raiders

Francisco Gonzalez

President

Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade

1
2 SPEAKER QUINN: All right. We're
3 going to start our ceremonials. And, we have four
4 very important ceremonials today. But, I think
5 they are four ceremonials that speak a lot about
6 the diversity of New York City. We are going to
7 do them. First, I have a ceremonial for myself
8 and Rosie Mendez, LGBT Activists to thank them for
9 the Defying Inequality event they organized on
10 Broadway recently. Then, we're going to hear from
11 the Port Richmond High School football team.
12 Then, we're going to celebrate Gloria Steinem's
13 birthday. Then, we're going to recognize the
14 Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade Committee.

15 And, I just mentioned all four. I
16 mentioned all four, which I don't usually do,
17 'cause I think the four together are a great
18 example of New York City's diversity and how our
19 diversity really is our strength. So, it's a
20 great foursome today. And, I just, before we
21 start, want to thank Gale Brewer, in particular,
22 for making sure we took this moment to, in our
23 ceremonials, recognize Gloria Steinem. So, thank
24 you.

25 And, let's start by Anthony, Jen,

1
2 Shell [phonetic], Deana coming on up. Oh, no
3 Anthony. All right. Let me just say a few words
4 and then, give the mic to Rosie and then, we'll
5 read the proclamations. But, I just want to thank
6 these three individuals and, also Anthony, who's
7 not here with us today.

8 I guess maybe two months ago now,
9 is that right, there was an event called Defying
10 Inequality. And, it was held at the Broadway
11 Theater where Wicked is performed. So, you know
12 the song Defying Gravity and it was one of the
13 most extraordinary events I have ever been to. It
14 was an event promoting marriage equality. But, it
15 included all types of Broadway stars, all types of
16 celebrities, all types of grass roots activists,
17 community members, parents, all the voices in our
18 LGBT Civil Rights Movement. And, it was all
19 organized by grass roots activists like these
20 three individuals who decided that after
21 Proposition 8 passed, they wanted their City to
22 have a different voice, a different message. I
23 was blown away by what you guys put together. It
24 was like bigger than the Tony awards in all
25 seriousness. And, it really was. It was amazing.

1

2 It was so inspirational.

3

4 They're now keeping themselves
5 together as an ongoing group that I know is a big
6 part of why Maine's governor today signed a
7 marriage equality law into law and why we will
8 soon celebrate the same day in the great State of
9 New York. So, thank you guys all for being so
10 amazing and so inspirational. And, that's not
11 even your day job. So, I'm very, very impressed.
12 Let me call on Rosie. Then, we'll read the proc.
13 Then, we'll hear from you guys.

14

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you.
16 Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's just great to be
17 here today. You epitomize New York City's
18 volunteerism, commitment to social and equality
19 issues that you can just decide to organize such
20 an event because it means something to you and to
21 people you know and that it makes an impact in our
22 lives. I know one day, in this State, we will be
23 able to marry who we want, regardless of gender
24 and that we will be celebrating that real soon.
25 And, part of what you do is getting us there.
Thank you.

26

SPEAKER QUINN: And, if I could ask

1
2 the clerk to read the proclamation. And, Gloria,
3 if you wouldn't mind standing for us with the
4 pictures, that would be great. Thanks.

5 MALE VOICE: Council, City of New
6 York Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the
7 City of New York is proud to honor four champions
8 of equal rights; Shelly Williams, Deana Pisari
9 [phonetic], Jen Waldman [phonetic] and Anthony
10 Galdi [phonetic], for their latest successful
11 fundraiser for social justice.

12 And, whereas, these four partners
13 became known as the 4good Productions to hone
14 their creative voices while helping to raise money
15 for great causes. Their original effort, to aid
16 those suffering after Hurricane Katrina, rallied
17 the theater community and raised \$200,000.

18 And, whereas, on Monday,
19 February 23rd, 2009, these four partners produced a
20 star-studded evening called Defying Inequality at
21 the Broadway Concert, a celebrity benefit for
22 equal rights. This one-night-only concert event
23 in Times Square featured hundreds of performers,
24 as well as several public figures.

25 And, whereas, Shelly Williams has

1
2 worked as a theater director around the world in
3 addition to Defying Inequality. A few of her
4 recent credits include Broadway Cares, Equity
5 Fights AIDS, Easter Bonnet, a Miracle in Rwanda,
6 the Billboard Project, and more. She has directed
7 many American theaters, including the Public
8 Theater in New York. And, she is currently
9 working on a production as the Human Race Theater
10 Company in Ohio.

11 And, whereas, Jen Waldman has spent
12 12 years working as an actor, singer, dancer,
13 director, choreographer and teacher in New York
14 City. As an actor, she has appeared on Broadway
15 in Wicked and Titanic and has worked extensively
16 in regional theater. Her work as a director
17 choreographer has been seen from Hawaii to New
18 England to Central America. Most recently, she
19 was an associate director for the world premier of
20 the Gershwins, An American in Paris at the
21 acclaimed Alley Theater in Houston.

22 And, whereas, Deana Pisari is the
23 founder of Measuring Milestones, using her
24 experience as a trained coach and actress to help
25 children connect their sense of self through

1
2 creative play. Working with parents and their
3 children, she helps to strengthen family
4 relationships through greater understanding and
5 communication. She also serves as a community
6 activist for the Administration of Child Services,
7 advocating for youth in the foster care system and
8 for the Mayor's Alliance, where she finds homes
9 for abandoned animals.

10 And, whereas, Anthony Galdi has
11 been a cast member of the Broadway production of
12 Wicked since 2004. His other Broadway credits
13 include the original cast of Star Light Express,
14 The Prince of Central Park, King David, Civil War
15 and the Lincoln Center Theater production of South
16 Pacific. His regional directing credits include
17 Romeo and Juliet, Annie, The Who's Tommy and more.
18 And, he was the associate director and
19 choreographer for the National Arena Tour of Radio
20 City's Pokeman Live.

21 Now, therefore, be it known that
22 the Council is pleased to honor Shelly Williams,
23 Deana Pisari, Jen Waldman and Anthony Galdi for
24 their outstanding support of equal rights in New
25 York City and the nation. Christine C. Quinn,

1
2 Speaker for the entire Council. Rosie Mendez,
3 Council Member, Second District, Manhattan.

4 SPEAKER QUINN: I don't know if you
5 all want to speak or if one person wants to speak.

6 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you very much.
7 This is an incredible honor. And, it is
8 especially significant for us to receive this
9 honor from you, Speaker Quinn, because you have
10 been a champion for civil rights for a very long
11 time. And, we were honored to fight with you, and
12 for you, for marriage equality. And, we will see
13 it pass here in New York.

14 It is also an incredible day for
15 all of us to receive an award aside Gloria
16 Steinem. You changed the world that the three of
17 us grew up in. And, you taught us that our voice
18 is important and will not be silenced. And, at
19 4good Productions, our goal and our focus is to
20 give a voice to organizations that need a voice
21 and to give our heart and soul into forwarding
22 causes. And, we will do that. We will soldier on
23 with this proclamation for good. Thank you.

24 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. [Off
25 mic] Now, we're going to change the order a little

1
2 bit, 'cause I wanted to make sure that the
3 football team got to see the next ceremonial. So,
4 you guys are going to have to stand and listen,
5 okay, which I know you guys could do. So, we're
6 going to do the Gloria Steinem ceremonial now.
7 So, if everybody who's here for that can come on
8 up. And then, we'll do the football team and
9 then, we'll do the parade. [Pause]

10 Well, let's hand Gloria her
11 proclamation. And, I'm going to turn the mic over
12 to Gale. But, I just want to say a couple quick
13 things. One, I really want to thank Gale for
14 coming up with this great idea. One, it gives all
15 of us in the City Council, all of us, but
16 particularly the women in the City Council, an
17 opportunity to get to thank Gloria Steinem face-
18 to-face and to thank her for breaking down so many
19 barriers. I think I speak for all of the female
20 members of the City Council. We wouldn't be here
21 if it wasn't for you. We wouldn't be in a world
22 where women are leaders if it wasn't for you. So,
23 thank you so much.

24 And, you know, it's just very
25 exciting to have this opportunity. It's very

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2 exciting to have high school students here to
3 watch this, to see how thrilled those three women
4 were to get to have you here on this day with all
5 of us. And, sometimes, in the hustle and bustle
6 of our lives, we forget about all it took to get
7 us to be here. And, in forgetting about all it
8 took to get us to be here, then there's the risk
9 of forgetting about what is left to be done,
10 'cause you get so focused on the moment you're
11 lucky enough to be in. And, the moments we all
12 are in are quite blessed ones.

13 So, I also want to thank you for
14 making us stop today to remember, 'cause in
15 remembering, we can look forward and recommit
16 ourselves to all the work that is left to be done.
17 So, thank you for this moment. And, Gale, thank
18 you so very much. And, Gale Brewer.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you,
20 Christine Quinn, Speaker of the City Council.
21 And, we're here because many years ago, there are
22 issues that continue today that were started by
23 Gloria Steinem. Let me specific. Caroline Reed
24 was a household technician. And, she was a
25 household technician right near where Gloria

1
2 Steinem lives. Today, 2009, we are about to pass,
3 in the State Legislature, a bill of rights for
4 domestic workers who have, in our history, I
5 always think of Caroline Reed. We have had
6 several legislation here, but you were the
7 instrument that gave her a voice. And, I will
8 never forget that.

9 Number two, the National Women's
10 Political Caucus. With Bella and Shirley Chisholm
11 and Betty Friedan and many others, this
12 organization gave me my start and gave the women
13 in this country the voice that they needed in
14 terms of politics. And, we have you to thank,
15 once again, for the National Women's Political
16 Caucus for giving us a voice.

17 Race and feminism, you are one of
18 the few women in this country, white women, who
19 have made race an equal partner with feminism.
20 It's true. So, I along with all the women here,
21 Joanne Edgar is the real culprit, she and I, just
22 so you know. I want to be clear that we thought
23 this up together. And, we want to say that you
24 are an amazing writer, amazing thinker, amazing
25 editor, amazing friend and somebody who gives all

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2 women a great name. For so many years, you've
3 been working. You've been tough when needed to be
4 tough. Soft, when you needed to be soft. But,
5 you always get the job done. And, you're the one
6 that we can look to and say we aspire to be like
7 Gloria Steinem. We may not get there. But, we're
8 all going to work and to fulfill her dreams. We
9 also loved your husband. Thank you very much.
10 And, we are so happy that we're celebrating your
11 birthday here in New York today.

12 We would like the clerk to please
13 read the proclamation.

14 MALE VOICE: Council, City of New
15 York Proclamation. The Council of the City of New
16 York is honored to pay tribute to Gloria Steinem
17 on the occasion of her 75th birthday for being a
18 vital force in the struggle for the rights of
19 women and the co-founder of Ms. Magazine, the MS
20 Foundation for Woman, the Women's Action Alliance,
21 the National Women's Political Caucus, Voters for
22 Choice and the Women's Media Center.

23 And, whereas, Gloria Steinem's
24 great looks and aspirations to tap dance her way
25 out of her native Toledo, Ohio, plus her top-notch

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2 journalistic skills, gave her the credibility to
3 go under cover as a Playboy Bunny and expose their
4 poor working conditions and low wages.

5 And, whereas, Gloria Steinem became
6 a founding editor of New York Magazine in 1968 and
7 one of our nation's first female political
8 commentators with her column, The City Politic.
9 Her article, After Black Power, Women's
10 Liberation, earned her the Penny Missouri
11 Journalism Award.

12 And, whereas, Gloria Steinem
13 collaborated with Bella Abzug, Flo Kennedy, Robin
14 Morgan and countless other feminists for the
15 passage of the Equal Rights Amendment and the
16 creation of the 1977 National Women's Conference.
17 Even today, Miss Steinem crisscrosses the country
18 and the globe as a tireless organizer and
19 passionate advocate for equal pay, reproductive
20 rights, feminist political candidates and
21 organizations that fight domestic violence,
22 pornography and human trafficking.

23 Now, therefore, be it known that on
24 behalf of the members of the New York City Council
25 Women's Caucus, we honor Gloria Steinem for her

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2 extraordinary activism and visionary leadership
3 and wishes her the very best on the occasion of
4 her 75th birthday. Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for
5 the entire Council. Gale A. Brewer, Council
6 Member Sixth District, Manhattan. Helen Diane
7 Foster, Council Member 16th District, the Bronx.
8 Diana Reyna, Council Member 34th District, Brooklyn
9 and Queens. Darlene Mealy, Chair, Women's Issues
10 Committee, Council Member 41st District, Brooklyn
11 and many other Council Members.

12 SPEAKER QUINN: Yea.

13 GLORIA STEINEM: Well, I thought I
14 was surprised to be 75. I am very surprised to be
15 75. But, I'm even more surprised by all of this
16 wonderful, matchless, my own home beloved city, my
17 beloved movement, my beloved representatives,
18 honor. You know how speakers say I'm never
19 speechless, but now I am. Now, I sort of really
20 do feel that.

21 And, I want to thank Gale so much
22 for mentioning Bella Abzug, for mentioning Shirley
23 Chisholm, for mentioning all the great, great,
24 great women and for making clear that this is, and
25 always has been, a coalition based on an

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understanding that sex and race are two

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intertwined systems that can only be uprooted

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together.

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I'm so proud to have this signed by

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Christine. That means so very much. And,

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especially to this City we love so much, you know.

8

I am so proud of this City. I was so proud after

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9/11 when the main words that I saw on fences just

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spontaneously were Our grief is not a cry for war.

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This is our beloved, beloved City. And, we

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shouldn't forget that among all the people who

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come here for freedom, women come here for

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freedom, too. You know, we are another immigrant

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group, in a way. And, I could not possibly,

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possibly imagine an honor from any person or place

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that would matter more to me than New York City.

18

And, I only say that I would like to be able-- I

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would like your permission to come back in 25

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years--

21

SPEAKER QUINN: Yes.

22

GLORIA STEINEM: --and celebrate a

23

movement because this is a movement, right. It's

24

very clear. You can hear all the names in those

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proclamations. This is a movement. Everybody

1

2 raise your fists. Okay.

3 FEMALE VOICE: The Sisterhood is
4 power.

5 GLORIA STEINEM: Right. And,
6 celebrate--

7 FEMALE VOICE: [Crosstalk] the
8 Mayor.

9 GLORIA STEINEM: Yes. Oh, the
10 first woman Mayor, she--

11 FEMALE VOICE: Not me.

12 GLORIA STEINEM: No, no, no. Well,
13 celebrate the first woman--

14 FEMALE VOICE: Right.

15 GLORIA STEINEM: Right. So, we'll
16 come back in 25 years and celebrate even more
17 progress towards a real true democracy. Thank
18 you.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you.

20 AUDIENCE: Happy Birthday to you,
21 happy birthday, dear Gloria, happy birthday to
22 you.

23 SPEAKER QUINN: All right. We're
24 going to have to move on to the football team.
25 So, happy birthday, Gloria. Thank you. Next, I

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2 want to call up-- Kenny, is this your first
3 ceremonial?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: My first
one.

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SPEAKER QUINN: All right. We're
calling up Council Member Kenny Mitchell. And, I
want to make sure the Port Richmond High School
football team know the honor they have. This is
Council Member Mitchell's first ceremonial. So,
and, Jimmy Oddo, the Minority Leader and Vinny and
going to share in the moment. So, if you can make
it through the block over there. All right.
Staten Island.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: Good
afternoon, everyone. As you know, this is my
first ceremonial. It is my pleasure to welcome to
the City Council the Port Richmond Raiders on
their first ever City Championship. They're
accompanied by Principal Tim Gannon, Susan Rossi,
Athletic Director, Coach Lou Vesce, his Assistant
Coach Fred Manning, and the co-Captains who led
the team were Torian Phillips, Jeremy Ramos and
Zamel Johnson.

25

The Port Richmond High School

1
2 football team has been in existence for 40 years.
3 This is their first ever City championship. And,
4 I know they're going to be back next year. Coach,
5 we look forward to having you back here next year.
6 If the clerk could read the proclamation.

7 SPEAKER QUINN: Yea.

8 MALE VOICE: Council, City of New
9 York Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the
10 City of New York is proud to honor and
11 congratulate the Port Richmond Raiders for their
12 outstanding sportsmanship and victory in the
13 Public Schools Athletic League City championship.

14 And, whereas, in the 40th season
15 since the PSAL program's re-inception, the
16 unstoppable Port Richmond Raiders football program
17 has become the most dominant in the league.

18 And, whereas, the Port Richmond
19 Raiders' fierce opponents, the Fort Hamilton
20 Tigers, entered the championship game at Midwood
21 Field as the only other undefeated PSAL team. The
22 Raiders' explosive offense and stinging defense
23 were too much for the Tigers to handle. In the
24 end, the Raiders defeated the Tigers 33 to 21.

25 And, whereas, these Port Richmond

1
2 Raiders won their first football City championship
3 in the history of Port Richmond High School. And,
4 their accomplishments have impacted the entire
5 Port Richmond community.

6 Now, therefore, be it known that
7 the Council of the City of New York congratulates
8 the Port Richmond Raiders on the occasion of its
9 first PSAL championship. Christine C. Quinn,
10 Speaker for the entire Council. Kenneth C.
11 Mitchell, Council Member 49th District, Staten
12 Island. James S. Oddo, Minority Leader, 50th
13 District, Staten Island. Vincent M. Ignizio,
14 Council Member 51st District, Staten Island.

15 SPEAKER QUINN: Yea. Now, in
16 addition to saying congratulations and giving the
17 mic over to whoever wants to speak on behalf of
18 the team, I will say there's a lot of trash talk
19 going on between Jimmy Oddo and our Deputy
20 Majority Leader, Leroy Comrie. So, Jimmy wants to
21 know the schools you beat in Queens. Beat
22 Channel.

23 MALE VOICE: Campus Magnet and
24 Thomas Jefferson.

25 SPEAKER QUINN: Anybody else? What

1

2 about Brooklyn?

3

4

MALE VOICE: Fort Hamilton,
Canarsie, Boys and Girls.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Canarsie, Lew. All
right. What about Manhattan?

7

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MALE VOICE: We don't play
Manhattan.

9

SPEAKER QUINN: Bronx?

10

MALE VOICE: No.

11

SPEAKER QUINN: All right.

12

MALE VOICE: The Wickland.

13

14

SPEAKER QUINN: My district. And,
Glenidy [phonetic]. All right. Here you go.

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[Off mic]

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MALE VOICE: I just want to say--
so, like to say thank you on behalf of Councilman
Mitchell and everyone on the City Council for
recognizing us and senior starting center Phil
Terra would like to say a few words.

21

SPEAKER QUINN: Yea.

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PHIL TERRA: It's a great pleasure
to be here. And, on behalf of the whole football
team, we're all excited that we finally won the
championship. Last year, we ended pretty bad.

1
2 But, this year we wanted to come back and have
3 some revenge. So, this year was something to
4 remember. And, they always say that this
5 championship, you're always going to remember for
6 the rest of your life. So, I'm hoping when I come
7 back in 10 years, 20 years, - - come back here,
8 you know, it's going to be great.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you.
10 Congratulations you guys. Really great job.
11 Congratulations. Next ceremonial is going to be
12 led by our Majority Leader, Joel Rivera. And,
13 they're the really terrific folks who are putting
14 together the Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade
15 Committee. So, come on up. Come on up, guys.
16 Come on. We've got some great young people here
17 for this event. So, come on up. Come on,
18 everybody. And, Joel, here, let me give you the
19 mic.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
21 very much, Madam Speaker. If I can get my
22 colleagues in the Council, and, of course, the
23 Bronx elected officials to join us up here. We
24 have the Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade, which
25 really is an amazing organization that has done a

1

2 great job of promoting the accomplishments from
3 the Bronx Puerto Rican community for a very long
4 time. And, actually the story goes, there was a
5 meeting set up in my father's office, one of the
6 original founders. And, you know, every year it's
7 an amazing thing. And, you get to see a lot of
8 young, you know, faces here. And, it's about the
9 next generation.

10 And, you see a lot of crowns and
11 you see the women here and the young men, the
12 young gentlemen, and you see them wearing crowns
13 because they are our queens and they should all be
14 treated as our queens and our kings. But,
15 tomorrow, they're going to be the titans of
16 industry. They're going to be in corporate
17 America. They're going to be judges. They're
18 going to be speakers, council members, mayors.
19 They're going to be people that we can be proud
20 of.

21 And, I really want to thank, you
22 know, the Board of Directors and everyone that's
23 involved with the Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade
24 for, one, making sure that we can be proud of who
25 we are, learn our culture, learn our history and

1
2 to take part in our traditions. And, that is
3 something that's key because, you know, being in
4 New York we are the melting pot. And, being able
5 to remember where you come from is extremely
6 important. And, I think that's what everyone here
7 learns.

8 To the youngsters, I want to say,
9 you know, you all have bright futures. You all
10 are shining stars. You all are examples of what
11 the next generation leadership is. And, I want to
12 thank you all for taking part in this, in our
13 organization. And, we will be marching down the
14 Grand Concourse in a couple of weeks. And, we
15 invite everyone to join us. It's a amazing
16 parade. And, it really is 'cause the Board of
17 Directors knows exactly how to put an operation
18 together.

19 So, we have, at this point in time,
20 I want to ask Francisco if you want to say a few
21 words. And then, the Board.

22 FRANCISCO GONZALEZ: Ladies and
23 gentlemen, members of the City Council and the
24 general public, I want to thank Joel and all the
25 Council Members. You know, we started this

1
2 struggle many, many years ago. Larry Seabrook,
3 Maria del Carmen Arroyo, Joel, Annabel Palma and
4 the members that are here learned to live and to
5 survive in the Borough of the Bronx. But, we
6 couldn't have done that if we didn't have a good
7 foundation in our grandparents, in our great-
8 grandparents that came here to this country that
9 worked in the restaurants, in the hospitals and
10 made us, forced us, to get a good education. They
11 forced us to go to college. They forced us to
12 become the leaders that we have today. And, I
13 want to thank them all for all the work that they
14 do and sacrifice.

15 And, I say this to the young people
16 that are here because [foreign language]. It's
17 about remembering and give respect. I say this to
18 you. We give you the mantle of the future. We
19 expect you to carry it on high. And, to be Puerto
20 Rican does not mean that we're not better than
21 anyone else. But, we're human beings and we
22 respect everyone else.

23 In my house, we were always taught
24 that the Lord walks within us. And, we, the Bronx
25 Puerto Rican Day Parade Committee, have always

1

2 taught that to our people. And, we ask everyone
3 to respect each other. So, to those ends, we ask
4 all those folks that are here, that are not Puerto
5 Rican, that feel they're not Puerto Rican, you are
6 Puerto Rican. Okay. You are Puerto Rican. And,
7 you can all come to our parade. And, you can
8 march with us.

9 This year we have five states
10 coming to our parade. We have every borough
11 represented. We have Long Island coming to our
12 parade. And, Speaker Quinn, herself, has been at
13 our parade. So, the bottom line here is that we
14 invite everyone, the football team and the persons
15 that are the ushers and people who work as clerks
16 come and march with us because it's about respect.
17 And, we respect and honor all our heritage and
18 everyone else.

19 So, I want to thank Joel from the
20 bottom of my heart. I want to thank Annabel from
21 the bottom of my heart. Hey, Larry--

22 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: [Off-
23 mic]

24 FRANCISCO GONZALEZ: Larry and I go
25 way back. You know, when I started this, I was

1
2 also very active in politics and I was 6 foot 5,
3 like Al Vann was. So, I want to thank everyone -
4 - , everyone, everyone. I think that we have a
5 wonderful parade. We have a wonderful group.
6 And, it's about [foreign language].

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Okay. And,
8 if the clerk can read the proclamation.

9 FRANCISCO GONZALEZ: Viva Puerto
10 Rico.

11 MALE VOICE: Council, City of New
12 York Proclamation. Whereas, the Puerto Rican
13 community in the Bronx shares the values and
14 traditions of their homeland with the citizenry of
15 the City of New York at the annual parade held in
16 the heart of the Bronx.

17 And, whereas, the Grand Concourse
18 will be the stage for one of the Bronx' grandest
19 events. Puerto Ricans of all ages will gather to
20 highlight their accomplishments, culture, pride
21 and patriotism. The parade, and its participants,
22 help increase awareness of, and appreciation for,
23 the Puerto Rican community in the United States.

24 And, whereas, hundreds of
25 volunteers work throughout the year to organize

1
2 the celebration of pride of the entire Puerto
3 Rican community. Through hard work, dedication
4 and perseverance, Puerto Ricans have improved
5 their quality of lives and community making the
6 Borough of the Bronx a better place for all.

7 And, whereas, we join in extending
8 recognition and appreciation for the history,
9 customs and goodwill of the Puerto Rican community
10 in the Bronx.

11 Now, therefore, be it known that
12 the Council of the City of New York does hereby
13 proclaim Sunday, May 17th, 2009, Puerto Rica Parade
14 Day in the City of New York.

15 SPEAKER QUINN: Everybody mark your
16 calendar. And, this concludes our ceremonial.
17 Thank you all for your great work in making this
18 parade such a wonderful event and a special day.
19 Thank you all.

20 MALE VOICE: Ladies and gentlemen,
21 can I have your attention, please. At this time,
22 can you please place all cell phones and pagers on
23 vibrate. And, will all non-Council employees and
24 lobbyists please leave the main floor of the
25 Chambers. Thank you.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Quiet,
3 please. All rise. I pledge allegiance to the
4 flag of the United States [off mic] Republic for
5 which it stands [off mic]. Roll call.

6 MALE VOICE: Arroyo.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

8 MALE VOICE: Avella.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Here.

10 MALE VOICE: Baez.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: [No response]

12 MALE VOICE: Barron.

13 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Quiet,
14 please.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.

16 MALE VOICE: Brewer.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

18 MALE VOICE: Comrie.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Here.

20 MALE VOICE: Crowley.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

22 MALE VOICE: de Blasio.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER de BLASIO: [No
24 response].

25 MALE VOICE: Dickens.

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.

3

MALE VOICE: Dilan.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Here.

5

MALE VOICE: Eugene.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

7

MALE VOICE: Felder.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: [No

9

response.]

10

MALE VOICE: Ferreras.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.

12

MALE VOICE: Fidler.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.

14

MALE VOICE: Foster.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Here.

16

MALE VOICE: Garodnick.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

18

MALE VOICE: Gennaro.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.

20

MALE VOICE: Gentile.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

22

MALE VOICE: Gerson.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Here.

24

MALE VOICE: Gioia.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: [No

1

2 response.]

3

MALE VOICE: Gonzalez.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Here.

5

MALE VOICE: Ignizio.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.

7

MALE VOICE: Jackson.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Here.

9

MALE VOICE: James.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here.

11

MALE VOICE: Katz.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Here.

13

MALE VOICE: Koppell.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: [No

15 response.]

16

MALE VOICE: Lappin.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Here.

18

MALE VOICE: Liu.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: [No response.]

20

MALE VOICE: Mark-Viverito.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

22

Here.

23

MALE VOICE: Martinez.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: [No

25

response].

1

MALE VOICE: Mealy.

2

3

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: [No

4

response.]

5

MALE VOICE: Mendez.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: [No

7

response.]

8

MALE VOICE: Mitchell.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: Here.

10

MALE VOICE: Nelson.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Here.

12

MALE VOICE: Palma.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

14

MALE VOICE: Recchia.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: [No

16

response.]

17

MALE VOICE: Reyna.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.

19

MALE VOICE: Sanders.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Here.

21

MALE VOICE: Seabrook.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Here.

23

MALE VOICE: Sears.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Here.

25

MALE VOICE: Stewart.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Here.
3 MALE VOICE: Ulrich.
4 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.
5 MALE VOICE: Vacca.
6 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.
7 MALE VOICE: Vallone.
8 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.
9 MALE VOICE: Vann.
10 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Here.
11 MALE VOICE: Weprin.
12 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.
13 MALE VOICE: White.
14 COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: [No
15 response.]
16 MALE VOICE: Yassky.
17 COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: [No
18 response.]
19 MALE VOICE: Oddo.
20 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Here.
21 MALE VOICE: Baez.
22 COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: Here.
23 MALE VOICE: Recchia.
24 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: [No
25 response.]

1

MALE VOICE: Martinez.

2

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: Here.

3

MALE VOICE: Rivera.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: [No

5

response.]

6

MALE VOICE: Speaker Quinn.

7

SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

8

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: We have a

9

quorum. All rise for the invocation to be given

10

by Council Member Larry Seabrook. Quiet, please.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: God of

12

our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who

13

had brought us thus along the way, as the creator

14

have given us another day to do the work of the

15

people for it is our blessings that we ask of the

16

creator to allow us to do all that is necessary

17

for those who are in need, for those who need our

18

prayers and for those who need our care. We ask

19

that you give us the guidance and the wisdom to do

20

what is right, to do what is just and to do what

21

is in your power and your will. These and many

22

other blessings we ask in thy name. Amen.

23

SPEAKER QUINN: If I could ask my

24

colleagues just to remain standing for a moment.

25

1

2 On April 23rd, 2009, Reverend Timothy Wright, who
3 was 61, pastor of Crown Heights Grace Tabernacle
4 Christian Center Church of God and Christ died 10
5 months after being critically injured when a car,
6 driven the wrong way on a Pennsylvania highway,
7 crashed head-on into his car. Reverend Wright's
8 wife, Pastor Betty Wright, and their 14-year-old
9 grandson, D.J., were also killed in the July 4th,
10 2008 accident. It occurred as they drove home
11 from a church conference in Detroit.

12 Reverend Wright was a multi-Grammy
13 nominated gospel singer and a composer who
14 inspired so many with his up tempo praise songs
15 and powerful choirs. Dubbed the Godfather of
16 Gospel, he brought people together through
17 fellowship and music. Reverend Wright released
18 more than a dozen gospel recordings and he wrote
19 many of his own songs. As a New Yorker, he
20 dedicated his life to helping others.

21 Reverend Timothy Wright's funeral
22 was held this past Monday. And, he is survived by
23 his five sons and dozens of grandchildren.

24 On April 26th, 2009, former State
25 Senator, John Marchi, 87, who until his retirement

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was the longest serving lawmaker in New York, died while vacationing with his family in his hometown in Italy. Senator Marchi, a Republican, who was first elected to the State Senate during the Eisenhower landslide in 1956, served 50 years, 25 terms, often running with the endorsement of both the Republican and Democratic parties. Senator Marchi was well known as an effective advocate who was forceful in seeking federal loan guarantees and a Senate Finance Chairperson who helped craft the financial package that helped save this City from bankruptcy in the mid-1970s.

As a champion of Staten Island, he helped lead the unsuccessful fight to win Staten Island's independence from the City. In 1969, he challenged and beat incumbent Mayor John Lindsay for the Republican Mayoral nomination, but ultimately lost to the mayor who ran on a liberal party line.

A Staten Island native and a World War II veteran, Senator Marchi was married for over 60 years to his wife, Maria, and is also survived by his two daughters, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

1
2 Lastly, Jack Jacobs, a long-time
3 staff member of Council Member Alan Gerson, passed
4 away this past weekend of natural causes. Jack
5 lived in my district, but was one of Alan's staff
6 members. He was instrumental in communicating
7 with effective residents in the Council Member's
8 district in the days and months after
9 September 11th. And, Council Member Gerson has
10 asked if he could say a few words about his staff
11 member.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Thank you
13 very much, Madam Speaker. In the tragic and
14 unexpected loss of Jack Jacobs, our community, our
15 City, my office lost one of our distinctive
16 personalities and stars. His brilliant gray beard
17 and flock of hair contrasted with his never-ending
18 suntan and his distinctive personality enlightened
19 the community in which he lived.

20 He developed a business which began
21 assisting doctoral students from NYU and others in
22 their dissertations and completing their
23 dissertations from the writing standpoint and
24 editing standpoint. And, he became one of our
25 Directors of Communications, serving Council

1

2

District 1 from the day I took office in the
aftermath of 9/11.

4

5

6

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15

One of the few persons who could
decipher my own handwriting, he was a brilliant
master of the English language and really helped
our district in a time of special need and beyond.
He loved the culture of our City; is a fan of jazz
and jazz connoisseur, knowing all the ins and
outs. He, in a community of distinctive
personalities, he will indeed-- his distinctive
personality will be sorely missed by myself. He
had become a great friend and right-hand person
and by the many whose lives he touched with his
very presence. Thank you very much.

16

17

18

19

20

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Council
Member Gerson. Let me next call on our Minority
Leader and Staten Island Council Member Jimmy Oddo
to say a few words about former Senator John
Marchi.

21

22

23

24

25

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Thank you,
Madam Speaker. And, thank you for acknowledging
Senator Marchi's passing. Fifty years in this
business, supported by Democrats and Republicans,
sort of transcended politics and did some amazing

1

2 things for Staten Island. But, folks sometimes
3 forget because it was quite a while ago. But,
4 John Marchi was head of the Finance Committee in
5 the State Senate during the fiscal crisis of the
6 '70s. And, he really helped save New York. And,
7 that's not my opinion. That's the opinion of Ed
8 Koch.

9

And, it was a pretty amazing
10 funeral. Council Members Ignizio and Council
11 Member Gentile, who was a former colleague of
12 Marchi's, we were in the back of this long
13 procession. Mayor Koch, Mayor Bloomberg, folks
14 from the MTA, Senators from both sides of the
15 aisle, the judiciary, for truly a person who
16 embodied that public service when done right is
17 truly a noble profession. And, he is the goal-
18 standard, not just for the electeds on Stanton
19 Island, but for all of us. He did it the right
20 way. Married to Maria Louisa for 60 years.
21 Pretty amazing people. And, God rest his soul.

22

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
23 much, Minority Leader Oddo. And, lastly, let me
24 call on Council Member Tish James, in whose
25 district Reverend Wright was a pastor, for a few

1
2 more words on Reverend Wright. Thank you, Council
3 Member James.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Thank you,
5 Madam Speaker. Reverend Wright was not only a
6 leader in the Christian circuit, but to the
7 political and other social circuits. And, he has
8 traveled all over the globe. He has received
9 several honors including the Grammy, the Stellar
10 Awards, the Gospel Workshop of America's
11 Excellence. Some of his tunes include Who Was on
12 the Lord's Side, Testify, Trouble Don't Last
13 Always, and the most recent one, which all of us
14 sing, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, which was written by
15 his wife, the co-Pastor, Reverend Betty Wright.

16 He is survived by his wonderful
17 five sons. He was preceded in death with his
18 grandson, D.J. He's going to be missed by
19 thousands all across this globe. His funeral,
20 ministers and pastors came from all over this
21 nation to worship him. It was a wonderful
22 celebration, not of his death, but of his life.
23 We will remember Timothy Wright as we continue to
24 sing his songs. And, he is now home with his
25 lovely Brown Betty, may he rest in peace; him, his

1

2 wife and D.J.

3 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Council
4 Member James. Thank you, Madam Public Advocate.

5 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Adoption of
6 the Minutes by Council Member Sears.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: I move that
8 the Minutes of the Stated meeting of March 24th,
9 2009 be adopted as printed.

10 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: So ordered.
11 Messages and papers from the Mayor.

12 MALE VOICE: M 1415 through M 1423,
13 various budget items and supporting schedules.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Finance.

15 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Communication
16 from city, county and borough offices.

17 MALE VOICE: M 1424 submitting
18 Rayann Besser for appointment to the City Planning
19 Commission.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: Rules, Privileges
21 and Elections.

22 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Petitions and
23 communications. Quiet, please.

24 MALE VOICE: None.

25 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Land Use call

1

2 ups.

3 MALE VOICE: M 1425 through M 1427.

4 SPEAKER QUINN: All those items
5 should be coupled on a Land Use call up vote. If
6 we could please have a roll call on the Land Use
7 call ups, Madam Public Advocate.

8 MALE VOICE: Arroyo.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

10 MALE VOICE: Avella.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Aye on Land
12 Use call ups. And, I ask for unanimous consent to
13 vote on all the coupled general orders and
14 resolutions.

15 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: So ordered.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Thank you.

17 I vote aye.

18 MALE VOICE: Baez.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: Aye and
20 requesting permission to vote aye on all general
21 orders.

22 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: So ordered.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: Aye.

24 MALE VOICE: Barron.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

1
2 MALE VOICE: Brewer.
3 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.
4 MALE VOICE: Comrie.
5 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.
6 MALE VOICE: Crowley.
7 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.
8 MALE VOICE: Dickens.
9 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.
10 MALE VOICE: Dilan.
11 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.
12 MALE VOICE: Eugene.
13 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.
14 MALE VOICE: Felder.
15 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Yes.
16 MALE VOICE: Ferreras.
17 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.
18 MALE VOICE: Fidler.
19 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.
20 MALE VOICE: Foster.
21 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.
22 MALE VOICE: Garodnick.
23 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.
24 MALE VOICE: Gennaro.
25 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

1

2

MALE VOICE: Gentile.

3

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

4

MALE VOICE: Gerson.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Aye.

6

MALE VOICE: Gonzalez.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.

8

MALE VOICE: Ignizio.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

10

MALE VOICE: Jackson.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on

12

all.

13

MALE VOICE: James.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye on all.

15

MALE VOICE: Katz.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Aye.

17

MALE VOICE: Koppell.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: [No

19

response.]

20

MALE VOICE: Lappin.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

22

MALE VOICE: Liu.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Yes.

24

MALE VOICE: Mark-Viverito.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Yes.

1

MALE VOICE: Martinez.

2

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: Aye.

3

MALE VOICE: Mealy.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: [No

5

response.]

6

MALE VOICE: Mendez.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

8

MALE VOICE: Mitchell.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: Madam

10

Public Advocate, I vote aye and ask permission to

11

vote aye on all general orders.

12

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: So ordered.

13

MALE VOICE: Nelson.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.

15

MALE VOICE: Palma.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

17

MALE VOICE: Recchia.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.

19

MALE VOICE: Reyna.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.

21

MALE VOICE: Sanders.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye.

23

MALE VOICE: Seabrook.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Please,

25

1
2 Madam Public Advocate, with permission, I'd like
3 to vote aye on all Land Use call ups and all
4 general and coupled orders.

5 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: So ordered.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: I vote
7 aye.

8 MALE VOICE: Sears.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Aye.

10 MALE VOICE: Stewart.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Aye.

12 MALE VOICE: Ulrich.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

14 MALE VOICE: Vacca.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

16 MALE VOICE: Vallone.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

18 MALE VOICE: Vann.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Madam Public
20 Advocate, I request unanimous consent to vote on
21 all Land Use call ups, all resolutions, all
22 coupled on general orders.

23 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: So ordered.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: I vote aye on
25 all.

1

MALE VOICE: Weprin.

2

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

3

MALE VOICE: White.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: [No

5

response.]

6

MALE VOICE: Koppell.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

8

MALE VOICE: Oddo.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

10

MALE VOICE: Rivera.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: [No

12

response].

13

FEMALE VOICE: Aye.

14

MALE VOICE: Speaker Quinn.

15

SPEAKER QUINN: [No response.]

16

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Today's Land

17

Use call ups were adopted by a vote of 45 in the

18

affirmative, zero negative. Communication from

19

the Speaker.

20

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very

21

much. Today, we're voting on two important

22

pieces--

23

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Excuse me,

24

quiet, please.

25

1
2 SPEAKER QUINN: --of legislation
3 today; the first, Intro 380-A. This is a piece of
4 legislation that deals with a very significant and
5 very problematic form of graffiti, one where the
6 vandals use etching acid. I want to thank Lacy
7 Clarke and Alix Pustilnik, who worked long and
8 hard on this legislation. I also want to thank
9 the Mayor's office for collaborating on it.

10 This bill was introduced by Council
11 Member Peter Vallone and I want to thank him for
12 his consistent focus on eradicating graffiti in
13 our neighborhoods. And, also thank the Chair of
14 our Consumer Affairs Committee, Leroy Comrie, who
15 worked very hard on this piece of legislation.

16 I think all of us have walked by
17 storefronts or been on subways and seen what's
18 called now Scratchiti [phonetic]. It's a form of
19 graffiti where the vandals use etching acid to
20 actually leave a mark on the glass. Now,
21 graffiti, in and of itself, is bad and something
22 we want to eradicate in our neighborhoods. But,
23 when vandals use paint or markers, we can paint
24 over it. But, when they use etching acid, the
25 only answer for a small business owner is to

1
2 replace the entire window. So, we have a crime
3 here that is causing many problems in our
4 neighborhoods; causing our neighborhoods to look
5 like they are in disrepair, to look like they are
6 lawless and causing small business owners tens of
7 thousands of dollars in some cases or increased
8 insurance rates in others.

9 This legislation builds upon past
10 legislation introduced by Council Member Vallone.
11 The law now in the City of New York is you can't
12 buy etching acid unless you're 21 years of age or
13 over. This law will require that the merchants
14 who sell etching acid keep a log of every person
15 they sell to; that they write down their name;
16 that they verify and log their ID; log how much
17 they've purchased. This will, one, give us a
18 greater assurance that merchants are, in fact,
19 checking IDs; but, two, particularly the part that
20 makes you log how much has been purchased will
21 give the police an important tool so when they see
22 etching acid vandalism in neighborhoods and they
23 see it increasing at a significant rate, they can
24 get these logs. They can figure out who's been
25 buying high volumes of etching acid and go, and

1

2 hopefully, track--

3

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Quiet,

4

please.

5

SPEAKER QUINN: --and apprehend the

6

people who are breaking the law. I want to,

7

again, thank Council Members Vallone and Comrie

8

for their work on this legislation. It's going to

9

be an important tool to help our small businesses

10

and protect our neighborhoods. Let me first call

11

on the bill's sponsor, Peter Vallone, and then,

12

the Chair of the Committee who's done so much to

13

help make our City better, Leroy Comrie. Council

14

Member Vallone.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you,

16

Madam Speaker. As graffiti vandals come up with

17

new ways to destroy property, we, here at the City

18

Council, have to come up with new ways to prevent

19

that and to protect that property. And, today,

20

we're doing that. Etching acid is the tool de

21

jour. It is the new way they destroy property.

22

Etching acid doesn't just destroy the glass that

23

it's used to deface, it also destroys the fingers

24

that come in contact with it. And, that could

25

include a young child that puts their hand up

1
2 against the glass before it dries, burned right
3 down to the bone.

4 This is not something that should
5 be being sold like you can buy the newspaper,
6 which it is today. And, this reasonable
7 regulation, which will keep a record of who's
8 purchasing this very dangerous acid, will go a
9 long way to combating graffiti and will make
10 people think twice. And, it's a new weapon in the
11 City Council's arsenal to combat graffiti. And, I
12 congratulate everyone involved. Thank you.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Thank you.
14 I want to congratulate Peter Vallone for
15 continuing his efforts to make sure that anyone
16 that's trying to deface property, anyone that's
17 trying to ruin the quality of our visual life,
18 anyone that's costing the MTA money or small
19 businesses money, are prosecuted with the full
20 extent of the law. This just gives the police a
21 tool and an opportunity to quickly go after people
22 that are illegally using etching acid. The 95% of
23 the people that are using it properly will have no
24 problems with this bill, will have no problems
25 with making sure that the things that they're

1

2 doing are legal and with transparency.

3

4

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6

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And, I want to congratulate Peter Vallone and all of the staff people from the Public Safety staff, the Consumer Affairs staff and the Speaker's office and thank the Mayor's office staff also for making sure that this was another piece of the tools that we need to try to combat the scourge of graffiti. Thank you.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you both very much. And, both of you have been really very dogged in your efforts to deal with graffiti in our City. So, thank you both very much for remaining so focused.

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Next, is Intro 506-A. I want to thank Council Member Jim Gennaro, who is our Environmental leader, for this important piece of legislation, which went through his Committee. I also want to thank Jeff Haberman, who really did tremendous work on this bill, Samara Swanson, and Siobhan Watson for all of their work on this bill. This is a, in a way, very simple piece of legislation. It's a piece of legislation--

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CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Quiet, please. Sorry, Chris, hold on.

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SPEAKER QUINN: That's okay.

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CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Would you all please be quiet. Thank you.

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SPEAKER QUINN: This piece of legislation is designed to protect the City's wetlands. We often forget that we are five boroughs; four of which are islands. Our wetlands are one of our most important natural resources. But, by not protecting them, we have lost much of our wetlands in the City of New York.

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Council Member Gennaro's bill will require that first, the City does a comprehensive inventory of wetlands in the City of New York. And then, two, the Mayor's office of Long Term Sustainability, and I want to thank them for their work on this legislation as well, that through that office, we develop a strategy for how we will protect the wetlands of the City of New York and for those wetlands that are appropriate to build on, we have appropriate and fair building plans for them. Some of them will not be able to be built on. And, they will have to be protected long term by the City of New York.

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But, I, again, want to thank

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2 Council Member Gennaro and the staff very much for
3 bringing this legislation forward that will
4 protect the City's wetlands into the future.

5 Chairperson Gennaro.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you.
7 Thank you, Madam Speaker. Once upon a time, New
8 York City had about 224,000 acres of freshwater
9 wetlands. Today, less than 1% of that do we still
10 have. Saltwater marshes and wetlands once upon a
11 time, we had about 100,000 acres and only about
12 25% of those are left. And, like the Speaker
13 said, this would create a comprehensive inventory
14 of all these properties.

15 It would create a comprehensive
16 strategy for getting them protected and used
17 reasonably so that we don't lose anymore. This is
18 kind of the complement to the Wetlands Transfer
19 bill that we did for publically owned wetlands a
20 couple years back. City-owned wetlands, now many
21 of them being transferred to the Parks Department
22 for permanent protection. This bill deals with
23 the public, as well as private, wetlands and gives
24 us a common sense paradigm to fill in the, you
25 know, regulatory gaps that exist in State and

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2 Federal laws that leave some wetlands unprotected.

3 I want to echo the Speaker's thanks

4 to the staff, particularly, as she said, Jeff

5 Haberman, who did great work in getting this bill

6 negotiated, Samara and Siobahn for doing their

7 usual great job. The Mayor's office was

8 critically important in getting us to this day.

9 I'd like to thank Rit Agrawal and Carter

10 Strickland, Eddie Baptista. There was very good

11 to collaborate with them and work with them where

12 we're reading off the same page. We all want to

13 get this done. So, I want to-- thanks to them,

14 but most of all to you, Madam Speaker, for your

15 leadership, all of the sponsors of the bill and

16 all of the members who, hopefully, will cast a yes

17 vote on this very good bill. Thank you, Madam

18 Speaker.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very

20 much, Chairman Gennaro. And, that concludes

21 communications from the Speaker.

22 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Discussion of

23 general orders. Council Member Barron.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you

25 very much, Madam Chair. I just wanted to urge my

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2 colleagues to vote against Intro 380-A. And, the
3 reason being everybody's against graffiti,
4 particularly etching acid. That is dangerous.
5 All of the problem statements are accurate.

6 But, we cannot turn this is into a
7 police state to stop graffiti. We cannot allow
8 artists that legitimately purchase etching acid
9 for legitimate artistic reasons now to have the
10 police have access to everybody's name and put
11 them on file as though that's going to stop
12 graffiti. It's not going to stop graffiti, number
13 one. It's an intrusion into the lives of artists
14 who use etching acid legitimately. And, we avoid
15 doing the real changes that need to occur to stop
16 graffiti.

17 Why don't we put some money into
18 painting murals, artistic programs in our
19 neighborhoods so that they transfer the negative
20 use of their artistic skills into something
21 positive? When you mention that every year, they
22 say well, that doesn't deal with the immediate
23 problem. Right now, we have to do law
24 enforcement. Every time we have major issues in
25 our community, law enforcement seems to be the

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2 only creative thoughts we can come up with.

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4 Well, we got a lot of laws on the
5 records now for graffiti and it hasn't stopped it.
6 How about putting some money into cultural
7 institutions in our neighborhoods and allow these
8 young people to take that skill and turn it into
9 something positive instead of having this false
10 notion that we're going to do this and now, it's
11 going to stop the graffiti in our neighborhoods.

12

13 I think this is an intrusion. I
14 think it's ineffective. And, it takes us a way of
15 thinking on doing the right thing to stop graffiti
16 and that's to have alternative methods for using
17 this artistic talent that some people have in our
18 community. This is not a good bill. It's an
19 intrusion on the legitimate use of etching acid
20 and it's not going to stop those who use it for
21 negative reasons. We should vote this one down
22 and take the time out to do the right thing and
23 think of something more creative to stop graffiti
24 than law enforcement.

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CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Seeing nobody
else, report of special committees.

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MALE VOICE: None.

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2 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Reports of
3 standing committees.

4 MALE VOICE: Report of the
5 Committee on Consumer Affairs, Intro 380-A,
6 registration for etching acid.

7 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled
8 on general orders.

9 MALE VOICE: Report of the
10 Committee on Environmental Protection, Intro 506-
11 A, comprehensive wetlands protection policy.

12 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled
13 on general orders.

14 MALE VOICE: Preconsidered Resos
15 1962.

16 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
17 orders.

18 MALE VOICE: Report of the
19 Committee on Finance, preconsidered LU 1095 and
20 Reso 1965 through preconsidered LU 1099 and Reso
21 1969.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
23 orders.

24 MALE VOICE: Report of the
25 Committee on Land Use, LU 1041 and Reso 1970,

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unenclosed sidewalk café.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

MALE VOICE: LU 1047 through LU 1050, various applications.

SPEAKER QUINN: Approved with modifications and referred to the City Planning Commission pursuant to Rule 11.70(b) of the rules of the Council and Section 197(d) of the New York City Charter.

MALE VOICE: LU 1053 and Reso 1971 through LU 1065 and Reso 1973, various applications.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

MALE VOICE: Preconsidered LU 1100 and Reso 1974, 415-seat school facility.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: General order calendar.

MALE VOICE: Resolution appointing various persons, Commissioner of Deeds.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general

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orders. And, at this point, I'd like to ask for roll call on all items that have been coupled on the general order calendar.

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MALE VOICE: Arroyo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

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MALE VOICE: Barron.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye on all, except for Intro 380-A, I vote no.

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MALE VOICE: Brewer.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye.

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And, I remind people that we did pass, with my sponsorship and many others, earlier anti-etching legislation, some four, five years ago. And, it is a shame that it continues. So, I look forward to hopefully making a difference with this new piece of legislation and hopefully, it will not create such a problem. It's a about a thousand dollars to replace one window, 'cause I've had to do it, per storefront with just a small etching acid graffiti. Thank you.

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MALE VOICE: Comrie.

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Permission to explain my vote?

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CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: So ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I don't want to encourage members to vote aye on all. I understand Councilman Barron's concerns about making sure we have more opportunities for artists to be creative in proper venues. And, I think that we do need to do that.

But, I think that the need to make sure that we have the tools to quickly apprehend people that are using etching acid in a hazardous way transcends any other reason. And, we need to make sure that we can work on both. It's a dual purpose tool, separate purposes, but, we need to make sure that people that are suffering these great losses due to vandals that they get an opportunity to be prosecuted as quickly as possible. Aye on all.

MALE VOICE: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

MALE VOICE: de Blasio.

COUNCIL MEMBER de BLASIO: Madam Public Advocate, I ask unanimous consent to vote on all Land Use call ups. I vote aye.

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER de BLASIO: Thank

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2 you. And, I vote aye on all items on the general
3 order calendar.

4 MALE VOICE: Dickens.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

6 MALE VOICE: Dilan.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye on all.

8 MALE VOICE: Eugene.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

10 MALE VOICE: Felder.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Yes.

12 MALE VOICE: Ferreras.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

14 MALE VOICE: Fidler.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: May I be
16 briefly excused to explain my vote?

17 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: So ordered.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I am not
19 unsympathetic to Councilman Barron's concerns
20 about overreaching of government. But, I am
21 casting my vote today based upon the thousands of
22 my constituents who have expressed their utter
23 disgust with graffiti. And, I would point out,
24 just in case the subtlety has been lost, that
25 people who graffitize property are not artists,

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2 they are vandals. And, we have had enough of it.
3 And, I vote aye on all.

4 MALE VOICE: Foster.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye on all.

6 MALE VOICE: Garodnick.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: I vote
8 aye.

9 MALE VOICE: Gennaro.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: [No
11 response.]

12 MALE VOICE: Gentile

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

14 MALE VOICE: Gerson.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: May I be
16 excused to briefly explain my vote?

17 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: So ordered.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Madam
19 Public Advocate, my colleagues, I will vote aye on
20 all. But, I do want to note that I share on the
21 legitimate concerns raised by Council Member
22 Barron as general principal, which we should
23 follow. In this case of etching acid, I am
24 persuaded, especially by the point made by Council
25 Member Vallone as to the distinct safety hazards

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2 posed by the abuse and misapplication of etching
3 acid, which could, as he pointed out, you know,
4 endanger children who might come into contact with
5 the substance misapplied. So, for that point, I
6 will vote-- for that reason, I will vote aye.
7 But, going forward, we should adopt many of the
8 strategies which Council Member Barron and other
9 colleagues and myself have called for. Thank you
10 very much and I vote aye on all.

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MALE VOICE: Gonzalez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.

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MALE VOICE: Ignizio.

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

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MALE VOICE: Jackson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Madam

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Chair, may I be excused to explain my vote?

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CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: So ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: While I

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agree with somewhat of what my colleague, Council

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Member Barron, has said as far as that we need to

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have more programs to help young artists develop.

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But, quite frankly, in my opinion, most of the

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graffiti that I've seen in the neighborhoods that

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I represent are not very artistic. And, in fact,

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2 I was telling my colleague, Council Member Miguel
3 Martinez, while jogging every morning in
4 preparation for the New York City marathon, twice
5 I ran past Apple Bank on 100, I think, 58th Street
6 and Broadway. And, within two days, the same two
7 days, there were contractors cleaning up etching
8 and graffiti on the window. And, I just can
9 imagine what the bill is going to be to have
10 contractors there two days working to eliminate
11 that.

12 So, this bill calls for the
13 registration. Obviously, if, in fact, the
14 registration and keeping of those documents are
15 being abused, then we need to address that. But,
16 until such time I see where it's being abused,
17 knowing the negative impacts in our community and
18 knowing how majority of the constituents, over 99%
19 of the constituents that I represent see this as
20 graffiti and negative toward the quality of life.
21 I vote aye on all, especially this particular
22 Intro. Thank you.

23 MALE VOICE: James.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: I vote aye
25 on all.

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MALE VOICE: Katz.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: [No

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response.]

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MALE VOICE: Koppell.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

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MALE VOICE: Lappin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

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MALE VOICE: Liu.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Yes.

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MALE VOICE: Mark-Viverito.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye

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on all, except for Intro 380-A, I vote against.

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MALE VOICE: Martinez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: Aye.

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MALE VOICE: Mealy.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye. Can I

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have permission to call on all Land Use call ups?

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CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: So ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye. Thank

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you.

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MALE VOICE: Mendez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

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MALE VOICE: Nelson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye on all.

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MALE VOICE: Palma.

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

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MALE VOICE: Recchia.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.

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MALE VOICE: Reyna.

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.

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MALE VOICE: Sanders.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye.

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MALE VOICE: Sears.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: May I just

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have a comment, Madam Public Advocate?

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CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: So ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: I vote aye

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on all. But, as it relates to 380-A, although we
may have empathy for Councilman Barron's comments,
acid etching is destructive. It's destroying. I
ride the subways. I see subway windows that you
can't even do anything and clean them. You have
to replace them. Acid etching is very costly to
deal with it. And, although I agree, one in
finding a place for graffiti does not diminish the
importance of the fact that such vandalism is
outrageous; should not be condoned and I thank
Councilmen Vallone and Comrie for this bill. I

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vote aye on all.

MALE VOICE: Gioia.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: Thank you.

I vote yes. And, I'd like to vote yes on all Land Use call ups, as well.

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: So ordered.

MALE VOICE: Katz.

COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Thank you. I also vote yes.

MALE VOICE: Stewart.

COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Yes.

MALE VOICE: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye on all.

MALE VOICE: Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Brief permission to explain. First, I want to thank Leroy Comrie for judiciously moving this bill through, the etching acid bill through his Committee. It was a big help. But to respond to some of the art concerns, I think most people know I don't consider graffiti done without permission to be art. But, all of us have seen graffiti-type

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2 murals that, done with permission, might be very
3 beautiful. I can assure you none of that was done
4 with etching acid. Etching acid is the most
5 destructive type of graffiti. It also looks
6 completely disgusting. There's nothing artistic
7 about it. And, we're asking for the same
8 information that we give now when we buy Sudafed.
9 So, it's a very minor intrusion. And, it will
10 have a huge effect in stopping people from hurting
11 themselves and from destroying other property.
12 And, again, thank you Chair Comrie. I vote aye on
13 all.

14 MALE VOICE: Weprin.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye on all.

16 MALE VOICE: White.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: I vote aye
18 on all coupled general orders and ask for
19 unanimous consent to vote on all Land Use call
20 ups.

21 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: So ordered.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: I'll vote
23 aye on all Land Use call ups.

24 MALE VOICE: Yassky.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Madam

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2 Public Advocate, I also would seek unanimous
3 consent to vote on Land Use call ups.

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CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: So ordered.

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6 COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: I vote aye
7 on Land Use call ups and aye on the general
8 orders.

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MALE VOICE: Oddo.

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10 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: May I be
11 temporarily excused to explain my vote?

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CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: So ordered.

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13 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: I'd be voting
14 yes on all. And, I just want to congratulate
15 Council Member Vallone on building upon what
16 Council Member Brewer had started. And, needless
17 to say, albeit respectfully, I couldn't disagree
18 more with Council Member Barron.

18

19 And, it reminds me a few years ago,
20 I have a huge graffiti problem in my district.

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21 And, I wrote to some of the small business owners
22 who decided the walls on the side of their

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23 business that was riddled with graffiti should
24 have graffiti murals. And, as I said then, and I

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25 think it's essentially what Council Member Barron
is saying, you sort of to save the village, we're

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2 going to burn the village. And, I think probably
3 more to the point, if you look at the studies
4 across this country, it shows that programs like
5 graffiti murals actually don't work. They don't
6 reduce graffiti.

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8 And, you know, if any graffiti
9 vandal, and that's what he or she is, if any
10 graffiti vandal wants to demonstrate his or her
11 artistic ability, and they're looking for a blank
12 canvas, then they should do their bedroom wall,
13 their living room wall, their kitchen wall and
14 their bathroom wall. They feel free to paint
15 inside of their home every day for the rest of
16 their lives.

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18 When you come into the public arena
19 and you go on other people's property and you
20 deface it with paint or etching acid, it's a
21 crime. And, it's vandalism. And, we should not
22 encourage it. And, we should do everything in our
23 ability to continue to fight. There's no magic
24 bullet. You have to be persistent and vigilant
25 and be even more persistent and vigilant than
these miscreants. And, I think that this Council
is blessed to have Council Members like Vallone

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2 fighting this fight. I vote yes on all.

3 MALE VOICE: Rivera.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Madam
5 Public Advocate, if I can vote yes on all Land Use
6 call ups?

7 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Ordered.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
9 very much. I vote aye on all. And, I also want
10 to, you know, vote aye on all items on today's
11 agenda and congratulate Council Member Vallone
12 because there is a significant difference between
13 mural art and graffiti. And, etching graffiti is
14 something that--

15 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Quiet,
16 please.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: --always
18 depicts a negative image on a community. And, I
19 think, like Council Member Jackson stated, when
20 you run down a neighborhood and you see the
21 etching work being done on a building and the
22 replacement of the glass, you know, it's
23 significant in cost and it's something they can
24 never, you know, that significant. So, I want to
25 congratulate Council Member Vallone and vote aye

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on all items on today's agenda. Thank you.

MALE VOICE: Speaker Quinn.

SPEAKER QUINN: I vote aye. And, I, again, want to thank Council Member Gennaro, Council Member Vallone and Council Member Comrie. And, I also want to thank Council Member Brewer and apologize for omitting her from the history of what I think is incredibly important work on all forms of graffiti. And, you know, it is an important thing for a neighborhood to be able to feel that it is able to keep itself safe and intact and having tools to deal with this new form of graffiti is going to help neighborhood residents and particularly, small business people know that they can call on the police and there's something they can do to help them if their store has been victimized. So, thank you all. And, I apologize, Council Member Brewer. You have too much legislation to keep track of it all. I vote aye on all.

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: All items on today's general order calendar were adopted by a vote of 51 in the affirmative, zero negative, zero abstentions, with the exception of Intro 380-A,

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2 which is adopted by a vote of 49 in the
3 affirmative, two negative, zero abstentions.

4 Revised Land Use call ups were adopted by a vote
5 of 51 in the affirmative, zero negative.

6 Introduction and reading of bills.

7 SPEAKER QUINN: All bills are
8 referred to committees as indicated on the agenda.

9 And, I just want to remind my colleagues that

10 budget hearings begin on Monday. The Office of

11 Management and Budget is going to be at the

12 beginning of the hearing this time, not the end.

13 And, they're also, you should make note on the

14 calendar, particular hearing on the Community

15 Development Block Grant budget. I believe that is

16 after OMB. But, I know that's very important to

17 members as it relates to--

18 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Quiet,

19 please.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: --the stimulus

21 package. So, please make note of that, as well.

22 But, if you want to be at OMB, which I know many

23 members do, that's now the first day, not the last

24 day. Thank you, Madam Public Advocate.

25 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Discussion of

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resolutions. Oh, Council Member Fidler.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Thank you.

And, I know that everybody in this body knows that I haven't missed an opportunity to remind--

CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Quiet, please.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: --to remind my colleagues and to anyone that will listen in this City that 3,800 children will be sleeping on our streets tonight, homeless and without shelter. The Resolution before us today seeks changes in both Federal and State law to dovetail in such a way that we can maximize the resources that we presently have available to provide shelter beds for runaway and homeless youth; would uniformly make the age category run to 24. It would acknowledge the unique populations within our runaway and homeless youth population in terms of the rules regarding their housing and, would also provide assistance or make it possible for assistance to be given to groups seeking to certify--

SPEAKER QUINN: Council Member Fidler, can I interrupt for one second? And,

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2 we'll just put a little more time back on the
3 clock for Council Member Fidler. This is a very
4 important issue and if we get some quiet in the
5 chambers.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Thank you.

7 SPEAKER QUINN: We really-- this is
8 an important issue.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: It would
10 also allow governments to provide assistance to
11 groups seeking to certify to become providers of
12 shelter beds, which is one of the biggest
13 obstacles we have to providing shelter for young
14 people, all of which at a cost of zero to the
15 taxpayers. And, it's just a common sense change
16 that would have the Federal and State and City
17 regulations all be together.

18 I want to thank the task force of
19 providers that have worked with the Youth Services
20 Committee, that are working with the Youth
21 Services Committee on this, our Committee staff,
22 Megan Annitto and Mike Benjamin, Rocco D'Angelo
23 for their help. And, I urge a yes vote on the
24 Reso.

25 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Anybody else?

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2 Oh, Council Member Gerson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Yeah, thank you very much. First of all, I want to commend the leadership of our Speaker, Christine Quinn, and our Youth Services Chair, Lew Fidler, in making sure that this Council does everything possible to protect some of the most vulnerable of our young people.

As pointed out, there are young people dying, not living, but dying every day on our streets for lack of shelter. And, one reason is because regulations imposed upon our City by Federal and State governments presently prevent City agencies from delivering the most effective possible shelter services and providing hospitable shelters that will literally save these lives. This includes regulation which imposes an artificially and insensitively young cutoff age for the provision of services to these young people. I urge all my colleagues to support this Resolution and let's send a unanimous message to our State and Federal governments that we want to do everything possible to save the lives of all precious young people. Thank you very much.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Okay. Seeing
3 anybody else, let's vote on Resolution 1227-A to
4 amend the Homeless Youth Act. All in favor?

5 MULTIPLE VOICES: Aye.

6 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Opposed?
7 Adopted. A general discussion, Council Member
8 Jackson.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you
10 Madam Public Advocate, my colleagues. I rise to
11 bring to your attention, if you're not aware, that
12 tomorrow morning at 10:30, there's going to be a
13 briefing by ACS on the childcare situation. As
14 you know, today, Daycare Local 205 of DC 37, held
15 a rally outside of City Hall, down the street,
16 talking about the fact that over 3,300
17 kindergarten students in daycare centers are going
18 to be transferred to the Department of Education
19 in order to save \$15 million from ACS; part of a
20 \$62 million budget situation the ACS has.

21 Bill de Blasio and I, we held a
22 press conference approximately a week ago, ten
23 days ago, to bring attention to the fact that, as
24 part of this plan, the Department of Education
25 plans to, unless they tell us otherwise, increase

1
2 kindergarten class size to 25, which is
3 outrageous, especially the contract for excellence
4 call no more than 20 students in kindergarten.
5 And, that's a commitment that DOE made in the
6 five-year capital plan that exists today.

7 But, not only that, what's even
8 more outrageous, since the 1990, the Department of
9 Education has spent Federal, State and City money,
10 over a billion dollars, not 100 million, over a
11 billion to reduce class size in the lower grades.
12 So, I encourage you to come to this briefing
13 tomorrow so you can get a detailed briefing on
14 what the latest status is regarding that. That's
15 at 10:30 in the 16th floor cafeteria, where City
16 Council, Central Staff and ACS staff will be there
17 to brief all of the members and their staff with
18 the latest status on the developments concerning
19 this particular matter. Thank you, Madam Public
20 Advocate.

21 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Council
22 Member Lappin.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Thank you,
24 Madam Public Advocate. I just wanted to draw my
25 colleagues' attention to two bills that were

1
2 introduced today; one that Council Member Stewart
3 and I introduced together that would require
4 restaurants to post on their menus major food
5 allergens, which is another bill aimed at helping
6 people with food allergies in the City.

7 And, the other deals with
8 motorcycle parking. As gasoline prices have gone
9 up, scooter sales across the country have actually
10 gone through the roof. And, we are asking that
11 the Department of Transportation come up with a
12 plan to accommodate the mopeds and motorcycles and
13 scooters that are increasingly taking to our City
14 streets. Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Council
16 Member Fidler.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Yes. There
18 are a couple of words that I hesitate to mention
19 on the floor of this Council; one of them Susan
20 Ingson [phonetic]. The other is congestion
21 pricing. Yet, I do want to remind everybody that
22 when we debated congestion pricing in this body, I
23 put forward a nine-point alternative plan that
24 many of you supported, at least in part various
25 elements of that.

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And, of course, the State

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Legislature may be voting today on one important

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aspect of that, which is a one-third of 1% payroll

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tax to support transportation. And, that idea

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came from this body. Tomorrow, the Environmental

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Protection Committee, and Jim Gennaro, will be

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holding a hearing on another element to that plan.

9

And, that is to support the efforts to promote

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hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. And, we will have in

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the parking lot tomorrow at 12:30 a hydrogen fuel

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cell car for you to see. And, at one o'clock, in

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the Committee Chambers, we will be holding a

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hearing on the Resolution that would encourage the

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City of New York to find a way to promote hydrogen

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fuel cell vehicles, to develop an infrastructure

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for the energy-efficient production of hydrogen,

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to become an economic leader in this country in

19

the production of hydrogen for those vehicles.

20

As you all know, hydrogen fuel cell

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vehicles are zero emission cars. You know, the

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change in the world that we would see if

23

automobiles shifted over to hydrogen fuel cells

24

and we're able to produce the hydrogen in an

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energy-efficient way would be amazing. And, I

1
2 suppose it's appropriate that we hold that hearing
3 tomorrow, the day before the Star Trek movie opens
4 because, as we all know in Star Trek, not only is
5 the production of energy done in an efficient and
6 environmentally clean way, but it's also perhaps
7 resulted in world peace. And, that would be a
8 great goal. And, I realize that hydrogen fuel
9 cells is a Holy Grail.

10 But, we are going to do our part
11 here tomorrow. And, I invite you all to see the
12 hydrogen car in the parking lot at 12:30 and to
13 come to the hearing at one.

14 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Council
15 Member Stewart.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Thank you,
17 Madam Public Advocate. I just want to call
18 attention of my colleagues to two bills, Intro
19 981, which Council Member Lappin spoke about.
20 But, I want to draw attention to 982, which is a
21 bill that really would address the problem of not
22 only strangers or visitors to our City, but anyone
23 that visits central Manhattan or any place in
24 central Brooklyn to be able to get restroom to be
25 used. We have a number of facilities that are in

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2 buildings where people might be standing in line
3 in banks and places like that. And, they may not
4 know or have any place to avail themselves of a
5 public--

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CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Quiet,

7

please.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: --

9

restroom.

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CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: We can't hear

11

anything.

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COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: And so,

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this bill will address that issue whereby if

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someone who is incontinent or someone who might be

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pregnant, may need to have the use of a bathroom,

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they should be able to do so. And so, I ask you

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to join and sign-on on this bill 982. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Council

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Member James.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: [Off-mic]

21

and small schools design-- thank you-- designed to

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prevent high school dropout and to prepare all

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students for college. The students were from all

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over the City. They want to succeed and do well

25

in school. We really need to support ICA. ICA

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2 serves approximately 8,700 high school students in
3 24 small schools, small learning communities in
4 Manhattan, Brooklyn, the Bronx and Queens. I
5 welcome them here to City Council to the Hall of
6 the people and I would urge every City Council
7 Member to support them as we move forward in
8 negotiations in this year's budget. Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON GOTBAUM: Seeing nobody
10 else, Council meeting of May 5th is ended.

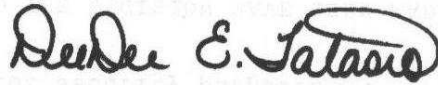
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, DeeDee E. Tataseo certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "DeeDee E. Tataseo". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Date

May 24, 2009