

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

NYC COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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January 24, 2019
Start: 1:32 p.m.
Recess: 3:28 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: LAURIE CUMBO, MINORITY LEADER
ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

COREY JOHNSON
PUBLIC ADVOCATE

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

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

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

Invocation Delivered by: Reverend Dr. Allen
Pinckney, Jr. of Butler Memorial United Methodist
Church, 3920 Paulding Avenue, Bronx, N.Y. 10466

2 [sound check]

3 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Okay, me and
4 Margaret Chin, the long and the short of it. Here we
5 go. Here we go and Laurie Cumbo. [background
6 comments] So the City Council and I are very excited
7 to be presenting this proclamation to a familiar
8 fixture here at City Hall. You may have seen him
9 around with his signature hat and his vivacious
10 personality making sure that special events run
11 smoothly. Marty Preston has served this city for 34
12 years, 20 of them as Assistant Commissioner of
13 Special Events for DCAS. In 1985, he began as a
14 community coordinator at the Department of General
15 Service now known as DCAS, and worked his way up
16 holding various roles. Having worked through five
17 different mayors and City Council Speakers, Marty has
18 been an essential in the success and execution of
19 special events from mayoral press conferences to
20 producing 15 ticker tape parades, and through it all,
21 he's done it with such grace and with a sense of
22 humor. We're sad to see him go, but we're immensely
23 grateful for his outstanding service to the city.
24 So, I asked his son James Preston, who is also a
25 Council staffer and sergeant-at-arms, his daughter

2 Lanna, his son-in-law Bud, DCAS Commissioner Lisette
3 Camilo, former DCAS Commissioner Edna Wells Handy,
4 his DCAS colleagues and my Council colleagues to
5 gather around to present this proclamation, and the
6 City Clerk—the City Clerk can begin by reading the
7 Proclamation. How come nobody wants to stand next to
8 me? [laughter]

9 CLERK: Council City of New York

10 Proclamation. The New York City Council is proud to
11 honor Marty Presto upon his retirement in recognition
12 of 34 years of outstanding service to the Department
13 of Citywide Administrative Services also known as
14 DCAS and to the community; and

15 Whereas, Mr. Preston a lifelong resident
16 of Queens was inspired at a very young age by his
17 uncle's own passion for public service. After
18 working eight years for the New York State Assembly
19 he launched his city service on January 21, 1985. He
20 began as a community coordinator at the Department of
21 General Services, which later evolved into DCAS and
22 continued honing his expertise working his way up the
23 ranks in a variety of roles over the next 14 years;
24 and

2 Whereas, since 1999, Mr. Preston has
3 provided excellent services as the Assistant
4 Commissioner of Special Events for DCAS. In this
5 critical role he has been instrumental in
6 orchestrating countless events to support five
7 different Mayors and five Council Speakers. Despite
8 the ever changing needs in daily logistics of elected
9 officials, other city agencies, the press, the public
10 and others, he was unwavering in his dedication and
11 worked tirelessly to ensure his rapid response team
12 succeeded; and

13 Whereas, during Mr. Preston's 20 years as
14 the Assistant Commissioner of Special Events for
15 DCAS, he has been central to the success of
16 everything from daily mayoral press conferences,
17 special events at Gracie Mansion, and throughout the
18 five boroughs' eight mayoral inaugurations as well
19 both City Council Speaker and Mayoral State of the
20 City addressees. He also provided key support in the
21 days following the 9/11 terrorist attacks as well as
22 the annual 9/11 Memorial Services Mandate. In
23 addition to overseeing funerals for the--for New
24 York's finest and New York's bravest the NYPD and
25 FDNY Metal Days he has produced--he has helped to

2 produce 15 ticker tape parades usually in less than
3 48 hours. [background comments/laughter] and;

4 Whereas, although the events have varied
5 tremendously over the years, Mr. Preston's dedication
6 has remained consistent from the start. During his
7 distinguished tenure he has met many of the world's
8 most famous people including three popes and has been
9 an excellent and gracious conduit between elected
10 officials, the public and the press; and

11 Whereas, upon his retirement Mr. Preston
12 can be proud knowing that throughout his career he
13 has exemplified the best in public service and has
14 eared the esteem of his fellow New Yorkers.

15 Now, therefore, be it known that the
16 Council of the City New York gratefully honors Marty
17 Preston for his outstanding service to the Council,
18 to DCAS and to all his fellow New Yorkers and wishes
19 him continued success and happiness in all of his
20 future endeavors. Corey Johnson, Speaker for the
21 Entire Council, Laurie Cumbo Majority Leader, and
22 Robert Cornegy, Council Member 36th District,
23 Brooklyn. Applause/cheers.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: So, without
25 further ado, we're going to—you get to say whatever

2 you want to say, Marty. [background comments/
3 laughter]

4 MARTY PRESTON: I first want to thank the
5 City Council for this--

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: [interposing]
7 I'm going to put him on the clock. [laughter]

8 MARTY PRESTON: I want to thank the
9 Council for this wonderful honor. I want to thank
10 everybody here for coming. It's-it's really-my
11 heart-it makes my heart feel good. I want to thank
12 my family for putting up with me over all the years,
13 all the days I missed holidays and long hours. I
14 want to thank the people who gave me a start in this
15 business: Joanna Sacone (sp?), Jerry Skernick (sp?),
16 John Locisso and Ed Koch. I also want to thank the
17 teams that I worked with, the sound unit Mike Wayne,
18 Paul Ryan; Logistics, Freddy, Brian, James and Tommy;
19 Graphics, Stacey and Callie; Special Events
20 Internally Rebecca Seal. And I want to thank tommy
21 Newkirk because she was always my strength that kept
22 me straight, and to all of my fellow DCAS employees
23 I've worked with over the years thank you, and to all
24 the agencies I had to interact with to make events go
25 smooth. Thank you for helping. I also want to thank

2 Commissioner Handy for being here today. [cheers/
3 applause] [background comments/pause] [cheers/
4 applause] I like that. Thank you.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: He's going to
6 put that in the man cave.

7 MARTY PRESTON: You know dang well I am.
8 [laughter] [pause]

9 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Ladies and Gentlemen,
10 can I have your attention please. Quiet on the floor
11 please, quiet on the floor, please, quiet on the
12 floor. At this time please place all electronic
13 devices—all electronic devices to vibrate. Will all
14 non-Council employees, all non-Council employees
15 please leave the main floor of the Chambers. There's
16 additional seating upstairs in the balcony. Thank
17 you. [background comments/pause]

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Good afternoon
19 and welcome to the Stated Meeting of January 24th,
20 2019. I am Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo. Please
21 rise for the pledge of allegiance.

22 CLERK: All rise.

23 [Pledge of Allegiance]

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: You may be
25 seated. [background comments] Roll call.

1 NYC COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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2 CLERK: Adams

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Present.

4 CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Present.

6 CLERK: Ayala.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Present.

8 CLERK: Barron.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

10 CLERK: Borelli. Brannan.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Here.

12 CLERK: Cabrera.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

14 CLERK: Chin.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

16 CLERK: Cohen.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.

18 CLERK: Constantinides. Cornegy.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Presente.

20 CLERK: Deutsch.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here

22 CLERK: Diaz.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Presente.

24 CLERK: Dromm.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

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2 CLERK: Espinal.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Here.

4 CLERK: Eugene.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

6 CLERK: Gibson.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I am here.

8 CLERK: Gjonaj.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Present.

10 CLERK: Grodenchik.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Here.

12 CLERK: Holden.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here.

14 CLERK: Kallos.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.

16 CLERK: King.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Present.

18 CLERK: Koo.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

20 CLERK: Koslowitz.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

22 CLERK: Lancman.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Present.

24 CLERK: Lander. Levin.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

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2 CLERK: Levin. Cornegy.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Here.

4 CLERK: Levine.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

6 CLERK: Maisel.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Here.

8 CLERK: Menchaca.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.

10 CLERK: Miller.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Present.

12 CLERK: Moya.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Here.

14 CLERK: Perkins.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Here.

16 CLERK: Powers.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Here.

18 CLERK: Reynoso.

19 COUNCIL REYNOSO: Here.

20 CLERK: Richards.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

22 CLERK: Rivera.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Present.

24 CLERK: Rodriguez.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

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2 CLERK: Rose.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

4 CLERK: Rosenthal.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

6 CLERK: Salamanca.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.

8 CLERK: Torres.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Present.

10 CLERK: Treyger.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

12 CLERK: Ulrich.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.

14 CLERK: Vallone.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

16 CLERK: Van Bramer. Williams.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

18 CLERK: Yeger.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here.

20 CLERK: Matteo.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.

22 CLERK: Cumbo.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Here.

24 CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

25 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Here.

2 CLERK: Borelli.

3 COUNCIL BORELLI: Here.

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: We have a quorum.

5 We will now have today's invocation, which will be
6 delivered by Reverend Dr. Allen Pinckney, Jr. of
7 Butler Memorial United Methodist Church located at
8 3920 Paulding Avenue in the Bronx. Please rise.

9 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: All rise.

10 REVEREND DR. ALLEN PINCKNEY: Let us
11 pray. God of love and life, we gather together in
12 this new season to give you thanks for your bountiful
13 blessings and acknowledge you as the guide of our
14 pathway. We thank you for enable this August body to
15 navigate the political, economic and social landscape
16 of our city this past year with energy, enthusiasm
17 effort and integrity. As we enter this new year
18 2019, we pray that in the midst of their individual
19 concerns, agendas and objectives, there would be the
20 opportunity for unity and community in the midst of
21 diversity. We pray that love, mercy, justice and
22 peace will be the motivating factors that direct each
23 member realizing that for such a time as this what is
24 crucial is courageous, committed, creative and
25 compassionate leadership. We pray that each member

2 will remain humble as he or she conducts the sacred
3 task of representing the people of New York City who
4 come from all stations of life. You have raised up
5 these persons from various backgrounds to be servant
6 leaders in the hallow halls of this chamber to speak
7 truth authentically to advocate for the needs of the
8 least, the lost and the marginalized and to make a
9 difference in the lives of all New Yorkers. Touch
10 the hearts of all who have been called and given the
11 privilege of being in this leadership responsibility.
12 We pray for wisdom not foolishness, real
13 representation not rhetoric, compassion not
14 corruption, generosity not complacency, humility and
15 not haughtiness, integrity and not dishonesty,
16 truthfulness and not trickery and justice for all
17 God's people, not cruelty or tyranny. But most of
18 all we trust that despite all of our faults, flaws
19 and frailties, your will shall be done to the glory
20 of God, and now may your spirit guide, reside and
21 preside over the work of this body. In the name of
22 God, we love and serve, Amen.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Amen. [background
24 comments/pause] Thank you Reverend Dr. Allen
25 Pinckney, Jr. who recently just came back from Albany

2 where he also delivered a prayer of the legislative
3 body. We will now have Council Member King spread
4 the invocation.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Good morning
6 family. Today I call the Invocation onto the Stated
7 Meeting of January 24th onto the record of 2019. I
8 want to thank Pastor Pinckney for coming out today
9 and giving us words of wisdom, guidance and
10 inspiration. The church that he leads and presides
11 over he's been at Butler Memorial United Church for-
12 for-since 2011 to present. Under his leadership is
13 congregation continues a renovation project, and
14 we're looking forward to this 8-is 800 members who
15 joined the church that's been built in our
16 neighborhood. He's a graduate of South Carolina State
17 University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in
18 Social work. Dr. Pinckney received his Masters
19 Divinity Degree from Union Theological Seminary in
20 New York and his Doctor of Ministry of Distinction
21 from Drew Theological Seminary in Madison New Jersey.
22 A community builder, a community activist, a great
23 man, a father, a husband a great man who moves
24 throughout or neighborhood, and I've got to say again
25 tank you because the first-the first job I had as a

2 youth worker for DYCD summer job was working at
3 Butler Memorial Church when I was [bubble sound]
4 years old, and it was a great first experience for me
5 to learn more about work and service for our
6 neighbors. So, again, Pastor, I thank you, and we
7 welcome you to City Hall, and keep up the wonderful
8 work of being a servant of Christ. Thank you. God
9 bless.

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
11 much, and we will now have the adoption of minutes by
12 Council Member Grodenchik.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Thank you,
14 Majority Leader Cumbo. I move that the minutes of
15 the Stated Meeting of December 11, 2018 be adopted as
16 printed and this is also a great moment for me
17 because Pastor Pinckney if he's the same Pastor
18 Pinckney, grew up in Pomonok Houses with me, and I
19 haven't seen him in about 40 yeas. So, we're going
20 to have a reunion right now on the floor of the City
21 Council. [laughter] So-so--[applause]

22 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Wow.
23 [cheers/applause]

24 COUNCIL MEMBER: Get a room, Barry, get a
25 room. [laughter, background comments]

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Pastor, you're always
3 welcome. Barry, sit down. [background comment] Thank
4 you for the adoption of minutes, Council Member
5 Grodenchik. Thank you so very much.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it keep it down
7 please.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: We will now go
9 onto Messages and Papers from the Mayor.

10 CLERK: None.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Communication
12 from city, county and borough offices.

13 CLERK: None.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Petitions and
15 communications.

16 CLERK: None.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Land Use Call-
18 Ups.

19 CLERK: MM 127 through M 129, Various
20 applications.

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on a call--

22 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [interposing]
23 [shushing for quiet]

24 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on a call-up
25 vote and at this time I'd ask for a roll call vote on

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2 all of today's Land Use Call-ups. We're only voting
3 right now on Land Use Call-Ups

4 CLERK: Adams.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Aye.

6 CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Aye.

8 CLERK: Ayala.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye.

10 CLERK: Barron.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye.

12 CLERK: Borelli.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye.

14 CLERK: Brannan.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.

16 CLERK: Cabrera.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

18 CLERK: Chin.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

20 CLERK: Cohen.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

22 CLERK: Deutsch.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Presente.

24 [background comments] Aye.

25 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

1 NYC COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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2 CLERK: Diaz.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Mr. Speaker, only
4 on Land Use, yes. [laughs]

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Only on Land Use
7 yes. [laughter.

8 CLERK: Dromm.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

10 CLERK: Espinal.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.

12 CLERK: Eugene.

13 COUNCIL EUGENE: I vote aye.

14 CLERK: Gibson.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I vote aye.

16 CLERK: GJONAJ.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: [off mic] Aye.

18 CLERK: Grodenchik.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye.

20 CLERK: Holden.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye.

22 CLERK: Kallos. King.

23 CLERK: King.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye on all.

25 Clerk: Koo.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye on all.

3 CLERK: Koslowitz.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

5 CLERK: Lancman. Lander.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye. .

7 CLERK: Levin.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

9 CLERK: Levine.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

11 CLERK: Maisel.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: With permission,

13 I'd like to vote on all Land Use Call-Ups and coupled

14 items on the General Order Calendar, and all

15 resolutions and I vote yes.

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission

17 granted.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Thank you.

19 CLERK: Menchaca.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.

21 CLERK: Miller.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.

23 CLERK: MOYA.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Yes.

25 CLERK: Perkins. Powers.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye.

3 CLERK: Reynoso.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.

5 CLERK: Richards.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.

7 CLERK: Rivera.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye.

9 CLERK: Rodriguez. Rose.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

11 CLERK: Rosenthal.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.

13 CLERK: Salamanca.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye.

15 CLERK: Torres. Treyger.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.

17 CLERK: Ulrich.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Permission to

19 explain my vote. Just kidding. I vote aye.

20 [laughter]

21 CLERK: Vallone.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

23 CLERK: Williams.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

25 CLERK: Yeger.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye.

3 CLERK: Matteo

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Aye.

5 Clerk: Cumbo.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I vote aye.

7 CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

8 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: I vote aye.

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

10 Today's Land Use Call-ups are adopted by a vote of 42
11 in the affirmative and 0 negatives, and we will now
12 have Communication from Speaker Corey Johnson.

13 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Good afternoon.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [shushing for
15 quiet]

16 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I want to thank you all
17 for being here with us this Thursday. We are--

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [interposing]

19 Quiet in the Chamber.

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

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: We have a busy agenda
23 ahead of us this afternoon, but before we begin I'd
24 like to take a moment to remember NYPD Officer Brian
25 Kessler who died in a car crash last Wednesday

2 morning. Brian was 28 years old, and recently
3 graduated from the Police Academy and was also
4 recently engaged. I would like to extend my
5 condolences to on behalf of the entire City Council
6 to Brian's fiancé Denise, his family and his friends.
7 He died coming home from work at One Police Plaza. I
8 also want to take a moment to remember the victims of
9 a racist attack on Chinese workers at Seaport Buffet
10 in Brooklyn. Fufai Pan, Thang Kheong Ng Tsz Mat Pun.
11 Those are the three individuals who were killed. We
12 just go word about Mr. Pun's death today, this
13 morning. It is a terrible tragedy. Hate has no
14 place in New York City, and I also want to say that
15 this Sunday, January 27th is—the world will pause for
16 International Holocaust Remembrance Day. On that day
17 we'll remember the six million Jews who lost their
18 lives. The scale of destruction and decimation is
19 something we can't even really imagine. One-third of
20 the global Jewish population was killed including 1.5
21 million Jewish children. The world lost great rabbis
22 and brilliant scholars and beloved synagogues and
23 Yeshivas. We will also remember the millions of
24 others who were murdered, people of different
25 ethnicities, and religions and sexual orientations.

2 We will never forget the Holocaust, and we will teach
3 our children so that history never repeats. The
4 Council will vote on a resolution today in honor of
5 Holocaust Remembrance day. Let us always remember
6 all of those lives lost in the Holocaust. And now, I
7 would ask everyone to please rise and take a moment
8 of silence in honor of Officer Kessler, and the other
9 victims that we are remembering today. [moment of
10 silence] Thank you all. So, we've got some big
11 items to share today. First, I'd like to belatedly
12 congratulate one of our Assistant Deputy Directors in
13 the Legislative Division Smita Deshmukh on the birth
14 of her first child a baby girl on December 14th.
15 Congratulations to Smita on the arrival [applause] of
16 a new beautiful baby. Next, I'm proud to announce
17 that our colleagues Council Member Carlos Menchaca
18 and Carlina Rivera as Co-Chairs of the Council's
19 newly created 20/20 Census Task Force, the new
20 created task force and the entire City Council are
21 committed to ensuring every New Yorker is counted in
22 the upcoming 2020 Census while the Federal
23 administration continues to undermine and intimidate
24 immigrant communities across the nation, the City
25 Council will do what's necessary to get a complete

2 and accurate account of our population. I know that
3 Council Members Menchaca and Rivera will work
4 diligently to help achieve our goal. This is open to
5 anyone, anyone who wants to participate should
6 participate in this task force, and I want to
7 congratulate them both. Now, diving into the agenda
8 for today the Council will vote on the following two
9 Article XI Property Tax Exemptions both of which are
10 in Council Member Rodriguez's district. One is
11 located on Sherman Avenue and the other is located on
12 Fort George Avenue. The Council will vote on the
13 following Land Use Applications, an application to
14 facilitate the preservation of hundreds of units of
15 affordable housing at Waterside Plaza in Council
16 Member Powers' district, and an application—and
17 that's a big deal that one. He's worked for a very
18 long time, very important that building. I want to
19 congratulate Keith on that, and also an application
20 to-to help build 52 units of affordable housing on
21 Third Avenue in Council Member Torres' district in
22 the Bronx. The Council will vote on the following
23 legislation: Introduction 1143 sponsored by our
24 Finance Chair Danny Dromm would create three new
25 types of payment agreement plans to help low-income

2 homeowners who earn less than \$58,400 a year to be
3 able to afford their property taxes and avoid being
4 included in a lien sale. One of the payment
5 agreement plans would give low-income seniors the
6 option to divert some or all of their property tax
7 payments until the property is sold or otherwise
8 transferred at which point the city would be paid the
9 taxes it is owed through the proceeds of the sale.
10 This is the first time New York City has offered
11 anything like this, and it will go a long way to help
12 seniors on a fixed income. The other two agreements
13 would be available to other low-income homeowners to
14 enter into payment agreements for property tax
15 arrears. The installment amounts would be based on
16 the percentage of their income, and this will help
17 them stay out of default. Affordability is one of
18 the biggest issues that our city is facing, and it's
19 imperative that we come up with creative ways to help
20 people stay here and afford their homes, and this
21 program is one way to do that. I want to thank the
22 staff who worked on this Rebecca Chasen, Emery Edev,
23 Stephanie Ruiz, Davis Winslow and Masis (sp?)
24 Sarkissian. I want to thank them all. Introduction
25 1038 sponsored by Council Member Barry Grodenchik

2 would increase the threshold for an income producing
3 property is required to provide a certified statement
4 of income and expense in order to receive an
5 assessment reduction by the Tax Commission from an
6 assessed value of \$1 million to an assessed value of
7 \$5 million. Going forward, the bill would index
8 these threshold to changes in over assessed value in
9 Class 2 and Class 4 properties. I want to thank the
10 staff again who worked on this Rebecca Chasen, Noah
11 Bric and Masis Sarkissian. Resolution 673 sponsored
12 by Council Member Chaim Deutsch, would recognize
13 January 27, 2019 as Holocaust Remembrance Day and the
14 week beginning on January 27, 2019 as a citywide week
15 of Holocaust education in New York City. I'm proud
16 the Council is acknowledging this incredibly
17 important day and I want to thank Council Member
18 Deutsch-Deutsch for this and the staff who worked on
19 it Harbania Housia. Introduction 897 sponsored by
20 Council Member Daneek Miller would create additional
21 penalties for commuter van services and van license
22 holder that allow their vans to be operated by a
23 driver without a commuter van driver's license, and I
24 want to thank the staff who worked on that Elliott
25 Linn. Elliott Linn also helped on Introduction 1070

2 sponsored by Council Member Francisco Moya, which
3 would require the Taxi and Limousine Commission to
4 make rules regarding financial agreements drivers
5 enter into to obtain for-hire vehicles. This has to
6 do with predatory leasing companies. Councilman Moya
7 has been working on this since he got to the Council.
8 I'm glad we're finally moving this bill today, and I
9 also want to congratulate him on a big day yesterday
10 that he had in Albany with the DREAM Act passing. He
11 had championed that for a very, very long time. So,
12 congratulations, Francisco. Introduction 1118
13 sponsored by Council Member Chaim Deutsch would
14 require the Department of Veterans Services to submit
15 an annual report to the Council and post on its
16 website information about its personnel, and the
17 service provided. This report would also include an
18 accounting of the number of veterans who have
19 inquired about the department's services, those who
20 received services from the Department of Veterans
21 Services, as well as how veterans and their families
22 learn about the services provided by the department I
23 want to thank the staff who worked on this Nazha
24 Chowdhury, Alex Washington and Andrea Vasquez.
25 Introduction 1325 sponsored by Council Member Steven

2 Levin would allow public officials to create stand-
3 alone trusts to take donation to pay their legal
4 expenses or those of their staff in certain criminal
5 and civil matters. The law would set a donation
6 limit of \$5,000 per donor and would place
7 restrictions on who could donate to a legal defense
8 trust. All donations would have to be reported to
9 the Conflict of Interest Board and be posted online.
10 I want to thank the staff who worked on this Brad
11 Reed, Emily Forgione, Elizabeth Cronk and Zach
12 Harris. Introduction 1234 sponsored by Council Member
13 Mark Levine would create an office for the Prevention
14 of Hate Crimes to coordinate response and outreach
15 among city agencies when hate crimes occur. I want
16 to thank the staff who worked on this, Maxwell
17 Canfor, and Maxwell also worked on Introduction 1261
18 sponsored by Council Member Chaim Deutsch, which
19 require the newly created Office for the Prevention
20 of Hate Crimes to conduct educational-educational
21 outreach and trainings. These two bills are needed
22 now more than ever, these hate crimes bills. 2018
23 was the safest record-safest year on record in New
24 York City, but at the same time as we had he lowest
25 number of homicides, we had basically the highest

2 number of hate crimes, a huge rise. Our great
3 strength as a city is our diversity, which is why I'm
4 looking forward to the Council working with this
5 office to help hate crimes from happening and to make
6 sure we have the proper response. Hate has no place
7 anywhere, but especially not here in New York City,
8 the most diverse city in the world. Introduction 542
9 sponsored by Council Member Rory Lancman would
10 require the Mayor's Office to end Domestic and gender
11 based violence, to provide individuals receiving
12 services at Family Justice Centers with service
13 satisfaction surveys. The centers would also post a
14 sign about the availability of the surveys in a
15 conspicuous place and the Office would be required to
16 submit to the Speaker of the Council and post on its
17 website the survey questions and all the survey data.
18 I want to thank Brenda McKinney who worked on that
19 bill. Introduction 351 sponsored by Council Member
20 Helen Rosenthal would require the same office, the
21 Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender Based
22 Violence to submit to the Mayor and to the Speaker of
23 the Council and post on its website an annual report
24 detailing information about the city's domestic
25 violence initiatives, indicators and factors. The

2 bill also requires the NYPD to submit an annual
3 report that includes data on chronic domestic
4 violence complaints, chronic offenders and NYPD
5 outreach efforts to survivors. Finally, the bill
6 updates the name of the Mayor's Office to End
7 Domestic and Gender Based Violence in the
8 Administrative Code and in the city Charter. I want
9 to thank the staff who worked on this Brenda McKinney
10 and Michelle Lee. Introduction 371 sponsored by
11 Council Member Rafael Salamanca would require that
12 the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender Based
13 Violence to conduct outreach to cosmetologists, and
14 that will include trainings, an online toolkit to
15 recognize potential signs of domestic violence in
16 clients and information about resources for
17 survivors. The Mayor's Office to End Domestic and
18 Gender Based Violence would also be required to
19 report annually on this outreach. This is a really
20 creative approach to a problem of huge scale in New
21 York City which is domestic and gender based
22 violence. Hairdressers and barbers and people who
23 work in nail salons they are in a unique position to
24 see signs of violence, and I am so glad that Council
25 Member Salamanca's bill is going to give them tools

2 and knowledge to help address this issue. I want to
3 thank everyone who worked on this including Rafael
4 and his team as well as Brenda McKinney from our
5 Legislative Team. Resolution 655 sponsored by
6 Council Member Daneek Miller would call upon the
7 Mayor of the City of New York to grant sick leave to
8 all civilian officers and employees of the city of
9 New York seeking treatment for a qualifying World
10 Trade Center condition. I am really, really glad we
11 are doing this today. Many of the men and women who
12 helped out at Ground Zero after 9/11 ended up sick
13 and as we hear at almost every single stated meeting
14 when I stand up here and previous speakers have stood
15 up here week after week we list the names of first
16 responders and firefighters and police officers and
17 EMS workers who have lost their life from 9/11
18 related illnesses, and it is important and just that
19 anyone who was at Ground Zero receive the sick time
20 that they deserve. So, I'm glad we're doing this. I
21 want to thank the staff who worked on this Kevin
22 Katowski and Audrey Son. That is today's agenda. I
23 look forward to proceeding with today's votes. Thank
24 you very much Madam Majority Leader.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: We will now move
3 into discussion of General Orders. Seeing none, we
4 now have Report of Special Committees.

5 CLERK: None.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Reports of
7 Standing Committees.

8 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
9 Finance, Intros 1038-A and 1143-A Property
10 Assessments.

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

13 CLERK: Preconsidered Reso 722,
14 Transparency Reso.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General
16 Orders.

17 CLERK: Preconsidered LU 324 and Reso 72
18 and LU 325 and Reso 729, Tax Exemptions.

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General
20 Orders.

21 CLERK: Report of the Committee on For-
22 Hire Vehicles Intros 897-A and 1070-A commuter vans
23 and for-hire vehicles.

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

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2 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
3 Governmental Operations, Intro 1325-A, Legal Defense
4 Trusts.

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

7 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land
8 Use, LU 310 and Reso 730 and LU 311 and Reso 731,
9 Waterside Plaza.

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General
11 Orders.

12 CLERK: LU 312 and Reso 733, sidewalk
13 café.

14 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General
15 Orders.

16 CLERK: LU 313 and Reso 733 4697 Third
17 Avenue.

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General
19 Orders.

20 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Public
21 Safety, Intro 1234-A and 1261-A Hate Crime.

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

24

25

2 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
3 Veterans Intro 1118-A, Department of Veterans
4 Services.

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

7 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Women
8 Intros 351-A and 371-B Domestic Violence Reporting
9 and Outreach.

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

12 CLERK: Intro 542-A, Service Satisfaction
13 Surveys.

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

16 CLERK: On the General Order Calendar,
17 Intro 720 Site Safety Training.

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Laid Over.

19 CLERK: Resolution appointing various
20 persons commissioner of deeds.

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General
22 Orders, and this time I'm asking for a roll call vote
23 on all of the items on today's General Order
24 Calendar.

25 CLERK: Williams.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: with permission
3 I'd liked to vote on all coupled items on the General
4 Order Calendar and all resolutions.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
6 granted.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you. I'm
8 abstaining on Intro 1525 and Intro 897 and I'm voting
9 aye on all the rest. Congrats to all my colleagues.

10 CLERK: Kallos.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Permission to
12 vote on Land Use Call-Ups.

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
14 granted.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I vote aye on
16 all.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: I congratulate all
19 of my colleagues who are passing great legislation
20 today. I do vote aye on all.

21 CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Aye on all.

23 CLERK: Ayala.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye.

25 CLERK: Barron.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye.

3 CLERK: Borelli.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye on all except
5 Intro 1325.

6 CLERK: Brannan.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: [off mic] Aye.

8 CLERK: Cabrera.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

10 CLERK: Chin.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye on all.

12 CLERK: Cohen.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: [off mic] Aye.

14 CLERK: Constantinides. Cornegy.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I vote aye.

16 CLERK: Matteo.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: No on 1324, aye on
18 the rest.

19 CLERK: Deutsch.

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

22 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
23 granted.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Thank you. I'd
25 like to speak on my bill, Resolution 673. For the

2 first time we acknowledge International Holocaust
3 Remembrance—Remembrance Day in New York City on
4 January 27th. Additionally, it will establish a city
5 week of Holocaust Education urging educators and
6 parents to broach the subject with their students and
7 children. Growing up as the son of Holocaust
8 survivors it was engrained in my identity that my
9 parents had lived unimaginable horrors although like
10 many survivors they didn't often talk about
11 specifics. Their experiences during the war had a
12 significant impact on our family. Knowledge of those
13 atrocities—atrocities that my parents and millions of
14 others suffered through just a generation ago is ever
15 present in my mind. It is an extremely person
16 endeavor of mine ensure that our children and our
17 great—and our grandchildren and the future
18 generations never forget what happened during the
19 Holocaust. We all know the saying: Those who do not
20 learn history are doomed to repeat it. Baseless
21 hatred, unfounded bias and antisemitism were all
22 factors in what eventually led to the genocide of six
23 million Jews. If we want to equip the next
24 generation with the tools they need to build a
25 peaceful future, then we need to educate them about

2 the consequences of prejudice and mistreating others.
3 One of the most frightening surveys to come out in
4 the last few months indicated that 66% of American
5 millennials don't know what Auschwitz is.
6 Furthermore, 31% believe that two million or fewer
7 Jews were killed during the Holocaust and 45% could
8 not even name one concentration camp. This certainly
9 indicates that we have our work cut out for us. As
10 the generation that lived through the war is
11 dwindling, it is more important than ever that we
12 face this crisis head on. Because it is needed in a
13 crisis, we cannot afford to lose the memories. We
14 cannot afford to let the knowledge of what occurred
15 to be forgotten. I thank my co-sponsors on this bill
16 and my fellow members for working together to ensure
17 this important outreach is done throughout our city,
18 and I encourage my colleagues to vote aye in support
19 of this critically important resolution, and
20 permission if I could just speak about my Intro 1261.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Briefly.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Thank you.

23 Intro 1261. The rises in hate crimes across our city
24 and country has been extremely distressing
25 developments in recent years. In 2018, hate crimes

2 overall rose by 5% in New York City, and so it is
3 more important than ever that we as elected officials
4 take a leadership role in promoting tolerance and
5 understanding. Intro 1261 will require the city to
6 do educational outreach and training within our
7 community to educate people about the impact and
8 effect of hate crimes. The bill would require the
9 proposed Hate Crime Prevention Office to coordinate
10 with relevant agencies, interfaith organizations and
11 community groups to implement effective outreach on
12 the subject. In addition, Intro 1261 will also
13 require the Hate Crime Prevention Office to work with
14 the Department of Education to develop informational
15 material for New York City public school students to
16 learn about the consequences of baseless-of baseless
17 hatred. The bill in particular is fitting for my
18 district as we experienced a fatal attack just last
19 week on a local family restaurant where three people
20 were killed for one simple reason: They were Asian-
21 Americans. Our city is a melting pot, home of New
22 Yorkers from 150 different countries. We speak more
23 than 80 different languages, and 40% of New Yorkers
24 are immigrants. Mutual respect and understanding of
25 people with different ethnicities, religions and

2 belief systems can go a long way towards creating a
3 more peaceful, tolerant New York City. So, I want to
4 thank once again all my colleagues and thank you very
5 much.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: And how do you
7 vote.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: I vote no on
9 1325 and aye on the reset. Thank you

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

11 CLERK: Diaz.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Yes on all.

13 CLERK: Dromm.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

15 CLERK: Espinal.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I vote aye on
17 all.

18 CLERK: Eugene.

19 COUNCIL EUGENE: I vote aye.

20 CLERK: Gibson.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Permission to
22 briefly explain my vote.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
24 granted.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you, Madam
3 Majority Leader. I'd like to congratulate all of my
4 colleagues today who are passing very important
5 legislation. I particularly want to recognize
6 Council Member Deutsch and Council Member Levine for
7 their recognition of the rise in hate crimes in this
8 city and to ensure that we continue to create safe
9 space in our city where no one feels discriminated
10 against. I appreciate these two pieces of
11 legislation that will not only provide more
12 educational outreach but will truly establish a
13 separate individual office of the prevention of hate
14 crimes. I think it's a very important piece of
15 legislation considering the climate in which we're
16 living and working in today. So, I wanted to
17 congratulate my two colleagues. I will be voting aye
18 on all, and I wanted to take a point of personal
19 privilege as a former Assemblymember with our
20 colleague Council Member Francisco Moya joining the
21 Speaker and congratulating Council Member Moya on the
22 historic and incredible passage of the New York State
23 DREAM Act. As a former Assemblymember, when it was
24 introduced in 2018, I proudly voted yes every year, and
25 many of us did not believe that this day would come

2 when we would have such a collaborative fashion where
3 both houses in Albany agreed that the New York State
4 DREAM Act is the best possible mechanism and pathway
5 of success for so many dreamers across this city that
6 desire to obtain and achieve a quality higher
7 education. So I'm so proud of Council Member Moya
8 for the great job he did and look forward to working
9 with him on many other issues, and I vote aye on all.
10 Thank you.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so much
12 and congratulations Council Member Moya.

13 CLERK: Gjonaj.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Permission to
15 explain my vote.

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
17 granted.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: On Intro 1325
19 supportive. I would hope that—and I'll be
20 introducing legislation on LS requests that will
21 extend the legal defenses trusts to allow us to be
22 plaintiffs in legal actions moving forward. In
23 retrospect to the resolution on remembering the
24 Holocaust, I just want to remind everyone that during
25 the dark times Albania was that one country that not

2 a single Jewish life was lost and actually more Jews
3 lived there after World War II than before the World
4 War begin. In remembrance of that, this January 31st
5 at the United Nations we will be hosting an event
6 along side many community leaders and organizations
7 the rescue of Jews in Albania during the Holocaust
8 will be held at the United Nations on January 31st.
9 I'm inviting all of you to attend. I vote aye on all.
10 Thank you.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

12 CLERK: Grodenchik.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: With thanks
14 to my colleagues for indulging my reunion with
15 Reverend Pinckney after 46 years, I vote aye on all.

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

17 CLERK: Holden.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye on all.

19 CLERK: King.

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

22 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
23 granted.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Thank you.

25 Quickly, I am voting aye on all, but I want to say

2 for Reso 655, it's something that we all should be
3 supporting in every way we can after it leaves these
4 halls urging the Administration to support this
5 resolution because our first responders, everyone who
6 came to their life, who endured all the horrific
7 action of 9/11, they should not be worrying about
8 whether or not they're able to provide for their
9 families, have a meal or get healthcare because they
10 don't have unlimited sick time. You've got to do the
11 right thing by the people who save lives on that day,
12 and we're asking—I'm asking everyone please lend your
13 voice to the Administration and let them know we need
14 to act swiftly on this. Too many people are dying.
15 Too many families are falling apart just because they
16 don't have the proper sick time to take care of their
17 health and their families, and I vote aye on all.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

19 Clerk: Koo.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

21 CLERK: Koslowitz.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

23 CLERK: Lancman.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye

25 CLERK: Lander.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Request
3 permission to explain my vote.

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
5 granted.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you very
7 much, Madam Majority Leader. I'm voting aye on all
8 today including Intro 1325, and I'm not shying away
9 from my support for this bill sponsored by Council
10 Member Levin. I-I think it's the right thing for us
11 to be doing and I do want to explain why. I am so
12 proud to sit in this chamber today along with Council
13 Member Debi Rose who I believe is really the epitome
14 of a Council Member with integrity and decency and
15 who does things right. As some of you may remember,
16 she was targeted for what I believe were political
17 reasons for a completely bogus prosecution and bogus
18 is a kind word. If you get me off the floor, I'll
19 tell you what I really think. But the judge at the
20 end of the day found it completely unwarranted and
21 dismissed every single charge. We the people spent
22 \$500,000 of our tax money on that prosecution. That
23 prosecutor we paid for with public funds to prosecute
24 a totally bogus case against her, and is we're going
25 to say—we're going to use public funds to prosecute

2 you, but not only will we not pay for your defense,
3 we won't even allow you to fundraise legitimately for
4 your defense, I really think would be inappropriate
5 and irresponsible. So, I think 1325 is the right
6 thing to do and I—I think there's been some
7 controversy and people are kind of slinking away from
8 it. I thought it was better to stand up and explain
9 why I think it's the right thing to do. I vote aye
10 on all. Thank you.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

12 CLERK: Levin.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I vote aye on all.

14 CLERK: Levine.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Madam Majority
16 Leader, permission to briefly explain my vote.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
18 granted.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you very
20 much. I will be voting aye on all, and particularly
21 I'm excited about Intro 1234, which would establish a
22 Mayoral Office to Combat Hate Crimes. We have an
23 alarming rise in the number of hate crimes not just
24 nationally, but here in New York City beginning
25 almost precisely at the start of the 2015

2 Presidential Election, and we need to up our response
3 to this scourge by doing what we've done for other
4 challenges the city has faced whether it is the
5 battle against domestic violence, coordinating film
6 production or even planning for resiliency, and that
7 is create a Mayoral level office, which can bring
8 together every city agency that needs to work in
9 consort and in combatting this challenge. Not only
10 the NYPD but the Department of Education for a
11 curriculum to—to teach tolerance, the Department of
12 Health and Mental Hygiene who cold provide counselors
13 in the wake of these incidents, the Human Right
14 Commission, which has a mandate for promoting
15 intergroup relations, the Community Affairs Unit,
16 which is responsible for outreach to different ethnic
17 and religious communities around the city and a
18 number of other agencies, which thanks to this
19 legislation will be coming under the umbrella of the
20 single mayoral office for the Prevention of Hate
21 Crimes. I want to thank the Chair of the Public
22 Safety Committee Donovan Richards for his support of
23 this measure, the Chair of the City Council's Jewish
24 Caucus Chaim Deutsch, who has also been instrumental

2 in this passage, and I want to urge my colleagues to
3 vote yes again on Intro 1234. Thank you.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA:

5 CLERK: Menchaca.

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

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
9 granted.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you. I-I
11 rise to say thank you to my colleagues for a lot of
12 the legislation. Whether it's hate crimes or
13 domestic violence, I think that we have created some
14 incredible innovative laws. I do though rise with
15 some incredibly conflicted and mixed feelings about
16 1325-A. They're mixed because it is connected to
17 people we know, and people that we fought next to and
18 I join in—in the words described in the feelings that
19 Brad Lander gave about the atrocious, disgusting
20 legal battles that our colleague Debi Rose went
21 through and her staff. That should have never
22 happened, and I will continue to fight for anyone
23 that is in that situation. Unfortunately, this bill
24 creates a lot of conflict for me because it's come up
25 really quick and I'm feeling uncomfortable about how—

2 how it's landed. I think the-the pieces and I'll
3 talk later about some of the pieces of the bill, but
4 unfortunately this bill both brings an opportunity
5 for compassion for someone that we care about and
6 that we will fight for, and Debi we're with you. But
7 it also brings opportunity for corruption for folks
8 that are not too far away from this-this space here
9 who I think will use it in the unfortunate nature of
10 corruption. I think that we need to solve this
11 problem, and I do not think this bill is going to do
12 that holistically. I vote no on 1325-A and aye on
13 the rest. Thank you.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

15 CLERK: Miller.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Permission to
17 explain my vote.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
19 granted.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you very
21 much. Today this body will vote on legislation that
22 builds on regulation structure of 2017 Commute Van
23 Safety Act, which has regulated the growth of the
24 commuter van industry's stiffing penalties for road
25 commuter van operators and requires yearly reporting

2 on computer vans—commuter van safety. 897 will
3 demand real accountability for companies and vehicle
4 owners by expressly prohibiting anyone not licensed
5 to operate these vehicles or ever get behind the
6 wheel again. Failure to-to-to adhere to this
7 stipulation will initially result in a penalty of
8 \$500, temporary suspension, and a one-year probation.
9 A second violation will result in revocation of
10 holders of license as well as mandatory 15-day
11 suspension. A third such violation within that
12 period will result in suspension of service and
13 revoking licenses. While dollar vans are a popular
14 mode of transportation in communities throughout the
15 city, they continue to be plagued by nagging safety
16 concerns, unsafe commute—for unsafe for commuters,
17 and different from the traditional transportation
18 that we come to expect. On two separate occasions a
19 15-year-old in my district was arrested by NCO
20 officers for operating a legally licensed commuter
21 van. Other public well publicized incidents within
22 the industry include violence, sometimes deadly
23 disputes between rival drivers and companies, fatal
24 collisions and other motorists as well as pedestrian
25 high speed chases while fleeing unlawful or lawful

2 summonses. This is the type of criminality that
3 we've come to expect, and this legislation will
4 certainly address. Despite possessing the authority
5 to regulate dollar van companies, the TLC continues
6 to experience serious challenges in the efforts to
7 reign in the unlawful activity making the legislation
8 vital [bell] to strengthening the root—and being able
9 to root out these bad actors. And we will continue
10 to advocate, to target this senseless behavior
11 amongst these operators and look forward to the
12 passage of this legislation today. I want to thank
13 the Speaker for supporting this and—and Reverend Diaz
14 and for the For-Hire Vehicle for-for—

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [interposing]

16 Thank you.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: --moving this
18 forward as well, and look forward to my colleagues
19 voting in the affirmative. Thank you.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
21 Council Member.

22 CLERK: MOYA.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Permission to
24 explain my vote, Madam Majority Leader.

25

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
3 granted.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Thank you. I
5 wanted to talk about this bill that will provide for-
6 hire vehicle drivers with consumer protections that
7 they need not just to survive in the city, but to
8 thrive in it. Intro 1070-A will allow for the
9 creation of a Driver's Bill of Rights that provides a
10 clear plan language explanation of their lease,
11 rental, or condition purchase agreement. This will
12 prevent predatory lenders from overwhelming for-hire
13 drivers with mountains of paper work that confuse bad
14 deals like subprime leases. This bill was inspired
15 by the unscrupulous behavior of certain companies
16 that steer drivers into subprime loans. Those deals
17 effectively handcuff drivers to steering wheels of
18 financial sink holes. Just the other day I heard
19 about a driver who was offered a lease on a two-a
20 2018 Toyota Camry. The deal was \$994 down, \$369 per
21 week for 42 months. That drive would end up spending
22 about \$65,000 for a car that costs about a third of
23 that, and after all that, the driver will never own
24 it. Working class drives cannot get ahead if they're
25 preyed on like this. This legislation is centered on

2 protecting drivers at a time when they are, in dire
3 financial positions too often pushing them to a grave
4 and tragic decisions. I will continue to work hand-
5 in-hand with the TLC to make sure drivers are
6 protected from predatory dealers. I also want to
7 take this opportunity to thank the Independent
8 Driver's Guild for their support in this effort to
9 protect drivers. I want to thank the Speaker and all
10 of my colleagues, and I will be voting in the
11 affirmative. Thank you.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

13 CLERK: Powers.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Permission to
15 explain my vote.

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
17 granted.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. I
19 want to thank the Speaker for his kind words earlier.
20 I am here to speak in support of Waterside Plaza,
21 which is a land use item on the calendar today that
22 we're voting for. I want to welcome as well—I see
23 here up in the—in the rafters there the Tenants
24 Association President Janet Handell (sp?) who for the
25 last year has been working with myself and the

2 Management of Waterside and HPD to come up with a
3 deal that would preserve the long-term affordable
4 housing at Waterside Plaza. Waterside is a wonderful
5 community that was a former Mitchell Lama and like
6 many exited leaving the tenants uncertain about their
7 future, and with high rents as a result. In the last
8 year we have spent many hours together trying to
9 fight to preserve and reduce and address the high
10 rent burden at Waterside. Today, we've gotten to a
11 place where I think all the residents can be happy
12 because in one way or another their lives are going
13 to be much better and their home will continue to be
14 their home for the future and those units will be
15 held as affordable for 75 years. So I'm very proud
16 of this. It was the first ULURP that had come
17 through my office—through my office. I'm really
18 appreciative of Janet and all the tenants for their
19 work to—to improve their community and help their
20 community. Dick Ravitch the former Lieutenant
21 Governor who was the landlord and then worked very
22 closely with us to make sure that we addressed all
23 the issues at hand, and I want to thank my staff as
24 well Emily, Ben and the others who have put in a lot
25 of hours to make sure that the residents' concerns

2 and their calls are get addressed, and that we come
3 up with a deal that really gets to the heart of the
4 matter here. So, I'm very proud to cast a vote. I-
5 for that and for all the items here as well today,
6 and thank you to Janet and all the Waterside tenants
7 for all work. Thanks so much.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

9 CLERK: Reynoso. Permission to explain
10 my vote.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
12 granted.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Thank you. In
14 recognition of the Holocaust Remembrance Day, I also
15 want to recognize t he work that the Dominican
16 Republic did as a country one of the few countries
17 that actually accepted refugees from-from Germany. I
18 just want to make sure that recognize that and also
19 the fact that Rafael Espinal is the founder of the
20 Holocaust Survivors Initiative that we also do in the
21 City Council, and we're all here in unity and want to
22 make sure that we recognize that as well. I also
23 want to thank all of my colleagues for the
24 legislation that was passed today [bell] and I vote
25 aye-aye on all.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.

4 CLERK: Richards.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Permission to
6 briefly explain my vote?

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
8 granted.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Alright, thank
10 you. Hate crimes against Blacks, Jewish and LGBT New
11 Yorkers are on the rise across our city, which is why
12 Intros 1234-A and 1261-A to create an Office for the
13 Prevention of Hate Crimes are so important. We have
14 to get proactive in our approach to stopping the
15 spread of hate, fear and ignorance, we need more than
16 just a law enforcement answer to these issues. We
17 need to educate our youth early and often on the
18 devastating effects of racism to help spread the word
19 that an attack on one of us is an attack on all of
20 us. With that being said, I'd like thank Speaker
21 Johnson and both of my colleagues Mark Levine and
22 Chaim Deutsch and my Legislative Counsel Daniel Ades
23 for all of their work to helping us bring this office
24 to fruition, and educating our young people. I'd
25 also like to congratulate Daneek Miller on a much

2 needed bill. While, you know, I use dollar vans
3 coming up, they helped me get through college
4 actually, get home at least at an appropriate hour.
5 We know that there are a lot of public safety issues
6 related to the way dollar vans operate in the outer
7 boroughs especially. So, his bill is going to really
8 bring solace for a lot of individuals. And I
9 unfortunately had a hit and run in my district where
10 we lost someone last year or two years ago to one of
11 these vans. So, it's not to target the industry to
12 say they're not needed, but we need to make sure that
13 there is certainly more oversight on them and more
14 penalties in their license, and if they can't get
15 their acts together. So, with that being said,
16 congratulations Daneek and I vote aye

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you

18 CLERK: Rivera.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I vote aye on
20 all

21 CLERK: Rivera.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye.

23 CLERK: Rodriguez.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Permission to
25 explain my vote.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
3 granted.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: First of all,
5 as my colleague Antonio Reynoso said, for me an
6 immigrant Dominican born and raised in the Caribbean,
7 we know what it was for to get our island Espanola to
8 open the doors to the Jewish when no other country
9 including the United States were welcoming the
10 Jewish. So when we voted this resolution on the
11 Holocaust for me, it's important because a life as
12 someone the immigrants we've been living hate crimes
13 experience. We've been living cases being
14 discriminated also because also because of the
15 accent, because of the status quo that we have. But
16 I also feel that as someone that represents Northern
17 Manhattan having Yeshiva University where I've been
18 working for the last ten years as a Council Member as
19 in previous years as a teacher and I co-founded a
20 school in my district, we know how important it is to
21 teach our students to teacher our New Yorkers that
22 when someone is under attack the whole city and the
23 whole nation is under attack. So, for me it's a day
24 where we had to use this opportunity to support this
25 resolution, but also to send the message loud and

2 clear that id doesn't which group is under attack in
3 the nation and the world, we always we stand
4 together. So with that, I vote aye.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

6 CLERK: Rose.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Permission to
8 explain my vote.

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
10 granted.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you. I want
12 to take this time to once again thank my colleagues
13 for your overwhelming support and conviction to right
14 an egregious wrong. I want to thank you for voting
15 affirmatively for Intro 1325-A. I know that many of
16 you had ambivalent feelings about who the
17 beneficiaries of the bill could be, but I thank you
18 for lifting the Sword of Damocles, which has hung
19 over my head for almost a decade. Your vote has
20 freed me from the stigma of an unwarranted
21 prosecution, and will allow me to pay off my legal
22 debt to the very excellent legal counsel who defended
23 me and my staff members through this frivolous and
24 bogus, and as Council Member Landers's word
25 "lawsuit." I want to thank all of my colleagues for

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2 voting for this bill today. Thank you and I vote
3 aye. [applause]

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Congratulations
5 Council Member Rose. This a huge step and many miles
6 to go. Thank you.

7 CLERK: Rosenthal.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I vote aye on
9 all.

10 CLERK: Salamanca.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

12 CLERK: Torres.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Permission to
14 vote on Land Use Call-Ups.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
16 granted.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye on all Land
18 Use Call-Ups and I will vote aye, and I'll vote
19 reluctantly for Intro 1325-A. So, in light of
20 Council Member Rose's speech so-

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

22 CLERK: Treyger.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.

24 CLERK: Ulrich.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye on all
3 with the exception of Intro 1324-A.

4 CLERK: Vallone.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on all.

6 CLERK: Yeger.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye.

8 Clerk: Cumbo.

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I proudly vote
10 aye and congratulate all of my colleagues. I also
11 want to give special congratulations to Council
12 Member Chaim Deutsch for a successful legislative
13 stated day today passing two hate crime bills, the
14 Veteran Reporting Bill and the Resolution recognizing
15 January 27, 2019 as a Holocaust Remembrance Day. So
16 many are appreciative of the incredible work that you
17 have done to continue to shine light on this critical
18 day in world history. Thank you and I proudly vote
19 aye.

20 CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

21 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: [pause]

22 CLERK: Council Member Lander.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER:
24
25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Request
3 permission to vote aye on all of the Land Use Call-
4 Ups.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
6 granted.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I vote aye.
8 Thank you.

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.
10 Alright, all items on today's General Order Calendar
11 are adopted by a vote of 48 the affirmative, 0
12 negative and 0 abstentions with exception of Intro
13 1325-A, which was adopted by a vote of 42 in the
14 affirmative, 5 negative and 1 abstention, Intro 897-
15 A, which was adopted by a vote of 47 affirmative, 0
16 negative and 1 abstention. The Revised Land Use
17 Call-Up vote is 48 in the affirmative and 0 negative.
18 [pause] We will now have an introduction and reading
19 of bills.

20 SPEAKER JOHNSON: All bills have been
21 referred to committees as indicated on today's
22 agenda.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: We will now move
24 into the discussion of resolutions. Are there any
25 members who wish to speak on any of today's

2 resolutions? We have Council Member Daneek Miller
3 and we will begin with him at this time.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you, Madam
5 Majority Leader. Today we will vote to adopt Reso
6 655, which calls on the Mayor to grant sick leave to
7 all city civilian officer employees seeking treatment
8 for qualifying World Trade Center conditions. Of the
9 city's-city's nearly 60,000 employees that responded
10 to that fateful attack on 9/11 who are registered
11 with the World Trade Center Health Registry, over-
12 nearly 5,000 of them are civilian workers. The
13 uniformed members of our municipal workforce such as
14 FDNY, NYPD, Corrections and Sanitation received
15 unlimited line of duty sick time in order to seek
16 treatment for this qualifying World Trade Center
17 exempt-event and condition. But other city employees
18 such as EMT, laborers, engineers, transit workers and
19 others do not receive this benefit. Last year
20 Governor Cuomo signed into law a bill that provides
21 unlimited sick leave for non-New York City municipal
22 officers and employees were qualifying World Trade
23 Center conditions, but a similar state bill that
24 would have benefitted our own New York City civilian
25 workforce was blocked by the city. Only recently did

2 the administration agree—and agree—enter into an
3 agreement with two unions to give unlimited
4 retroactive sick leave to nearly 2,000 employees.
5 That leaves many others outside waiting to receive
6 this benefit. Some of these civilians meanwhile
7 continue to wait for their sick leave entitlements.
8 They miss work, prematurely they retire in order to
9 seek—seek treatment for their illness and other just
10 simply wait and never get it at all. Offering our
11 dedicated men and women of New York City's workforce
12 who went above and beyond the 9/11, the sick leave
13 that they heed, and for their deadly and debilitating
14 illnesses, they are suffering from should not be
15 subject to collective bargaining . It should be a
16 matter of principle and humanity. I urge the
17 Administration to heed the call and ask my colleagues
18 to join us in the cry, and vote in the affirmative.
19 Thank you.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so much
21 Council Member Miller for that very important
22 resolution. I'll now read today's resolutions into
23 the record. Members who wish to vote against or
24 abstain on any of these resolutions should register
25 your vote with the clerks at the dais. I'm going to

2 begin with Resolution 655, a resolution calling upon
3 the Mayor of the City of New York to grant sick leave
4 to all civilian officers and employers of the City of
5 New York seeking treatment for qualifying World Trade
6 Center conditions. All in favor say aye.

7 COUNCIL MEMBERS: [in unison] Aye.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: All opposed?
9 Abstentions? They ayes have it. Now, I'll go onto
10 Resolution 673-B an amended resolution recognizing
11 January 27, 2019 as the Holocaust Remembrance Day and
12 the week beginning on January 27, 2019 as a citywide
13 week of Holocaust education in New York City. All in
14 favor say aye.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER: [in unison] Aye

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: All opposed? Any
17 abstentions? The ayes have it. We will now move
18 into—

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: [interposing] Madam—
20 Madam Majority Leader—

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Yes.

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: --I ask jut for a
23 moment before we move into general discussion, if
24 that's okay.

25 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Sure.

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I was remiss in-in, of
3 course, it was a very, very busy week for all of us
4 especially Monday, which was the remembrance of King
5 Day. MLK's Birthday and many of us participated in
6 events across the city. I started the morning with
7 you, Madam Majority Leader and Congressman Jeffries,
8 a ban out in Brooklyn for one of the largest
9 celebrations of Dr. King's life and then I went to
10 Convent Baptist Church in Harlem, the House of
11 Justice hosted by Reverend Sharpton, and then I ended
12 at Saint Mary's Episcopal Church in Fort Green and it
13 was a moving and beautiful day. You know, we hear a
14 lot of quotes from Dr. King, and many of us could
15 probably give our favorite, but the one that was most
16 resonant for me on this King Day was when Dr. King
17 said, *"Our lives begin to end the day we become*
18 *silent about things that matter."* And feel like we
19 as a Council have not been silent about things that
20 have mattered not just this past year, but during our
21 time here in this body, and with everything that is
22 happening in this country, it is important, but also
23 maybe a little too easy for us to talk about the
24 national issues that are facing our city and facing
25 the country, but I think it is equally as important

2 and just as right to talk about the deep issues that
3 face our city every single day whether it's deep
4 income inequality or crumbling Public Housing
5 Authority or subways that are collapsing, schools not
6 getting support they need, women not being treated
7 equally. All of these issues are issues that still
8 are alive and well in our city and so King Day is an
9 opportunity to recommit ourselves to social and
10 economic justice to hold the mirror up, to look in it
11 and to be brutally and rigorously honest with
12 ourselves about the challenges that we still must
13 meet in the day that we're living in. And so, MLK's
14 birthday should not be about one day a year of
15 talking about economic and social justice, but it's a
16 reminder and hopefully a re-committal of the work
17 that we must do over the course of the year. And so,
18 Madam Majority Leader, I was really proud to be with
19 you in your district at the Brooklyn Academy of Music
20 in the morning and to spend the entire day at
21 beautiful ceremonies all across the city talking
22 about Dr. King's life and also talking about the work
23 that is still yet to do in this country and in our
24 city. And so, I want to formally, of course,
25 recognize the birthday and the remembrance of Dr.

2 King and say what a special and beautiful day it was
3 for me and I'm sure for many of you who participated
4 in celebrations, and with that, I give it back to you
5 for General Discussion. Thank you, Madam Majority
6 Leader.

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you and I
8 appreciate Speaker Johnson's participation in MLK
9 day. I'm so proud of this body that we continue to
10 not only talk the talk but to walk the walk each and
11 every day. I'm so proud to be a part of this body.
12 We will now move into General Discussions, and we
13 will begin with Council Member Ben Kallos followed by
14 Council Member Rivera and then followed by Council
15 Member Ampry-Samuel.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Thank you. I-I
17 call my colleagues' attention to Introduction 1353
18 relating to sidewalk sheds and scaffolding
19 inspections. Scaffolding is there to protect us from
20 falling buildings, but what's going to protect us
21 from the falling scaffolding.

22 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Yeah, right.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: The 349 miles of
24 scaffolding covering New York City has begun
25 collapsing on the residents it's meant to protect.

2 Currently, the law allows scaffolding to be self-
3 certified for safety by the contractors who install
4 it without any independent inspection by the city's
5 Department of Buildings. Under this legislation,
6 scaffolding that has been up would be inspected when
7 it is installed, and every three months thereafter
8 with escalating penalties in hopes of finally getting
9 the scaffolding down. I'd like to thank my
10 colleagues Council Members Adams and Chin who
11 represent districts where scaffolding has fallen as
12 well as Council Member Ampry-Samuel Chair of the
13 Committee on Public Housing, which is where—and—and
14 our NYCHA developments are so surrounded it. They are
15 all co-prime sponsors of this legislation. I ask you
16 to please sign on. Thank you.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. We
18 will not call on Council Member Rivers.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you so
20 much. Today, I want to thank Speaker Corey Johnson
21 for choosing me to co-chair the Council's 2020 Census
22 Task Force along with Co-Chair Carlos Menchaca. Our
23 democracy depends on a full and accurate count of our
24 nation, and while the Trump Administration is working
25 to compromise that mandate, our task force will fight

2 back to protect immigrant communities and provide
3 resources to ensure that everyone is counted. We
4 will stop—we will work to stop the president's anti-
5 immigrant question on citizenship, push our city and
6 state leaders to commit serious financial resources
7 and get the message out about how the census affects
8 everything from federal dollars to New York projects
9 to our representation in D.C. As someone who grew up
10 in Section 8 with a single mother relying on federal
11 programs like WIC, I know first hand how much cuts to
12 key benefits can affect our diverse and wonderful
13 immigrant and minority communities. I look forward
14 to working with my task force co-chair on this
15 critical effort, and I encourage the rest of the
16 Council to join us as our work begins. I just want
17 to also bring up a piece of legislation I'm
18 introducing today. It has to do with animal rights,
19 Intro 1378. It would prohibit the sale or offer for
20 sale of Foie made from force-fed birds. Now, I like
21 upscale dining as much as the next person. But this
22 is egregious cruelty that is outside the bounds of
23 acceptable conduct in our society, and that should
24 include the force feeding of birds to cause their
25 livers to expand 10 times their normal size all for a

2 luxury project-product that is sold in less than 1%
3 of New Yorker restaurants. So as someone who worked
4 on the Council's legislation to ban exotic animals in
5 circuses and introed wild bird protection legislation
6 just last year, I know this body understand that
7 animal cruelty has no place in our city, and I
8 encourage my Council colleagues to sign onto this
9 important piece of legislation. I want to thank
10 voters for animal rights and the Humane Society of
11 the United States for working with my office on this
12 bill, and if you have any questions [bell] please
13 reach out to my staff. Thank you.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you and
15 congratulations to both of you, and Council Member
16 Menchaca, I'm sure you all will be a dynamic duo.
17 Thank you so much, and now we're going to call on
18 Council Member Ampry-Samuel followed by Council
19 Member Adams, followed by Council Member Barron.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Thank you,
21 Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo and Speaker Corey
22 Johnson. On Monday we celebrated the life and legacy
23 of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and how much he
24 contributed to civil rights, social justice,
25 economic-economic justice and just recognizing the

2 humanity in each of us. With New York City known
3 around the country and the world as one of the most
4 progressive cities in our nation, we need to
5 acknowledge where there is still room for improvement
6 and to do something about it. I want to remind
7 everyone of a tragic incident that occurred in
8 December when a mother who was carrying her one-year-
9 old child was harassed and assaulted while sitting in
10 a waiting area of an HRA Office in Brooklyn simply
11 responded to an erroneous letter that wrongfully
12 terminated her childcare. This mother was subjected
13 to inappropriate wait times at city agency, and was
14 subjected to and the victim of aggressive use of
15 force by HRA peace officers and members of the NYPD.
16 All because every single authority figure in the
17 center that day lacked compassion, respect, and a
18 total disregard for basic human dignity. Instead of
19 prioritizing families who are in the middle of a
20 crisis or traumatic experience, the city of New York
21 wanted to kick a mother and her child out into the
22 street. We have got to do better. We all saw the
23 video. We witnessed a one-year-old baby being
24 forcibly yanked from the arms of his mother, and on
25 top of that, the NYPD added insult to injury when

2 they decided to charge the mother with child
3 endangerment. I was devastated when I saw the video
4 and outraged about the steps that were taken. We all
5 stood on the steps of City Hall and demanded her
6 immediate release from Rikers Island and that charges
7 be dropped. That all happened, but what are we doing
8 to prevent that from happening again? Today, we are
9 introducing a package of bills to help create a
10 respective and supportive environment for families
11 who visit HRA offices across the city. Intro 1335
12 will require HRA centers to have social workers on
13 staff. Intro 1337 will require HRA offices to have
14 adequate space for children of all ages, and Intro
15 1336 would inquire—will require and ensure staff on
16 contacted staff are trained on de-escalation tactics,
17 and trauma informed care. I'll be right—I'll be
18 finished in a second. I believe these bills address
19 the level of disrespect, demoralizing and demeaning
20 treatment within HRA offices, and get to heart of how
21 people are treated, which is truly working in the
22 spirit of Dr. King's legacy.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Thank you
25 members of this this body for listening, and I ask

2 that everyone support this package of bills. Thank
3 you.

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so much
5 and certainly stand in support with you. Council
6 Member Adams, followed by Council Member Barron
7 followed by Council Member Gibson.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Thank you Madam
9 Majority Leader. I echo every single word that was
10 just spoken by my colleague Ampry-Samuel. After the
11 disturbing treatment of Jazmine Hedley at an HRA
12 Office in December, I am very proud to introduce
13 Intro 1333 with Council Member Levin. This bill will
14 require the HRA to issues a quarterly report on any
15 use of force incidents that occur within an HRA
16 office. After the unfortunate escalation in the case
17 of Jazmine Hedley and so many others, we must take
18 steps to ensure that this never happens again. The
19 goings on inside of HRA offices in the name of law
20 and order are in desperate overdue need of reform.
21 Vulnerable New Yorkers, a young working mother in
22 this case goes to HRA offices for help and should not
23 have to second guess how they will be treated. This
24 bill—this package of bills they are necessary steps
25 to improve accountability and transparency. This

2 agency must improve their policies and protocols to
3 prevent future trauma from meeting families in need.
4 So, I ask, we ask and encourage and thank your
5 colleagues in advance for signing onto this important
6 piece of legislation, this important package of
7 legislation. Thank you.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.
9 Council Member Barron, Council Member Gibson followed
10 by Council Member Levin.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Madam
12 Majority Leader. In 1962, Dr. Martin Luther King was
13 labeled by the FBI as the most dangerous man in
14 America. In 1967 following his pronouncement against
15 U.S. involvement in the war—in the Vietnam War that
16 targeted criticism of Dr. Martin Luther King expanded
17 to include critique by national organizations, civil
18 rights groups and he was ostracized, ridiculed and
19 condemned and in his words felt betrayed by many
20 contemporary civil rights leaders including some
21 within his own inner circle and black and white
22 clergy for his criticism of the president who had
23 signed the Civil Rights legislation. Today with
24 hindsight those who engage in the battle for social
25 justice and civil rights, and people of good will see

2 clearly the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King was a man
3 of commitment, conviction and courage. He was a
4 visionary who thought about matters beyond the
5 immediacy of his initial advocacy and dared to
6 venture beyond the local and national injustices of
7 the day, and to speak out against the evil tentacles—
8 oh, boy—of evil tentacles of militarism perpetrated
9 by the United States and claim the lives of innocent
10 people in foreign lands. Now, let's see if my
11 technology is going to help me out here. Okay, Dr.
12 Martin Luther King has a speech. One of his favorite
13 quotes is the one that was cited earlier, but this
14 past Monday we celebrated what would have been his
15 90th birthday, and he had a speech in which he made
16 reference to living to be 90. You may be 38 years
17 old, as I happen to be, and one day some great
18 opportunity stands before you and calls you to stand
19 up for some great principle, some great issue, some
20 great cause, and you refuse to do it because you are
21 afraid. You refuse to do it because [bell] you want
22 to live longer. You're afraid you'll lose your job
23 or you're afraid you'll be criticized or that you'll
24 lose your popularity or afraid somebody will stab you
25 or shoot you or bomb your house. While you may go

2 and live until you're 90, but you're just as dead at
3 38 as you would be at 90, and the cessation of
4 breathing in your life is but the belated
5 announcement of an earlier death of the spirit. And
6 I just want to announce--

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [interposing]
8 Okay.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: --and commend my
10 husband, Assemblymember Charles Barron who received
11 the Heroism Award from--of Dr. Martin Luther King by
12 the Baptist Convention of Ministers. Thank you.

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

14 SPEAKER JOHNSON: [interposing] Thank
15 you.

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: You are our
17 forever educator, and congratulations. [in unison]

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Congratulations. [in
19 unison] Inez to you and Charles.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Great.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member
22 Gibson followed by Council Member Levin, followed by
23 Council Member Powers.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you, Madam
25 Majority Leader and good afternoon once again to all

2 of my colleagues, and I, too, want to echo many of
3 the sentiments expressed by all of our colleagues in
4 celebrating the life, the legacy and the labor of
5 love of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who
6 would have been 90 years old. They may have killed
7 the dreamer from the physical presence, but truly his
8 dream lives on and I think we all collectively as
9 elected officials, I want to quote our wonderful
10 colleague Council Member Adams when she says: We
11 wake up every day on purpose with a purpose to
12 fundamentally change the way we do business in this
13 city, to ensure that every New Yorker has access to
14 resources and programs to live truly a quality of
15 life, and although it sounds easy and it may look
16 good from our perspective, but truly we face those
17 challenges everyday, and I, too, want to call my
18 colleagues' attention the package of legislation
19 that's being introed today related to the Social
20 Services that we provide to New Yorkers in need. And
21 I want to thank Council Member Steve Levin because
22 when that horrible incident happened last month to
23 Jazmine Hedley, we were all outraged and Council
24 Member Levin took a very leadership opportunity to
25 stand up and speak out on something that affected far

2 too many people. As an African-American, as a woman
3 certainly we all sympathize with Jazmine. Though we
4 all know that there are many other Jazmines in this
5 city. They just have a different name, but they look
6 just like Jazmine and just like myself. And so, I am
7 proud to join this collective of colleagues here. I
8 have introed Intro 1350, which is a bill that would
9 require the Commissioner of Social Services to
10 implement the actual recommendations and to address
11 all of the complaints as required under a Local Law
12 in relation to the implementation of a plan based on
13 its findings of the audit of the department as to how
14 we treat clients that come into our job centers and
15 our SNAP centers. This bill would require the
16 Commission of Social Services to make every effort to
17 ensure that-

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [interposing]

19 Thank you Council Member Gibson.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: --reasonable
21 standards are provided, and I ask all of my
22 colleagues to pleas add their names to Intro 1350.
23 Thank you, Madam Public—Thank you, Madam Majority
24 Leader.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
3 much, Council Member Gibson. We'll now hear from
4 Council Member Levin followed by Council Member
5 Powers, followed by Council Member Cabrera.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you Madam
7 Majority Leader. I just want to acknowledge all of
8 my colleagues that have helped put together this
9 package of legislation in response to last month's
10 incident at the HRA Center involving Jazmine Hedley.
11 That incident happened right before the holidays. We
12 committed to making sure that we were going to
13 address this through legislation, and oversight and
14 we are doing just that. So, I want to thank Council
15 Members Gibson, Ampry-Samuel, you Majority Leader
16 Cumbo, Council Member Helen Rosenthal, Council Member
17 Adrienne Adams, Council Member and our Chair Donovan
18 Richards, Council Member Chaim Deutsch, Council as
19 well as our Speaker obviously and the—and the entire
20 legislative staff for putting together a—a very
21 significant package of bills. We're talking about 17
22 bills here to be heard early next month. We're re-
23 examining this issue in earnest as is our
24 responsibility to every New Yorker that—that
25 interacts with the HRA system to ensure that they are

2 getting the services that they are entitled to, that
3 they are being treated fairly, that they are being
4 treated equitably, and that we are providing the
5 services that every—that people need here in New York
6 City. And so, I want to thank my colleagues for
7 standing up with such—with such virtue and
8 seriousness of purpose to make sure that we're doing
9 everything we can to—to be responsible in this
10 instance and in the future. And secondly, I just
11 want to also call my colleagues' attention to Intro
12 1354, which I'm introducing today. This is regarding
13 the use of psychiatric medication to youth in foster
14 care, which I think is very prevalent, but we don't
15 have a clear picture of. So, please consider signing
16 onto Intro 1358, and lastly, I just want to
17 acknowledge the passing of Jonas Mekas yesterday, at
18 age 96. Jonas founded Film Culture and Anthology
19 Film Archives on the corner in Council Member
20 Rivera's district on Second and Second, which are—are
21 New York establishments in a real part of New York
22 City culture and the arts, and he was a real giant of
23 New York City culture, and he'll be sadly missed, but
24 a wife—a life well lived.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so much
3 Council Member Levin, and thank you so much for your
4 leadership in putting together this strong package of
5 bills. I want to call on Council Member Powers,
6 Cabrera and finally Council Member Menchaca

7 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. I'll
8 be brief. I was just remiss earlier to not say thank
9 you to two other groups in the Waterside deal, and
10 one is my predecessor Dan Garodnick who I think is or
11 was watching who actually kick started the
12 conversation. I'm very grateful for his leadership
13 and also to the HPD who worked very hard. They
14 deserve a thank you. I want to make sure they
15 received it as well. Thank you.

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
17 Council Member Powers. So, now we'll hear from
18 Council Member Cabrera.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you so
20 much. Today, I'm introducing one bill and four
21 resolutions that would discourage tobacco use,
22 support civil-civic engagement, discourage false
23 reporting of incidents for hate crime purposes and
24 eliminate and undue burden on home buyers of modest
25 means. Intro 1345 closes the flavored tobacco

2 loophole. Current law prohibits sale of tobacco
3 flavors that are attractive to use such as fruit
4 flavors, but allow the sale of wintergreen and
5 menthol flavors. This bill will prohibit the sale of
6 menthol wintergreen flavored tobacco, making it
7 illegal of all—the sale of all tobacco flavors in New
8 York to discourage tobacco consumption. Reso 719 and
9 720 call on the state and federal governments to make
10 Election Day a state holiday and a federal holiday
11 respectively for allowing more people working,
12 parents and other to get to the polls and vote. Reso
13 717 calls for the state and the Governor to pass and
14 sign legislation that would eliminate the mortgage
15 recording tax, which is imposed New Yorkers who need
16 to borrow money to purchase a home. Those with the
17 ability to pay cash for property avoid paying the
18 tax. This tax is unfamiliar to people of modest
19 means, and leads to unfair—I'm sorry. This tax is
20 unfair to people of modest means and needs to be
21 eliminated, and then Reso 718 calls on the state and
22 the governor to pass and sign Senate Bill 9149, the
23 911 Anti-discrimination Act, which would add first,
24 second and third degree false reporting to the list
25 of charges eligible for hate crimes sentencing. I

2 encourage everyone to join me and sign onto these
3 measures as co-sponsors. Thank you. [bell]

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, and
5 now we will hear from Council Member Menchaca who
6 will close us out.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Alright here we
8 are. Thank you--

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [interposing]
10 Here we are.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: --colleagues.
12 I'm ready, I'm ready. Since this 2020, my Admana
13 (sic) and I--

14 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Keep it
15 down please.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: --have a big
17 task ahead of us. Carlina Rivera and I are going to
18 be rejoining with all of you to ensure that we get
19 this right. No one know our neighborhoods better
20 than us. The census is more than just a simple count
21 of persons. It determines the very identity of our
22 city. Whatever the census says about us will be
23 interpreted as the reality of our needs for the next
24 decade, and if we don't get this count right,
25 thousands of people will fail to get food and

2 healthcare, education and housing that they are
3 entitled to. And we as people will fail to get the
4 adequate—adequate representation in congress to fight
5 policies we cannot enact on our own. The possibility
6 of a citizenship question in the census only
7 underscores the urgency of getting this count right
8 as well as the need to ensure our immigrant
9 communities are counted. In 2015, New York State
10 receive \$3 billion for programs and this accounted
11 for approximately a third of the state spending on
12 Medicaid—Medicare Part B, Section 8 housing, Title 1
13 grants, highway planning and construction, SNAP and
14 affect every person that fills out the census New
15 York State has allocated about \$2 to \$3,000 of
16 critical welfare and all of you members are going to
17 be part of this because you know your districts more
18 than anything, and I'm thinking about participatory
19 budgeting where we had 100,000 in the last two years
20 vote. We can make this happen because we've been
21 thinking about this and connecting intimately with
22 our communities at every corner, and I know that
23 there's a new Census Commissioner, but all we have to
24 do is thinking about IDNYC rollout, close Rikers and
25 fair fares. This administration can screw things up.

2 We cannot screw this up. This is a priority for us
3 at the City Council and I'm determined with our Chair
4 and the Speaker to make this right. Are with me.

5 COUNCIL MEMBERS: [in unison] Yes.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Colleagues are
7 you with me? Are you with us? Okay. [Speaking
8 Spanish] Thank you.

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you for the
10 call and response. We make take that to the steps of
11 City Hall in the future and we will now have closing
12 remarks by Speaker Corey Johnson.

13 SPEAKER JOHNSON: The Stated Meeting of
14 January 24, 2019 is hereby adjourned. Thank you
15 Madam Majority Leader.

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

17 [gavel]

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1 NYC COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date February 14, 2019