

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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May 20, 2009  
Start: XX:XXam/pm  
Recess: XX:XXam/pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E:  
JOEL RIVERA  
Public Advocate

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Maria del Carmen Arroyo  
Tony Avella  
Charles Barron  
Gale A. Brewer  
Elizabeth Crowley  
Bill de Blasio  
Inez E. Dickens  
Erik Martin Dilan  
Mathieu Eugene  
Simcha Felder  
Julissa Ferreras  
Lewis A. Fidler  
Helen D. Foster  
Daniel R. Garodnick  
James F. Gennaro  
Vincent J. Gentile  
Alan J. Gerson

## A P P E A R A N C E S

## COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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  
Speaker C. Quinn  
Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.  
Diana Reyna  
James Sanders, Jr.  
Larry B. Seabrook  
Helen Sears  
Kendall Stewart  
Eric Ulrich  
James Vacca  
Peter F. Vallone, Jr.  
Albert Vann  
David I. Weprin  
David Yassky

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

Paul Navarro

Betty Cooper Wallerstein

Kenard Valentine  
Acorn High School

Michael Prayor  
Assistant Principal  
Acorn High School

City Parks Foundation

Coach Maurice Hicks  
Brother Rice High School

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: All right, we are  
3 going to start our ceremonials, I think we have  
4 five today, and the first one is at the request of  
5 and being led by Council Member Diana Reyna.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Thank you so  
7 much. Madam Speaker, I am a very proud member of  
8 this Council honoring a very special individual  
9 who has provided well over three decades of  
10 service to this great city of New York. His name  
11 is Paul Navarro. I'd like to ask him to come up.

12 [Applause]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Thank you.  
14 Speaker, stand on this side.

15 [Off mic]

16 SPEAKER QUINN: Miguel's--

17 [Off mic]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: It's a  
19 standing ovation. Paul, I know you're not here  
20 alone, you have a fan club of family,  
21 grandchildren, daughter, coworkers, city fellow  
22 government officials, your mother, your dad?

23 MR. PAUL NAVARRO: My daughter.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Your  
25 daughter.

1

MR. NAVARRO: Granddaughter.

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA:

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Granddaughter, friends, family, neighbors, and Miguel. Now, these walls will forever speak your name, because the service you have provided, not just to the city as a whole, working in 1980 beginning your civil service career for city government, but what you have presented in Community Board 1 with serving well over 1,400 households. After our Greenpoint Williamsburg rezoning, I kept complaining about how we--

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SPEAKER QUINN: You?

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: No, never,

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Speaker.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Never.

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: --how we

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needed to make sure that we kept track of our displaced families, that we would stand at nothing to be certain that we knew where every individual was so that we can bring them back home, and that not just tracking them would be enough, but that we needed to ensure these families that there was going to be every tool utilized and lo and behold my guardian angel came because he was placed to be

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1  
2 the Director of a local HPD office, and I don't  
3 know if they do this throughout the city of New  
4 York, so the secret's out. Paul Navarro is the  
5 guardian angel, who, under his directive, was able  
6 to make sure that 1,400 households--tenant  
7 landlord disputes were negotiated; 1,400  
8 households were retained, were protected; 1,400  
9 households now have a roof over their head, where  
10 perhaps that's one less burden they have to worry  
11 about.

12 Paul, you have dedicated yourself  
13 heart and soul, mind and body. I could not have  
14 expected what you have provided.

15 And he bridged communities. We  
16 have a very unique Community Board, we have  
17 Latinos, blacks, African-Americans, Polish,  
18 Hasidim--it is a mixed community and Paul was able  
19 to never close the door to anyone that walked  
20 through his office, and his team has provided and  
21 walked that same journey, and I want to commend  
22 them.

23 And so I ask his coworkers, our  
24 community members, his friends in the back, I'd  
25 like your fellow family members, neighbors,

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childhood friends and while--

MALE VOICE: Anyone who wants to be family.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Yes. While the--

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: My staff.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: --our staff, and part of the family with this office. I'd like to ask the clerk to call--I'd like to ask the clerk to read the proclamation that we have prepared for Paul and I want to just say to his mother, to his family, to his daughter, and granddaughter, it is so important that you remember why Paul was away so often every day. These are the faces he impacted and continues to impact and we will always cherish him.

And, Paul, I know you have a long journey ahead of you and we will keep you in our prayers [foreign audio]. Gracia.

[Applause]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council, City of New York Proclamation.

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of New York is proud to honor Paul Navarro for his

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2

outstanding service to his community; and

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WHEREAS, Paul Navarro was born and raised in the South Bronx where he still lives.

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He graduated from Lehman college in 1980 with a degree in public and group communications.

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Troubled by the poverty and urban blight that

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plagued his neighborhood, Paul got involved in

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community activism as a member of Community Board

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3 in the Bronx.

11

Paul furthered his community

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involvement being elected president of his

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homeowners association and serving 15 years; and

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WHEREAS, Paul began working in the

15

Mayor's office in 1980 for the Division of Labor

16

Services, which monitored equal employment

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opportunities and prevailing wage rates in the

18

construction industry. His career with the New

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York City Department of Housing Preservation and

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Development began in 1983 as a property manager in

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eastern central Harlem, helping tenants with the

22

rent and repair issues. By 1987, Paul was

23

Director of the Crisis Management Unit in East

24

Harlem; and

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WHEREAS, Paul's work as HPD



1  
2 Director of Anti-Abandonment for the borough of  
3 Manhattan led former City Council Member Phil Reed  
4 to recognize his efforts with a special citation  
5 for outstanding service to the community in 1999;  
6 and,

7 WHEREAS, today, Paul continues to  
8 stand up for fair and decent housing as Director  
9 of the Greenpoint Williamsburg Tenant and  
10 Assistant Center in Brooklyn, New York. Since  
11 2006, Paul and his team have assisted over 1,300  
12 families with landlord-tenant disputes and  
13 submitted an amazing 983 section 8 applications.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, be it known that  
15 the Council of the City of New York most  
16 gratefully honors Paul Navarro for his outstanding  
17 contributions to the community.

18 Diana Reyna, Council Member, 34th  
19 District, Brooklyn; Christine C. Quinn, Speaker  
20 for the entire Council.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
22 much. And that is a very long and distinguished  
23 career and it would be a long and distinguished  
24 career as a neighborhood activist on its own and I  
25 will be a long interesting career as a public

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2 servant, but the two together really is quite  
3 remarkable and shows what must be a deep and  
4 probably endless love for the city of New York and  
5 its residents. So on behalf of all of us on the  
6 City Council and certainly on behalf of our former  
7 colleague and always held in our hearts friend,  
8 Council Member Phil Reed, I just want to thank you  
9 for your service and we would love to hear from  
10 you.

11 MR. NAVARRO: Thank you so much. I  
12 just want to begin by thanking everyone, everyone  
13 that's here, all my friends, family, coworkers.  
14 You don't win these type of awards single-  
15 handedly, there's always a network of people  
16 behind you who are always there to assist you, to  
17 give you the support that you need to help those  
18 in the community that need our help.

19 I give my utmost thanks to  
20 Councilwoman Reyna, she was always there to  
21 support me and my staff. It's a lot of hard work,  
22 there's a lot of people that need help, and you  
23 have to really be committed. I've never met a  
24 person more committed than she in helping her  
25 constituents, serving the community, giving the

1  
2 support to the various community groups, and I  
3 could only be for forever grateful for the support  
4 that she has given my office.

5 To the Speaker, thank you so much  
6 for giving me this opportunity, it's just a  
7 wonderful feeling. You know how when you're a  
8 little kid and you're in your bedroom and you're  
9 daydreaming, fantasizing about being Superman or  
10 President of the United States, this is how I feel  
11 right now.

12 [Applause]

13 MR. NAVARRO: One of the things  
14 that the Councilwoman said, which I hold very dear  
15 to my heart, and that's about unity. You know, I  
16 was raised in a certain way, my family, and you  
17 know, it's all about being together. You have to  
18 commingle with all types of diverse groups, it's  
19 very important. You know, anyone that came into  
20 our office, we served, there was no--ever any  
21 question about we can serve some, but not others.  
22 Anyone who walked into our door knew that they  
23 were going to be served because that's our job,  
24 you know, not just as civil service employees, but  
25 as human beings, you know, we have to look out for

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2 our fellow man.

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You know, I have a friend in the audience, Charlissa Landsat [phonetic]--there she is right here--and Charlissa said that I always reminded her of the hippies, right? So to her and to the rest of you I say peace and love. Thank you so much.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you.

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[Applause]

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SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you for all your service, Paul, thank you.

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Phil, did you get [off mic]?

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Great, thank you all very, very much, thank you, thank you.

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Next, just--all right, and the next ceremonial is one at the request of Council Member Jessica Lappin.

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

21

SPEAKER QUINN: Hello.

22

FEMALE VOICE: Hello.

23

24

SPEAKER QUINN: How are you? You, too, take care.

25

Oh, okay, great, and the kids are

1

2 here? They're--

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[Off mic]

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5 SPEAKER QUINN: Yes. [Off mic] are  
6 Diana's kids, Inez's kids here yet?

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7 MALE VOICE: No.

7

8 SPEAKER QUINN: No, they're lost,  
9 Inez.

9

[Off mic]

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11 SPEAKER QUINN: Inez, the prom was  
12 last night, apparently not everybody [off mic]  
13 bright-eyed and bushy-tailed. We may need to  
14 reschedule--

14

[Off mic]

15

16 SPEAKER QUINN: All right, if we  
17 need pictures, I want to move in the committee  
18 room so we can keep the proclamation ceremonials  
19 going.

19

[Off mic]

20

21 SPEAKER QUINN: Yes, nice to see  
22 you, thank you.

22

23 Hi, how are you?

23

[Off mic]

24

25 SPEAKER QUINN: Hi, how are you,  
sir? Nice to see you.

1

[Off mic]

2

SPEAKER QUINN: Great. [Pause]

3

MALE VOICE: They're turning

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backwards.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you.

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MALE VOICE: 24/7, 7 days a week.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, that's

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nice to hear.

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MALE VOICE: I was told about that

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by--

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[Off mic]

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SPEAKER QUINN: All right. Council

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Member Lappin and Dan, we have the Eastside duo

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here of Council Members Garodnick and Lappin, who

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have an important neighborhood activist to

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recognize, so...

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CHAIRPERSON LAPPIN: So we're here

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today to honor--

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SPEAKER QUINN: [Interposing] If we

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could just get quiet and if folks want to take

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pictures or have conversations, if you could just

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move into the committee room, please. Thank you.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: We're here

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today to honor Betty Cooper Wallerstein, who is a

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1  
2 neighborhood activist and president of the 79th  
3 Street Neighborhood Association.

4 This is the only ceremonial I have  
5 done while I've been in office, so it tells you  
6 how special Betty is. In fact, the proclamation  
7 extended onto two pages, so to make it fit onto  
8 one, it's like the smallest type you've ever seen.  
9 And when the Clerk reads it, you're going to hear  
10 about her unbelievably long list of  
11 accomplishments for our neighborhood, but I wanted  
12 to speak just about Betty, the person.

13 She is the most tenacious,  
14 charming, warmhearted, and effective organizer.  
15 In fact, the New York Times said the most  
16 effective community organizer in the city of New  
17 York. And not only is she a pleasure to work with  
18 on issues of substance in the neighborhood, but  
19 she's a great friend and when you have a baby, she  
20 sends you a gift; when you go through a rough  
21 patch, she sends you a handwritten note at home,  
22 saying, buck up, you'll get through this; and she  
23 always checks in on you and checks up on you and  
24 has been just a pleasure, a pleasure to work with,  
25 Betty. So thank you for making my job so much

1  
2 easier by taking on all these issues that impact  
3 79th Street and the surrounding neighborhood and I  
4 know Council Member Garodnick wanted to say a few  
5 words as well.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank  
7 you very much and I wanted to add my voice of  
8 thanks to Betty Cooper Wallerstein for being a  
9 tremendous advocate for our neighborhood in the  
10 East 79th Street Association, which covers  
11 essentially all of the East side of Manhattan as  
12 far as we're concerned. She is tenacious, she is  
13 gracious, and we are very, very lucky to have her  
14 helping us do the job that we need to do to  
15 represent the people of the East side of  
16 Manhattan. And so on this terrific occasion,  
17 we're glad to be here standing with you, Betty,  
18 and it is a long proclamation, you know it because  
19 Council Member Lappin and I read it to you  
20 personally, but we want to allow everybody to have  
21 the opportunity to hear all of the great things  
22 that you have done.

23 And, again, we thank you for being  
24 such a great friend and leader. Thank you.

25 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down,



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2 please--

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[Crosstalk]

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SPEAKER QUINN: And if you're not

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seated, you might need to be, 'cause this is going

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to take a while, but all well deserved and, Betty,

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thank you for everything you've done for

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Manhattan.

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Nice to meet you, too. I've heard

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so much about you from Dan and Jessica, so... And

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if the Clerk could read the proclamation.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Council, City of

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New York Proclamation.

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The Council of the City of New York

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is proud to join the members and guests of the

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East 79th Street Neighborhood Association on the

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occasion of its 25th anniversary and to honor its

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founder and president Betty Cooper Wallerstein for

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her tremendous service to the community; and

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WHEREAS, Betty Cooper Wallerstein

21

founded the East 79th Street Neighborhood

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Association in response to the lack of adequate

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bus service on the far east side of the upper East

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side and was successful in expanding Sunday

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service for the M31 and setting up new express MTA

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2 bus service to Wall Street; and

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WHEREAS, this dedicated community activist went on to champion many successful endeavors, including creating the Coalition to Save City and Suburban; forming the Neighbors Are Us coalition; organizing a community coalition to protect zoning on East 76th Street; establishing the first residential taxi stand; successfully advocating for the opening of what is now the Cherokee Post Office on York Avenue; spearheading the training of over 2,500 Association members to be block watchers and over 500 drug busters to oversee greater safety in the neighborhood; beautifying the neighborhood through programs to plant over 200 trees; and initiating a cleaner streets project by obtaining funds for trash receptacles service by the DOE fund; and

WHEREAS, the unstoppable Betty Cooper Wallerstein works late into the night, oftentimes leaving long, long messages at 3 o'clock in the morning on voicemail; and

WHEREAS, Betty Cooper Wallerstein was presented with the New Yorker of the Year award by the Citizens Committee of New York

1 presented by none other than Barbara Walters; and

2 WHEREAS, the New York Times called  
3 Betty the busiest woman in New York City and  
4 perhaps quote the city's most tenacious and  
5 effective community organizer.  
6

7 NOW, THEREFORE, be it known that  
8 the Council of the City of New York most  
9 gratefully honors Betty Cooper Wallerstein for her  
10 outstanding service and contributions to New York  
11 City.

12 Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the  
13 entire Council; Jessica Lappin, Council Member  
14 fifth District Manhattan; Daniel Garodnick,  
15 Council Member, fourth district Manhattan.

16 SPEAKER QUINN: Well, Betty, thank  
17 you very much for all your service and we would  
18 love to hear from you.

19 MS. BETTY COOPER WALLERSTEIN:  
20 Thank you, that would be lovely.

21 Well after--

22 [Off mic]

23 MS. WALLERSTEIN: After seeing Paul  
24 with all his committee people and friends, I  
25 thought, well gee, why was I too shy to even

1  
2 mention it, I didn't even tell my son, I just  
3 thought well I'm coming down here, it's such a  
4 nice, nice tribute from Dan and Jessica and it's  
5 so nice to meet you, I've heard a lot of good  
6 things about you too.

7 I, like Paul, come from a family of  
8 people who understood the importance of being  
9 there for everyone and I'm not a New Yorker and  
10 when I came here many years ago and I was waiting  
11 for a bus on York Avenue on a Sunday, a very cold  
12 March day, and a very kind motorist pulled up and  
13 he said, "Lady, you're going to have a long wait  
14 because there is no bus on Sunday," and I said  
15 what do you mean, the major hospital centers of  
16 the world are on York Avenue and they're 24/7,  
17 what do you mean there's no bus here? So I called  
18 the Community Board and they said well, who are  
19 you, you have to belong to an organization and I  
20 said well, if someone has a good suggestion, can I  
21 bring it up.

22 Anyway, I formed an organization  
23 and we did get that bus service and we did a lot  
24 more and it really isn't too difficult to do. A  
25 lot of people want to make changes and do things,

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2 but they think it's going to be very hard. It  
3 really only takes one and you try and you'd be  
4 amazed at how many people will come aboard.

5 And I know that my parents were  
6 always working in the community and for the  
7 community and they said something, I think it's  
8 attributed to Eleanor Roosevelt, but I've since  
9 heard attributed to others, that you make a living  
10 by what you get, but you make a life by what you  
11 give and I think that is so true for probably most  
12 of the people in this room.

13 I thank you very much.

14 [Off mic]

15 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
16 much, Betty, and thank you, Dan and Jessica.

17 And our next ceremonial is going to  
18 be by Council Member Darlene Mealy.

19 [Off mic]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Acorn, let's  
21 go. How are they going to stand up?

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Pardon me?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: How are they  
24 going to stand behind--

25 SPEAKER QUINN: [Interposing] Yeah,

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2

Darlene, why don't you just stay right over here and then folks could just line up behind, kind of in a semicircle behind Council Member Mealy, that's great. Okay, great.

6

Darlene, is one of these--do you know who's going to speak?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Assistant--

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[Off mic]

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SPEAKER QUINN: Okay. Well you

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just call--

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[Off mic]

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I'll let you

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know which--

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[Off mic]

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SPEAKER QUINN: Darlene, why don't

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you make a couple of your statements and then

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we'll--

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[Off mic]

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SPEAKER QUINN: Okay?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Okay.

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SPEAKER QUINN: If we could just

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get some quiet in the chambers.

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SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down,

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please, keep it down.

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SPEAKER QUINN: All right.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to thank my colleagues and this beautiful school of mine in my district, Acorn High School, in which they say, Let me Live, Let me Grow, and Let me Play. This came about with violence in our community, and they were inspired by President Barack Obama. They said that Barack Obama said get involved, if you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem, so they did not just talk about it like everyone else does, they got involved and started an organization: Let me Live, Let me Grow, and Let me Play. Let's give them a hand, this is my Acorn High School.

Not only did they start their organizations, Ladies and Gentlemen's Club, they did a march against violence, they interviewed people, they interviewed the District Attorney, Charles Hynes, they interviewed Marty Markowitz, they interviewed myself, and they are a part of our new generation that are not just talking about it, they are being about it. So I want to thank you, Acorn High School, and one of the students

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now are going to address you.

[Off mic]

SPEAKER QUINN: Darlene, why don't you have the Clerk read the proclamation?

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: And can we have the Clerk read the Proc?

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council, City of New York Proclamation.

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of New York is proud to honor the distinguished members of the Young Ladies and Gentlemen's Club of the Acorn High School for Social Justice for their exemplary service to the community through its Let me Live, Let me Grow, Let me Play and the Gone, but not Forgotten, a Memorial to the Lost antiviolence awareness campaign; and

WHEREAS, created by Assistant Principal Michael Prayor, the group has become a powerful force, thanks to these dedicated members: Caesar Baez, Louis Delacruz--

SPEAKER QUINN: [Interposing] Mike, hang on one second. If we can get some quiet.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down.

COMMITTEE CLERK: --Ronnie DeLeon,



1  
2 Jamaal Faison, Erica Fryer, Cheryl Greene, Cameral  
3 Hassan, Tonisha Houston, Josse Hurtado, Malisha  
4 Mathuran, Shane Rose, and Kenard Valentine; and

5 WHEREAS, the students held the  
6 first antiviolence awareness week at their school  
7 and interviewed elected officials and community  
8 leaders on their weekly b-cat [phonetic], show  
9 Young Reporters; and

10 WHEREAS, on March 27, 2009, the  
11 Young Ladies and Gentlemen's Club brought together  
12 more than 300 students, parents, community  
13 leaders, and elected officials for an anti-  
14 violence march through the community.

15 In April, the students were invited  
16 to Washington, DC by Attorney General Eric Holder  
17 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Crime  
18 Victims Act and to interview Justice Department  
19 staff.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, be it known that  
21 the Council of the City of New York is proud to  
22 honor the Young Ladies and Gentlemen's Club for  
23 their outstanding efforts to eliminate violence  
24 and offer a more secure future for our friends,  
25 families, and loved ones.

1  
2 Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the  
3 entire Council; Darlene Mealy, Council Member,  
4 41st District, Brooklyn.

5 SPEAKER QUINN: That is very, very  
6 impressive and very cool that you got to go down  
7 and meet the Attorney General. So I am very, very  
8 impressed and I think one of the student leaders  
9 we're going to hear from.

10 [Off mic]

11 MR. KENARD VALENTINE: Good  
12 afternoon everyone. My name is Kenard Valentine  
13 and we are the Young Ladies and Gentlemen's Club,  
14 the next generation of agents for change and we  
15 are so excited and happy to be here among such  
16 great people to honor ourselves, we are so  
17 excited.

18 And we must pay homage to our  
19 Speaker Christine Quinn, let's give her a hand  
20 everybody. Also we want to thank Darlene Mealy,  
21 we want to thank you so much for all the interest  
22 that you have given to us. And Mr. Prayor, let's  
23 give him a hand he has labored a lot for us, so we  
24 are very excited about the things that we are  
25 doing.

1  
2 And just tell you a little bit  
3 about our campaign, our campaign is called Let me  
4 Live, Let me Grow, Let me Play and we actually  
5 went to Washington recently to speak about the  
6 things that we are doing in our campaign and we  
7 recently had a march in our school, we called it  
8 March in March because it was in March.

9 But we are so excited about the  
10 things that we are doing. We are doing this  
11 mainly to inspire and educate other people about  
12 alternatives to violence because many people don't  
13 know how to vent anger out, especially when it  
14 comes to young people, they would just want to go  
15 fight immediately, but we always want to show them  
16 different ways and different things that they can  
17 do so that they don't necessarily have to come  
18 into violence and do different things that may not  
19 be wise to our entire communities.

20 So we are just so grateful for  
21 being here, and thank you guys so much.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: We're going  
23 to hear from our assistant, Michael Pryor.

24 FEMALE VOICE: Prayor.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Prayor.

1  
2 MR. MICHAEL PRAYOR: Okay, Prayor,  
3 yes, thank you so much everyone. Again, these are  
4 the young ladies and gentlemen, we did leave off a  
5 few names: Melissa Leclerc. Anybody else? Diana  
6 Sanow, and Caesar Baez--

7 FEMALE VOICE: That's it.

8 MR. PRAYOR: Okay. So pretty much  
9 we're here, this, again, is the next generation of  
10 agents for change like our President Barack Obama  
11 is trying to introduce to America to let the youth  
12 represent their communities and again move forward  
13 with a better America and certainly New York City.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you all very  
15 much. Congratulations for your great work, it is  
16 very, very impressive. And thank you for taking  
17 the time to come be with us today.

18 All right, thank you.

19 The next ceremonial is going to be  
20 led by Council Member Joel Rivera, right? All  
21 right.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Perfect, if  
23 we could have this--

24 [Off mic]

25 SPEAKER QUINN: Yeah, why don't you

1  
2 guys just step in the committee room for [off  
3 mic]. Darlene, why don't--

4 [Off mic]

5 SPEAKER QUINN: If folks want to  
6 take more pictures, why don't you head on into the  
7 committee room and let me give the mic to Joel  
8 Rivera, who is our second to last ceremonial, and  
9 after that, will be one by Majority Whip Dickens.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
11 very much, Madam Speaker. If I can have my  
12 colleagues join me here with the City Parks  
13 Foundation.

14 Today, we are honored by giving  
15 recognition to an organization that literally is  
16 in all 51 districts in the entire city of New  
17 York, making sure that we have something positive  
18 taking place for our community. We all know that  
19 if we want to get rid of negative elements in our  
20 back yards, in our parks, the best thing that we  
21 can do is having something positive and that's  
22 what the City Parks Foundation does within our  
23 community.

24 So I just wanted to recognize them  
25 for their hard work and for making sure that

1  
2 during a time of economic strife and stress, we  
3 have a staycation opportunity for our families to  
4 take place in something positive in the community.

5 It's done by Maria Baez and myself  
6 and, of course, our Speaker and, at this point in  
7 time, if the Clerk can please call the vote.

8 [Off mic]

9 SPEAKER QUINN: If we can get quiet  
10 for a moment and we'll hear the Clerk read the  
11 proclamation.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council of the  
13 City of New York Proclamation.

14 WHEREAS, City Parks Foundation is  
15 dedicated to bringing three programs to and  
16 improving neighborhood parks in all 51 City  
17 Council districts around the city, currently  
18 reaching 600,000 New Yorkers every year in over  
19 800 parks across New York City.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: [Interposing] If we  
21 can get quiet, please.

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

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: And WHEREAS, City  
25 Parks Foundation is one of the largest arts

1  
2 organizations in the city, presenting more than  
3 1,200 free performances in parks every year  
4 through programs, such as: Central Park Summer  
5 Stage; the Charlie Parker Jazz Festival; City  
6 Parks Theater; City Parks Dance; City Parks  
7 Concerts; and the Swedish Cottage Marionette  
8 Theater and its Traveling Puppet Mobile; and

9 WHEREAS, City Parks Foundation runs  
10 the Partnerships for Parks program, which supports  
11 65,000 volunteers and 4,000 community groups in  
12 all five boroughs working to make their parks  
13 better. City Parks Foundation helps communities  
14 get productively involved in the life of  
15 neighborhood parks and presents free programming  
16 to kids, adults, and seniors in parks.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that  
18 the Council of the City of New York recognizes the  
19 accomplishments and achievements of the City Parks  
20 Foundation as it celebrates its 20th anniversary.

21 Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the  
22 entire Council; Maria Baez, Council Member 14th  
23 District, the Bronx; Joel Rivera, Majority Leader,  
24 15th District, the Bronx.

25 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very

1  
2 much. Very important and impressive work and let  
3 me hand the mic over to you.

4 MALE VOICE: Thank you very much,  
5 thank you to Council Member Rivera, Council Member  
6 Baez, all of your colleagues, Speaker Quinn.

7 As you mention, we work in all 51  
8 districts doing free programs in parks. If you  
9 want more programs in your parks, come see me; if  
10 you don't know what programs we now do in your  
11 parks, come see me. As the Council Member said,  
12 especially in tough economic times, all the staff  
13 that we hire, all the artists that we hire, all  
14 the activity that we put into parks is very, very  
15 important; kids have something productive to do  
16 during the summer when they're not in school and  
17 we all know that healthy parks are the key to a  
18 healthy neighborhood.

19 I want to thank some of the staff  
20 who came up today to be part of this. It takes a  
21 lot of different kinds of people with different  
22 kinds of talents to make City Parks Foundation  
23 work and we have a real nice cross-section of our  
24 staff here today, so thank you. And we look  
25 forward to working with you for years to come.



1  
2 It's our 20th anniversary, which is  
3 why we're getting this and we look forward to  
4 working with you for at least another 20 years.

5 Thank you very much.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you and thank  
7 you for your work. Terrific, thank you.

8 And our final ceremonial is one at  
9 the request of our Majority Whip, Inez Dickens.  
10 So if we could--folks if clear the front here and  
11 I'll call on Majority Whip Dickens.

12 And if the young people from Rice  
13 High School could come up here to join us.

14 [Off mic]

15 SPEAKER QUINN: If you just file in  
16 right behind Councilwoman Dickens.

17 [Off mic]

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Why don't we just--  
19 folks [off mic] move down a little bit this way,  
20 we'll be able to--

21 [Crosstalk]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS:

23 [Interposing] Yeah, move closer and the way you  
24 did when you were playing.

25 [Off mic]

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2

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Madam

3

Speaker?

4

SPEAKER QUINN: Yes.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Madam

6

Speaker, we're here today to pay tribute to the

7

Brother Rice High School Raiders Varsity

8

Basketball team--an all-male Catholic high school

9

in my district at 124th Street and Malcolm X

10

Boulevard.

11

On Saturday, March 28th, the

12

Raiders won the class AA state final of the--

13

SPEAKER QUINN: [Interposing] If we

14

can get just some quiet, please.

15

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down,

16

please, keep it down.

17

[Off mic]

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COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: On

19

Saturday, March 28th, the Raiders won the class AA

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state final of the Catholic High Schools Athletic

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Association. Congratulations Coach Hicks and

22

Assistant Coach Mitchell.

23

Success on the hardwood is

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tradition at Rice High School, which has produced

25

such basketball protégés as Dean Memminger, Tom

1  
2 Gorman, Felipe Lopez, Andre Barrett, Cadrian Clark  
3 [phonetic], Russell Robinson, Curtis Keller, and  
4 Kimber Walker. Rice High School is a perennial  
5 presence on national top 25 list of the best high  
6 school basketball teams in the country. And by  
7 the way, where is Chuck Mara [phonetic]? I want  
8 Chuck--come up, Chuck, because Chuck has a long  
9 story to tell about how he was on the court with  
10 Dean Memminger.

11 MR. CHUCK MIRROR: I played against  
12 Dean Memminger.

13 SPEAKER QUINN: [Interposing] Well  
14 this may be Chuck Mara's only big athletic high  
15 school story, so we need attention, please.

16 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down,  
17 please, keep it down.

18 MR. MARA: I played against Dean  
19 Memminger and I embarrassed him. I took him to  
20 the hoop right before he played against Powell  
21 Memorial Academy and lost in the city  
22 championships because of a guy named Lew Alcindor,  
23 who became Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

24 But Dean was a great role model and  
25 he had a great team and he went on to Marquette

1  
2 University and then he went on to play for the New  
3 York Knickerbockers in the NBA.

4           So I wish all you guys a lot of  
5 luck, follow his career path, and good luck next  
6 year when you play again against some of the  
7 perennial powers from the city of New York like  
8 Chrysler King from where I'm from in Queens and  
9 some of the other teams. Thank you.

10           COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you.  
11 And all of these young men are success in life as  
12 well. Many of them will be moving on to college  
13 next year around the country. For those that are  
14 coming back, they will have the opportunity to  
15 defend their title under the tutelage and  
16 mentoring of Coach Hicks.

17           The City Council salutes Rice High  
18 School Radars basketball team. Brother Michael  
19 Segvich, head of the school; Mr. Anthony Ashe,  
20 Dean of Students; Maurice Hicks, the Assistant  
21 Dean of Students, head basketball coach as well.

22           These young men are shining  
23 examples of the teamwork, self-sacrifice,  
24 camaraderie, and champions spirits of Harlem and  
25 the city of New York. We salute you and say thank

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2 you.

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[Off mic]

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In addition, we have the proclamation, but we also have citations for the coach and for each one of you that I'm going to ask the coach to please give out.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Yes, they do.

SPEAKER QUINN: Oh, then have the Clerk read it--

[Crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS:

[Interposing] May the clerk now please read the Proc?

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council, City of New York Proclamation.

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of New York is proud to honor the Rice High School Raiders Varsity A Basketball team for their outstanding sportsmanship and we congratulate them on their championship season; and

WHEREAS, Rice High School has been a hallowed institution in the village of Harlem since it was founded in 1938; and

1  
2 WHEREAS, in the most recent  
3 Catholic High School Activities Association  
4 Intersectional Championship in Glen Falls, New  
5 York, the Rice High School Raiders held off  
6 relentless opponents and were rewarded with a 77  
7 to 50 blowout victory and the title of New York  
8 State Champions; and

9 WHEREAS, the Rice High School  
10 Raiders Varsity A Basketball team is comprised of  
11 these distinguished players: Charles Fenner, Devon  
12 Reed, Duran Scott, James Cook, Joshua Gomez, Jack  
13 Middleton, Jermaine Sanders, James Stukes,  
14 Jonathan Williams, Kadeen Jack, Kevin Nashemento,  
15 Richard Council, Scott Areas, Chemelle Williams,  
16 Yuri Santos, and Shane Southwell. They are  
17 stellar players who support each other in both  
18 game and in school; and

19 WHEREAS, the Rice High School  
20 Raiders Varsity A Basketball team also owes their  
21 successful vision to head coach Maurice Hicks and  
22 Assistant Coach Dwayne Mitchell.

23 NOW, THEREFORE, be it known that  
24 the Council of the City of New York congratulates  
25 the Rice High School Raiders Varsity A Basketball

1

2

team.

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4

5

Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the entire Council; Inez Dickens, 9th District, Manhattan.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you, thank you. And now I'd like Coach Hicks to please say a few words.

9

[Off mic]

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COACH MAURICE HICKS: All right. Thank you City Council, thank you, Ms. Dickens, for inviting us here and we're very happy to be here, we've worked hard this year. We weren't expected to win this year, we had in preseason we were maybe in our league number four and number five in our league, much less in the state of New York and we were able to work together this year hard. And these guys worked hard from day one and I told them the hard work pays off, right, guys? And that's what we did so.

21

22

Thanks for having us, thank you for having us and we appreciate it. Thank you.

23

24

25

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much. Those are very impressive victory, we wish you all the best of luck.

1  
2 And that concludes ceremonials for  
3 the Stated Meeting.

4 [Off mic]

5 [Long Pause]

6 MALE VOICE: Nobody's allowed to  
7 eat in here.

8 [Off mic]

9 MALE VOICE: Ladies and gentlemen  
10 can I have your attention, please. Can I have  
11 your attention please. At this time, can you  
12 please place all cell phones and pagers to  
13 vibrate, and will all non-Council employees and  
14 lobbyists please leave the main floor of the  
15 Chambers. Thank you.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Ladies and  
17 gentlemen, please rise for the Pledge of  
18 Allegiance.

19 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet, please.  
20 Quiet, please.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I pledge  
22 allegiance to the flag of the United States of  
23 America and to the Republic for which it stands,  
24 one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty  
25 and justice for all.



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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Roll call.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Arroyo.  
COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [Off mic]  
COUNCIL CLERK: Avella.  
COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Here.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Baez.  
COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: Here.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Barron. Barron.  
COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I'm right  
here.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Okay, duly noted,  
okay. Brewer.  
COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: [Off mic]  
COUNCIL CLERK: Comrie.  
[No response]  
COUNCIL CLERK: Crowley.  
COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.  
COUNCIL CLERK: De Blasio.  
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet, please.  
[No response]  
COUNCIL CLERK: Dickens.  
COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Dilan.  
[No response]

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STATED COUNCIL MEETING

42

COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Yes,  
present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Felder.

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Yes.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ferreras.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Fidler.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Foster.

[No response.]

COUNCIL CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Gennaro.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Gentile.

[No response.]

COUNCIL CLERK: Gerson.

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Gioia.

[No response.]

COUNCIL CLERK: Gonzalez.

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ignizio.

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[No response.]

COUNCIL CLERK: Jackson.

[No response.]

COUNCIL CLERK: James.

[No response.]

COUNCIL CLERK: Katz.

COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Koppell.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Lappin.

[No response.]

COUNCIL CLERK: Liu.

COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Martinez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Mitchell.

COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: Here.

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STATED COUNCIL MEETING

COUNCIL CLERK: Nelson.

[No response.]

COUNCIL CLERK: Palma.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Yes, here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Recchia.

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Reyna.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Sanders.

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Seabrook.

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Sears.

COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Stewart.

[No Response.]

COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Vann.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Weprin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here, here.

3

COUNCIL CLERK: White.

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[No response.]

5

COUNCIL CLERK: Yassky.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Here.

7

COUNCIL CLERK: Oddo.

8

[No response.]

9

COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Here.

11

COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

12

SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

13

MALE VOICE: [Off mic] Stewart.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: A quorum is

15

present, ladies and gentlemen. Please rise for

16

the invocation being delivered by Reverend Suk Ho

17

Moon, Senior Pastor of the Hyoshin Bible

18

Presbyterian Church.

19

REVEREND SUK HO MOON: Before we

20

pray together, let me read just one verse from the

21

book of Micah in the Old Testament. He has showed

22

you, Oh man, what is good. And what does the Lord

23

require of you? To act justly and to love mercy

24

and to walk humbly with your God. Let us pray.

25

1  
2 Heavenly Father, today while honorable City  
3 Council members are gathered in this place and we  
4 come to you with your heart for the city and for  
5 the people of New York. As you word states in the  
6 book of Micah, Lord, we ask you humbly to teach us  
7 so that we may act justly and [off mic] mercy.

8 We are grateful to you, Lord, for  
9 the [off mic] men and woman whom you have raised  
10 to serve this great country and the city of New  
11 York and also for the [off mic] works and  
12 dedication.

13 As they come together, may they  
14 seek the laws of [off mic] of your will for this  
15 great city.

16 For the people who serve the City  
17 That Never Sleeps, we pray for leadership, wisdom,  
18 love, and justice, so their works may resound in  
19 all corners of our society with hope and joy.

20 In today's troubling economic and  
21 political times, give to our leaders the ability  
22 to lead with wisdom and encouragement to persevere  
23 in times of frustration.

24 Bless the City Council members  
25 here, as they rise to meet the challenges of

1  
2 today. Provide them with the strengths needed to  
3 fortify their resolve to stand up for what is  
4 right and good as they carry out the works and  
5 burdens bestowed onto them.

6 Lord, fill their hearts with  
7 compassion and love for the people. We are a  
8 diverse city of many religions, ethnicities, and  
9 cultures. Despite our differences, we are  
10 gathered here today in community and solidarity.  
11 May our leaders have a genuine respect for and  
12 warm embrace our differences. Bless them with  
13 compassion and empathy, remembering that God hold  
14 us accountable to caring for the oppressed and the  
15 most vulnerable in our communities.

16 Pour out your grace upon us that  
17 every city and street and corner and every heart  
18 of the people be touched and be filled with hope  
19 for the great future of New York City.

20 Lord, we lift up our city to your  
21 hands, into the hands of the great council of the  
22 world and lift up everyone in this gathering to  
23 you. We pray for your presence and guidance in  
24 all of our today's proceedings. Pour out your  
25 blessing, oh God, for your people.

1  
2 I pray all this in the name of our  
3 Lord and Savior. Amen.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Council  
5 Member Liu.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Mr. Chairman,  
7 I motion to spread the invocation in full upon the  
8 record.

9 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet, please.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Thank you,  
12 Reverend Moon.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Adoption of  
14 the minutes, motions at the minutes of the Stated  
15 Meeting of April 2nd, 2009, be adopted as printed.

16 Messages and Papers from the Mayor.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: M1428 withdrawing  
18 Marjory H. Perlutter for reappointment to the  
19 Landmarks Preservation Commission.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: Received, ordered,  
21 printed, and filed.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:  
23 Communications from City, County, and Borough  
24 Offices.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: M1429 submitting



1

2 five-year educational facilities capital plan.

2

3

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Finance--if we can  
5 get a little quiet, as well.

4

5

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Petitions  
7 and Communications.

6

7

8 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

8

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Land Use  
10 Call-Ups.

10

11 COUNCIL CLERK: M1430 and 1431.

11

12 SPEAKER QUINN: I'd like those two  
13 items coupled and have a roll call, please, on the  
14 Land Use Call-Up vote, please.

13

14

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Arroyo.

15

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

16

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Avella.

17

18 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Aye on Land  
19 Use Call-Ups and I ask for unanimous consent to  
20 vote on all coupled General Orders.

19

20

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

21

22 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Thank you,  
23 I vote yes on all General Orders.

22

23

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Baez.

24

25 COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: I vote aye on  
all Land Use Call-Ups, requesting permission to

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2

vote aye on all General Orders.

3

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: Aye.

5

COUNCIL CLERK: Barron.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

7

COUNCIL CLERK: Brewer.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

9

COUNCIL CLERK: Crowley.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

11

COUNCIL CLERK: De Blasio.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER DE BLASIO: Aye.

13

COUNCIL CLERK: Dickens.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

15

COUNCIL CLERK: Dilan.

16

[No response.]

17

COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

19

COUNCIL CLERK: Felder.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Yes.

21

COUNCIL CLERK: Ferreras.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

23

COUNCIL CLERK: Fidler.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

25

COUNCIL CLERK: Foster.

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[No response.]

2

COUNCIL CLERK: Garodnick.

3

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

4

COUNCIL CLERK: Gennaro.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

6

COUNCIL CLERK: Gentile.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Mark

8

present and vote aye.

9

COUNCIL CLERK: Gerson.

10

[Pause]

11

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: I'm sorry,

12

aye, and with permission, I'd like to vote aye on

13

all matters pending before today's Council

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meeting.

15

COUNCIL CLERK: Gioia.

16

[No response.]

17

COUNCIL CLERK: Gonzalez.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.

19

COUNCIL CLERK: Ignizio.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.

21

COUNCIL CLERK: Jackson.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on

23

all.

24

COUNCIL CLERK: James.

25

1

[No response.]

2

COUNCIL CLERK: Katz.

3

COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: I'd like to

4

vote yes on all Land Use Call-Ups and ask

5

permission to vote aye on all General Order

6

calendar.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Thank you.

9

COUNCIL CLERK: Koppell.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

11

COUNCIL CLERK: Lappin.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

13

COUNCIL CLERK: Liu.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Yes.

15

COUNCIL CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Yes.

17

COUNCIL CLERK: Martinez.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: Aye.

19

COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy.

20

[No response.]

21

COUNCIL CLERK: Mendez.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

23

COUNCIL CLERK: Mitchell.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: Aye.

25

1  
2 COUNCIL CLERK: Nelson.  
3 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.  
4 COUNCIL CLERK: Palma.  
5 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.  
6 COUNCIL CLERK: Recchia.  
7 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.  
8 COUNCIL CLERK: Reyna.  
9 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.  
10 COUNCIL CLERK: Sanders.  
11 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye.  
12 COUNCIL CLERK: Seabrook.  
13 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Aye.  
14 COUNCIL CLERK: Sears.  
15 COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Aye.  
16 COUNCIL CLERK: Stewart.  
17 COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Aye.  
18 COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich.  
19 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.  
20 COUNCIL CLERK: Vacca.  
21 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.  
22 COUNCIL CLERK: Vallone.  
23 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.  
24 COUNCIL CLERK: Vann.  
25 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: I vote aye,

1  
2 request unanimous consent to vote on General Order  
3 calendar. [Pause] I'm sorry, I didn't hear you,  
4 Madam--

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: I vote aye on  
7 all. Thank you.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Weprin.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: White.

11 [No response.]

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Yassky.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Aye.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Oddo.

15 [No response.]

16 COUNCIL CLERK: James.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye on all.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

21 [No response.]

22 [Long pause]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Today's  
24 Land Use Call-Ups were adopted by a vote of 45 in  
25 the affirmative and zero in the negative.

1

2 Communications from the Speaker?

2

3

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very

4

much. I want to thank everyone in the various

5

Land Use Committees, in particular Council Member

6

Katz, our Land Use Chair, for her work today on

7

the Land Use items that we're voting on. In

8

particular, the item in my district in Hell's

9

Kitchen, which will include 800 new units of

10

housing, 20 which will be affordable housing and

11

which will also help us deal with a persistent

12

challenge that has kind of plagued our city and

13

the West side of Manhattan was finding a home for

14

the NYPD's mounted unit. This project will

15

include it in a permanent, and I assume

16

affordable, home for the NYPD's mounted unit. So

17

I want to thank Melinda and everyone who worked on

18

that in particular, Danielle Decerbo.

19

I want to thank Chairperson Reyna

20

and Chuck Davis for their work on the various City

21

Planning Commission appointments we're taking up

22

today.

23

I want to thank Council Member Baez

24

and Scott and Kenisia in--Kesinni [phonetic]

25

excuse me, in finance for their work on the Home

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Rule messages we're passing today.

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I want to make two announcements, want to make sure to remind folks that, because of the budget and the budget hearings, starting in June, we want to allow other committees to be able to have meetings but there will still be budget hearings, so we will be starting committee meetings that are not budget related at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. And also we are going to not adjourn the meeting today, but stand in recess as there may be budget matters, Home Rule messages, etc. that we need to take up on quick notice, so folks need to make sure the Speaker's office has your best contact information, your budget staff member's best contact information because, particularly as it relates to Albany Home Rules, we may have to call people back very quickly to City Hall.

20

21

Thank you very much. That concludes Communications from the Speaker.

22

23

24

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Discussion of General Orders. Council member Stewart.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Brothers



1  
2 and sisters, I want to call your attention to two  
3 bills that I'm introducing today. The first one  
4 has to--

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:

6 [Interposing] Council Member, that's not at this  
7 point--

8 COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Oh.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: --in the  
10 discussion.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Just put  
12 me down for any time [off mic].

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Okay.  
14 Council Member Barron.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you,  
16 Mr. Chair. You know, I'll discuss my resolution  
17 at a later during open discussion, but on the  
18 General Order calendar I do have an item in my  
19 district and it will be 100% affordable housing  
20 coming to my district.

21 I want to thank the Council for  
22 supporting affordable housing in East New York,  
23 probably one of the few projects, if not the only  
24 in the city that is 100% affordable, 40% of the  
25 AMI, the lower end of it, 16,000, a family making

1  
2 \$16,000 a year will be able to get an affordable  
3 rental for \$340 a month and then the high end of  
4 it is 53% of the AMI and the rent's at 4 and 500  
5 and \$600 a month for two and three rooms, you  
6 cannot get much more affordable than that.

7 And as I say to Inez Dickens, she  
8 was the Queen of Affordability and I have the  
9 dethroned her, I am now the King of Affordability  
10 in the City Council and I want to get my  
11 recognition whether you like me or not, you should  
12 give me a handclap for that kind of affordability,  
13 will you please.

14 [Applause]

15 [Off mic]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Next will  
17 be Council Member Dickens.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: I have a  
19 response to that. Yes, you are the king, but the  
20 king can never dethrone the Queen.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: We'll have  
22 to share the throne.

23 MALE VOICE: Oh look at that,  
24 Charles.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Councilman

1

2

Recchia.

3

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Yes, today

4

I stand before you and ask all my members to vote

5

yes on the Coney Island redevelopment because

6

Coney Island community is today proud to deliver

7

both affordable housing, which is 100% affordable

8

housing, Charles, also in Coney island and a

9

community center for the Coney Island community.

10

I believe Coney Island Commons will

11

serve as an anchor for the neighborhood. This

12

center will provide important services to the

13

youth and elderly members of the community, and

14

will provide housing for people who have called

15

Coney Island their home for decades.

16

I'd like to thank the Mayor for

17

recognizing the importance of this project to

18

Coney Island. I'd like to thank Council Member

19

Melinda Katz for her hard work and her entire

20

staff. I especially like to thank Gail Benjamin;

21

Alonzo Carr; especially Amy Levitan; Holly Leicht

22

from HPD, the Deputy Commissioner; Wendell Walters

23

from HPD; Carol Clark from HPD; Joe Rosenberg from

24

HPD; the Coney Island Development Corporation;

25

Lynn Kelly; Seth Pinsky from EDC; Bob Liebert,

1  
2 Deputy Mayor; and Marilyn Wills and the YMCA  
3 family; and the Coney Island's team for helping  
4 see this project through completion.

5 I ask my colleagues to vote aye.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
7 very much, Council Member. Seeing no others for  
8 discussion of General Orders, we'll move on to the  
9 Reports of Special Committees.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Reports of  
12 Standing Committees.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the  
14 Committee on Finance, Preconsidered Reso 1985,  
15 organization funding.

16 [Long pause]

17 SPEAKER QUINN: Hello, Speaker not  
18 paying attention there. Where are we?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Reports on  
20 Standing Committees.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: Reports of Standing  
22 Committee, they have been coupled on the General  
23 Order calendar. Thank God, somebody is paying  
24 attention.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the

1  
2 Committee on Land Use, LU 1066 and Reso 1986 and  
3 LU 1067 and Reso 1987 applications.

4 SPEAKER QUINN: They have also been  
5 coupled on the General Order calendar.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 1068 and Reso  
7 1988 through LU 1076 and Reso 1991, various  
8 applications.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
10 Orders.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 1086 and Reso  
12 1992, unenclosed sidewalk café.

13 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled to be filed  
14 pursuant to a letter of withdrawal.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 1087 and Reso  
16 1993 and LU 1088 and Reso 1994, unenclosed  
17 sidewalk café.

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
19 Orders.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: LU of 1103 and Reso  
21 1995, ULURP Brooklyn.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
23 Orders.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the  
25 Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections.

1  
2 M1390 and Reso 1996, approving the reappointment  
3 of Karen Phillips, Planning Commission.

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
5 Orders.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: M1424 and Reso  
7 1997, approving the appointment of Rayann Besser,  
8 New York City Planning Commission.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
10 Orders.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the  
12 Committee and State and Federal Legislation.  
13 Preconsidered SLR 4 in rem tax foreclosure.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
15 Orders.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Preconsidered SLR  
17 5, animal population control program.

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
19 Orders.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: The General  
21 Order calendar.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 1047 and Reso  
23 1998 through LU 1050 and Reso 2001, various  
24 applications.

25 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General

1

2

Orders.

3

COUNCIL CLERK: Resolution

4

appointing various person Commissioner of Deeds.

5

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General

6

Orders and, at this point, I ask for a roll call

7

on all the items that have been coupled on the

8

General Order calendar, please.

9

COUNCIL CLERK: Arroyo.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

11

COUNCIL CLERK: Barron.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye

13

on all items and I abstain from LU 1067 with the

14

accompanying Reso 1987.

15

COUNCIL CLERK: Brewer.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

17

COUNCIL CLERK: Crowley.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

19

COUNCIL CLERK: De Blasio.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER DE BLASIO: Aye.

21

COUNCIL CLERK: Dickens.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

23

COUNCIL CLERK: Dilan.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Mr.

25

President Pro Tem I'd like to request unanimous

1  
2 consent to vote on items--to vote on the Land Use  
3 Call-Ups.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: I vote aye  
6 on all Land Use Call-Ups, and aye on all coupled  
7 General Orders.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Felder.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Yes, no.

12 [Off mic]

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Barron.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye on all.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Ferreras.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Fidler.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye on all.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Foster.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: May I be  
21 excused to vote on all Land Use Call-Ups?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes, you  
23 may.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye, and  
25 aye on everything else. Thank you.



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STATED COUNCIL MEETING

65

COUNCIL CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Gennaro.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

COUNCIL CLERK: Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Yes on

all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Gioia.

[No response.]

COUNCIL CLERK: Gonzalez.

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye on

all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye on

all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Jackson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on

all.

COUNCIL CLERK: James.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL CLERK: Koppell.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye on

all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Lappin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye on all.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Liu.  
COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Yes.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Mark-Viverito.  
COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye  
on all.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Martinez.  
COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: Aye.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy.  
[No response.]  
COUNCIL CLERK: Mendez.  
COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Mitchell.  
COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: Aye on  
all.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Nelson.  
COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Gioia.  
COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: I vote yes  
on all.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Palma.  
COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Yes.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Recchia.  
[No response.]

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COUNCIL CLERK: Reyna.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Sanders.

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Seabrook.

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Sears.

COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Stewart.

COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Yes on

all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: May I have

permission to vote on all Land Use Call-Ups?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes, you

may.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye on all,

thank you.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye on all.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: White.

[No response.]

COUNCIL CLERK: Yassky.

COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Oddo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: May I have  
unanimous consent to vote on Land Use Call-Ups?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: I vote yes on  
the Land Use Call-Ups and yes on all coupled  
items.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet, please.

COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye  
on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

SPEAKER QUINN: Aye on all.

[Long pause]

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All items  
on today's General Order calendar were adopted by

1  
2 a vote of 49 in the affirmative, zero in the  
3 negative, and zero abstentions.

4 Revised Land Use Call-Ups were  
5 adopted by a vote of 49 in the affirmative and  
6 zero in the negative.

7 General discussions. Council  
8 Member Barron.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you  
10 very much to my colleagues, if I can have your  
11 attention for a minute.

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

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I would  
15 like to bring your attention to Resolution 1976  
16 calling on the city to compensate the Central Park  
17 Six. These are young men who were wrongly  
18 convicted of the rape of the Central Park jogger  
19 in 1989. They were interrogated for 28 hours,  
20 they did everything but waterboard them, they  
21 didn't allow them any food, deprivation of sleep,  
22 and they were only 14 years old for a crime that  
23 DNA later on proved that they did not commit.  
24 They were never linked to that.

25 Rather than have these families go

1  
2 through a whole court process to sue and get  
3 money, we're calling on the city to compensate  
4 these families for wrongly convicting them,  
5 robbing them of their youth, the best years of  
6 their lives. Now they're having difficulties  
7 getting jobs, finding housing. They were totally,  
8 absolutely exonerated--innocent, and we have to be  
9 very, very careful when the police can interrogate  
10 somebody so forcefully that they admit--

11 SPEAKER QUINN: [Interposing]  
12 Council Member, can we just get quiet in the  
13 chambers, I want to apologize.

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

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.

17 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet please.

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you.  
19 Apologize.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON:  
21 Interrogated so forcefully that they admit to  
22 crimes that they didn't do. It is time for the  
23 city to pay them for that.

24 And I just want to acknowledge, up  
25 in the balcony we have Mr. Raymond Santana, if you

1  
2 will stand and Mr. Kharey Wise--these were two  
3 young men who spent their lives in prison for  
4 nothing and then one of the leading advocates--and  
5 we call him our attorney-at-war and we need to  
6 fight to get his license back--and that's attorney  
7 Alton Maddox is also with us so we want to thank  
8 you for coming.

9           So my colleagues, if you will, this  
10 is long overdue, this is just. If you can sign on  
11 to this resolution, I would greatly appreciate it.  
12 Thank you very much.

13           COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
14 very much. At this point in time, we're going to  
15 go back to Introductions and reading of the bills.

16           SPEAKER QUINN: Yes, all bills are  
17 referred to committees as indicated on the agenda.

18           COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
19 very much. Council Member de Blasio.

20           COUNCIL MEMBER DE BLASIO: Thank  
21 you. Just wanted to speak today on a bill I've  
22 introduced on the topic of residency. As everyone  
23 remembers we took a major step forward a few  
24 months ago to ensure there was greater fairness  
25 for city workers by allowing a more even more, a

1  
2 more equitable standard for all workers in terms  
3 of where they choose to live, particularly in the  
4 economic reality of our city today where housing  
5 is so unaffordable, unfortunately,

6           The bill I've introduced would  
7 expand upon that recent change in residency  
8 requirements so that thousands more city workers  
9 can choose where they want to live. This will  
10 help provide workers with options that they need  
11 and help us keep the best and brightest working  
12 here in New York City. And I think it's fair to  
13 say, in the debate we had months ago, everyone  
14 agreed we needed to look for a way to make this  
15 approach as universal and fair as possible and  
16 these city workers deserve the right to make their  
17 own decisions about where they live based on what  
18 is best for them and their families. So I urge my  
19 colleagues to sign on to this bill. Thank you.

20           COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you,  
21 Council member Stewart.

22           COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Brothers  
23 and sisters, I want to call your attention to  
24 three bills. The first one is 1005, which  
25 basically is in relation to the egress at



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abatement projects.

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The other one is 1006, which basically is in relation to requiring the Mayor to submit report concerning contracts for advertisements.

And the last one basically is basically urging the state legislature to pass legislation that will require New York State courts, prior to accepting a plea to a felony, misdemeanor, or a violation to the defendants of immigration, that will cause immigration consequences later on. Brothers and sisters, I want you to sign on to these legislation so that, please, we can protect some of our immigrants. Thank you.

17

18

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.

Council Member Jackson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you, Majority Leader. My colleagues today, I'm introducing resolution number 1978, which urges the state division of housing and community renewal to amend the Rent Stabilization Code by creating a review process for Individual Apartment Improvements commonly, known as IAI.

1  
2           These are rent increases and also a  
3 change in the structure of major capital  
4 improvements known as MCIs and IAI rent increases  
5 so that they are not added to the base rent of an  
6 apartment forever. Currently these two methods of  
7 increasing rent are a common way for landlords to  
8 continually push regulated apartments to market  
9 rates, long after they have recouped the cost of  
10 those improvements.

11           So I urge my colleagues to sign on  
12 to resolution 1978 if you want to stop the  
13 recoupment of all of the monies that landlords  
14 receive after putting in a refrigerator or a new  
15 stove or any other equipment, where they have  
16 recouped that over the following five years, but  
17 it continues on a continuous basis forever and  
18 it's a multiplying effect.

19           Secondly, tomorrow we'll be holding  
20 be Finance Committee and Education Committee on  
21 the proposed five-year capital plan for the  
22 Department of Education. My staff has in the back  
23 a packet for each number and it's title is  
24 Structurally Flawed Observations of the Proposed  
25 Five-Year Capital Plan, and we have this for each

1  
2 member, each member with specifics for their  
3 particular districts.

4 I ask you to read this and if you  
5 have any questions, please reach out to my staff.  
6 Tomorrow hearing is at 3 p.m. right here in the  
7 chambers. Thank you.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
9 very much. Council Member Seabrook.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Thank you  
11 very much, Mr. Majority Leader.

12 I rise today and certainly urge you  
13 all to support resolution 1976 by Council Member  
14 Barron. And I think it's important, and I think  
15 it's important that we do this.

16 Never in the history of this state  
17 have there been such a miscarriage of justice.  
18 And history has a way of repeating itself, and  
19 there was a historical case that took place that  
20 was called the Scottsboro boys case in Alabama,  
21 where these young men were the same ages as these  
22 same young men here in New York City and it took a  
23 judge from New York City, Judge Liebowitz, to go  
24 to Alabama to defend these young men who had been  
25 actually accused of rape of a white woman in the

1  
2 South. They were incarcerated, they were beaten,  
3 they were tried, and they were convicted. Later,  
4 there was a recanting of this story by one of the  
5 victims, who had indicated that this rape never  
6 occurred.

7           So here we have a similar situation  
8 in New York City where these young men were  
9 actually railroaded by the press as well. Because  
10 what happened was that a major businessman in this  
11 city said that these individuals should be given  
12 the death penalty. And they were locked away and  
13 thank God that Mario Cuomo never had a death  
14 penalty. And so they would have been under that  
15 and later the recanting, again, of someone else  
16 who had committed this crime.

17           I think that these families, these  
18 families actually served time because they saw  
19 that their individuals were locked away and God  
20 knows what could have happened and what did  
21 happen. It is time that we look at the city of  
22 New York, do something about a problem that we've  
23 lived with too long--20 years--and done too little  
24 about. Justice must prevail. Thank you very  
25 much.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
3 very much. Council Member Oddo.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Thank you,  
5 Mr. Acting Public Advocate.

6 I just simply want to publicly  
7 thank Council Member Jimmy Vacca, the Chair of the  
8 Council's Fire and Criminal Justice Safety  
9 Committee for his leadership in this fight against  
10 the proposed cuts to the fire department, and to  
11 thank him specifically for making the trek from  
12 the wonderful borough of the Bronx out to Staten  
13 Island and battling all that traffic the other day  
14 to stand with the Staten Island delegation,  
15 Council Members Ignizio, Council Member Mitchell,  
16 myself and firefighters from Engine 161.

17 We didn't go to Engine 161, which  
18 is slated to close, we went out to Engine 168 in  
19 Rossville and that's the famous fire house that  
20 was built and wasn't staffed and that was a fight  
21 in '04 and '05 that we won after there was a fire  
22 a little more than a stone's throw away from an  
23 unstaffed firehouse.

24 And we thought that was the proper  
25 context and the perfect backdrop to remind

1  
2 everyone in government that we had an I told you  
3 so moment and we averted a tragedy and we don't  
4 want to see that again.

5 And I just remind my colleagues, we  
6 know the four Engine companies or the three Engine  
7 companies and the one Ladder company, they've been  
8 identified. There are 12 other units that are  
9 slated to close, we don't know where they are yet,  
10 they might be your district. If they are your  
11 district, you have to join this fight; if they're  
12 not your district, as they were not in my district  
13 in 2003 when I joined the fight, please join us.  
14 In a \$60 billion budget where every tax imaginable  
15 has been raised, if we can't provide core services  
16 like fire protection equally throughout the city,  
17 we're doing something wrong.

18 And I just want to thank the  
19 Chairman, it is a pleasure having him as our ally  
20 and the leader in this fight. Thank you, Council  
21 Member Vacca.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.  
23 Council Member Sanders.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Thank you,  
25 the Majority Leader. Several years ago, a great

1  
2 wrong was done to a woman in our city and we pray  
3 that she recovers well.

4 In a rush to judgment, this city  
5 grabbed some young people and did some horrible  
6 things to them. And one of the things we did was  
7 steal many years of their youth from them--many,  
8 many years stolen. There's a process that is  
9 known as justice and it goes simply like this: if  
10 you do wrong and you realize it's wrong, then you  
11 should attempt to make it right. Simple as that,  
12 simple justice. It's not a complex matter, it's  
13 not a matter that needs a great debate, it's a  
14 matter that everyone in here I'm sure believes in--  
15 -simple justice. If we do wrong and we found that  
16 we have done wrong, then we should make it right  
17 or as right as we can.

18 We need to--this society owes a  
19 great deal of gratitude to DNA, to DNA evidence  
20 because there are, I would argue, dozens of  
21 people, if not hundreds of people, throughout this  
22 country who are suffering a similar fate and we  
23 need to do everything to make sure that every  
24 testing ability is out there. Also, that we make  
25 sure that this testing is done so that we can find

1  
2 the right people and put them in jail and not the  
3 wrong people in jail for these things.

4 So I join my colleagues in calling  
5 on people and say, listen, let's take this--let's  
6 make this very simple, let's take it away from any  
7 type of politics and just remember, it's simple  
8 justice that's calling out. We should answer.  
9 Thank you very much.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.  
11 Council Member Garodnick.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank  
13 you very much, Mr. Majority Leader.

14 I wanted to draw my colleagues'  
15 attention to Intro 995, which is a local law to  
16 amend the Administrative Code in relation to  
17 disclosure of tenant screening reports. And I  
18 want to thank Speaker Quinn for her support of  
19 this legislation.

20 You all know that tenant screening  
21 reports are one of the most powerful tools that  
22 are out there that are working against renters  
23 today, and yet they are almost completely  
24 unregulated.

25 Prospective tenants have no idea



1  
2 that one of these reports is being used when they  
3 apply to rent an apartment today, and they usually  
4 have no idea that their named in one of these  
5 reports, whether it is accurate or not.

6           Meanwhile, as we see what is coming  
7 down the pike, whether it's a wave of foreclosures  
8 bearing down upon us and the 70,000 rental units  
9 that are at risk because of faulty predatory  
10 equity deals, the number of tenants who will be  
11 affected by these reports will be much higher, and  
12 that demands the attention that we are proposing  
13 today in Intro 995.

14           Any tenant who goes to Housing  
15 Court, including those who exercise their rights  
16 against a landlord or those who are named in  
17 foreclosure proceedings, they may find themselves  
18 on these Do Not Rent lists, alongside renters with  
19 bad credit or a history of nonpayment.

20           It's unfair to tenants who are  
21 taking legal action to defend themselves and it's  
22 even more unfair to tenants who live in apartment  
23 buildings that are foreclosed by the bank as they  
24 are now frequently named in Housing Court suits.

25           So I ask my colleagues to take a

1  
2 close look at Intro 995 and I hope you will join  
3 us in supporting it.

4 Again, thank you, Speaker Quinn,  
5 and also, Council Member Comrie, who will be  
6 hearing this. Thank you.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
8 very much. Council Member Brewer.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you  
10 very much. I hope that you will join Dan  
11 Garodnick and I on 989, basically some for-hire  
12 vehicles have New Jersey plates and on it says New  
13 York City Taxi and Limousine Commission, so we're  
14 stating that if you have TLC on your license, it  
15 should be New York and not New Jersey.

16 Intro 990 is a personal information  
17 privacy proposal and it follows the lead of  
18 federal and state governments in protection of  
19 personal information. It limits the kinds of  
20 information agencies may collect, how the  
21 information may be used, and when such information  
22 may be destroyed.

23 When Speaker Quinn had the  
24 wonderful nightlife discussions, we had this kind  
25 of discussion about what can be collected on the

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2 cameras for the nightlife, it's along those lines.

3 Accessibility to Public Records

4 991. It requires the city to establish a  
5 centralized online repository of all publicly  
6 available information produced or retained by the  
7 city. It would make sure that such information is  
8 provided in a format that is useful as public  
9 information and there's lots more available if  
10 you're interested.

11 In terms of interns Aurora  
12 Gabrielle Gurlian [phonetic] is a Georgetown  
13 student with us for the summer, and James Shearer  
14 has been with us all year, New York University to  
15 be graduated, and he has a job in a law firm.  
16 Thank you very much.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.  
18 Council Member James.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: I remember  
20 the day I was a legal aid attorney standing in a  
21 courtroom in the spring of 1989 and four  
22 defendants were hauled into court. There was a  
23 lot of media, they were referred to as animals,  
24 the term Wilding came into being. Their names  
25 were Antron McCray, Kevin Richardson, Raymond

1  
2 Santana, Yusuf Salaam, and Kharey Wise. Everyone  
3 had pre-judge them as guilty; no one had afforded  
4 them justice under the law. All of them had  
5 referred to them as individuals who had committed  
6 this crime and including members of the  
7 prosecution and judges. Sometimes justice is  
8 blind; sometimes justice is blind for people of  
9 color; sometimes justice is blind for poor people  
10 in the city of New York; and clearly these four  
11 men were deprived justice in the state of New  
12 York.

13 I'm not proud of the fact that in  
14 New York State, we have the third-highest number  
15 of wrongful convictions. I'm not proud of the  
16 fact that New York State is associated with Texas  
17 and Illinois and other states where individuals  
18 have come forth and they have been exonerated as a  
19 result of DNA testing.

20 These young men have lost countless  
21 lives, their lives have been stolen through this  
22 heinous error in the judicial system, and we have  
23 a responsibility to these men and their families  
24 to do everything in our power to repay them,  
25 although I admit that no price is enough to

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compensate them for this injustice.

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The District Attorney of Manhattan, Morgenthau, admitted that his office made an error.

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And so now we, we, as a society, have got to pay the price, and so, on behalf of my constituents who have contacted me and urged me to speak up, I want to say to the families and to these young men that you should be compensated and I support you along with Council Member Barron. And hopefully one day this will never ever happen to any young men in the city of New York. Let's do the right thing. Thank you.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you very much. Next we have Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you. And I do want to echo and join in calling for everyone to sign on to Reso 1976 that Charles Barron has put forth. I think it's very important for all the reasons cited, it's a grave injustice, needs to be rectified in one way or another.

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I'm also asking my colleagues to

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2 sign on to Reso 1982, which is done with myself  
3 and Council Member Maria del Carmen Arroyo asking  
4 and urging President Obama to appoint Sonia  
5 Sotomayor, who is currently a judge on the U.S.  
6 Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit to the  
7 Supreme Court.

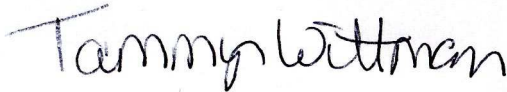
8                   And this has become a national  
9 campaign, our two senators from the state of New  
10 York have also written letters to President Obama  
11 on behalf of Sonia Sotomayor. We have an  
12 incredibly qualified woman from the Bronx with an  
13 incredible background and experience that really  
14 would be an asset clearly to the U.S. Supreme  
15 Court and, in appointing her would be another  
16 woman, not only that, but the first Latino  
17 appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court--Latina.

18                   So for those reasons, I would ask  
19 that my colleagues sign on to Reso 1982, once  
20 again, asking and urging President Obama to  
21 appoint Sonia Sotomayor to the U.S. Supreme Court.  
22 Thank you.

23                   COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
24 very much. Seeing no others on today's general  
25 discussion, this meeting stands in recess.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Tammy Wittman, 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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tammy Wittman". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Date June 15, 2009\_\_\_\_\_