

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED COUNCIL MEETING

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February 11, 2009

Start: 01:30pm

Recess: 02:56pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E: Christine C. Quinn
Speaker

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Maria del Carmen Arroyo
- Tony Avella
- Maria Baez
- Charles Barron
- Gale Brewer
- Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
- Elizabeth Crowley
- Bill de Blasio
- Inez E. Dickens
- Erik Dilan
- Mathieu Eugene
- Simcha Felder
- Lewis Fidler
- Daniel Garodnick
- James Gennaro
- Vincent Gentile
- Alan Gerson
- Eric Gioia
- Sara Gonzalez

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Vincent Ignizio
Robert Jackson
Letitia James
Melinda Katz
G. Oliver Koppel
Jessica Lappin
John Liu
Melissa Mark-Viverito
Miguel Martinez
Darlene Mealy
Rosie Mendez
Michael Nelson
Annabel Palma
Domenic Recchia, Jr.
Diana Reyna
Joel Rivera
James Sanders, Jr.
Larry Seabrook
Helen Sears
Kendall Stewart
James Vacca
Peter Vallone, Jr.
Albert Vann
David Weprin
Thomas White, Jr.

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

Stephanie Chen
Volunteer
Heart Association Go Red Campaign

Tisha Dickson Williams
Volunteer
Heart Association Go Red Campaign

Lorraine Morgan
Volunteer
Heart Association Go Red Campaign

Juliana Belalu
Volunteer
Heart Association Go Red Campaign

Irene Baldwin
Executive Director
Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: --call up the
3 Women's Caucus of the City Council. [background
4 noise] I'd like to--I'd like to take this
5 opportunity to welcome the Hearth Association and
6 its advocates to the floor. Stephanie, Lorraine,
7 Tisha [applause, cheers] Juliana and Maria. These
8 women have been the leaders of a campaign--

9 FEMALE VOICE 2: From buses near
10 you. [cheers]

11 SPEAKER QUINN: [laughs] And I
12 would like to thank the Heart Association for
13 making this topic so near and dear to our hearts.
14 Across the five boroughs, we are raising awareness
15 of the serious threat of heart disease among
16 women. I hope that this recognition helps to
17 support the Go Red Campaign, as you can see, all
18 the women of the Women's Council Caucus are
19 wearing red, for the most part. Oh my god!
20 [laughs] I call it the Women's Council. The
21 Women's Council. The Women's Caucus of the New
22 York City Council, we are wearing red in honor of
23 the fight against heart disease amongst women. I
24 hope that the campaign for the Go Red posters that
25 you see these women holding, will address risk

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2 behaviors and that this, and as a city, we can
3 work together to mitigate the risk of heart
4 disease through education and public policy. I
5 want to especially thank the courageous volunteer
6 spokeswomen, survivors and success stories who
7 tirelessly advocate on behalf of the Go Red
8 Campaign, Stephanie Chen, Lorraine Morgan, and
9 Tisha Dickson Williams from my district
10 specifically. [applause, cheers] I'd like
11 Juliana Belalu [phonetic] to please stand with us,
12 and accept this proclamation on behalf of our
13 Speaker, Christine Quinn, the women of the New
14 York City Women's Caucus, and your co-chairs,
15 COUNCIL MEMBER Diana Reyna, myself, and COUNCIL
16 MEMBER Helen Diane Foster, who could not be here
17 with us today. Thank you so much.

18 FEMALE VOICE 3: And let me just
19 add, I want to thank council members Reyna and
20 Foster and all the members of the women's caucus
21 for pulling this event together today. I want to
22 thank everyone at the Heart Association,
23 particularly the three of you for being
24 everywhere. I get very excited when I see you on
25 a subway entrance or a bus, or anywhere. And it

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2 is not an easy thing to put your face and your
3 story and what's happened to you out there in
4 public. It's really a very personal thing. But
5 it's a very courageous and important thing, 'cause
6 you know, we could rattle off nine million facts
7 about how heart disease is a leading killer of
8 women, and how it kills more women than men, and
9 women need to know, etc., etc. And that will all
10 drift into the ether. But when people like you
11 tell your real stories, that stops people in their
12 tracks and makes them think twice. So thank you
13 for being so brave and so giving that you've
14 shared yourself and your lives with all of us
15 throughout the City of New York, and I know it is
16 going to make a difference, and we're so very
17 proud of all of you. So, thank you very much.
18 [applause] And I give the mic to the - - .

19 SPEAKER QUINN: I'd like to ask
20 Stephanie Chen, Lorraine Morgan and Tisha Dickson
21 Williams to just say a few words, so that at least
22 you know why they are so special to this campaign.

23 FEMALE VOICE 3: Be quiet! Listen
24 to these gals.

25 STEPHANIE CHEN: I would like to

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2 start by saying thank you to Speaker Quinn,
3 council members Reyna and Foster, who could not be
4 here, members of the Women's Caucus, and the
5 entire Council. It's truly a great honor, and
6 I'm, I'm very grateful to have been invited to be
7 here today. And to have been given the chance to
8 speak at the Women's Seminar a few weeks ago, and
9 to appear here today, reminds me of why I became
10 involved in Go Red for Women, and the American
11 Heart Association to begin with. At 16 I was
12 diagnosed with Type II Diabetes, high blood
13 pressure, and high cholesterol, and 24, at 24 I
14 had three stents placed in three arteries that
15 were 75 to 90 percent blocked. And as a survivor
16 of heart disease, I'm always thankful for any
17 opportunity to spread awareness about the dangers
18 of heart disease. Without your support, I might
19 not be standing here today, and so I thank you for
20 going red with me and making February heart month.
21 [applause, cheers]

22 TISHA DICKSON WILLIAMS: To all the
23 members of the Council, we thank you for going
24 red, this is so encouraging. This is Tisha, hi.
25 [laughs] I just want to say thank you to all of

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2 you and just a little bit of my story. I suffer
3 from hypertension and was diagnosed with
4 hypertension, having to take two medications at a
5 young age. My grandmother died of congestive
6 heart failure, and my dad has had a heart attack,
7 my mom had complications due to congestive heart
8 failure. So it hit my family pretty hard, and I'm
9 so honored to be part of this amazing cause, and I
10 never thought that this young girl from Bushwick
11 would have her face all over New York City for a
12 good reason. [applause, laughter] For a good
13 reason. So, I'm thankful for that, and I'm
14 thankful to all of you.

15 FEMALE VOICE 1: Thank you so much,
16 Tisha. [applause]

17 LORRAINE MORGAN: Thank you,
18 everyone, for being here, this is an overwhelming
19 day for me and the American Heart Association. My
20 name is Lorraine Morgan, and I suffer from heart
21 disease. Not in the way that you would typically
22 think about it. My father died of heart disease
23 three years ago, and I made a vow at that point
24 that I was going to get healthy, I was going to
25 change my lifestyle, I was going to start

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2 exercising, and start eating right. And I
3 couldn't be more honored to be part of this
4 campaign, and hopefully, hopefully spread that
5 message to other New Yorkers. So thanks again for
6 having us. [applause] [off mic]

7 JULIANA BELALU: We'd just like to
8 thank everyone at the Council for the opportunity.
9 There've been so many events over the month, we
10 had a Women's Caucus meeting, we had the Speaker
11 at the Empire State Building, and we've had the
12 proclamation today, so we really appreciate the
13 support. And I wanted to let all of you know that
14 we'll be sending pictures featuring Tisha to all
15 of your district offices [cheers] to help raise
16 awareness in your community. [applause] Thank
17 you.

18 FEMALE VOICE: Again, I'm giving my
19 State of the City address tomorrow, and wearing
20 red in my outfit. So, you'll have to give me a
21 pin, I'll wear that, too, tomorrow. Okay. Oh,
22 can you read the proclamation?

23 CLERK: Council, City of New York
24 Proclamation. Whereas, the New York City Women's
25 Caucus is proud to honor the American Heart

1 Association for its tremendously vital work
2 fighting cardiovascular disease. And whereas,
3 cardiovascular disease is the nation's leading
4 cause of death, accounting for over 35 percent of
5 deaths nationwide, and nearly 2,400 deaths each
6 day, with direct and indirect costs estimated at
7 \$475 billion in 2009. And whereas, close to
8 800,000 people in the United States will have a
9 new coronary attack; 470,000 will suffer a
10 recurrent attack; and 195,000 will have undergo--
11 will have an undiagnosed coronary attack this
12 year. And whereas, cardiovascular disease is the
13 number one cause of death for women, resulting in
14 12,000 deaths for women in New York City alone,
15 every year. Now therefore be it known, that the
16 Council of the City of New York Women's Caucus,
17 hereby proclaims February 2009 to be American
18 Heart Month in New York, and urge all citizens to
19 recognize the critical importance of using every
20 measure and tactic to decrease the incident of
21 cardiac arrest, and increase survival rates from
22 this illness. Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the
23 entire Council; Helen Foster, COUNCIL MEMBER 16th
24 district, co-chair Women's Caucus; Diana Reyna,

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER 34th district, co-chair Women's
3 Caucus, and all of the other members of the
4 Women's Caucus of the City Council. [applause]

5 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you very much
6 and thank you all.

7 [background noise]

8 FEMALE VOICE: Okay ,the next--we
9 have two more ceremonials. The next one is going
10 to be presented to Irene Baldwin. And if I could
11 ask the council members and Irene and everyone
12 from ANHD who's here to come on up.

13 [background noise]

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Okay, so our next
15 ceremony, put your sweater on, is, and let me
16 thank all of the other council members who were a
17 part of this. We wanted to take a moment to thank
18 Irene Baldwin for her great service to the City of
19 New York in over two decades of work on behalf of
20 communities, neighborhoods, tenants, housing, you
21 know, the real infrastructure of what makes New
22 York New York. And we wanted to thank you for all
23 of those decades of service, and most meaningfully
24 immediately, myself, Erik Dilan our Housing chair,
25 all the other council members, and all of the

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2 staff at the City Council, wanted to thank you for
3 your work at ANHD, because over the past three
4 plus years, ANHD has given us invaluable time,
5 help, assistance, guidance, research in passing
6 some of the most important laws we've passed
7 protecting tenants and housing in the city of New
8 York. And let me just say personally the first
9 job I had in New York City was working for ANHD as
10 the dire--the organizer of their Housing Justice
11 Campaign. So, [applause] it's a great honor to
12 get to honor their retiring executive director
13 today. But I know firsthand how hard it is to be
14 the executive director of ANHD and how hard it is
15 to do this work. And I really am in really
16 tremendous awe of somebody like yourself, Irene,
17 who could've done it for over two decades, 'cause
18 it is hard, it is constant, it is underpaid, and
19 overworked, and under appreciated, and just
20 incredibly important to keeping New York New York.
21 So I really, on behalf of all of my colleagues,
22 want to thank you so much. And before we read the
23 proc or give you the mic, let me give the
24 microphone to the chair of Housing Committee, Erik
25 Dilan.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: I just would
3 like to thank you for the service you provided to
4 the City. And congratulate you on your
5 retirement. And I know Gale thanks me all the
6 time, but I want to thank you and Ben Dalchin
7 [phonetic] for the HPI Initiative, which you guys
8 were instrumental in helping us bring about in the
9 City. And we look forward to your agency
10 continuing the work, even though you go on to
11 relax a little bit, which you're entitled to.

12 SPEAKER QUINN: Gale?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Well,
14 certainly as somebody like the Speaker, who has a
15 very active tenant-to-group in our districts, we
16 rely on NAHD constantly. And I think what you
17 should be most proud of is that you have an
18 amazing staff. So that, the group that you
19 assembled, continues and is really the backbone,
20 as the Speaker said, of much of the housing, good
21 housing policy in the City of New York.
22 Congratulations.

23 SPEAKER QUINN: Let me have the
24 clerk read the proclamation, and then we'll hear
25 from Irene.

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2 CLERK: Council, City of New York
3 Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of
4 New York is pleased and proud to honor Irene
5 Baldwin, executive director of the Association for
6 Neighborhood and Housing Development, ANHD, on the
7 occasion of her retirement. And whereas, ANHD is
8 a New York City nonprofit member organization,
9 made up of 97 neighborhood based groups engaged in
10 housing, community development, and economic
11 development in low and moderate income
12 neighborhoods throughout the five boroughs. And
13 whereas, Irene Baldwin has 25 years experience in
14 community development. She began her career as a
15 Peace Corps volunteer in North Africa. Since her
16 return from the Peace Corps in 1985, she worked
17 for a member, for a number of New York City
18 nonprofits in various capacities, as a community
19 organizer, a nonprofit housing developer, a grant
20 maker, and for the past ten years, is the
21 executive director of ANHD. Now therefore be it
22 known that the Council of the city of New York
23 honors Irene Baldwin for her outstanding
24 contributions to ANHD and the City of New York,
25 and wishes her the very best on the occasion of

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2 her retirement. Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for
3 the entire Council, Erik Martin Dilan, COUNCIL
4 MEMBER 37th district, Brooklyn; Rosie Mendez,
5 COUNCIL MEMBER 2nd district, Manhattan; G. Oliver
6 Koppell, COUNCIL MEMBER 10th district, Bronx; Gale
7 Brewer, COUNCIL MEMBER 6th district, Manhattan;
8 Robert Jackson, COUNCIL MEMBER 7th district,
9 Manhattan; Melissa Mark-Viverito, COUNCIL MEMBER
10 8th district, Manhattan.

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. Irene?
12 [applause]

13 IRENE BALDWIN: Oh, okay. Well.
14 Hello? [laughs] That was very good. Well, this
15 is, this is, is really flattering and, and it's a
16 real honor to be, to be recognized by the City
17 Council. And, and I mean we're just thrilled,
18 it's terrific. But, but one of the things that
19 I'm happiest about today is that I can come here
20 and, and thank you. To thank the Speaker and, and
21 your staff, and all the council members that we
22 worked with so well over the years, and
23 accomplished an awful lot to preserve affordable
24 housing for ordinary people. I was telling one of
25 my colleagues yesterday that as advocates we're,

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2 we're really aggressive at, at beating up our
3 opponents, and, and sometimes we're, we're not
4 quite as good at thanking our friends. And, and
5 [laughter] and some people felt that firsthand.
6 But, but from, from the bottom of my heart, this
7 is completely sincere, it's been nothing but a
8 pleasure working with you over the past several
9 years. You're, you're one of our greatest friends
10 in government, and, and I think my staff would,
11 and, and members, would say the same. And, and I
12 think we, we work so well because we serve the
13 same people. You know? In this city, we all
14 exist to serve the neighborhoods and the ordinary
15 people that live in those neighborhoods. And I
16 think we're going to need, those neighborhoods are
17 going to need all the friends they can get over
18 the next couple of years. So, it's a real comfort
19 to know that you're looking out for them. Thank
20 you. [applause] Thank you, this is very much,
21 thank you.

22 [background noise]

23 SPEAKER QUINN: [laughs] Just
24 screaming. We got one more ceremonial, so if
25 folks could, - - last one, if we could get a

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2 little more quiet in the chambers. And if we
3 could ask the folks who are here from the NAACP to
4 come on up. And if we could have the folks from
5 the NHD Proclamation just move into the committee
6 room. Okay, and let me give the mic over to
7 Council members Seabrook and Dickens.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Thank you
9 very much. All, all members of the NAACP, and all
10 branches, please come, come forward. Brooklyn,
11 Bronx, Queens, Manhattan, mid-Manhattan, all--
12 Staten Island. That's right, we want all the
13 branches. All the branches, come on in. [laughs]
14 Yeah, Brooklyn. [laughs] Northeast Queens,
15 Southeast Queens. Brooklyn. Manhattan. Mid-
16 Manhattan. North Bronx, Williams Bridge. South
17 Bronx. [laughs] Tom Whitesbridge. [laughs]
18 Come on inside here, what are you standing out
19 there? [laughs] Jimmy, come on up here, you
20 always around, just usually--co-op city branch.
21 Come on over here. Sitting back there. Left
22 rank, we got all the branches. We all, we all are
23 here. Mid-Manhattan, Corona. Harlem branch,
24 South Bronx branch. Mid-Manhattan. Okay, here-
25 here, okay.

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: Alright, we get the
3 picture. [laughs]

4 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Okay,
5 here, here's, here's--shhhh. Brooklyn's here,
6 everybody's here, everybody's here, everybody's
7 here. Today, Madam Speaker, we're here in
8 celebration of the 100th anniversary of the NAACP.
9 [applause, cheers] [sings Happy Birthday] And
10 we, we want this, this is--hey, hey, hey, hey,
11 that, that's, that's Stevie, that's Dr. K, he was
12 younger. But anyway, it is important for us to
13 understand and recognize one of America's oldest
14 civil rights organizations, to be established in
15 America, and also to have branches in every
16 borough in the City of New York. And of course
17 the first branch was established in Manhattan.
18 But it established and moved around, and so the
19 100 years, and we wanted to acknowledge the NAACP
20 because they will be celebrating their hundredth
21 anniversary right here in New York City.

22 [applause, cheers] In New York City, because it
23 started with a movement, the Niagara Movement,
24 with W.E.B. Du Bois, Monroe Trotter, and many
25 others, who felt the need for the advancement of

1 colored people. And it's still into existence
2 today. And when they say for colored people, they
3 mean all people. And that's what it, what it
4 meant. And that was the purpose of it. And so, I
5 spoke, and Inez Dickens spoke to the Honorable
6 Hazel Dukes and said that it would be fitting and
7 proper that the City Council recognized the NAACP
8 as the first installment of many that were
9 bestowed upon you, as this year of celebration
10 takes place. So we wanted it to start right here
11 in the New York City Council, and kick off. And
12 what a, a glorious thing for it to be, that it's
13 also the hundredth anni--birthday for Adam Clayton
14 Powell, as well. [applause, cheers] So they both
15 are 100 years old, and he served in the New York
16 City Council, the first black to serve in the New
17 York City Council. So, we wanted this to be done
18 and Ms. Dukes could not be here, but we have Karen
19 Blanding, where is Kar--Oh, you're right here.
20 Okay, we wanted to make sure that, that you were
21 here, and we have this proclamation that we're
22 going to present to you in a few minutes, that,
23 and we'll, all the branches will receive this
24 proclamation, and we're going to make sure that
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2 each branch will have that, and there was
3 [applause] some council members whose name was not
4 on, and it was a problem, so we're going to make
5 sure that we do it right, that every COUNCIL
6 MEMBER will be on it. Martinez, he was on there
7 already, but [laughter] there was others who were
8 not, and Gonzales. So we will make sure, but we
9 have all of the branches that will be here, and
10 we'll make that announcement. But everybody will
11 actually receive it. So I'm going to turn it over
12 to Inez Dickens.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you.
14 You know, the truth of the matter is, is that as
15 we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the NAACP,
16 the reason that it was formed 100 years ago, still
17 remains the same reason: economic
18 disenfranchisement, as well as cultural, as well
19 as racism. And so we stand here to say thank you.
20 This is a very small token that the entire
21 citizens of New York City says to you, "Thank
22 you," because you stand tall. You still do the
23 work. You still fight the fight. You still come
24 to the forefront, to ensure that people of all
25 color will indeed be treated fairly and with

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2 dignity and respect. So, humbly, I say thank you
3 to each of you, because you represent the various
4 chapters throughout this great city and the state.
5 And so, I can't say it enough, that because of the
6 work that you do, because of your commitment and
7 tenacity, I say God bless you, thank you, and
8 thank you for educating our future, our young, so
9 that they know that they, too, must take up the
10 gauntlet and fight what you have started, what
11 you're continuing, and that they have to continue
12 to do so. I'm now going to ask our Speaker to
13 please say a few words. [applause]

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. Let me
15 just add briefly to what council members Dickens
16 and Seabrook have already said. But you know, if
17 you think about the list of things we've worked on
18 in this City Council over the past three years,
19 the most important issues, whether they are
20 fighting for tenants' rights, fighting to keep our
21 Housing Authority building safe and livable, in
22 some cases to make them safe and livable. When
23 we've fought for fair and appropriate policing, to
24 prevent there from being cuts to public education.
25 When we've fought to expand healthcare in

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2 neighborhoods that don't have access to quality
3 healthcare. If you went back to the history of
4 each of those struggles, you would find a
5 constant: that the NAACP has stood with us in
6 each of those battles. And I know that constant
7 will continue for us, throughout the rest of this
8 year, and in our next term, and for the next
9 decades and decades that we need to call on the
10 NAACP. I'm sorry Ms. Dukes isn't here, 'cause I
11 joke whenever I see her. It's scary when you walk
12 into a meeting and Ms. Dukes is there, 'cause you
13 know you're going to leave with more work than you
14 had when you came in. And that's true whether
15 you're a member of the NAACP, a COUNCIL MEMBER, or
16 the Speaker of the New York City Council, we are
17 all working for her, which I am honored to have as
18 part of my responsibilities. And I know we're all
19 looking so forward, and are very, very excited
20 about the convention here this summer. You
21 couldn't have picked a better place, and we want
22 to do everything we can to roll out the red carpet
23 and make sure everybody from every chapter in
24 every state has the best possible time that they
25 can. [applause]

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: And so we
3 wanted to present this--could you read the
4 proclamation? And then--

5 SPEAKER QUINN: Yeah.

6 CLERK: Council, City of New York
7 Proclamation. Whereas the Council of the City of
8 New York is proud to honor the New York Branch of
9 the National Association for the Advancement of
10 Colored People, on the occasion of its 100th
11 anniversary, for its extraordinary contributions,
12 champion justice and equality throughout the
13 nation. And whereas, founded in 1909, the NAACP
14 has been, from its inception, one of the most
15 important and effective civil rights organizations
16 in the world, continuously working to secure
17 equality for all people, and the basic
18 constitutional rights of life, liberty and the
19 pursuit of happiness. And whereas, the New York
20 branch was established in Harlem in 1911, the
21 first branch chartered by the national
22 organization, and a place where injustices at the
23 hands of the law could be reported. And whereas,
24 under the leadership of twelve term president, Dr.
25 Annie B. Martin, the New York has maintained an

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2 assertive, community oriented approach, with
3 programs such as voter registration, education,
4 health fares, Saturday prep school and meetings to
5 address police brutality and abuse, as well as
6 other community issues. Now therefore, be it
7 known that the Council of the City of New York
8 honors the National Association for the
9 Advancement of Colored People. Christine C.
10 Quinn, Speaker for the entire Council; Larry B.
11 Seabrook, COUNCIL MEMBER 12th district, the Bronx;
12 Inez Dickens, COUNCIL MEMBER 5th district,
13 Manhattan. [applause]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: And, and
15 we're going to present this proclamation to Karen
16 Blanding. She's the second vice president of the
17 New York State Conference. [applause]

18 KAREN BLANDING: Thank you.
19 Speaker Quinn, Councilman Seabrooks, Councilman
20 Dickens, on behalf of the New York State
21 Conference, Ms. Dukes deeply regrets that she
22 cannot be here. She's in California celebrating
23 the Association's birthday at the Image Award, but
24 we are humble and grateful to be receive this
25 recognition, that of the work that we have done

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2 over the 100 years. So tomorrow, which is our
3 hundredth anniversary, our birthday, we, as we bow
4 our heads to all the heroes and sheroes that have
5 passed, on who's shoulders we stand, we thank you
6 for this recognition, we will continue to do the
7 work of the Association, as we still fight to
8 equality and justice. So once again, on behalf of
9 all the 15 branches standing here, Ms. Hazel
10 Dukes, our state conference, and us, we thank you
11 again for the award. Thank you. [applause,
12 cheers]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Just,
14 just briefly, because we have all of the branches
15 here, we have the Astoria branch, we have the
16 Bronx branch, we have the Brooklyn branch [cheers
17 throughout] we have Corona East Elmhurst branch,
18 we have the Far Rockaway branch. Hold on, hold
19 on. Yep. We got the Jamaica branch, we got the
20 mid-Manhattan branch, we got the NAACP Housing
21 Authority branch, we got the Northeast Queens
22 branch, we got the Parkchester branch, we got the
23 Staten Island branch [laughter] we got the New
24 York City branch, we got the Co-Op City branch!
25 I'm, I'm an executive board member of the Williams

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2 Bridge branch. I was saving the best for last!
3 That's my home branch, Williams Bridge NAACP.
4 [laughs] So we want to make sure and we sing
5 Happy Birthday. And left right [phonetic]. Left,
6 Corona, East Elmhurst we got, they got 'em here,
7 they all are here. So everybody is represented,
8 and really happy birthday to you. Thank you very
9 much. [applause, cheers] That concludes our
10 ceremonial for today, and thank you all so very
11 much for being here. And we going to get all of
12 you all, the branches will have their
13 proclamation, we're going to get them all done
14 because there are some members, caucus members who
15 didn't sign, and we don't want to send it out
16 without having their signatures on it. So we will
17 make sure. So it will be done. Alright. She
18 said, "You forgot," I said, "I saved the best for
19 last." [laughs]

20 [background noise]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: The Bronx
22 branch, Bronx branches, come on up. All the Bronx
23 branches.

24 [background noise]

25 MALE VOICE: Ladies and gentlemen,

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2 can I have your attention, please? At this time,
3 can you please turn all cell phones and pagers to
4 vibrate. And will all non-Council employees and
5 lobbyists please leave the main floor of the
6 chambers. Thank you.

7 FEMALE VOICE: Charles? Charles?

8 [background noise]

9 SPEAKER QUINN: All rise.

10 [pledge of allegiance]

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Roll call.

12 CLERK: Arroyo.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

14 CLERK: Avella.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Here.

16 CLERK: Baez.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: Here.

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Quiet, please.

19 CLERK: Barron.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.

21 CLERK: Brewer.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

23 CLERK: Comrie.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Here.

25 CLERK: Crowley.

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STATED COUNCIL MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.
CLERK: de Blasio. Dickens.
COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.
CLERK: Dilan.
COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Here.
CLERK: Eugene.
COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.
CLERK: Felder. Fidler.
COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.
CLERK: Foster. Garodnick.
COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.
CLERK: Gennaro.
COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.
CLERK: Gentile. Gerson.
COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Here.
CLERK: Gioia. Gonzalez.
COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Here.
CLERK: Ignizio. Jackson.
COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Here.
CLERK: James.
COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here.
CLERK: Katz. Koppell.
COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.
CLERK: Lappin.

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STATED COUNCIL MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Here.
CLERK: Liu.
COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Here.
CLERK: Mark-Viverito.
COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
Here.
CLERK: Martinez. Mealy.
COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Here.
CLERK: Mendez.
COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.
CLERK: Nelson.
COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Here.
CLERK: Palma.
COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.
CLERK: Recchia. Reyna.
COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.
CLERK: Sanders.
COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Here.
CLERK: Seabrook.
COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Here.
CLERK: Sears.
COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Here.
CLERK: Stewart.
COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Here.

1

CLERK: Vacca.

2

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

3

CLERK: Vallone.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

5

CLERK: Vann.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Here.

7

CLERK: Weprin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

9

CLERK: White.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: Here.

11

CLERK: Yassky. Oddo. Rivera.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Here.

13

CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

14

SPEAKER QUINN: Here. We have a

15

quorum. The invocation will be given by COUNCIL

16

MEMBER Larry Seabrook, and he will do it on behalf

17

of Reverend A.E. Bernard, who happens to have the

18

flu. All rise.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Thank

20

you, thank you very much, and Reverend Bernard

21

could not be here, but he did send the invocation,

22

and he asked that I read this. And the invocation

23

for Black History Month at City Hall, February

24

11th, '09. On February 12th, 1900, a group of 500

25

1 schoolchildren in a segregated school gathered
2 together to honor a man named Booker T.
3 Washington, by reading a poem written by their
4 principal, James Weldon Johnson. The words
5 expressed patriotism and a hope for their future
6 in a nation that would one day respect them as
7 equal citizens, sharing in the American dream.
8 The words spoke of their willingness to fight the
9 good fight of faith, until their hope became a
10 reality. Let us now bow our heads. Stony the
11 road we trod, bitter the chest and rod, felt in
12 the days when hope unborn had died. Yet with a
13 steady beat have not our weary feet come to the
14 place for which our fathers sighed. We have come
15 over a way that with tears have been watered, we
16 have come treading our path through the blood of
17 the slaughter. Out from the gloomy past to now we
18 stand at last, with the white gleam of our bright
19 start is cast. God of our weary years, God of our
20 silent tears, we have just elected our first black
21 President. Just maybe we have come to the place
22 which our fathers sighed. If we have, oh God,
23 then our prayers today is simple: let it be true,
24 oh God, let it be true, in your name we pray.
25

1

2 Amen.

3

4

SPEAKER QUINN: Amen. Motion to spread the invocation by COUNCIL MEMBER Barron.

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6

7

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I make a motion that the invocation be spread full upon the record.

8

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: So ordered. Adoption of the minutes? By COUNCIL MEMBER Liu.

11

12

13

COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: I move that the minutes of Stated Meeting of December 18, 2008 be adopted as printed.

14

15

PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: Messages and papers from the Mayor?

16

CLERK: M1290.

17

18

PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: Rules, privileges and elections?

19

20

CLERK: M1291 to M1297, Mayor's preliminary budget reports.

21

22

SPEAKER QUINN: Quiet, please. Finance.

23

24

CLERK: M1298, capital debt and reserves.

25

PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: Received,

1

2 ordered, printed and filed.

2

3

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Communication from
5 city, county and borough offices?

4

5

6 CLERK: M1299 submitting John P.
7 Sib [phonetic] for appointment as Richmond County,
8 Republican Commissioner of Elections.

7

8

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: Rules,
10 privileges and elections.

10

11

12 CLERK: M1300 2008 housing and
13 vacancy survey.

12

13

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Housing and
15 buildings.

14

15

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: Petitions
17 and communications.

16

17

18 CLERK: None.

17

18

19 SPEAKER QUINN: Land use call ups.

18

19

20 CLERK: M1301 to M1307.

19

20

21 SPEAKER QUINN: Quiet, please.

20

21

22 SPEAKER QUINN: You said 1307?

21

22

23 CLERK: I did.

22

24 SPEAKER QUINN: Okay, sorry. Yes,
25 all those should be coupled on a land use call up
26 vote. Please, thank you very much, and if we
27 could have a roll call on that, please.

1

CLERK: Arroyo.

2

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

3

CLERK: Avella.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: I vote yes
on all land use call ups, and I ask for unanimous
consent to vote on all coupled general orders.

5

6

7

SPEAKER QUINN: So ordered.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: I vote yes
on all general orders, thank you.

9

10

CLERK: Baez.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: Voting,
voting aye on all land use call ups, requesting
permission to vote aye on general orders. Aye.

12

13

14

PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: So

15

ordered, sorry.

16

CLERK: Barron.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye
on all land use call up items, and request general
consent to vote aye on all general order calendar.

18

19

20

PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: So

21

ordered.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.

23

CLERK: Brewer.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

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CLERK: Comrie.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye on all land use call ups, request permission to vote on all items on today's general orders calendar.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: So ordered.

CLERK: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

CLERK: de Blasio. Dickens.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

CLERK: Dilan.

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.

CLERK: Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

CLERK: Felder.

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Yes.

CLERK: Fidler.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

CLERK: Foster. Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

CLERK: Gennaro.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Madam Public Advocate, I vote aye on the land use call ups, and I request consent to vote on the full

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general order calendar.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: So

ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I vote aye

on the full general order calendar.

CLERK: Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

CLERK: Gerson.

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: I vote yes,

and with permission, Madam Public Advocate, I vote

yes on all matters on this session's coupled

general order.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: So

ordered.

CLERK: Gonzalez.

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.

CLERK: Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.

CLERK: Jackson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye.

CLERK: James.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here, I

mean, yes.

CLERK: Katz.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: I vote aye
3 and request permission to vote aye on all general
4 order calendars and resolution.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: So
6 ordered.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Thank you.

8 CLERK: Koppell.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

10 CLERK: Lappin.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Yes.

12 CLERK: Liu.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Yes.

14 CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Yes.

16 CLERK: Martinez.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: Aye.

18 CLERK: Mealy.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

20 CLERK: Mendez.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

22 CLERK: Nelson.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.

24 CLERK: Palma.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

1

CLERK: Recchia.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.

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CLERK: Reyna.

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.

5

CLERK: Sanders.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye.

7

CLERK: Seabrook.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Yes,

9

Madam President, I'd like to vote aye on all land

10

use call ups, and with special permission, if I

11

can vote all general order and coupled orders.

12

PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: So

13

ordered.

14

CLERK: Sears.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Aye.

16

CLERK: Stewart.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Aye.

18

CLERK: Vacca.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I vote, I

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vote aye, and I vote on all land use items, and

21

ask unanimous consent to vote on all general order

22

calendar items.

23

PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: So

24

ordered.

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CLERK: Vallone.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

3

CLERK: Vann.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

5

CLERK: Weprin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

7

CLERK: White.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: I vote aye

9

on all land use call ups, and I ask unanimous

10

consent to vote on all coupled general orders.

11

PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: So

12

ordered.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: I vote aye

14

on all coupled general orders.

15

CLERK: Yassky. Oddo.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

17

CLERK: Rivera.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

19

CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

20

SPEAKER QUINN: Aye, also.

21

PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: All land

22

use call ups are adopted by a vote of 44 in the

23

affirmative, zero negative. Communication from

24

the Speaker.

25

1
2 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. First
3 we're voting on Intro 837 today. That is a veto
4 override of the Mayor's veto of that piece of
5 legislation. I want to thank the sponsor of the
6 bill, COUNCIL MEMBER Robert Jackson, the acting
7 chair of the Civil Service Committee, who worked
8 to make sure this veto override was passed.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER Larry Seabrook. I want to thank
10 Lauren Axelrod, Tracy Udell, Joan, Joanie Povolny,
11 and Terza Nasser [phonetic] who all worked on this
12 bill from our staff. You know, we've all had a
13 lot of conversations about this issue. Should the
14 residency requirement that presently exists--

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: Quiet,
16 please.

17 SPEAKER QUINN: --for DC37, should
18 it continue? Or should those employees have that
19 residency require lift--requirement lifted, as
20 many other labor unions in the City of New York
21 have had. And after discussion and deliberation,
22 I believe we came to a fair and appropriate
23 answer. That there shouldn't be an onerous
24 residency requirement for these workers, when so
25 many others do not have it. That said, we felt

1
2 there needed to be a level though of protecting
3 jobs for New York City residents. And having the
4 two year residency requirement before the
5 residency requirement can be gotten rid of, I
6 think appropriately strikes the balance and
7 relates to so many of the concerns that some of us
8 in the Council have raised. So I want to thank
9 all of my colleagues who worked on this piece of
10 legislation--in particular, again, its sponsor,
11 COUNCIL MEMBER Jackson. I want to thank everyone
12 in district council 37, who made their opinion
13 loud and clear on this issue. And now let me call
14 on COUNCIL MEMBER Jackson and then on COUNCIL
15 MEMBER Seabrook.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Madam
17 Speaker, let me thank you as the leader of this
18 Council, and all of the staff involved for helping
19 us to where we are today. Knowing that tens of
20 thousands of DC37 members have been waiting for
21 the opportunity, if they so desire, to move
22 outside of New York City within the six counties
23 that are identified in the, in the law: Nassau,
24 Suffolk County, Rockland, Westchester, Orange and
25 Putnam. And knowing that these members know that

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2 other city employees, such as teachers,
3 firefighters, police, sanitation workers, and tens
4 of thousands of others have that right, and they
5 only see this as fair and just. And I'm so happy
6 that we've reached this balance and that we are
7 moving forward to override the veto of the mayor.
8 Or knowing that it's about fairness and equity,
9 and knowing it's about the fact that we have
10 protected the opportunity for New York City
11 residents to compete for jobs, knowing that if
12 outside people want to compete, they have to move
13 within New York City and live here within two
14 years before they reconsider moving out again.
15 This is the consensus and I thank you as our
16 leader for bringing about this consensus. And I
17 urge all my colleagues to vote aye on this Intro
18 837.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
20 much, COUNCIL MEMBER Jackson. COUNCIL MEMBER
21 Seabrook?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Thank you
23 very much, Madam Speaker. And I rise in support
24 of this bill. And I think it's, the important
25 aspect of it is, is that for here it's an

1
2 opportunity for us to eliminate a second class
3 citizenship to first class workers. This is a
4 golden opportunity to allow those workers who have
5 been committed to the City of New York, the same
6 opportunity that's afforded other city employees,
7 that opportunity to live where they desire as long
8 as they pay their taxes and pay their rents and do
9 a good job. We should afford everybody that
10 opportunity. So it is important that we pass this
11 legislation and override the mayor's veto, to send
12 a message that second class citizenship is
13 eliminated as to workers in the City of New York,
14 and that they all should be treated fairly and
15 equally with the opportunity to do as they please
16 with the money in which they earned, rightfully so
17 in this city. So it is important that we correct
18 this injustice, for we have lived with it too long
19 and done too little about, this is a golden
20 opportunity for us to do the right thing, and make
21 it happen. Thank you very much Madam Speaker.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
23 much, and thank you for pitching in on the Civil
24 Service and Labor Committee, Larry. Next we are
25 passing Intro 908A. I want to thank COUNCIL

1
2 MEMBER Simcha Felder, the chair of our Government
3 Operations Committee, who shepherded this bill
4 through. I want to thank Matt Gewolb, Josh
5 Gerber, Laura Popa, Jim Caras and Alix Pustilnik
6 [phonetic], excuse me, all who worked on this
7 bill. I want to particularly congratulate COUNCIL
8 MEMBER Darlene Mealy who authored and sponsored
9 Intro 908A. Intro 908A is a piece of legislation
10 that will make very clear what the recycling and
11 sanitation rules are for street fairs. It will
12 also make very clear that if at street fairs, the
13 sanitation and recycling rules are not followed,
14 the corporations who run those street fairs will
15 be the ones who will have to pay the fines, not
16 the not-for-profits, who often benefit from those
17 street fairs. To be very clear, this impacts
18 street fairs, not block parties, not family days
19 that are held at Housing Authority developments.
20 But many of us know, as we see in the warm
21 weather, street fairs sometimes in the summer, you
22 know, they're many, many, even dozens, all across
23 the city on one weekend. And they generate
24 through the traffic of people shopping and walking
25 about, a lot of garbage and a lot of recycling.

1
2 And if we don't have clear rules that garbage will
3 cause a big problem in our neighborhoods, and if
4 we don't have clear recycling rules, we will lose
5 an environmental opportunity to reduce the city's
6 solid waste production. So this piece of
7 legislation is going to be very important,
8 particularly as the hot weather is hopefully soon
9 upon us. And I very much want to thank COUNCIL
10 MEMBER Mealy for her environmental leadership as
11 it relates to Intro 908, and call on COUNCIL
12 MEMBER Mealy.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I want to
14 thank Speaker Quinn and my colleague, Simcha
15 Felder. I am delighted to present Intro 908A, a
16 bill aimed at keeping our streets green and clean.
17 And also aimed at helping the City to better
18 enforce recycling rules at street fairs. And we,
19 the people, can make sure we are keeping our city
20 clean and environmentally sound. Among other
21 things, this bill requires street fair operators
22 to provide public recycling receptacles for street
23 events. And to have the receptacles monitored to
24 avoid both contamination and mixing refuse with
25 recyclables. All waste and recyclable material

1
2 must be properly bagged, bundled and carted.
3 Violations of the law will result in a fine of
4 \$100, with per day, per event. And that will be a
5 cap. We have also taken care to avoid having
6 community non-profit groups ending up responsible
7 for the fines, when they were not producing the
8 event. In addition, community block association
9 and block parties are largely exempt. I want all
10 New Yorkers to know, and to be able to enjoy their
11 street fairs on a beautiful spring and summer day.
12 And I also believe, this measure will go a long
13 way to keeping our streets clean, our street fairs
14 green, and our recycling laws enforced. I hope
15 all my colleagues will sign on to this
16 legislation. Keep the streets clean and green.
17 Thank you. [applause, cheers]

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
19 much, COUNCIL MEMBER Mealy. We're also voting
20 today on Intro 408A, it's a piece of legislation
21 introduced by COUNCIL MEMBER Dan Garodnick, was
22 passed in our Health Committee, and I want to
23 thank Council, Chairperson Rivera very much, for
24 moving this bill through. I want to thank Adira
25 Siman, Joe Mancino, Laura Popa and Terza Nasser,

1 who all worked on this piece of legislation.
2
3 Intro 408A is a very interesting piece of
4 legislation. COUNCIL MEMBER Garodnick, through
5 this bill, has uncovered a problem I bet most of
6 us didn't even realize existed in our city.
7 Presently, before this bill was introduced, or
8 until it goes into law, right now, water tanks are
9 required to be inspected in the City of New York,
10 by companies hired by the landlords or the
11 building managers. Those inspections then occur.
12 If you're a tenant and you'd like to know what was
13 the result of the inspection of your water tank,
14 you can't find out. Even if you go hire a lawyer
15 and subpoena to get the copy of your inspection,
16 the law says they're not going to give it to you.
17 So you have no idea whether your water tank is in
18 good condition. You have no idea what that
19 inspection found out. COUNCIL MEMBER Garodnick's
20 bill is going to make sure that these inspections
21 get treated like elevator inspections. That a
22 notice gets posted, and you can go and get a copy
23 of your inspection, and it empowers Department of
24 Health to help you if that doesn't occur, and
25 perhaps most importantly, it's going to require

1
2 that there be a report given to the Council,
3 compiling what's been found in the inspections of
4 water towers, so we know if there are pervasive
5 problems in our five boroughs, and if we have to
6 make tougher laws. And Dan, I really want to
7 thank you for again, this is a problem everywhere,
8 but obviously most of the, many, many of the
9 buildings in Manhattan have water tanks, and I
10 think it's a problem many of us just didn't even
11 know existed. So we really are very grateful for
12 you, to you, for figuring this out. Let me call
13 on the sponsor, COUNCIL MEMBER Garodnick, and
14 again thank COUNCIL MEMBER Rivera for moving this
15 piece of legislation through.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank
17 you, Speaker Quinn. And I want to also join you
18 in thanking COUNCIL MEMBER Rivera, the chair of
19 the health committee. As you pointed out, today
20 there may be no more closely guarded secret in the
21 city than the condition of those 12,000 water
22 tanks on the roofs of buildings across the
23 boroughs. The tanks are inspected each year, but
24 the law expressly prohibits the public from
25 knowing the results of those inspections. If you

1
2 wanted to know the condition of the water tank in
3 the building in which you live, you could not get
4 the inspection report even with a subpoena. These
5 reports should not be treated like state secrets,
6 and the bill that we, I hope, are passing today,
7 restores the good government principals of
8 transparency to these inspection, and that will
9 safeguard the health of all New Yorkers. It does
10 take anything necessarily nefarious to put New
11 Yorkers' water supplies at risk--holes in the
12 tanks, birds, rodents, other small animals. And
13 we as a city take the purity of our drinking water
14 seriously. And we should. We have the most
15 comprehensive water shed protection program in the
16 world. We've purchased 130 thousand acres within
17 water sheds to protect them. The city has fought
18 for a ban on gas drilling in the vicinity of the
19 upstate watershed, lest that activity contaminate
20 our supply. And we are now investing billions of
21 dollars into the third water tunnel, to ensure the
22 uninterrupted delivery of clean water to our
23 homes.

24 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: All of

1
2 these protections, all of them, can be undone by a
3 single hole in a dilapidated water tank.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: Quiet,
5 please.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: And New
7 Yorkers have every right to know that their
8 building's own water tank will not expose them to
9 any risk. They will finally have that right with
10 the passage today of Intro 408, and I want again
11 thank the Speaker and ask all of my colleagues to
12 support this legislation today. Thank you.

13 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
14 much, and keeping in a Dan Garodnick theme, the
15 next bill is Intro 880A, it's a piece of
16 legislation that Dan authored, that was passed out
17 of our Transportation Committee. I want to thank
18 COUNCIL MEMBER Liu very much for his leadership in
19 moving this important issue forward. I want to
20 thank Phil Hom, Laura Popa and Terza Nasser.
21 Terza, just so we note was, helped on three of the
22 four bills that we worked on today, so I really
23 want to thank her. This piece of legislation, can
24 we get a little quiet? [applause] Oh, clapping
25 for Terza, I don't think she's here, is Terza

1
2 here? Oh, stand up, Terza, stand up. [applause,
3 cheers] Thank you, Jimmy and Vinnie, I missed
4 that, thank you. 'Cause Terza helped write three
5 of the four bills we're passing today, so. We're
6 just trying to be nice, Miguel. Anyway, Dan's
7 bill. It is a bill that will codify into law the
8 existing TLC regulation that requires that there
9 is a taxi rider's bill of rights for Yellow Taxis,
10 but it will also create a passenger's bill of
11 rights for other for hire vehicles: livery cabs,
12 black cars, vehicles that drive New Yorkers about.
13 It's very important because this way, customers
14 will know what their rights are. That's very good
15 for customers, but it's good for drivers. It's
16 going to help eliminate any confusion, what often
17 could escalate into arguments between drivers and
18 their passengers. And the thing that I think is
19 most exciting about this bill, often when we
20 regulate industries, industries are our opponents.
21 In this case, the taxi drivers and the car owners
22 came to the table, recognizing that being good to
23 customers is good business, and helped us draft
24 this bill. And I think that speaks volumes about
25 this industry and how important it is in our city.

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2 And I want to thank COUNCIL MEMBER Liu again, and
3 call on COUNCIL MEMBER Garodnick.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank
5 you, again, Speaker Quinn. COUNCIL MEMBER Ignizio
6 has pointed out that we probably should've spread
7 these over a couple of days, but I'm delighted to
8 have his support, particularly on the taxi bill,
9 because we know that is of particular importance
10 to his district, in the southern part of Staten
11 Island. The Council today is taking an important
12 step forward in consumer protection. And the
13 rights of riders in the 40,000 for hire vehicles,
14 by instituting the first ever car service
15 passenger bill of rights. Today, when you go into
16 one of these cars, you really have no idea what
17 your rights are. They're not like the yellow
18 cabs, which are obviously closely regulated, and
19 they have a professionalized core of drivers, and
20 an impressive safety record. That record, and
21 that feeling of security, is the result of a
22 passenger bill of rights for the Yellow Cabs,
23 which was instituted back in 1996. It reinforces
24 passengers' expectation of a basic level of
25 service and safety. And by informing passengers

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2 of their rights, it also keeps the drivers honest,
3 too. So today we are going to vote, I hope, to
4 extend that same protection and professionalism to
5 the for hire vehicles. There should be no mystery
6 about what awaits you when you open the door of a
7 black car, and there won't be, when that
8 passenger's bill of rights is posted inside the
9 vehicle. Riders will know that a dispatcher can't
10 quote one fare, only for drivers to charge
11 another. They will know that they have a right to
12 a driver who does not use a cell phone while
13 driving. And even the basic protections that we
14 normally take for granted, will be made clear as
15 day, like a right to a car with working seatbelts,
16 and which has passed all of its inspections. Most
17 of these rights are not new, they're not onerous,
18 and there is no reason to believe that they will
19 impose an extra or serious burden on neighborhood
20 businesses that operate the car services. In
21 fact, we were careful to avoid that. And there is
22 an, a built in incentive for car services to treat
23 their customers well, of course: to win repeat
24 customers. Nevertheless, the Taxi and Limousine
25 Commission fields somewhere between 400 and 1,000

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2 complaints every year about for hire vehicles,
3 without passengers even knowing their rights or
4 how to complain. So, we look forward to giving
5 this added new consumer protection to the riders
6 of these vehicles, and I encourage my colleagues
7 to vote yes. And I want to again thank Speaker
8 Quinn and Chairman Liu for their support, and
9 COUNCIL MEMBER Maria del Carmen Arroyo, and the
10 other cosponsors of this legislation. Thank you.

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
12 much. And finally, I want to recognize a couple
13 of visitors we have with us today. We have two
14 very special visitors, and I don't know, Erik, if
15 you want to do the introductory honors. We have
16 COUNCIL MEMBER Dilan's beautiful wife Jinitza
17 [phonetic], who we all know and love, and his
18 beautiful son, Daniel. [applause, cheers] So,
19 it's great to see both of them. And he looks just
20 like Jinitza, lucky guy. No. [laughs] And I
21 also want to recognize, we have the Council's
22 summer interns, and good friends of ours, James -
23 - in the back, James, where are you? Oh, maybe he
24 stepped out. Well, we'll embarrass him even more
25 that we introduced him and he stepped out. Okay,

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2 anyway, that concludes communications from the
3 Speaker.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM:

5 Discussion of General Orders. COUNCIL MEMBER
6 Dickens.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you,
8 Madam Public Advocate. I thank and congratulate
9 COUNCIL MEMBER Darlene Mealy for addressing the
10 important environmental issue of recycling through
11 her Intro 908A. I also want to thank the chair of
12 Gov Ops, COUNCIL MEMBER Simcha Felder, and the
13 staff of Gov Ops Committee for working to address
14 the concerns that many of us had about small
15 community based events. One day, one block
16 events, to make sure they were not adversely
17 affected by this legislation. By working with us
18 to exclude the smaller community based events like
19 NYCHA, church sponsored block parties, and
20 neighborhood building block parties, we have been
21 able to come up with legislation that helps to
22 move forward in making our city street events more
23 environmental friendly. Thank you so much,
24 COUNCIL MEMBER Mealy. [applause]

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: Anybody

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2 else? See nobody else. Report of special
3 committees.

4 CLERK: None.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: Repots of
6 standing committees?

7 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
8 Civil Service and Labor, Intro 837, residency
9 requirement for city employees.

10 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
11 orders.

12 CLERK: M1288, Mayor's veto of
13 Introductory number 837.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Couple to be filed.

15 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
16 Finance, pre-considered Reso 1818, fiscal 2009,
17 expense budget.

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
19 orders.

20 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
21 Governmental Operations, Intro 908A, street
22 cleaning at street events.

23 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled
24 on general orders.

25 CLERK: Report of the Committee on

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Health, Intro 408A, inspection of water tanks.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on general orders.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land Use, LU894 and Reso 1819, through LU976 and Reso 822, various udaps [phonetic].

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

CLERK: Pre-considered LU977, Reso 1823 and 978, and Reso 1824, Phipps [phonetic] Houses.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

CLERK: Pre-considered LU979 and Reso 1825, 560 seat school facility.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

CLERK: Pre-considered LU980 and Reso 1826, through LU981 and Reso 1827, various udaps.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Transportation, Intro 880A, passengers bill of

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2 rights.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled
on general orders.

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: General
order calendar.

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CLERK: Resolution appointing
various persons, commission of deeds.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
orders, and at this point I'd like to ask for a
roll call on all items coupled under the general
calendar. Just want to make note for my
colleagues that attached--

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: Quiet,
please.

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SPEAKER QUINN: --to today's agenda
is the schedule of hearings for the preliminary
budget, so please make note of those. And if we
could have a roll call on all coupled general
orders. Thank you.

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CLERK: Arroyo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

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CLERK: Comrie. Comrie.

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CLERK: Yassky.

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COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Request

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permission to vote on land use call ups, as well.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: So
ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Vote aye on
all land use call ups and aye on all general
orders. Thank you.

CLERK: Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Yes.

CLERK: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye on
all.

CLERK: Dickens.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

CLERK: Dilan.

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye on all.

CLERK: de Blasio.

COUNCIL MEMBER DE BLASIO: Thank
you. First of all, permission to vote on land use
call ups.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: So
ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER DE BLASIO: Thank
you. I vote aye, and also Madam Public Advocate,
permission to explain my vote on the general order

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calendar.

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: So

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ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DE BLASIO: Thank

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you. So just wanted to note, of course today

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we're overriding the mayor's veto on Intro 837, on

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the issue of allowing thousands of city workers to

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live outside of the five boroughs. And this issue

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has become more and more pertinent as we've come

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into tougher economic times. And I think we all

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have to be realistic about the cost of living in

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New York City and the burden this places on city

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workers. You know, there was a, a long effort,

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and I think a very valiant effort in this body,

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and I thank the Speaker and all my colleagues that

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led to a very positive compromise on the residency

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issue in relation to DC37. I think we need to

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work from that framework and now take the next

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step, and make sure that the thousands of city

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workers who are still not given this option, are

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given greater freedom going forward. We can't

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have two classes of workers in this city, we have

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to end this double standard. So I look forward to

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working with all my colleagues, create true parity

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2 for all city workers on the residency issue going
3 forward, and I vote aye on all items.

4 CLERK: Eugene.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

6 CLERK: Felder.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Yes.

8 CLERK: Fidler.

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

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: So
12 ordered.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Alright.
14 First, it's always a pleasure to override a
15 mayoral veto. We doing that. I also want to
16 congratulate Councilman Garodnick on his twofer.
17 And especially COUNCIL MEMBER Mealy on, on her
18 very good, sensible green legislation that we're
19 passing today. And I vote aye on all.

20 CLERK: Garodnick.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank
22 you, aye.

23 CLERK: Gentile.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

25 CLERK: Gioia.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: Thank you.

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I vote yes, on all. In addition, I'd like to vote
yes on land use call ups.

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: So

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ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: Thank you,

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Madam Public Advocate.

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CLERK: Gonzalez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.

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CLERK: Ignizio.

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes, I'd

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like to vote aye and offer my congratulations to
my friend and colleague Dan Garodnick on two
important pieces of legislation. Thank you.

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CLERK: Jackson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Let me

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explain my vote.

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: So

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ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you.

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I was looking at the, the fiscal impact statements
submitted by our director, Preston, and I noticed
that in looking at all of the pieces of
legislation that are being passed into law today,

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2 there is no fiscal impact or de minimis at all,
3 with relation to whether or not this is going to
4 cost the City any money. So I'm happy to see
5 that, knowing that the fiscal situation that we're
6 in, that the laws that we're passing today is not
7 going to cost the City any money. And I vote aye
8 on all.

9 CLERK: James.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye.

11 CLERK: Katz. Koppell.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

13 CLERK: Lappin.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: With a
15 hearty congratulations to my colleague,
16 Councilwoman Mealy, and my friend Dan, 'cause he's
17 my friend, too, I vote aye on all.

18 CLERK: Liu. Mark-Viverito.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye
20 on all.

21 CLERK: Martinez.

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

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: So
25 ordered.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: I also
3 want to add my voice to thanking the Speaker and
4 COUNCIL MEMBER Jackson, who's the prime author of
5 legislation, having to do with the residency
6 requirements, which allowed many of our municipal
7 workers who were many times the lower end of the
8 salary scales, to have options as to where to
9 live. But also importantly, Madam Public
10 Advocate, I want to add my voice of congratulation
11 to my distinguished colleague and friend, too,
12 he's my friend, from the east side, Dan Garodnick,
13 for the two pieces of legislation.
14 Congratulations, my friend, my buddy, my pal.

15 CLERK: Liu.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Yes.

17 CLERK: Mealy.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye. Can I
19 say something else? Could I say something else?

20 CLERK: Mendez.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I vote aye
22 on all, and give a shout out to my good friend and
23 neighbor, Dan Garodnick, on his twofer. I like
24 that, the twofer. Thank you.

25 CLERK: Nelson.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON:

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3 Congratulations, Dan and Darlene, and I [laughter]
4 they're going to be picking out furniture. Aye on
5 all.

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6 CLERK: Palma.

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7 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye on all.

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8 CLERK: Recchia.

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9 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: I'd like
10 to congratulate my colleague Darlene Mealy, for
11 doing an outstanding job on a bill that was really
12 necessary to make our streets cleaner, and I vote
13 aye.

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14 CLERK: Reyna.

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15 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: I vote aye.

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16 Congratulations, COUNCIL MEMBER Mealy.

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17 CLERK: Sanders. Sears.

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18 COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Aye.

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19 CLERK: Stewart. [pause] Vallone.

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20 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Did, did
21 we call, we have to vote?

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22 CLERK: Vallone.

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23 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Okay. I'm
24 going to vote aye on all and abstain on Intro
25 880A.

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CLERK: Vann.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: With

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congratulations to Darlene and Dan, I vote aye on
all.

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CLERK: Weprin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye on all.

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CLERK: Oddo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yeah, I'm,

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I'm not going to congratulate Dan Garodnick
[laughter] I've been, I've been jealous of him
since he got into this body with that booming
voice and that--I vote yes on all.

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CLERK: Rivera.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

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CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. I am

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going to vote aye on all, though I'm actually not
even that fond of Dan Garodnick at all. No, I'm
only kidding. [laughs] I want to again
congratulate Darlene Mealy and just mention that
James, the intern I had mentioned, who's a
terrific young man, who actually resides in
Darlene Mealy's district had stepped out, but is
back. So, James, we just wanted to stand up and

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2 recognize you and thank you for your service to
3 the Council as a terrific intern this past summer.
4 [applause] And he'll be coming back again this
5 summer. So, and he's doing a lot of organizing in
6 Darlene's district against gang, against gun
7 violence in, in Brooklyn. So thank you very much,
8 James. [applause]

9 CLERK: Sanders.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Yes to
11 all.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: Thank
13 you. All items on today's general order calendar
14 were adopted by a vote of 47 in the affirmative,
15 zero negative, zero abstentions, with the
16 exception of Intro 880A, which was adopted by a
17 vote of 46 in the affirmative, zero negative, one
18 abstention. Revised land use call ups were
19 adopted by a vote of 47 in the affirmative, one
20 negative. Introduction reading of bills.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: All bills are
22 referred to committees as indicated on the agenda,
23 and again I just want to remind folks that the
24 preliminary budget hearing schedules are attached
25 to your agenda. Thank you, Madam Public Advocate.

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: There are
3 no resolutions, so there'll be no discussion of
4 them, I hope. General discussion. COUNCIL MEMBER
5 Nelson.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Oh, sorry.
7 Okay. I'd like to draw my colleagues attention to
8 Intro 926. Most of my colleagues I'm sure have
9 received phone calls or walk-ins from irate
10 constituents reference getting a sanitation ticket
11 that they claim they weren't home, or there really
12 wasn't enough garbage or trash outside. So what
13 926 would do, would, the Department of Sanitation
14 would have to issue a picture of the alleged
15 violation, and submit it, to the alleged
16 perpetrator; and also, of course, to bring back.
17 This would no doubt, it would slow down any type
18 of activities that have, I've been told, have been
19 going on in the arena of summons receiving, and
20 actually summons giving, if you will, issuing of
21 summonses. So, we should get on this in order to
22 help our constituents throughout the city. Thank
23 you, Madam Public--Oh, and I congratulate my
24 colleagues Felder and Vacca, council members, for
25 being right at the forefront for this, thank you.

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: COUNCIL
3 MEMBER Jackson.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you,
5 Madam Public Advocate. My colleagues, I rise and
6 I bring your attention to page two of the
7 introduction and reading of the bills. More
8 specifically, Intro 923, introduced by our
9 colleagues Sara Gonzalez and Speaker Quinn, to
10 amend administrative codes of the City of New York
11 to extending the rent stabilization laws. So I
12 ask all of you to sign onto 923. And also
13 Resolution 815 at the bottom of page two, by
14 COUNCIL MEMBER Mark-Viverito and the Speaker, a
15 resolution in determining that a public emergency
16 requiring rent control in New York City continues
17 to exist and will continue to exist on or after
18 April 1, 2009. And I ask you to sign onto this
19 Intro and this Resolution. Thank you.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: COUNCIL
21 MEMBER Mealy. Oh, sorry, just passed. COUNCIL
22 MEMBER Brewer.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you.
24 I just wanted to mention that on March 3rd, with
25 the great cooperation of the council members from

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2 Staten Island, we're having a broadband
3 commission, 11:00 to 3:00 at the college of Staten
4 Island. This is the fifth in our series of
5 broadband. It's particularly timely because there
6 is an effort at the national level, to do what
7 we've been talking about for the last five years,
8 to serve underserved areas. So I hope that anyone
9 who is interested will join us. Thank you very
10 much.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: COUNCIL
12 MEMBER Crowley.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Thank you,
14 Madam Public Advocate. Colleagues, I'd just like
15 to make a statement on the closing of St. John's
16 Hospital. The leadership of St. John's Hospital
17 recently made a decision to file for bankruptcy,
18 and move toward filing a closure plan with the
19 State Department of Health. The closure of this
20 institution will dramatically impact the
21 healthcare system in Queens. I believe it is
22 imperative that we do everything we can to urge
23 the state to keep these hospitals open. I cannot
24 overstate the impact that closing St. John's
25 Hospital will have on my constituents, on the

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2 neighborhoods I represent, and the borough of
3 Queens. Hospitals in Queens are already
4 overcrowded and overstressed. The closure will
5 leave us with fewer beds, fewer options, and far
6 more of my constituents with no healthcare
7 options. The closing of St. John's Hospitals, St.
8 John's Hospital, and in addition, Mary Immaculate
9 Hospital in Jamaica, will also have an immediate
10 an long term economic impact on Queens; the loss
11 of thousands of jobs will severely impact families
12 throughout Queens; and the closure of the hospital
13 will also hurt local businesses in and around the
14 institution. These businesses rely heavily on the
15 traffic created and generated by the hospitals.
16 Given the closure, the current economic situation,
17 we need to make sure that we can do everything
18 possible to keep St. John's and Mary Immaculate
19 Hospital open. I thank you to all the members who
20 have supported our efforts. And I will continue
21 to fight for these hospitals, for their employees,
22 and the constituents in the district. Thank you.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: COUNCIL
24 MEMBER Felder.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Thank you,

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2 Madam Public Advocate. I'd like to bring your
3 attention to Resolution 1805, which calls on the
4 New York State legislature to study the
5 feasibility of universal voter registration in New
6 York. Such a system would utilize existing data,
7 cut down on paper use, eliminate business,
8 burdensome, arbitrary deadlines, and reduce time
9 consuming, expensive and error-prone data entry at
10 our Boards of Elections. Very simple, the easier
11 we make it for people to be able to come in and
12 vote, the more that we will have voter
13 participation, which is so direly needed in this
14 state, this city and across the country. I would
15 just like to add my thanks to COUNCIL MEMBER
16 Darlene Mealy for her wonderful piece of
17 legislation and make mention of the lawyer, the
18 counsel to the government operations committee,
19 Matt Gewolb, who actually did all the work to make
20 sure that this got done in an efficient manner.
21 Thank you.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: COUNCIL
23 MEMBER Martin, Martinez.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: Thank
25 you, Madam Public Advocate. I want to bring to

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2 your attention two pieces of legislation, be
3 introducing today. It's intro 924, which is a
4 piece of legislation that would require or limit
5 the power of the fire commissioner, in terms of
6 having the fire commissioner come to the Council
7 for formal hearings before decisions are made on
8 any firehouse closing, or any engine or ladder
9 closing in the City of New York. Currently, it is
10 done administratively, and without input of the
11 Council. Intro 925 is a piece of legislation that
12 would require that we amend some of the fire code
13 in terms of ensuring that we put in place a fire
14 emergency action plan for high residential
15 building, which currently is only required to, for
16 the high rise commercial buildings. I'll ask the
17 support of my colleagues in these pieces of
18 legislation, and thank you for your time Madam
19 Public Advocate.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: Think
21 nobody else? Nobody else. [gavel] There's
22 hardly anybody left. Everybody's gone. [laughs]
23

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, JOHN DAVID TONG 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_____

Date March 3, 2009